



Jatiya Party leaders Foysal Chisty, *left*, and Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu, *right*, try to calm party lawmaker Kazi Firoz Rashid down when the latter tried to address yesterday's grand rally at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan. The MP was not supposed to speak there but he wanted to since JP co-chair GM Quader delivered an unscheduled speech, Bablu and Chisty told The Daily Star.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Politics may see new polarisation

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Ershad, also a special envoy of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

"There is a lot of confusion and concern over the election," he observed and called upon the government to ensure a congenial atmosphere for polls.

In an oblique reference to the recently formed Jatiya Oikyafront, he said, "One party has come up with a seven-point demand which cannot be fulfilled in the present context."

The demands of the Oikyafront, led by Dr Kamal Hossain, include dissolution of parliament before announcement of polls schedule, resignation of Hasina-led government and formation of a neutral government to hold the national election.

"In this situation," Ershad said, "It is not clear whether election will take place."

He added, "We want to take part in the election. But first we want guarantee that the election will be held in a free, fair and impartial manner."

The JP boss also demanded that a polls-time government be formed with political parties having representatives in parliament.

At the rally, Ershad unveiled his party's 18-point election manifesto aimed at "ensuring good governance in the country".

The manifesto includes forming provincial governments, bringing

KEY POINTS OF SPEECH

- No atmosphere for election
- Doubt whether polls will take place
- New political polarisation can emerge

changes to election system, introducing an organised upazila system, ensuring road safety, initiating peaceful co-existence in politics and establishing an independent judiciary.

Urging the party leaders and activists to take preparations for polls, he said the UNA led by the JP will contest the elections in all the 300 constituencies.

"I clearly say that we want to contest the polls in 300 seats. We, the Jatiya Party, always take part in elections. We are also ready to contest this national election. Jatiya Party will go to power with the love of people if election is held in a free and fair manner."

Ershad also asked top leaders of party and allies to give him a list of potential candidates as the nominations will be finalised by this month.

Terming himself the most repressed politician in the world's history, Ershad said, "I couldn't sleep even for a single night after 1990 [when his regime fell]

in fear of landing in jail again."

Before the rally began at 10:45am, JP activists and supporters started pouring in the venue from 8:00am. By the time Ershad appeared on the dais around 11:30am, the crowd spilled out into the surrounding areas.

Although UNA is an alliance of 58 political parties, leaders of only three to four parties were seen at the event.

At one point of the rally, activists of JP and its ally Khelafat Majlish among the crowd got engaged in a brawl and threw chairs at each other centring a debate over a cultural performance held before the main event, insiders said.

Khelafat and JP men got locked into an altercation also over sitting on the front row of the audience just before the stage. The situation didn't deteriorate further due to intervention of senior leaders.

The gathering was addressed by JP Senior Co-chairman Raushan Ershad, Co-chairman GM Quader and top leaders of Islami Front, Khelafat Majlish and Jatiya Islami Mohajote.

An unpleasant situation was created over delivering of speech by Quader as JP presidium member Kazi Feroz Rashid objected to it, saying the co-chairman was not on the list of speakers.

Feroz also wanted to speak at the rally. As JP presidium members Ziauddin Ahmed and Foysal Chisty stepped in, he didn't insist further.

Eye condition

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some of the work showed signs of exotropia, with the eyes looking at an outward angle.

Not all six works were self-portraits, but da Vinci specified in his own writings that any portrait work by a painter reflects the painter's own appearance.

Tyler assessed the eye condition by drawing circles to the pupils, irises and eyelids on each painting and measuring their positions. When he converted the measurements into an angle, the results showed da Vinci had an exotropia tendency, with one eye turning -10.3 degrees outward when relaxed. But the master artist could revert his eye to a straight alignment when focused.

Tyler believes that da Vinci's left eye was affected by the condition, but it is not easy to be sure.

The eye misalignment exotropia, a form of strabismus, affects about 1% of the world population, he said.

Da Vinci's exotropia allowed him to see the world from a different angle. "What he was looking at would look more like a flat canvas than like for us a three-dimensional screen," Tyler said; this made it "easier to translate things onto the canvas."

This condition contrasted with the regular vision of his other eye to help him develop a strong understanding of three-dimensional objects. Tyler said this ability made it possible for most of da Vinci's artworks to have the precise shading he is known for.

Similar research techniques have been used to prove that other great painters such as Rembrandt, Edgar Degas and Pablo Picasso also had various types of eye misalignment.

The study noted that the different direction and size of the pupils in some of Da Vinci's works can be interpreted as anisocoria, a condition in which one pupil is larger than the other. But Tyler said this is "very unlikely." Rather, he believes da Vinci was using this depiction to show his experience of one eye seeing more clearly than the other.

Dr Julius Oatts, assistant professor in the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of California, San Francisco, called the findings interesting. "There are a lot of uncertainties whether the pictures truly depict da Vinci himself and if they depict the eyes realistically," noted Oatts, who was not involved in the study.

Tyler said the artist "is such a compelling figure historically that it is very interesting to explore the roots of his genius."

Went ahead though adviser

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be, we'll change the design but we'll do it with our own money."

Without naming the adviser, Hasina said the whole country was with her, but the finance minister and the adviser opposed the decision at that time.

"We're now constructing the Padma Bridge with our own money. This single decision has changed Bangladesh's image."

The PM said her sister Sheikh Rehana, son Sajeeb Wazed Joy and daughter Saima Wazed Putul had to endure repression for this bridge. "But we never bowed to anyone."

Hasina said she had asked the officials concerned to send letters to World Bank seeking concrete evidence of the alleged corruption, but it failed to provide the government with any proof.

She said people have to learn how to hold their heads high all the time.

The PM, also the Awami League president, called upon people to cast

their votes in favour of her party in the next national election to continue the trend of development.

Briefly describing various development programmes in the education sector, she said it would not be possible to make the country free from hunger and poverty without having an educated nation. "That's why we always give priority to education."

She urged the authorities concerned to look into the quality and standard of education at private universities.

Hasina mentioned that the government put emphasis on modern technology-based education and vocational training.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid, University Grants Commission Chairman Prof Abdul Mannan and Education Secretary Sohrab Hossain also spoke at the programme, chaired by Bangladesh University Teachers Federation President ASM Maksud Kamal.

Afghans brave blasts

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nine million voter registrations. Many voters waited hours for the doors to open. Most polling sites opened late after teachers employed to handle the voting process failed to show up on time, said the IEC.

The election commission, which has been skewered over its shamolic preparations for the long-delayed ballot, said they would extend voting until Sunday for 371 polling centres after hiccups with voter registration lists, biometric verification devices and staffing.

University student Mohammad Alem said he felt "frustrated" after spending more than three hours trying to vote in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, only to discover his name was not on the registration list.

"There also were some problems with the biometric devices because they were already running out of charge," he said.

After waiting four hours at a polling centre, Tabish Forugh tweeted he had not seen "even remotely similar... chaos" at previous elections.

The parliamentary election is more than three years late and only the third since the fall of the Taliban in 2001.

Turnout was likely affected after the Taliban issued several warnings in the days leading up to the poll calling on candidates to withdraw from the race and for voters to stay home.

Hundreds of people were killed or

wounded in the months before the poll.

The killing of a powerful police chief in the southern province of Kandahar on Thursday further eroded confidence in the ability of security forces to protect voters.

Voting in Kandahar has been delayed by a week following the attack. Despite the risks, President Ashraf Ghani urged "every Afghan, young and old, women and men" to exercise their right to vote, after casting his ballot in Kabul.

Photos posted on social media showed scores of men and women clutching their identification documents lining up outside voting centres amid a heavy security presence.

A woman dressed in a burqa leaving a polling centre in Mazar-i-Sharif told AFP she had been worried about "security incidents", but decided to vote anyway.

"We have to defy the violence," Hafiza, 57, said. "In previous years we were not happy with the elections, our votes were sold out."

At least 10 candidates out of more than 2,500 contesting the lower-house election were killed ahead of the poll.

The poll is seen as a crucial test for next year's presidential. Preliminary results will be released on November 10 but there are concerns they could be thrown into turmoil if the biometric verification devices are broken, lost or destroyed. Votes cast without the controversial machines will not be counted, the IEC has said.

5 held

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from Faridpur and Monjurul Islam, 40, from Cox's Bazar, said Hamidul Alam, Deputy Commissioner of CMP (Port).

The duo was in a private car sporting a fake sticker of the Local Government Engineering Department and were stopped at EPZ gate-2 Mailer Matha area under at around 6:30pm, said the DC, adding that they found the contrabands hidden inside the cover of the passenger seat of the vehicle.

Osman Gani, Inspector (Investigation) of the station said that the arrested were carrying the drugs from Cox's Bazar to Dhaka, adding that they suspected the two would smuggle the drugs through the airport.

A case was being lodged as of filing of this report.

Meanwhile, Rab arrested three people, including a Rohingya youth, with one lakh yaba tablets from Cox's Bazar's BSCIC area early yesterday.

The arrestees are Jubae Prokash

Johar, 35, Md Belal, 22, and Md

Sadrul Amin, a 21-year-old Rohingya

from Myanmar's Maungdaw.

Acting on a tip-off that a big consignment of yaba tablets would be brought to Cox's Bazar from Teknaf, a team of Rapid Action Battalion set up a temporary check point on a road in front of Cox's Bazar Polytechnic Institute, said Maj Mehedi Hasan, company commander of Rab-7.

Around 1:30am, the Rab team signaled a microbus to stop, searched it and found one lakh yaba tablets stashed in the gearbox of the vehicle.

The law enforcers then arrested its three passengers and seized the vehicle, Mehedi told The Daily Star.

Later, they were handed over to Cox's Bazar Model Police Station. The Rab filed a case against the three with the police station.

Police said a local court sent the arrestees to jail after they were produced before it.

Our correspondents from Chattogram and Cox's Bazar contributed to this report.

New-look

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Arab Emirates bodes well for the Zimbabwe series as performances from the much-maligned youngsters and the celebrated warhorses took them to within a whisker of winning the coveted trophy.

On the other hand, Zimbabwe have all their senior players back but are coming off a dismal tour of South Africa during which they were outclassed in all completed games across the three formats.

While Zimbabwe used to boss Bangladesh in the early stages of their rivalry, the last decade has been one-sided in favour of the hosts. Zimbabwe have not won a single ODI against Bangladesh in Bangladesh since December 2010, with the Tigers winning their last 10 matches in the format.

For Bangladesh, this series is an opportunity to test their bench strength in the lead-up to the 2019 World Cup in England next summer. Imrul Kayes and Liton Das -- who struck a century in the Asia Cup final -- are expected to open the innings, with one of Nazmul Hossain Shanto or the uncapped Fazle Rabbi to bat at three. The middle order of Mushfiqur Rahim, Mohammad Mithun and Mahmudullah Riyad basically picks itself.

With Rubel Hossain likely to miss out with fever, if pace-bowling all-rounder Mohammad Saifuddin plays, he is likely to bat at seven and be followed by skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Mehedi Hasan Miraz. If left-arm pacer Abu Hider plays instead, either Mehedi or Mashrafe will move a step up. Left-arm spinner Nazmul Islam and pacer Mustafizur Rahman are likely to be the other two members.

Zimbabwe will be boosted by the return of all-rounder Sikandar Raza, who has not played for the country since February because of a contract dispute.

4 people die

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village -- were undergoing treatment at Kaliganj Upazila Health Complex in critical condition.

Munna's brother Antor Das said his brother fell sick after drinking excessive alcohol around 7:00pm, during the last day of the Durga Puja celebrations (Dasami). He was first taken to Kaliganj Upazila Health Complex and then shifted to Jashore Medical College Hospital where he died.

Office-in-charge of Kaliganj Police Station Younus Ali said after a meeting with the Puja Uddjapan committee, people were advised to refrain from alcohol consumption during celebrations.

Three killed

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around 7:00am. He was rushed to Kurmitola General Hospital where doctors declared him dead. His body has been kept at Dhaka Medical College morgue.

Another unidentified woman, aged around 45 years, who was hit by a private car on Friday night in Bouabazar area in Hazaribagh, died early yesterday at DMCH.

AB home, for good

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everyone loves my father. Please pray for his departed soul and forgive him if anyone was ever hurt by him. Your prayers and love will ease his transition to the beyond," said Ahnaf Tazwar Ayub, Bachchu's son, to his father's admirers.

Tushar Rahman, a student of Premier University and an ardent lover of Bachchu's music broke down and said, "Why did he have to leave so early! I don't know how to express my feelings. I spent my entire childhood listening to his music. He is and forever will be my favourite musician."

Bachchu's body was then taken to Jamiatul Falah Jam-e-Masjid at Dampara Wasa intersection at 2:30pm for the namaz-e-janaza after Asr prayers. The wave of people overflowed the whole ground, the biggest Eidgah of the city, and completely covered the street before it.

Musicians and cultural activists from around the city gathered at the place with flower wreaths as every one of them spoke of the irreparable loss to the music industry.

"We've known each other since 1983. We practiced and played together. Even after becoming one of the most popular artists of the country, he

accessories he used, we will arrange to preserve them," he said.

Mohammad Iqbal Hossain, general secretary of Chittagong Musical Band Association, said the amount of inspiration all young musicians in the country received from Bachchu was second to none.

"The position where Bengali rock music is today has a great debt towards Bachchu bhai. He is the pioneer of guitar showmanship in the industry and there will never be another like him."

Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin declared that a road will be named after Ayub Bachchu to commemorate such a glorious son of this soil.

"In the CCC general meeting today, I will propose that an important road in the city be named after Ayub Bachchu. I will also request the concerned ministry to rename the Muslim Hall at Nandankanan area in the city after him," he said.

As the janaza came to an end at 4:30pm, a crowd of hundreds, including family, admirers, fans, and colleagues, poured into the port city yesterday as their favourite rock musician Ayub Bachchu was taken to Baishamahalla graveyard at Chaitanyagoli area near Station Road.



never turned his back on anyone. He was a great man, even before he became a great musician," said Kazi Moshir Rahman, member of the rock band Rhythm.

Professor Dr Iftekhhar Uddin Chowdhury, vice chancellor of University of Chittagong, who came to say the janaza prayer, said the university authorities would set up a corner at its central museum to cherish the memory of the legend.

"He is a gem of our country. The university authority will be honoured to do something to pay homage to his memory. If his family members provide us with some of the guitars and

As people, out of respect, let his family bid their last farewell, the musician was carried into the graveyard by just his family members. Ayub Bachchu was laid to rest at 5:15pm next to his mother.

Ayub Bachchu was born in 1962 at Firingi Bazar area in Chattogram. Roaming around the alleys of Jubilee Road with a guitar in his hand, he later went on to conquer the hearts of millions. Even though his soul left the material world, he will live on in the hearts of his fans, through the tunes of his music and the soulful words he had sewn into them.

3 'criminals'

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Rights activists said "infighting" is a new narrative for extra judicial killings as law enforcers' narratives of "shoot-outs", "crossfires" or "gunfights" have become clichés over the years.

In Pabna, Rab said Tipu Sheikh, 45, who was killed early yesterday during a "gunfight" with its officers, was accused in eight drug cases.

Lt Commander Ruhul Amin, company commander of Rab-12, said the gunfight took place when a team of the elite force raided Rajapur Kaliko Cotton Mill area around 3:00am after being tipped off about the presence of drug dealers.

He added that Tipu was shot when armed gang members began to shoot at Rab men and they retaliated. Tipu was pronounced dead at a local hospital, the officer said.

A firearm, five bullets, and 770 yaba pills were recovered from the scene, he said.

At least 243 people were killed across the country since the anti-narcotics drive began. Law enforcers said all of them were drug dealers. Most of them were killed in so-called shootouts with Rab and police.

Police yesterday said they recovered the body of Abul Hossain, 40, an accused in "several cases" in Narayanganj.

Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Rupganj Police Station, said Abul was shot during a "gunfight between two groups of robbers" at night following a feud over shares of the loot.

Bangladeshi

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entered into India illegally through the border near pillar no.385/5-S. Rabbani died on the spot.

The others with him managed to flee.

BSF confiscated the dead immediately.

BGB officials strongly protested the killing and sent a letter Sunday morning asking its counterpart BSF to return the body.

Responding to the letter, BSF officials attended a Battalion Commander level flag meeting with BGB officials at noon where BSF acknowledged the incident and said they will hand over the body after completion of autopsy, CO said.

When contacted, Mohammad Akalu, Chairman of Amzankhor Union Parishad, told this correspondent over cell phone that usually the people enter into India illegally to bring cattle while some others go for work as day labourers.

Oikyafront

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the field of the Registrar's Office at Bandarabazar area in Sylhet, Ali Ahmed, general secretary of Sylhet district unit of BNP said.

"After an hour or more, they called us and confirmed that permission for the rally would not be given on security grounds", he said.

Last Wednesday, the Oikyafront filed an application to hold the rally on October 23 but it was denied the next day for the same reason. However, police did not elaborate on what the "security grounds" were.

The Jatiya Oikyafront is an alliance of BNP, Dr Kamal Hossain-led Jatiya Oikya Prokriya, ASM Abdur Rab's Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and Mahmudur Rahman Manna's Nagorik Oikya.

The Oikyafront was formed on October 13 to press for holding the national election under a polls-time neutral government after dissolution of parliament and release of BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia from jail.

After its formation, the alliance, on October 16, declared to hold its first public rally in Sylhet on October 23 but after their application for it was denied, they declared to hold the rally on October 24.

They planned to offer Fateha at the Shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal (R) and Shah Paran (R) and at the grave of General MAG Osmani on October 24.

India train disaster families protest amid anger over safety

AFP, Amritsar

Angry relatives staged a protest Saturday on the tracks where a speeding train ploughed into crowds watching fireworks, killing about 60 people in the latest disaster to bedevil India's railway network.

The Jalandhar-Amritsar express hit scores of people who had gathered on the tracks Friday to get a view of a firework-packed effigy of the demon king Ravana for a Hindu festival.

Many of the victims were dismembered beyond recognition and police said it would take several days to complete the identification of the dead.

Some desperate parents went from hospital to hospital in the northern city of Amritsar on Saturday looking for missing children, while the first funerals of some victims were held.