

## Four hurt as BCL factions scuffle at DU women's dorm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two factions of Chhatra League locked in a scuffle over supremacy at Dhaka University's Bangamata Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall yesterday evening, leaving at least four female students hurt.

The tussle ensued around 8:00pm inside the hall between a group led by the hall's BCL unit President Kohinur Akhter Rakhi and General Secretary Sanjina Yasmin and another group led by Rawnak Jahana, former Liberation War affairs deputy secretary of the hall unit of BCL, said sources.

Over the past few days, Rawnak accompanied by her follower Tania Akhter Taposhi had been mobilising resident students of the hall to create a new faction against Rakhi and Sanjina. Enraged by that, Rakhi and Sanjina locked in an altercation with Rawnak and her followers in the evening. At one point, several dozens of students belonging to both groups started punching each other, which left four students including Rawnak and Tania hurt.

The injured students were taken to the university's medical centre where they took primary treatment.

DU Proctor Prof AKM Golam Rabbani, who visited the hall after the incident, said he received information that the incident took place following a "misunderstanding" among few students. The hall authorities have been asked to look into the matter, he said, adding, they will take action against those guilty after conducting a probe.

Termining the incident "unaccepted", DU BCL unit General Secretary Tanvir Hasan Saikat said they were trying to resolve the matter through discussion. If that fails they will take organisational action against those guilty.



**RISKY BUSINESS...** Some people have occupied both sides of the rail track from Malibag to Khilgaon and are engaged in brick breaking works. Such endeavours so close to the rail lines can cause an accident within a blink of an eye. This photo was taken in Malibag recently.

## DSA doesn't restrict press freedom

Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Digital Security Act (DSA) does not impede independent journalism or restrict press freedom, said Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday.

"DSA wasn't formulated to muzzle the press, rather it was drafted to tackle cyber crimes," he said while speaking as the chief guest at the conference of Kasba Press Club in Brahmanbaria.

"We believe in the constitution, in the ideologies of Bangabandhu and in the spirit of the Liberation War. We believe in press freedom and freedom of speech," he said.

Termining an election time caretaker government unconstitutional, the minister reiterated that the next parliamentary polls will take place under the current government.



## Buri Teesta levee, a relief for locals

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Nilphamari

The newly-constructed embankment along Buri Teesta river in Nilphamari's Jaldhaka upazila has been a blessing for thousands of people residing in 30 villages, because now they are protected from regular floods, thanks to the efforts of Water Development Board (WDB).

Locals and WDB sources said the 69-kilometre Buri Teesta merges with the mighty Teesta at Banpara village, where the embankment was built.

But only a year ago, floods and river erosion were regular scenarios there, as about 13.5-km stretch of the embankment, from Golumunda to Banpara, was in a vulnerable state for a long time.

As a result, people of 30 villages under three unions - Golumunda, Sholmari and Koimari - in the upazila were the worst sufferers. Properties worth Tk 15 to 20 crore used to get damaged every year.

However, locals found new hope when a WDB project titled "Making Charalkata river straight



and protection of Buri Teesta embankments" came into effect in 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Mahamudunnabi, a representative for "Save the Buri Teesta" movement, said not only was the embankment of Buri Teesta built, but the river was also dredged adequately to restore its navigability.

Nilphamari WDB Sub Divisional Engineer Abdul Hannan Prodhan said the project was a full-fledged package that included river dredging, construction of embankment, flood protection works and tree plantation.

"Not only high embankments, but dredging is also important

to control floods," he said.

During a recent visit to Banpara, Taluk Sholmari and Bokshipara villages, this correspondent saw many shoal people either sitting or having a walk by the newly constructed embankment.

Erosion victim Mahatabuddin, now living on other's land at Banpara, said, "If the dam was built two or three years ago, I wouldn't have become landless."

Nilphamari WDB Executive Engineer Krishnakamol Chandra Sarker said, "Beyond flood control, the impact of the project on ecology is great, as the river got back its navigability."

## 16 fishers held for catching fish fry in Sundarbans

UNB, Khulna

The Forest Department has detained 16 fishermen from the Sundarbans for catching Parshe (mullet) fry, during its breeding period from November-January, from the river and canals defying ban.

A team of the Forest Department (West) led by Zahirul Islam, officer-in-charge of Nilkomol Patrol Outpost, detained the fishers around 4:30am on Thursday during a drive at the Bangabandhu Char area, said Divisional Forest Officer Abu Naser Mohsin Hossain. The officials also seized two fishing boats.

"A case has been filed under the Forest Act; the fishermen have been sent to Koyra Upazila Senior Judicial Magistrate Court."

Fishermen of Shyamnagar, Koyra, Paikgacha, and Dakop areas surrounding the Sundarbans are also using illegal nets to catch fish fry.

## 15 injured as train derails in Kishoreganj



UNB, Kishoreganj

At least 15 passengers were injured as a compartment of an intercity train derailed at Bhairab Railway Station in Kishoreganj yesterday morning.

The compartment of the Kishoreganj-bound intercity Egarosindhur train from Dhaka came off the tracks at Bhairab station while its engine was being changed at 9:30am, said station master Md Nur Nabi.

At least 15 passengers were injured as the window glasses and floors of three train carts broke down following the derailment, Egarosindhur train attendant Sohel told the news agency.

"We are working to repair and get the train back on track as a salvage train is on its way from Akhaura," the station master said.

## Buzzword: freedom

FROM PAGE 3

their 5th Slam Poetry Nights session to a packed audience on the Nazrul Mancha.

Day two of Lit Fest yesterday saw a stronger focus on freedom of speech. In addition to Culture Wars, PEN Bangladesh's session on free speech in the written word touched upon the limitations placed on journalists by corporate houses and the spread of misinformation by social media.

Speakers included Prof Syed Manzoorul

Islam, author and South Asia specialist Sudeep Chakravarti, journalist Udisa Islam and poet, critic and writer Sumon Rahman, with writer and editor Mohammad Moheuddin as moderator. In Goddesses of Bengal, Professor Kaiser Haq and Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures Professor Rachel McDermott discussed syncretism in the religious and indigenous cultural practices in the region.

Sessions on literature, children's literature, climate

change, technology, and content creation, also saw a focus in yesterday's events. The evening saw musical performances by Armeen Musa, and later by Pantho and Friends featuring Animesh Roy and Warda Ashraf.

Dhaka Lit Fest will continue on the Bangla Academy premises till January 8.

Daily Star Books editor Sarah Anjum Bari will moderate a session on "Is A Book Worth Reading? Who Decides?" at 1:45pm on Sunday.

## Five cops hurt as criminals

FROM PAGE 5

scene. Yesterday, police filed a case naming nine accused including the three with Narsingdi Sadar Police Station in connection with the attack.

According to police, a 11-member police team went to a house to arrest Majnu Miah, his brother Sujon Miah, and son

Farhad Miah, at Puranpara in Gabtoli area at 1:30am.

The three are accused in several cases, including drugs and attacks on DB police.

Although the law enforcers showed their identities and arrest warrants, the people of the house, including the accused, attacked them with brickbats and sharp

weapons, leaving five policemen injured, police said.

Police arrested Farhad Miah from the spot but the rest fled away.

Ershad Ali, inspector (Intelligence) of Narsingdi Sadar Police Station, said despite showing their identities and court's arrest warrants, the family members attacked them with sharp weapons. They also screamed "robbers" to avoid arrest, he added.

OC Kashem said Farhad has been sent to jail through a court. Efforts are on to arrest the other accused, he added.

## Burn cases surge amid winter chill

FROM PAGE 3

Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery. But in winter, the hospitals give priority to accommodating more burn patients, doctors said.

After coronavirus gripped the country in 2020, the burn unit of DMCH was dedicated for Covid patients. The number of burn patients in the facility was about as low as 50 during that time. But now again, the whole unit is dedicated to burn patients. Besides, many patients are also coming to the outdoor unit with minor burns requiring primary treatment, doctors said.

While visiting the hospital, this newspaper also met four-year-old Arafat.

The child was playing in his house in Burichang upazila of Cumilla while his mother Parul Akhter was boiling bathwater. She was un mindful for few minutes, and Arafat fell in the hot water. The child sustained 13 percent burn injuries following the incident.

For the last 16 days, he has been at the burn unit of DMCH.

"Although almost everything is free at the government hospital, we still needed to spend about Tk 30,000 to buy some medicines and to meet our everyday cost," said Parul.

Mohammad Hasan, a college student from Barishal, came to visit his cousin in Mirpur-II recently. The two went out on Thursday morning

and while returning to his cousin's home in the evening, Hasan saw a group of people warming themselves with a fire they lit up using dried leaves and branches. Hasan and his cousin joined them. After a while, Hasan threw a branch into the fire to keep it running.

"As soon as I did it, the branch exploded and some splinters along with fire hit my face," he told The Daily Star.

He sustained eight percent burns and received treatment including burn dressing at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery on Thursday night. Talking to The Daily Star, Dr Samanta Lal Sen, chief national coordinator for plastic surgery and burn

projects in Bangladesh, said every year, the number of burn patients increases in winter as the usage of fire and cooking stove go up for the purpose of warming body, boiling water and heating curries.

Many times, it leads to unexpected fire incidents due to negligence and unawareness, he added.

Burn treatment is comparatively expensive than other treatments. Generally, a severe patient needs to stay at the hospital from one to six months, according to doctors.

"This winter, we could not accommodate all patients at the same time as the number of beds is still low. So, we are giving primary treatment to those who have small burns

and asking them to visit hospitals for dressing as per doctor's advice," Dr Sen said.

Dr Sen added that they have taken steps to create awareness among people. From this year, National Burn Day will be observed across the country to raise awareness, he added.

## PM pays

FROM PAGE 3

men on the dreadful night of August 15, 1975 along with most of his family members.

The premier reached Tungipara yesterday morning by road after crossing the Padma Bridge.

The premier is scheduled to spend the night at Tungipara.

## BCL rally leads

FROM PAGE 3

Market in the afternoon.

He said he saw BCL activists and supporters holding placards and festoons crossing the area and moving towards DU, slowing down vehicular movements.

An inspector of New

BCL's rally led to a gridlock in the area. The inspector, however, said the gridlock only remained for about 10 minutes and later the situation became normal.

BCL organised the rally to celebrate its 75th founding anniversary.

## Second-hand

FROM PAGE 3

"I came all the way from Cumilla to admit my family member to DMCH. Now I'm buying sweaters for us as the cold is unbearable," he said.

This correspondent also talked to people of lower

income groups in Karwan Bazar and Farmgate area, who are one of the worst sufferers. They claimed they were yet to receive any warm clothes by the authorities or from the affluent section of the society.

## Cattle expo held

FROM PAGE 5

to promote agro business.

Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Science University Vice Chancellor Dr ASM Lutful Ehsan, Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, Channel i Director and Head of News

Shaikh Siraj, Chattogram District Animal Resources Officer Dr Md Delwar Hossain, Chattogram Chamber of Commerce & Industry President Mahbul Alam, were present, among others.

## A decade later

FROM PAGE 5

fence for four and a half hours, her body was taken away by BSF.

The BSF handed over the body to the Border Guard Bangladesh 30 hours after the incident. The ghastly photo of Felani's body hanging from the barbed wire

upside down sparked protest and condemnation throughout the country.

Felani's father Nur Islam said, "Until we get justice for my daughter, we will not rest." Her mother, Jahanara Begum, was too grief-stricken to speak.

## Need more

FROM PAGE 3

and competencies of chartered accountants to meet the performance criteria of the marketplace."

ICAB President Moniruzzaman said chartered accountants are playing a multifaceted role in the economy. They

provide various statutory services like audit, taxation compliance, various attestation engagements as per requirements.

Md Jashim Uddin, president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, also spoke at the event.

**KNIT FACTORY SALE**  
An operational knit fabric production factory (12,000 sq ft) on 61 decimal land is available for sale. 32 km from Dhaka, Dhaka-Aricha High (N5), Dhamrai, Dhaka. No via-media/Agent/ Brokers.  
**Only direct buyers, Contact # 01711544717.**

**Invitation to submit proposals for the below Request for Proposals (RFPs) issued by UNICEF Bangladesh**

**RFP No. LRPS-2022-9180499: Water Network Review in the Rohingya Refugee Camps, Cox's Bazar [Re-Bid].**

UNICEF Bangladesh is inviting interested companies with a strong track record and professional credibility of providing the above-required services under one contract. To receive the detailed scope of work and procedure to submit the bid response, please email: [supplybangladesh@unicef.org](mailto:supplybangladesh@unicef.org)

The deadline to submit the proposal is **Thursday, 26 January 2023; at 11:00 Hrs.**

**Please note UNICEF does not charge any fee at any stage of the solicitation process.**

[www.unicef.org/bangladesh](http://www.unicef.org/bangladesh)

unicef for every child