

Over 2,800 BNP men sued over clash with cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajbari

A total of 2,816 BNP leaders and activists have been sued over Saturday's clash with police during the party's procession marking its founding anniversary.

Sohel Rana, sub-inspector of Rajbari Sadar Police Station, filed one of the cases against 111 named and 2,000-2,200 unnamed people on Saturday night.

Meanwhile, Bidhan Chandra Mollik, sub-inspector of Rajbari Railway Police Station, filed another case against five people and 450-500 unnamed others the same night.

According to locals, Ali Newaz Mahmud Khayyam, former Rajbari lawmaker and former president of

When the procession reached the court gate intersection, police intercepted it, triggering the clash.

district unit BNP, led a procession with thousands of leaders and activists on the occasion of BNP's 45th founding anniversary from his residence around noon on Saturday.

When the procession reached the court gate intersection, police intercepted it, triggering the clash. The police fired tear gas and rubber bullets to bring the situation under control.

Three policemen and 15-17 BNP activists were injured at the time.

Afterwards, some of the dispersed BNP men moved to Rajbari Railway Station, adjacent to the railway platform, around 1:30pm.

The police asked the men to keep a calm and orderly situation at the place, however, at one point, the BNP activists allegedly attacked the police.

Somnath Basu, officer in charge of Rajbari Railway Police Station, confirmed that a case was filed over the incident and added that no one was arrested yet.

Contacted, Mohammad Sahadat, officer-in-charge of Rajbari Police Station, said, "A case has been filed on charges of sabotage, attack on police, obstruction of government work, vandalism, and causing public suffering."

"28 people have been arrested in the case. Attempts are being made to arrest the other accused. All the arrestees were sent to jail via court orders," Kamrul Hasan, sub-inspector of Rajbari Sadar Police Station, told this newspaper.

Meanwhile, BNP leader Ali Newaz said, "I have not received a copy of the case statement. I will speak on the matter after receiving the copy."



EAT LIKE A KING for less than Tk 100 at Hakim Chatter

RBR

A quarter of a boiled egg stuffed inside a tiny handful of spicy potato mash – this deep-fried breaded croquette is just Tk 10. You could easily gobble up at least six of these egg chops, as the soft yolk gets addictive with that hint of burnt dry chilli.

A similar mix of chicken with half a plate of khichuri is Tk 35 and a glass of chilled lassi, kaacha aam, or papaya juice, to gulp it all down with, is just Tk 25.

The menu also boasts a clever fusion of chicken sandwich, fried in a savoury French toast style, and a small bowl of haleem for Tk 40. These items make for lunch or snacks – all under Tk 100 – for Dhaka University students at the famous Hakim Chatter.

A small makeshift cart-styled canteen under the canopy of large trees, Hakim Chatter is situated at a prime location, just beside the DU library premises. There is no seating arrangement except for a wooden log placed on some brick steps, and yet, morning, noon or night, the place is buzzing with animated chatter and banter from students gathered there during breaks.

"Every day, we cook about 20 kgs of khichuri. We use the best quality rice grains, mixed lentils and spices; this is one of our popular items.

We also serve 10 kgs of steamed rice and approximately 8 kgs of haleem [a thick mixed pulses broth with beef]. We do this every day and all year round," said Shaheen, a cheerful youth, who has worked as a server at the canteen for the last 9 years. A group of 12 to 14 youths work as either cooks, servers, or manager, from 8:00AM to 10:00PM.

"We make a decent sale on a daily basis, leaving aside the dues many students have with us. It is so crowded that at times we also forget the faces of who ate what. It's a student area after all, and we have to keep that in mind. We will suffer losses, but then there are profits too," said Delwar Hossain, the current owner of the



stall.

As the story goes, two friends, Hakim and Nannu Miah, started selling tea at this corner some 40 odd years ago. They were so amiable with the students and DU staffers that after Hakim, who was fondly called chacha or uncle, passed away, they named the place Hakim Chatter to honour his memories.

Now, Delwar Hossain, son of

Nannu Miah, took over the reign in 2001. He took a 99-year lease from the university authorities and stated selling food since 2003.

"Students didn't have any place to have quality food around the campus. They had to go to Shahbagh or Old Dhaka for lunch. On that note, the authority gave us a lease with the condition that we will sell good food and maintain quality standards. We don't sell leftovers. In fact, whatever we make is sold out that very day. We insist on changing the frying oil every day. We too eat this food along with the students, so quality control is very important to us," said Delwar.

After paying the lease rent of Tk 18,000, and the staffers' salaries, Delwar has a profit of around Tk 25,000 to Tk 30,000.

"The profit varies according to the season. During winter, students want warm food, so sales spike. During monsoon and summer however, business suffers a bit."

Students are always strapped for money. For them, a lunch at Hakim Chatter under Tk 100, where quality is maintained, is the best possible option. And this place is not just crowded by students or teachers, but ex-students as well, who often visit the place for a cup of tea or lassi for nostalgia's sake.

Hakim Chatter is one of Dhaka's best hunts for inexpensive quality food; and everyone is welcome to it. So, the next time you are in the vicinity, definitely give the haleem, khichuri, or the dim chop a shot.



Remittance dips 21.5pc in August

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and the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh fix the dollar rate for collecting remittances as per the unofficial directive of the central bank.

Last Thursday, the two bodies set Tk 109.5 for a dollar from September 3 from Tk 109 previously.

But the exchange rate prevailing at the kerb market is Tk 117 to Tk 118.

Remittance inflows through the banking channels have shrunk due to inappropriate policies by the central bank, said two chief executives of private banks who asked not to be named to speak candidly on the issue.

"How can we get remittance at Tk 109.50 a dollar? And we can't even

offer more to remitters due to the central bank's order," said one of them.

The inflows continue to contract for the fixed exchange rate, said the other bank CEO.

"Our exchange rate is not sustainable and that is why a large number of Bangladeshi expatriates are sending remittance through informal channels like hundi and other online systems," Mujeri said.

Now, there are a host of online channels for sending remittance smoothly other than the banking channels, he said, adding that the terms and conditions will have to be easier in banking channels.

Zahid Hussain, a former lead

economist of the World Bank's Dhaka office, echoed the same.

The remittance inflow decreased due to the exchange rate premium between the formal and informal exchange rates.

The difference in the exchange rate between the formal and informal markets is called the premium.

A World Bank study found remittance inflows through the formal channels decrease by 3.5 percent if the premium offered by the informal market exchange rate increases by 1 percent, he said.

BB spokesman Md Mezbaul Haque declined to comment on the matter.

"We will analyse why the remittance inflow decreased."

Commuters mostly elated

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was opened stretches from the airport to Farmgate.

Mostly private cars were seen plying through the expressway all day long. Public buses operated on their regular routes.

At some entry and exit points, however, city-dwellers experienced traffic gridlocks on the first day of public movement on the elevated expressway.

In Banani, vehicles coming off the expressway added to existing tailbacks on the thoroughfare below. The closure of a ramp near Banani Police Outpost further worsened the situation. Passengers in some other areas including Mohakhali, Moghbazar and Bijoy Sarani also complained about hour-long delays.

Touhidul Islam, a private car driver who was headed to Moghbazar from Banani, said, "I saw a tailback as soon as I left home. I thought the roads might be empty today. But no local bus used the expressway."

Didar Hossain, another private car driver who travelled to Mohakhali from the airport area, said, "It took me 15 minutes on the expressway. But after driving down on the street, I got stuck for 30 minutes due to traffic."

Talking to journalists, Abu Saleh Md Raihan, joint commissioner of traffic (north) at Dhaka Metropolitan Police, yesterday said, "Traffic congestion was seen at the exit points in Farmgate, Mohakhali, Kakoli, and Kawla areas due to heavy pressure of vehicles that used the elevated expressway. As today is the first day, commuters on the city streets faced some inconveniences."

Kawsar Hossain, who travelled to Mohakhali from Moghbazar, was riding on a Balaka Paribahan bus. He said, "I got on at 8:00 am but was stuck in traffic for almost two hours."

About why buses were not seen on the elevated expressway, bus owners said public buses make multiple stops to pick up passengers

along their usual routes. This is not possible on the controlled-access expressway. That's why they are avoiding the expressway and sticking to the streets, they added.

Along the 11-km section of the expressway, buses pick up passengers from Khilgaon, Kuril, Kurmitola, and the Army Stadium areas.

Commenting on the issue, Adil Mohammad Khan, executive director of the Institute for Planning and Development, said, "Public buses not using the expressway means congestion on streets won't go down."

According to project sources, in the 15 hours between 6:00 am and 9:00pm yesterday, a total of 16,384 vehicles used the expressway.

The maximum traffic was seen entering from the airport end, with 9,052 vehicles getting on the expressway from this point.

In terms of revenue generation, over Tk 13, 30,160 was collected during the first 15 hours of operations.

55kg gold vanishes from customs godown

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permanently or temporarily to Bangladesh Bank within seven days, says the law.

Asked why gold was stored in a godown with other items, Azad said owners were supposed to take the items after paying fines and taxes. "That's why these were not deposited to Bangladesh Bank."

"It seems the gold was stolen in phases. Usually, two AROs, each with a set of keys, are assigned to oversee these two godowns," he said.

When taking charge of the godowns on November 10, last year, the AROs, now under investigation, were officially handed over the inventory, he said.

"If they signed the papers without physically checking what's in there, then it is their responsibility," he

added.

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

On August 14, senior officials found six gold bars in a comparatively less secure place in a godown.

Officials then launched a thorough examination into the items that had arrived since 2020. Goldsmiths were called in to measure how much gold was there.

But in the early hours of Saturday, during the inventory examination, two AROs informed senior officials that a godown appeared to have been broken in, according to sources.

Customs officers then contacted law enforcers.

"After conducting a forensic investigation, law enforcers found no evidence of unauthorised entry into the godown and suggested that there

might be involvement of insiders," said a senior police officer involved in the investigation.

Customs officials at the scene first told cops that the thief might have entered the godown through a broken tin window of a toilet.

"But it appeared that the tin was cut earlier. And it is not possible for someone to enter through the tiny space," the officer told The Daily Star, adding that there was no security camera there.

"Customs personnel responsible for security could have been involved in the theft," said the officer, requesting anonymity.

Of the missing gold, around eight kg was seized on August 13 this year, and 47kg was seized at different times since 2020, they said.

Bangladeshi man killed in BSF firing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A Bangladeshi man was shot dead allegedly by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at Rowmari border in Kurigram in the early hours of yesterday.

The incident took place at Behular Char border of Shoulmari union near the Border Pillar 1062-25 at around 1:00am, said police.

The deceased, Manik Mia, 35, of Behular Char village of Rowmari upazila, was reportedly involved in cow smuggling.

According to police and locals, 10-12 members of a cattle smuggling gang went to Behular Char border to bring in Indian cows at around 1:00am.

At that time, BSF members of Kuchnimara camp of the 45 Battalion, who were patrolling the border, opened fire on them.

Manik Mia was shot in the chest and died on the spot. Later, his associates recovered the body, police said.

When they attempted to secretly bury the body in the Banchar Char area in the afternoon, Rowmari police went to the spot on information, recovered Manik's body and brought it to the police station.

2 missing persons found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Police recovered two bodies in Jamalpur's Sarishabari and Dewanganj upazilas yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Aminul Islam, 22, of Sabujpur village in Dewanganj upazila, and Johura Khatun, 80, of Pothiarpar village in Sarishabari upazila.

Johura went missing on Saturday, and Aminul went missing last morning.

Mohabbat Kabir, officer-in-charge of Sarishabari Police Station, said Johura Khatun went missing after leaving her house Saturday morning.

Later, locals yesterday found her body floating in a ditch close to her house.

The police handed over the body to her family as there was no complaint.

In Dewanganj, Aminul went missing in the morning when he went fishing in a local river, said Biplob Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Dewanganj Police Station.

After three hours, firefighters recovered his body.

Later, police handed over the body to his family without autopsy.

N Korea stages tactical nuclear attack drill

REUTERS, Seoul

North Korea conducted a simulated tactical nuclear attack drill that included two long-range cruise missiles in an exercise to "warn enemies" the country would be prepared in case of nuclear war, the KCNA state news agency said yesterday.

KCNA said the drill was successfully carried out on Saturday and two cruise missiles carrying mock nuclear warheads were fired towards the West Sea of the Korean peninsula and flew 1,500 km (930 miles) at a pre-set altitude of 150 meters.

Tigers ensure Asia Cup

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have a better net run-rate than Bangladesh but in no scenario, both Afghanistan and Sri Lanka will be able to have a better net run-rate than Bangladesh, which essentially sees the Tigers through to the next stage of the tournament.

Yesterday, Bangladesh looked a totally different side than the one that played in Kandy against Sri Lanka in the first game. Needing a win to stay alive in the continental championship, the Tigers came up with a spirited batting display on a batting friendly surface.

In an attempt to tackle the long-standing opening slot issues, Miraz was promoted over the batting order as he paired with Mohammad Naim. The duo did a commendable job, giving Bangladesh a solid start with a 60-run stand – the first time in over a year that the Tigers saw a fifty-plus opening stand in ODIs.

Naim was dismissed after a 32-ball 28, but Miraz continued to pick up his second ODI hundred. During

a 119-ball 112, laced with seven boundaries and three maximums, Miraz also starred in a 194-run unbroken stand with Shanto for the third wicket before having to retire hurt in the 43rd over due to a cramp. Their partnership is now the best ever for any wicket for Bangladesh in the tournament.

Shanto, meanwhile, continued his purple patch, following up his 89 in the previous game with a 104-run knock off 105 deliveries yesterday. Shanto, who also scored his second ODI ton, dominated a strong Afghan bowling line-up, comprising the likes of Rashid Khan, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, and Fazalhaq Farooqi.

The efforts of Shanto and Miraz were aptly complemented by the bowlers, with pace spearhead Taskin Ahmed claiming a total of four wickets in 8.3 overs while giving away 44 runs.

Young seamer Shoriful Islam gave the Tigers the much-needed breakthroughs, getting rid of the dangerous Rahmanullah Gurbaz in the second over. Shoriful also removed a

well-set Afghan skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi at 51 off 60 deliveries before claiming the wicket of Gulbadin Naib at the latter stage of the innings.

Fakhrul, Rizvi

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out the charges to them.

Before that, the magistrate dismissed petitions submitted to discharge them of the charges in the case.

The magistrate fixed September 20 for the start of the case trial.

According to the case statement, a group of BNP leaders and activists led by Fakhrul and Rizvi torched a garbage truck at Bijoyanagar in Paltan around 7:00pm on December 9, 2012, when the driver was going to Matuail landfill.

Later, a case was filed against Fakhrul, Rizvi, and 20 others with Paltan Model Police Station in this regard.

After an investigation, police on October 13, 2017, submitted a charge sheet against the eight accused.