

Prime accused among 8 held over AL factional clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Shariatpur

Eight individuals, including the prime accused, have been arrested in connection with Sunday's violent clash between two factions of the Awami League in Zajira upazila of Shariatpur. The clash saw the detonation of over a hundred locally-made crude bombs.

The arrests were made in separate operations carried out yesterday by members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and the police.

Sub-Inspector Sanjoy Kumar Das of Zajira Police Station filed a case under the Explosive Substances Act, naming 88 individuals and accusing 800 to 1,000 unidentified people.

The clash broke out on Sunday morning in Mulai Bepari Kandi and Durbadanga areas of Bilaspur union, between supporters of Bilaspur Union Parishad Chairman Kuddus Bepari and defeated chairman candidate Jalil Madbor.

Law enforcement personnel have been deployed in the area since the incident to maintain law and order.

Kuddus, the main accused in the case, is a member of the Zajira upazila unit of the Awami League and the current chairman of Bilaspur Union Parishad. Jalil Madbor is the

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Despite multiple government crackdowns, illegal sand extraction continues from Jamalpur rivers, posing serious threats to the riverbanks and causing irreversible damage to the environment. Inset, in Madarganj, locals staged a human chain and protest rally on March 9 against the illegal activities.

PHOTO: STAR

UNREST AT CEPZ

Workers attack two factories, 15 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least 15 people, including three senior executives, were injured after agitated workers launched an attack and vandalised the office of a shoe factory at the Chattogram Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) yesterday morning, protesting the termination of several employees.

The incident occurred at Excelsior Shoes Limited, where eight of the injured were later admitted to Chattogram Medical College Hospital.

The injured are General Manager Mohiuddin Ahmad, Quality Control Manager Kamrul Hasan, HR Manager Shakil Ahmed, senior guards Md Babul and Abdul Hakim, security guard Saimul Islam, security supervisor Mamun Ur Rashid, and a worker named Biplob.

Later in the day, terminated workers also staged demonstrations at JW Apparel, another factory within CEPZ, where they reportedly assaulted two to three officials and guards.

Production at both factories was suspended following the incidents, said CEPZ Executive Director Abdus Sobhan.

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Illegal sand mining ravages Jamalpur

Defying crackdowns, syndicates continue activities

SAHIDUL ISLAM NIRAB, Jamalpur

Illegal sand extraction continues unabated in Jamalpur's Madarganj, Melandah, Sarishabari, Bakshiganj, and Jamalpur Sadar upazilas, posing serious threats to farmland, riverbanks, bridges, residences, and local communities.

Despite multiple government crackdowns, syndicates continue to operate without fear of punishment, causing irreversible damage to the environment and livelihoods.

In Madarganj's Hatmagura village, locals staged a human chain and protest rally on March 9 against the illegal extraction of sand from fertile, three-crop farmlands using dredger machines.

Protesters alleged that BNP leader Mojibur Rahman and Awami League leader Mostafizur Rahman are involved in the sand extraction, destroying hundreds of acres of



agricultural land. Farmers have demanded immediate intervention from the authorities.

Mojibur Rahman denied the allegations, claiming that he legally

purchased the land and is extracting sand for road construction.

Madarganj Assistant Commissioner (Land) Sayeda Khanom Liza said despite repeated drives to stop sand extraction, it cannot be fully prevented. The relentless extraction is endangering the region's agricultural resources.

In Melandah upazila, unregulated sand mining from the Madardah river poses a severe threat to nearby bridges, homes, and farmlands.

Locals alleged that traders continue extracting sand using excavators, disregarding prohibitions on such practices. BNP leader Farhad Hossain Mintu and

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Five killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Five people were killed in road accidents in Sirajganj, Gazipur, and Jashore during Saturday night and yesterday.

In Sirajganj, at least three people were killed, and four others injured when a truck collided with a three-wheeler at Bhuiyagati in Raiganj upazila on Dhaka-Bogura highway, on Saturday night.

The deceased have been identified as Shushanto Kumar Das, 55, of Ghurka village; Md Mirajul Islam, 12, of Degholbari village in Ullapara upazila; and Motaleb Hossain, 30, of Raiganj upazila in Sirajganj.

Officer-in-charge of Hatikumrul Highway Police Station, Md Abdur Rouf said that a three-wheeler carrying 7-8 people, traveling from Bhuiyagati to Ghurka, was hit by a Bogura-bound truck near the Palli Biddut sub-station around 8:30pm.

Three people died on the spot while four others were injured, the OC said.

Vehicle movement on Dhaka-Bogura highway got suspended for a while following the accident.

In Jashore Sadar upazila, a hotelier was killed after being hit by a motorcycle in Bagerhat Bazar, on Saturday night.

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Nor'wester likely in next few days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid ongoing heat making life difficult in Dhaka and other parts of the country, rain showers are expected to bring some respite over the next few days.

Meanwhile, there is also a possibility of nor'westers hitting parts of the country during this period.

Yesterday, the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) recorded the highest temperature in the country at 38 degrees Celsius in Baghabari, Sirajganj -- reaching the threshold of a moderate heat wave.

In Dhaka, the maximum temperature was 36.1 degrees Celsius.

In its bulletin yesterday evening, BMD reported that a mild to moderate heat wave was sweeping over several districts, including Dhaka, Rajshahi, Pabna, Sirajganj, Moulvibazar, Rangamati, Feni, Jashore, and Chuadanga. The heat wave may persist in the coming days.

According to BMD, a mild heat wave occurs when temperatures range from 36 to 37.9 degrees Celsius, while a moderate heat wave is defined

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Children bathe in the Kirtankhola to beat the summer heat. They clamber onto each other's shoulders and then jump into the water to turn the activity into a type of gymnastic game. The photo was taken in the Rasulpur area of Barishal city yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

BCS EXAMS

'Fix overlap of schedules'

Candidates protest in front of PSC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Candidates of the 44th to 47th Bangladesh Civil Service exams yesterday demanded that the Public Service Commission immediately publish a specific time-bound roadmap to conclude the long-stalled recruitment processes.

They held an hour-long sit-in protest in front of the PSC office in Dhaka's Agargaon area. Later, three representatives from each batch submitted a memorandum to the PSC chairman, outlining their concerns and proposals.

In the memorandum, the candidates said many were forced to sit for the 44th, 45th, and 46th BCS exams due to poor scheduling and overlapping timelines.

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Heat, low rainfall threaten tea yields

MINTU DESHWARA

Tea production in the country has been severely affected by the ongoing heatwave and drought, which have persisted since the end of Chaitra.

Tea gardens are reporting significant losses as new buds fail to sprout and newly planted tea saplings wither under the scorching sun.

Industry insiders fear that if the current conditions persist, the sector may fall short of this year's production target, continuing the trend from last year when the industry also failed to meet its target due to issues like load shedding.

Md Anisur Rahman, in charge of the Sreemangal Meteorological Observatory, said the region typically receives 15-20mm of rain during this time of year.

"Last March, we had 48mm. This year, only 4mm was recorded. There's been virtually no rainfall in the last five months."

According to the Bangladesh Tea Board, Bangladesh has 167 tea estates, of which 92 are located in Moulvibazar

district alone. The Bangladesh Tea Board set the production target for 2025 at 102 million kilogrammes. However, only 3,64,000kg of tea was produced in January, a figure far below expectations.

According to estate officials, extreme heat and lack of rainfall have dried up many tea hills. Around 40 percent of



newly planted saplings and 10 percent of mature tea bushes have already been damaged. In many gardens, workers are struggling to maintain plantations through limited irrigation due to lack of water sources.

Now is the crucial time for plucking tea leaves, but the bushes are not

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh				
Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC)				
Plot # E-5/A, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-E- Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.				
Web: www.btrc.gov.bd				
Request for Expressions of Interest (EOI)				
For the Selection of Consulting / Audit Firm				
For Conducting Operator's Procedure and Systems Audit of Grameenphone Limited				
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH				
1. Ministry/Division	Posts and Telecommunications Division, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications & Information Technology			
2. Agency	Autonomous Bodies and Other Institutions			
3. Name of Procuring Entity	Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC)			
4. Procuring Entity Code	Not applicable			
5. Procuring Entity District	Dhaka			
6. Expression of Interest for Selection of	Consulting/ Audit Firm (Lump - sum)			
7. EOI Ref. No.	14.32.0000.400.01.007.24.431			
8. Date	27/03/2025			
KEY INFORMATION				
9. Procurement Method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)			
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10. Budget and Source of funds	Revenue Budget (Own Funds)			
11. Development Partner (if applicable)	Not applicable			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12. Project/Programme Code (if applicable)	Not applicable			
13. Project/Programme Name (if applicable)	Not applicable			
14. EOI Closing Date and time	29/04/2025 (12.00 P.M) Bangladesh Standard Time (GMT+6)			
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT				
15. Brief Description of the Assignment	Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (hereinafter referred to as the 'Commission' or 'BTRC') intends to appoint a Consulting/an Audit Firm for conducting Operator's Procedure and Systems Audit of Grameenphone Limited. The scope includes performing the auditing tasks in the following categories: 1) Regulatory and Legal Matters 2) Technical Matters 3) Financial Matters 4) Any Other Matters The details of the scope of work are mentioned in the Terms of References (TOR).			
16. Experience, Resources & Delivery Capacity Required	The lead firm (Audit Firm) must be a competent ICAB member with sufficient and high-scale auditing experience. Additionally, the lead firm and/or any of its Joint Venture, Consortium or Association (JVCA) partners must have sufficient technical and information system auditing experience in multinational telecom/IT firms. The lead firm is encouraged to associate with foreign audit firm(s) with sufficient information system (technical) audit experience in multinational environment. The details of the experience, resource and delivery required are mentioned in the TOR. Detailed TOR and other relevant information are available at WEB LINK (https://btrc.gov.bd).			
17. Other Details (if applicable)	The formation, operation and obligation of JVCA shall be governed by the Rule-54 of Public Procurement Rules-2008 of Bangladesh.			
18. Association with foreign firms is	Encouraged			
Ref. No.	Phasing of Services	Location	Indicative Start Date (Month/Year)	Indicative Completion Date (Month/Year)
19 -	Not applicable	Dhaka	07/2025	12/2025
20. Name of the Official Inviting EOI	M. A. Taleb Hossain			
21. Designation of the Official Inviting EOI	Director, Administration Division, BTRC			
22. Address of the Official Inviting EOI	Plot # E-5/A, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-E- Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.			
23. Contact Details of the Official Inviting EOI	Tel: +8802222217116 Email: diradmin@btrc.gov.bd/taleb_hossain@btrc.gov.bd			
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.				

(M. A. Taleb Hossain)
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