

8 BCL men injured in infighting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Eight activists of Chhatra League were injured in an attack allegedly by another group of BCL at Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University in Tangail on Tuesday night.

Campus sources said to establish supremacy, the rival group attacked them with lethal weapons around 11:00pm while they were sitting on the rooftop of Abdul Mannan Hall.

The injured are Sohanur Rahman Sohan, Roki, Joy Dhar, Sajib Shekh, Sourav, Minar, Nayeem Raz, and Tamim. Sohan was sent to Orthopedic Hospital, Roki to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, and the rest took first aid from Tangail General Hospital.

Hall provost Dr Ashraf Hossain Talukder said legal steps will be taken against the culprits.

Sadiqur Rahman, inspector of Tangail Sadar Police Station, said they went to the spot and recovered two machetes.

38 more Covid cases in 24 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the past 24 hours, Bangladesh confirmed 38 new Covid-19 cases, bringing the total to 20,47,709, with a slight decrease in the infection rate from Tuesday's 9.66 percent to 8.66 percent.

No new deaths were reported during this period, maintaining the fatality rate at 1.44 percent.

This year, seven deaths have been recorded, with a total of 29,484 fatalities, according to DGHS.

DGHS emphasised the need for precaution, advising the public, particularly those at high risk, to receive a fourth vaccine dose.



Truckers avoid Payra bridge to evade tolls, fines

Govt losing Tk 3 lakh revenue daily; alternative routes being affected

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

In order to evade tolls, Patuakhali-bound goods-laden trucks are using alternative roads, avoiding the weighing scales installed on the Payra bridge in Lebukhali area on Dhaka-Patuakhali highway.

The drivers are using a ferry and crossing five dilapidated bailey bridges -- over 20 kilometres of distance to reach Patuakhali -- instead of using the Payra bridge -- to avoid paying fines for being overloaded.

Due to this, the alternative Patuakhali Mirzaganj road is gradually becoming unfit for use as heavy trucks plying the road are leaving potholes while also causing congestion.

Meanwhile, the government is being deprived of at least Tk 3 lakh in tolls every day, said officials.

This correspondent stayed at Payrakunj Ferry Ghat from morning till evening on a recent weekday and saw 191 heavy trucks cross the area during this time. However, before the toll system at Payra bridge was digitised, only 10-12 trucks would cross this spot, said ferry workers.

Roads and Highways Department constructed the 1,170-metre-long and 19.76-metre-wide bridge on Payra river at a cost of Tk 1,118 crore.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the bridge on October 24, 2021.

The bridge established an uninterrupted road connection between the capital and the country's southern part, including Kuakata sea beach. It became a boon to regional

the load capacity, as well as fines in case of overloaded vehicles.

The average load capacity is 22 tonnes for 6-wheeler trucks, 30 tonnes for 10-wheelers, 40 tonnes for 14-wheelers, 47 tonnes for 18-wheelers, 49 tonnes for 22-wheelers, and 52 tonnes for 26-wheelers. A penalty of

for carrying extra weight, leaving us to collect around Tk 3 lakh less revenue every day. We already informed the higher authorities in this regard," said Md Mainul Hasan, toll operation manager of Payra bridge.

From the launch of the digitised system till January this year, Tk



The 1,170-metre-long Payra bridge on the Dhaka-Patuakhali highway was built at a cost of Tk 1,118 crore. However, countless truck drivers are choosing to use an alternative route to avoid being fined for overloading their vehicles. As a result, local roads and bridges in Patuakhali and Mirzaganj are left in an unfit state, due to continuous plying of overloaded trucks.

PHOTO: STAR

communication and expansion of business and agriculture.

While the collection of tolls on the bridge began on the first day, the ongoing situation came soon after the system was fully digitised in August last year.

In this system, all trucks must go through the weighing scales on the bridge and pay tolls as per

Tk 5,000 for excess weight up to 1 tonne and Tk 10,000 for each tonne thereafter has to be provided.

"Goods-laden trucks are often overloaded. A truck with a five-tonne capacity often carries 20-25 tonnes of load. Thus, the drivers are using alternative routes to avoid paying the fines

9.93 crore has been collected as tolls in six months, he said.

Meanwhile, Nazrul Islam, deputy assistant engineer of RHD in Patuakhali, said due to a large number of goods-laden trucks plying Patuakhali-Mirzaganj road, the road has collapsed in some places and has become

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

In Gouripur, footpath belongs to traders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

"I don't even remember the last time I used the footpaths freely," said Millat Ali, a resident of Kalipur area in Mymensingh's Gouripur municipality.

For years, footpaths across important areas in the municipality, including Gouripur Uttar Bazar, Madhya Bazar, Kalipur, Khalifapatti, Station Road and Paatbazar, have remained occupied by vendors.

As such, pedestrians, especially students, face much hassles to use the walkways, as hardly any space is left due to the hundreds of shops set up on the pavements.

Locals alleged that a vested group is behind this occupation, realising hefty amounts from vendors in exchange for allowing them to run their businesses, and people hardly have any scope to protest against it.

Usually, the century-old Gouripur bazar is busy on Saturdays and Tuesdays during the "weekly haat", where thousands flock to buy and sell their produce, said Ansar Ali of Tantkura area.

As the bazaar could not be expanded alongside the increasing number of vendors, many have resorted to occupy the adjacent walkways, he added.

Locals reached out to the authorities concerned of the local administration, police, and municipality numerous times to take steps to evict vendors from the footpaths, and shift them to other appropriate places, said Reazul Hasnat, president of Gouripur unit of Sushasoner Jonno Nagorik.

But no initiative has been taken yet, he added.

Admitting the issue, Syed Rafiqul Islam, mayor of Gouripur municipality, said they warned vendors to vacate the footpaths on different occasions, but they did not respond.

Md Mahbub Hasan, UNO of Gouripur upazila, said they would go for action soon to mitigate the problem.



MC COLLEGE BUILDINGS IN SYLHET Crumbling under the weight of time



DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

In 1892, Rai Bahadur Raja Girish Chandra Roy established Sylhet's first college in Bandarabazar area and named it after his maternal grandfather Murari Chand Roy, a zamindar of Sylhet.

Around 1921, Murari Chand College (also known as MC College), then a government-affiliated institution, was shifted to a 150-acre land in Tilagarh area.

Several structures were built there by 1924, including two academic buildings with corrugated iron roofing that reflect famous Assam-type architecture.

Now these ageing structures echo pleas for urgent conservation efforts, as their rich legacy is poised to fade without intervention.

be protected as an "antiquity," according to the Antiquities Act-1968.

MC College's Science Block and Power House, built between 1921 and 1925 as per the then principal's report, qualify as antiquities.

In his book "Murari Chand College-er Itikotha," Prof Abdul Aziz said those charming buildings were finished by 1925, and students walked through their doors first in 1926.

Standing on elevated foundations, these unique structures are single-storey buildings with vibrant red tin roofs.

Their solid framework combines wooden beams with a distinctive

blend of half-brick and half-concrete walls, embodying the iconic style of Assam-type architecture.

As documented in Shamsul Majid Choudhury Sako's "Assam Type Unique Heritage Houses in Sylhet," these buildings are examples of the style's enduring charm.

After the 1897 Assam earthquake, this type of architectural design gained prominence due to sustainability and earthquake resistance.

Recently, Supreme Court Advocate Golam Subhan Chowdhury Dipon, also a trustee of Environment and Heritage

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Two to die for killing man

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

A Munshiganj court yesterday sentenced two people to death in a case filed for killing a man named Mohammad Shahabuddin Sheikh in 2020.

Judge Khaleda Yasmin Urmi delivered the verdict in presence of the convicts -- Ilyas Hossain from Sonarang in Tongibari upazila; and Rakibul Islam from Paisa in Louhajong upazila.

The court also sentenced them to life term imprisonment under Section 394 of the Penal Code, said lawyer Sirajul Islam Palu.

However, it acquitted two other accused -- Kabir Hossain from Aliganj, Narayanganj; and Rakib Madbar from Muktarpur, Munshiganj -- as the charges brought against them could not be proved.

According to the case, Shahabuddin, an auto-rickshaw driver, left home with his vehicle on May 24, 2020.

As he did not return home in the evening, his father Abul Sheikh filed a GD with Tongibari Police Station on May 25.

On May 27, the father came to know that his son was found dead in a bush at Kurmira village in Tongibari.

PRAYER
TIMING
FEBRUARY 15



Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:30 12:45 4:15 5:52 7:15
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:30 5:56 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

RANGAMATI SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY	
1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education
2. Agency	University Grants Commission of Bangladesh
3. Procuring Entity Name	Rangamati Science and Technology University
4. Procuring Entity District	Rangamati
5. Invitation for	Goods
KEY INFORMATION	
6. Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (OTM)
7. Budget and Source of fund	GoB
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
8. Tender Publication Date	15.02.2024
9. Tender Last Collection Date and Time	29.02.2024; Office Hour
10. Tender Last Submission Date and Time	04.03.2024; 10:00am.
11. Tender Package No.	OTM
12. Name & Address of the Offices	
Collection of Tender Document	Procurement Department, Administrative Building-2, Rangamati Science and Technology University, Jhagrabil, Rangamati-4500.
Receiving Tender Document	Procurement Department, Administrative Building-2, Rangamati Science and Technology University, Jhagrabil, Rangamati-4500.
Place of Opening Tender	Procurement Department, Administrative Building-2, Rangamati Science and Technology University, Jhagrabil, Rangamati-4500.
13. Price of Tender Document	500.00/- (five hundred Taka only)
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	
14. Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer	a). Updated trade license, b) TIN certificate, c) VAT registration certificate, d) Bank solvency certificate e). The minimum specific experience g). Experience in relevant work and Other qualifications as mentioned in tender documents/schedule.
15. Brief Description of Works	Lot-1: Supply of Furniture at Rangamati Science and Technology University, Jhagrabil, Rangamati. Lot-2: Installment of Multimedia Classroom and Related Services at Rangamati Science and Technology University, Jhagrabil, Rangamati. Lot-3: Purchase of Equipment for Rangamati Science and Technology University, Rangamati.
PROCUREMENT ENTITY DETAILS	
16. Name of Official Inviting Tender	Abdul Gafur
17. Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Deputy Director (Planning, Development & Works)
18. Address of Official Inviting Tender	Rangamati Science and Technology University, Jhagrabil, Rangamati-4500
19. Contact Details of Official Inviting Tender	Phone: 01830161369
20. Special Instruction	1. The procuring entity preserves the right to reject all tenders or annul tender proceeding. 2. If it is not possible to open the tender on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstance, the same will be opened on the next working day at the same time and same venue.
Signed Abdul Gafur Deputy Director (Planning, Development & Works) Rangamati Science and Technology University	

GD-264