

No place for AL in NCP

Says Akhtar Hossain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

If any member of Awami League attempts to infiltrate the National Citizen Party, they will be resisted and handed over to the law, said the party's Member Secretary Akhtar Hossain.

"If anyone from Awami League dares to associate themselves with the NCP, they will face consequences. We will take firm action to protect our movement and ideals," Akhtar said.

Anyone who has imposed fascism on Bangladesh has no moral right to participate in the country's politics, he also said.

He made the remarks on Friday night while talking to journalists following a discussion meeting with NCP organisers at the Rangpur Chamber Building.

Akhtar also said the party will never accept any attempt to rehabilitate Awami League, accusing the party of committing genocide and crimes against humanity.

In response to a question about the NCP's relationship with

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

River land grabbed for farming

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Locals have allegedly been encroaching on the Rabnabad river in Patuakhali's Galachipa upazila to cultivate watermelon.

During a recent visit to the area near the Galachipa launch terminal, this correspondent observed that a vast stretch of the riverbank had been elevated using soil extracted from the riverbed and riverbank areas to grab the river's land.

Watermelon cultivation has already begun on parts of the occupied land.

Some residents alleged that the illegal grabbing is being carried out without any obstruction from the upazila administration. Sources claimed that some officials of the upazila land office are facilitating the occupation in exchange for bribes.

Saeed Talukdar, a local farmer cultivating watermelon on a portion of the grabbed land, said his wife, Tasmin Akhter Jhumur -- an elected member of Golkhali Union Parishad -- had received a temporary lease of three acres from the upazila administration.

He admitted to elevating the

riverbank to protect the crops from tidal water but could not provide any document or details regarding the lease.

Another farmer said they had to pay the land office to cultivate watermelon on the riverbank area but declined to



mention the amount paid as bribe.

In 2009, after a report titled "Markets being built on grabbed river land in Galachipa" was published in a national daily, the then shipping minister directed the ministry secretary to take action against illegal occupation of the Rabnabad river's land. A subsequent

meeting of the National Task Force for River Protection in January 2010 also decided to evict illegal structures from the area.

Although some areas were reclaimed at the time, illegal occupation resumed in recent

years, this time under the guise of temporary leases.

Harun-or-Rashid, surveyor of Galachipa upazila land office, claimed they were unaware of the soil extraction or elevation of the riverbank.

He said the lease permissions for plots in Badarpur mouza, granted to Abbas Hawladar, Dipankar, Sohel Shah Kamal

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Devotees take part in Ashtami Snan ritual

STAR REPORT

Thousands of Hindu devotees yesterday performed Ashtami Snan, a ritual of bathing in the holy waters of the Brahmaputra river in different districts, including Narayanganj, Kurigram, and Mymensingh.

According to Hindu mythology, taking a dip in the Brahmaputra during a specific lunar period purifies sins and earns religious merit.

The Ashtami Snan is celebrated on the eighth day of the lunar month, which falls in the Bangla month of Chaitra. This year's bathing time began on Saturday at 2:08am and ended at 12:45am on Sunday, according to the Hindu Tithi.

In Langalbandh of Narayanganj, devotees from all over Bangladesh, as well as from countries like India, Nepal, and Bhutan, joined the religious event, seeking absolution from sin.

The organisers said bathing arrangements were made at twenty ghats stretching over a three-kilometre area across Bandar and Sonargaon upazilas.

This year, an estimated one million people attended the event, said Joy K Roy Chowdhury, an adviser of the Langalband Bathing Festival Celebration Committee.

Visitors brought with them ritual ingredients such as flowers, grasses, fruits, Tulsi leaves, and mango leaves, as they bathed in the Brahmaputra throughout the day.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

One killed, 19 hurt as BNP factions clash in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

At least one person died and 19 others were injured in a clash between two rival factions of the BNP in Badarganj upazila of Rangpur yesterday.

The deceased is Lavlu Mia, 50. He passed away while undergoing treatment at Rangpur Medical College Hospital around 4:45pm, said his son, Raihan Ali. Another injured is reported to be in a critical condition.

The incident occurred around 11:30am near the Shaheed Minar area in Badarganj municipal town.

The clash reportedly erupted over the distribution of shops and a power struggle between supporters of Mohammad Ali Sarkar, former MP and member of Badarganj upazila BNP, and Shahidul Haque Manik, former joint secretary of the upazila BNP and chairman of Ward 13 in Kalupara union.

Eyewitnesses said the confrontation involved attacks and counterattacks that lasted nearly an hour, resulting in significant injuries on both sides. Police arrived at the scene shortly after the clash began, brought the situation under control, and took the injured to a local hospital for treatment.

Badarganj Police Station OC Atikur Rahman confirmed that the situation is currently under control.

Following the clash, Rangpur district BNP convener Saiful Islam and member secretary Anisur Rahman Laku issued show-cause notices to Mohammad Ali Sarkar, Shahidul Haque Manik, and Badarganj upazila BNP senior joint convener Humayun Kabir Manik.

The notices were issued on charges of violating party discipline, attempting to establish dominance through violence, and deteriorating the law-and-order situation. The accused have been asked to appear in person and submit a written explanation within 72 hours.



People repair boats near the riverside in the Kushighat area of Sylhet city. Life along these rivers and haors is highly dependent on having a boat for easy travel and access to nearby markets. These boats are also used for fishing. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

KULAURA HEALTH COMPLEX

Only two doctors for 5 lakh people

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Kulaura upazila, the largest in Moulvibazar district, is grappling with a shortage of medical professionals at its upazila health complex, the only reliable healthcare facility for its population of five lakh.

Despite the overwhelming demand, the hospital operates with just two doctors.

The shortage has led to chaotic and insufficient healthcare delivery, with patients waiting in long lines for basic treatments.

The lone paediatric specialist, Dr Abu Bakar Naser Rashu, visits only twice a week. In his stead, Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Dr Md Zakir Hossain has been attending to paediatric cases.

The situation is further exacerbated by the lack of medical officers, with only a few on duty to attend to patients in just two rooms of the hospital.

Only three of the ten specialist doctors are currently working at the hospital. The lack of a full-time gynaecologist,



anaesthesiologist, and cardiologist, among others, has left patients without crucial medical guidance.

Many are forced to travel to distant hospitals for more advanced care, resulting in significant financial burdens for families.

During a recent visit, this correspondent saw a crowd of women gathered in front of the outpatient department. They were trying to see who would enter the doctor's chamber first.

The waiting women said they had been waiting since morning to see a doctor for

gynaecological problems. Since there was no gynaecologist, a female medical officer was seeing the patients.

Rupali Begum from Sharifpur said she had been waiting since 8:00am. The doctor came around 10:00am and started seeing patients. Lata Begum, Morjina Khatun and many others, who had come from far away like her, had been waiting in front of the room since morning for treatment.

Dr Md Zakir Hossain, the upazila health officer, said despite the challenges, they

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Schoolboy beaten to death

UNB, Sirajganj

A schoolboy was beaten to death allegedly by a man and his son at Old Ferry Ghat Balu Point of Hossainpur in Sirajganj town on Friday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Md Ashiq Hossain, 15, a 10th-grade student and son of Dulal Hossain of the Hossainpur.

Sirajganj Sadar Police Station OC Md Humayun Kabir said Ashiq went to bathe at a water pump owned by Al-Amin around 4:00pm on Friday.

Al-Amin and his son Rifat, 15, of Hossainpur Bou Bazar area, reportedly forbade him from doing so, triggering an altercation.

Ashiq was struck in the neck with a bamboo stick. He died on the spot.

Following this, Al Amin and his son fled the area.

Upon receiving information, police recovered Ashiq's body from the scene in the evening and sent it to Shaheed M Monsur Ali Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The body was handed over to the family after a post-mortem yesterday morning. The process of filing a case over the incident is underway, the OC added.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh	
Office of the Director	
Sylhet M.A.G Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet	
Memo No. SOMCH/TS/2025/5261	Date: 05/04/2025
Invitation for Re-Tender for Cochlear Implant	
Sealed tenders are hereby invited from bonafide experienced Manufacturer/Agent/Importer/supplier to supply Medical Equipment as per PPR-2008. Terms and conditions are as follows:	
1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Social Welfare
2. Agency	Sylhet M A G Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet
3. Procuring entity name	Director, Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet.
4. Procuring entity district	Sylhet
5. Invitation for	Medical Equipment (For Cochlear Implant)
6. Tender Ref. No.	SOMCH/TS/2025/5261 Date: 05/04/2025
KEY INFORMATION	
8. Procurement method	Open Tender Method (OTM)
FUNDING INFORMATION	
9. Budget and source of funds	GOB (Devolverment)
10. Development partners	N/A
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
11. Project/program code	N/A
12. Project/program name	Cochlear implant program Sylhet M.A.G Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet
13. Tender name	Procurement of Medical Equipment (For Cochlear Implant)
14. Tender publication date	05/04/2025
15. Tender last selling date	20/04/2025 up to 12.00 Noon
16. Tender closing date and time	21/04/2025 at 12.00 Noon
17. Tender opening date and time	21/04/2025 at 12.30pm
18. Name and address of the offices	
a) Selling tender schedule	Office of the Director, Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet.
b) Receiving tender schedule	(1) Office of the Director, Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet. (2) Deputy Commissioner Office, Sylhet and (3) Superintendent of Police, Sylhet.
c) Opening tender schedule	Office of the Director, Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet.
19. Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	N/A
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	
20. Brief description of goods	Medical Equipment (Cochlear implant device, Otologic Drill system - attachment & Burs, Motorized chair, Disposable Gown etc.)
21. Brief description of related services	Not applicable
22. Procedure of payment of tender schedule	Through Treasury Challan, Taka 2,000/- (Two thousand) to be paid at Bangladesh Bank/Sonali Bank against Code No. (1) (2)(7)(1)(11)(0)(0)(0)(0)(0)(2)(3)(6)(6). Tender schedule should be collected from SOMCH office on submitting the original challan.
23. Tender earnest money	Taka 6,65,000.00 (six lakh sixty-five thousand only) Bank Draft or Pay Order in favor of Director, Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
24. Name of official inviting tenders	Director, Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet.
25. Designation of official inviting tenders	Director, Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet.
26. Address of official inviting tenders	Office of the Director, Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet
27. Contact details of official inviting tenders	Programme Director, Cochlear Implant, Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet.
 Director Sylhet M.A.G Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet Email: magomch@hospi.dghs.gov.bd	
GD-820	