



Renowned film director Ashok Viswanathan has received this year's best Bengali Cultural Award. Apart from Shri Viswanathan, 11 other people, including 2 children, have received the 'Banga Sanskriti Samman 2025', dedicated by the 'Indian Cultural Association' and organized by 'Sandhya Prakashan'. 'Banga Sanskriti Samman' award ceremony held at the Press Club Kolkata Wednesday afternoon where veteran journalist Jayanta Chakrabarty, writer Nalini Bera, editor of Bangla Nathiyat and head of Sandhya Prakashani Shankar Dutta, Journalists and film producers Ritabrata Bhattacharya, Shyamleendra Mitra, Tapan Ghosh and many others were present.

# Bangladeshi national arrested in fake identity and hawala case

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In a significant crackdown on cross-border financial crimes, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested a Bangladeshi national, Azad Malik, also known as Ahmed Hossain, from the Bishorpara area under Airport Police Station in North 24 Parganas district. Acting on multiple allegations, the ED took him into custody late Tuesday night on charges including the fabrication of a fake Indian identity and channeling large sums of money from India to Bangladesh via hawala networks.

Sources within the ED revealed that Azad had been previously arrested in March

2022 under the Foreigners Act. A subsequent investigation uncovered suspicious financial activities involving his bank accounts, which showed transactions amounting to several crores of rupees. This prompted the ED to register a case on March 26 this year under relevant provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

On Tuesday morning, ED officials conducted a detailed raid at Azad's rented residence in Bishorpara. He was taken into custody later that night and produced before the 10th CIM Court of the City Sessions Court. During the court proceedings, the ED argued that Azad is a Bangladeshi citizen

whose immediate family still resides in Bangladesh. They alleged that he had transferred approximately Rs. 2.62 crore to Bangladesh using illegal hawala channels. The ED charged him under Sections 3 and 4 of the PMLA and sought one day's custody for further interrogation. However, the defense counsel contested the claims, stating that Azad is a legal Indian citizen possessing a valid passport and voter ID. He argued that Azad is the proprietor of 'Mallik Trading Corporation' and the financial transactions were strictly business-related. The defense also alleged that the ED did not question Azad about the source of the funds before the arrest.

# Dog found gnawing on abandoned infant's body

**MI News Service, Alipurduar:** A gruesome discovery in the Ikkhola area near Alipurduar District Hospital has triggered widespread shock and outrage. Residents were horrified to witness a dog chewing on the body of an infant, who had been left tied up in a package amidst garbage. The package reportedly burst open after being run over by a vehicle, revealing a hand that attracted the scavenging animal, leading to the grim discovery and the subsequent gathering of a distressed crowd.

A deeply unsettling incident has come to light in the Ikkhola area, located within Ward No. 13 and in close proximity to the Alipurduar District Hospital, where the remains of a newborn infant were discovered being consumed by a stray dog. The horrific finding has sent shockwaves through the local community, triggering widespread outrage and prompting an immediate investigation by law enforcement authorities. Initial reports indicate that the infant's body was found concealed within a package that had been abandoned in the Ikkhola area, a populated part of the town. The circumstances surrounding the discovery suggest a trag-

ic sequence of events. It is believed that a vehicle traversing the road may have inadvertently run over the discarded package, causing it to rupture. This breach in the packaging reportedly exposed a limb of the infant, specifically a hand, which then attracted the attention of a stray dog scavenging in the vicinity.

Eyewitness accounts describe the distressing scene that unfolded as the dog began to maul the exposed remains. The unusual activity quickly drew the attention of nearby residents, who were horrified by the gruesome sight. A crowd rapidly gathered at the location, their initial curiosity quickly turning to shock and dismay as the reality of the situation became apparent. Upon being alerted to the incident, local police swiftly arrived at the scene to secure the area and initiate a thorough investigation. The infant's remains were recovered, and forensic procedures are expected to be conducted to determine the exact cause of death and the approximate age of the child. Authorities are treating the case with utmost seriousness, recognizing the gravity of the abandonment and the subsequent desecration of the infant's body. Preliminary inquiries are focused on identifying the indi-

vidual or individuals responsible for abandoning the infant in such a callous manner. Investigators are canvassing the local area, seeking information from residents and examining any potential leads that could shed light on this tragic event. The possibility of identifying the parents or guardians of the child is a key priority in the ongoing investigation. The incident has sparked considerable anger and grief within the Alipurduar community. Residents have expressed their profound sadness and condemnation of the inhumane act. Many are demanding swift and decisive action from the authorities to bring the perpetrators to justice. The discovery has also raised concerns about child safety and the need for stronger measures to prevent such tragic occurrences in the future. This disturbing case serves as a stark reminder of the vulnerability of infants and the critical importance of ensuring their safety and well-being. The authorities are expected to provide further updates as the investigation progresses and more details become available. The community remains in mourning and awaits answers regarding this deeply distressing incident that has shaken the peace of Alipurduar.

# Swapan Samaddar organized a colorful procession on Bengali New Year

**Nurul Islam Khan**  
A colorful procession was organized by Swapan Samaddar, MMIC of Kolkata Municipal Corporation, councillor of Ward 56 and President of North Kolkata INTTUC. This procession traversed various routes of Ward 30 and Ward 56. Swapan Samaddar was also the chief guest of the procession. MMIC of Ward 30 Papiya Ghosh Biswas was present. The procession travelled through various streets of the area. Swapan Samaddar and Papiya



Ghosh Biswas greeted the residents of the area with a sweet smile and extended her heartfelt New Year greetings. This procession increased the enthusiasm among the people of the area.

# Kolkata's WBCIL Wins Prestigious National IP Award 2024

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** West Bengal Chemical Industries Ltd. (WBCIL), a leading Kolkata-based manufacturer of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), has been awarded the National Intellectual Property Award 2024 by the Government of India under the "Top Indian MSME" category for its excellence in Patent filing, Granting, and Commercialization.

The award ceremony was held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, and the honour was presented by Union Minister, Shri Piyush Goyal, as part of India's efforts to celebrate and strengthen the intellectual property ecosystem.

WBCIL, with a legacy of scientific excellence and more than 9 Patents granted, is at the forefront of R&D-led innovation in the Pharmaceutical Industry. The Company is known for



its Patent-driven approach to API manufacturing and has made significant strides in Commercializing Patented molecules for both domestic and international markets.

This recognition reaffirms WBCIL's commitment to:

- Scientific Research and IP Development
- Global Pharma Exports to 30+ countries

•Calcutta's Emergence as an R&D Hub  
"This award is not just a recognition of our work, but a celebration of Calcutta's potential to lead on the global innovation map," said a spokesperson from WBCIL.

The award puts WBCIL in the league of India's top innovators and is a proud moment for the MSME sector in Eastern India.

# IMD predicts above-normal monsoon rainfall

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has delivered encouraging news for the upcoming monsoon season, forecasting above-normal rainfall across the country. According to the latest bulletin, India is expected to receive 5% more rainfall than the seasonal average, a development that bodes well for the agricultural sector, particularly in monsoon-dependent regions like West Bengal.

Thursday, while South Bengal, including Kolkata, may witness an increase in rainfall on Thursday and Friday. The IMD has warned of sporadic thunderstorm activity with wind speeds reaching 30 to 50 km/h during this period.

Meteorologists also suggest that Bengal, too, is likely to experience higher-than-usual rainfall this year. Farmers across the state have welcomed the forecast with optimism, hoping for a robust monsoon that would boost paddy production and improve overall yield. Consistent and ample rainfall is critical for rice cultivation, and a favorable monsoon often translates to a stronger rural economy.

India is likely to receive 'above normal' monsoon rainfall, or 5% more than the historical average of 87 cm, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Tuesday (April 15, 2025). Were this to bear out, it would be a second year of 'above normal' rains.

In the short term, the weather department has forecast scattered thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and light to moderate rainfall in several districts of western Bengal. These include East and West Midnapore, Jhargram, Purulia, Bankura, and West Burdwan. No severe storm activity is expected, although occasional gusty winds are likely.

Kolkata recorded a minimum temperature of 24°C on Monday, with the day's maximum temperature climbing to 34.7°C. The relative humidity in the city hovered between 45% and 91%, contributing to a sultry atmosphere.

The rainfall activity in North Bengal is projected to intensify on Wednesday and

Despite the pre-monsoon fluctuations, the overall outlook remains positive. The possibility of above-average monsoon rains is expected to alleviate water scarcity concerns and improve groundwater levels, especially in rural zones that have been grappling with prolonged dry spells.

The IMD's early monsoon forecast serves as a beacon of hope for the agrarian community and policy planners alike. With the monsoon being a key driver of India's agricultural output and rural livelihood, this prediction marks a critical step toward economic and ecological stability in the months ahead.

# Bike car collision fatal for couple

**MI News Service, Purulia:** A fatal road accident in Purulia claimed the lives of a couple after their bike collided with a car. Responding to local reports, Balrampur police rescued the severely injured couple and transported them to a local health center, where they succumbed to their injuries. The car driver remains at large, and police have launched an investigation, including questioning eyewitnesses.

Center. Despite medical intervention, attending physicians pronounced both individuals deceased. Subsequent to the incident, the driver of the four-wheeler absconded from the scene. The police have initiated a search operation to locate the individual and are currently questioning local residents to gather further information. The involved vehicle has been impounded as part of the ongoing investigation. Eyewitness Salim Ansari stated, "The motorcycle had penetrated deeply into the vehicle. We promptly informed the police, who arrived swiftly to extricate the injured and transport them to the hospital." The police investigation is currently underway to ascertain the circumstances leading to the collision and to apprehend the driver of the four-wheeler.

# Minor girl allegedly harassed, accused arrested following mob justice

**MI News Service, Bakura:** A minor girl was allegedly harassed by a young man on a crowded Bakura-Tata bus on Wednesday morning near Raipur traffic intersection triggering a commotion. Fellow passengers and locals reportedly forced the accused off the bus and assaulted him before police intervened and made an arrest. The class eight student was on her way to tuition when the incident occurred.

Eyewitness accounts indicate that a commotion erupted on the bus following the girl's distress. Subsequently, the accused young man was forcibly removed from the vehicle and reportedly assaulted by agitated passengers and locals. Upon receiving information about the incident, officers from Raipur Police Station arrived at the scene and apprehended the accused.

A Wednesday morning commute on a crowded Bankura-Tata passenger bus was disrupted when a minor girl, a class eight student en route to tuition in Raipur, was allegedly subjected to indecent behavior by a fellow male passenger. The incident, which occurred near the Raipur traffic intersection in Bankura, sparked immediate outrage among passengers and local residents.

According to local sources, the student alighted from the bus in tears at the Raipur traffic junction and disclosed the alleged harassment she experienced during the journey. This revelation incited the gathered crowd, leading to the physical altercation with the accused. Police have confirmed the arrest and stated that efforts are currently underway to ascertain the identity of the individual in custody. Further investigation into the allegations is ongoing.

# Conviction for killing handicap sister on a land dispute

**MI News Service, Dhantala:** In a shocking case of domestic violence rooted in a land dispute, Asadul Mondal alias Asharul Mondal, a resident of Duttapulia under Dhantala Police Station, has been convicted on Wednesday for the brutal murder of his handicapped sister.



The incident took place on July 4, 2024, when the accused attacked his sister with an iron rod, striking her on the head and causing her death. A case was immediately registered at Dhantala PS in Nadia, and the accused was arrested shortly thereafter. Then the case went on in Ranaghat Court.

Additional District Judge, Fast Track Court, Ranaghat, found Asadul Mondal guilty under Section 103(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) on Tuesday. The sentencing has been scheduled for Thursday.



Union Minister of State for Education, Sukanta Majumdar, along with victims from Bethona, Dhuliyan, and Samsarganj in Murshidabad, waited outside Bhabani Bhawan – the West Bengal Police Headquarters in Kolkata – to meet the Director General of Police (DGP), West Bengal.

# Thief returns stolen iPhone after change of heart

**MI News Service, Siliguri:** A bizarre incident has unfolded in Siliguri, where a thief, after stealing an expensive iPhone, surprisingly returned it to the owner's doorstep a month later. The perplexed owner, Dawa Narbula Lama, had reported the theft to the Matigara police. The twist in the tale emerged when Lama returned to the police station to withdraw his complaint, revealing the unexpected return of his device. Initial reports suggest the thief was thwarted by the iPhone's robust security features, specifically its unbreakable lock and Face ID system, rendering it unsellable and ultimately leading to its return. This unusual case highlights the challenges faced by thieves and even law enforcement when dealing with the advanced privacy settings of iPhones.

A peculiar case of theft has emerged in Siliguri, where an iPhone, reported stolen a month prior, was unexpectedly returned to its owner. Dawa Narbula Lama, a resident of Baniakhali, had filed a complaint with the Matigara police after his device was pilfered from his residence on March 19th. Following a fruitless search, Lama registered a formal complaint, harboring little hope of recovery. However, in an unusual turn of events, Lama recently revisited the police station, not to inquire further about the investigation, but to withdraw his complaint. The rationale behind this surprising development was the reappearance of his iPhone. Lama reported that the stolen device was discovered abandoned in front of his house, with the perpetrator having fled the scene. According to sources

at the Narbula police station in Chhar Trish, the thief's inability to bypass the iPhone's security features is believed to be the reason for its return. The robust locking mechanism and sophisticated Face ID technology rendered the device unsellable, thwarting the thief's intentions of profiting from the stolen property. Authorities highlighted the inherent security of iPhones, noting the significant difficulty in circumventing their identification protocols. Unlike Android devices which can often be tracked via their IMEI numbers, tracing a lost or stolen iPhone presents a considerable challenge for both victims and law enforcement due to its stringent privacy settings. This incident underscores the effectiveness of Apple's security measures in deterring the illicit resale of their devices.

# "Don't trust Dinhat," Minster's fear fuel's controversy

**MI News Service, Dinhat:** North Bengal Development Minister Udayan Guha's recent statement expressing distrust in Dinhat's voters has sparked political controversy. Despite a landslide 2021 victory, he fears losing in the next election. His remark, made at a swimming pool foundation event, reflects Trinamool's anxiety amid BJP's strong regional presence and past electoral clashes. Guha's history of controversial remarks and vote-rigging allegations further fuels speculation about his insecurity.

Guha openly questioned his prospects for re-election, despite securing a substantial victory in the 2021 assembly elections. "I have informed the construction company that the project must be completed within six months," Guha stated, "so that I can inaugurate it while still holding ministerial office. I do not possess confidence in the Dinhat electorate's decision to grant me a second term."

Guha's remarks suggest a perceived vulnerability within his constituency, particularly given the BJP's strong electoral performance in North Bengal during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. While the Trinamool Congress recently reclaimed the Cooch Behar Lok Sabha seat, the region remains a fiercely contested political arena. The minister's urgency to complete the swimming pool project within a six-month timeframe underscores his apprehension. "I wish

to personally inaugurate this project," he explained, "rather than witnessing a subsequent individual claim credit for its completion. This is a matter of personal significance." Political analysts attribute Guha's anxieties to several factors, including the BJP's persistent presence in the region, the history of intense electoral clashes, and the minister's own track record of controversial statements. Furthermore, allegations of past electoral irregularities, coupled with a public reprimand from Trinamool Congress leadership, may have contributed to his expressed lack of confidence.

Guha's public admission of electoral doubt has injected a layer of uncertainty into the development project and the political landscape of Dinhat. It remains to be seen how his comments will resonate with the electorate as the next elections approach.

# Mob burns Rs 5 lakh, grieving couple sifts through ashes

**MI News Service, Murshidabad:** Elderly Couple's Life Savings Turn to Ash Amidst Violence. In a heart-wrenching scene from Bethona, Shamsarganj, Murshidabad, an elderly couple, Ganesh and Sumitra Ghosh, were seen sifting through the charred remains of their home, their hopes and life savings reduced to burnt currency notes. Having sold their land to build a new house for their family, the ₹5 lakh they had kept in their residence fell victim to the widespread unrest.

amounting to ₹5 lakh. Eyewitness accounts depict a scene of utter devastation, with Ganesh Ghosh meticulously sifting through the ashes of his burnt home, salvaging charred currency notes – primarily ₹200 and ₹100 denominations – and placing them on a plate. Overcome with grief, Mr. Ghosh lamented the total loss of their belongings, alleging that the perpetrators looted the house before setting it ablaze. Tragically, even the couple's livestock were not spared, reportedly locked inside a room and set on fire. The Ghosh couple had sold their ancestral land and were in the process of constructing a new, more spacious house on an adjacent plot. The ₹5 lakh, intended for this construction, was kept in their now-destroyed home. Speaking through tears, Mr. Ghosh expressed

his despair, stating, "Everything was burnt... We have sold all our land and savings. We were building a shelter for our sons' future. It is all over." His wife, Sumitra Ghosh, remains in shock. Their four sons managed to escape to safety elsewhere during the violence. The elderly couple voiced their deep insecurity and uncertainty about the future, questioning how they will rebuild their lives and their home after this catastrophic loss. "I do not have the confidence to start anew," Mr. Ghosh stated, highlighting the pervasive sense of oppression and fear of further incidents. This incident underscores the severe human cost of the recent unrest in Murshidabad, leaving vulnerable families like the Ghoshes to grapple with unimaginable loss and an uncertain path forward.

# Dog walks with severed head, horrifying truth unveiled

**MI News Service, Hooghly:** A shocking incident unfolded in Begunpur, Chanditala, Hooghly on Wednesday morning as locals witnessed a dog carrying a severed human head. The discovery triggered immediate alarm and led to a police investigation the uncovered a tragic accident on the nearby Howrah-Burdwan railway line, where the dismembered body was subsequently found.

around 9:00 AM, prompted immediate concern among local residents.

Responding to the alarming reports, personnel from both the Kamarkundu Government Railway Police (GRP) and the Chanditala Police Station arrived at the scene. Subsequent investigation led authorities to the Howrah-Burdwan Cord railway line, situated approximately 300 feet from where the head was initially found, where the corresponding body was located. Preliminary findings from police sources suggest a tragic accident. It is believed that the deceased individual, a passenger on a long-distance train, sustained fatal head trauma after striking an electric post while leaning out of the moving train.

Evidence of bloodstains was reportedly found on the post. The identity of the deceased young male remains unknown at this time. The recovered severed head has been sent for post-mortem examination as part of the ongoing investigation.

Monirul Ali, a local resident, recounted the initial discovery, stating, "We were working in the factory and had been hearing screams. I then saw the police with the severed head and alerted the village. Initially, there was suspicion of a murder." Authorities have secured the scene and are continuing their inquiries to formally identify the deceased and gather further details surrounding this unfortunate event.

Dog Found with Severed Human Head, Railway Mishap Suspected  
A distressing incident occurred in the Begunpur area of Chanditala, Hooghly district, on Wednesday morning, where a canine was observed carrying a severed human head. The discovery, made near the Begunpur 20 rail gate