

BNP, Gono Odhikar activists clash in Patuakhali

30 from both sides injured, BNP office vandalised, say locals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The activists of BNP and Gono Odhikar Parishad clashed reportedly over a trivial matter in Galachipa upazila of Patuakhali last evening.

At least 30 people from both sides were injured and a local BNP office was vandalised, said locals.

The incident occurred around 7:00pm in Char Biswas union following chases and counter-chases between the two groups, said Galachipa Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Asadur Rahman.

The clash reportedly broke out when the Gono Odhikar Parishad organised a planned views-exchange meeting with local businessmen in front of their office near the Char Biswas Bazar. BNP's union office is adjacent to the office.

"As our meeting began, BNP activists started chanting provocative slogans that disrupted the programme," said Md Jewel, member secretary of the local unit of Gono Odhikar Parishad.

He claimed that activists led by Mofiz Uddin, president of the local Swetchhasebak Dal, engaged in a heated

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PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Tannery waste being dumped on the banks of the Dhaleshwari River in the capital. During Eid-ul-Azha, tanneries across the country see an influx of rawhide, boosting business but also generating large volumes of waste. Instead of being incinerated or properly managed at designated landfill sites, much of this waste is illegally and indiscriminately dumped into rivers, severely polluting the environment. The photo was taken recently.

Youth held for rape attempt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Locals beat up a youth and handed him over to police after he allegedly attempted to rape a five-year-old girl in Phulbari upazila of Kurigram yesterday.

The incident took place in the morning. The child's father filed a case in this regard with Phulbari Police Station around noon.

The arrested youth was identified as Habibur Rahman Babu, 27, son of Saifur Rahman.

Phulbari Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abdus Salam said the five-year-old child was trying pick black plums from a tree near their house in the morning. Seeing the child alone, Habibur lured the child by tempting her with a black plum.

He then took the child to a betel nut garden next to the black plum tree and tried to forcibly rape her. Hearing the child's screams, family members and nearby locals ran to her rescue and detained the youth.

Later, the police went to the scene and arrested Habibur.

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মোবাইল: ০১৯১২-৮১৯৩৭৮

বিজ্ঞপ্তি
আজ্ঞামান মুফিদুল ইসলাম-এর ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিষদ নির্বাচন-২০২৫ আগামী ২৮/০৬/২০২৫ খ্রিঃ তারিখে বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকায় আজ্ঞামান জে আর টাওয়ার ভবনে (ফেজল-১৪, ৪২, আজ্ঞামান মুফিদুল ইসলাম রোড, কাকরাইল, ঢাকা-১০০০) অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। আজ্ঞামানের সম্মানিত সদস্যগণ-কে উক্ত নির্বাচনে যথাসময়ে উপস্থিত হওয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।
প্রধান নির্বাচন কমিশনার
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Principal Office
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For the information of all concerned, it is hereby informed that, as per the COAST Human Resources and Administrative Management Policy, the signature of the Executive Director is required for issuing certificates and other letters in the name of the Foundation's departing employees/officials, but it is noticed through different means into the COAST Foundation authority that, these rules are not being followed. That's why, the COAST Foundation is giving an office order which is as follows:
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On behalf of the COAST Foundation
Khaled Masud Majumder
Advocate
Supreme Court of Bangladesh
Mobile: 01730909093

Mango trade thrives in Rajshahi

SHOHANUR RAHMAN RAFI

The mango orchards in Rajshahi are bustling with activity. Despite concerns that the break during Eid-ul-Azha holidays might disrupt the flow of mango supply across the country, orchard owners, traders and online entrepreneurs report a robust market.

Rajshahi, known as the "mango capital" of Bangladesh, experiences a sharp rise in mango harvesting and marketing each summer. This year, a bumper harvest combined with the Eid holidays created additional opportunities for trade.

Hossen, a seasoned mango grower from Durgapur, said, "There was a time when, if we couldn't sell mangoes in the market or to the wholesalers, many would go to waste. But now, there's no such risk. Even during Eid, transportation services continue to operate, so large volumes of mango shipments are going out. Since there are multiple channels to sell mangoes, they are being sold consistently. There's hardly any chance of spoilage now. However, this year, due to high yields, prices have dropped a bit."

Mango trader Abdur Razzak from Charchat echoed similar views. "Business is good, even during Eid holidays. The supply chain doesn't stop. Our transport runs throughout the holidays. We've prepared in advance

to ensure the mangoes reach different parts of the country without delays."

Ismail Hossain Islam, a wholesaler at Baneshwar Bazar, said, "Despite Eid holidays, our shipments go out as usual. Demand remains stable, especially from Dhaka. Our transport partners operate even during Eid. We expect orders from urban areas where people

orders and deliver mangoes nationwide.

"Earlier, growers lost many mangoes due to spoilage or lack of market access. Now, through online platforms and courier services, every mango can be sold. Customers from anywhere in the country can order mangoes directly from the orchard and receive them within a few days," said Nayem.



want to gift Rajshahi mangoes or enjoy them at family gatherings."

The most significant recent change, however, has been the rise of online mango businesses, often run by students and young entrepreneurs.

Nayem Zahin, a law student at the University of Rajshahi, started selling mangoes online three years ago. Nayem and his peers use Facebook pages and WhatsApp groups to collect

"Although mango sales were strong before Eid, deliveries through online platforms are paused during the holidays as most courier services remain closed," he added.

Another young entrepreneur, Ehatashamul Haque Ibnur, a student of Geography and Environmental Science at the University of Rajshahi, has also entered the online mango trade.

"We work directly with orchard

owners to ensure fresh mangoes are picked and shipped within 24 hours," he explained.

"Online orders peak before Eid, as many people want to send mangoes as gifts or enjoy them during family reunions. Technology allows us to ensure quality and timely delivery anywhere in Bangladesh," he said.

Omar Faruk Zihan, a consumer in Dhaka, said, "I ordered mangoes from a local online seller through Facebook. The price was good, the quality excellent, and it was delivered to my doorstep within two days."

According to officials at the Department of Agricultural Extension in Rajshahi, the local mango economy has undergone a significant transformation this year.

Rajshahi DAE deputy director Umme Salma told The Daily Star that this year's mango production is higher than last year.

"Due to increased production, prices have dropped slightly, but not drastically. Although farmers are getting a bit less per kilogramme, they are not facing losses. Transportation is not being disrupted during Eid, so mangoes are being delivered across the country even during the holidays. Besides, online platforms have become a strong marketing channel. However, consumers should always verify the source before buying mangoes online to ensure they are authentic."

Dismembered body of missing trader found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered the dismembered body of a man from Dhaka's Sabujbagh eight days after he had gone missing.

The deceased is Zakir Hossain, 55, a bottle recycling trader.

The dismembered body was found in the morning buried in a bush in the Baikdia area, said Md Shamsul Amin, a sub-inspector of Sabujbagh Police Station.

"We recovered six body parts. The right arm remains missing – possibly taken by stray animals," he said.

Zakir's body was recovered based on the confession of his neighbour Azahar, 30, who was detained on Wednesday night in connection with a case filed by Zakir's wife Rekha Akter.

Zakir had been missing since the night of June 4 after he withdrew Tk 3 lakh from a local bank in Trimohoni.

Rekha filed a police complaint on June 5 and later lodged an abduction case with Sabujbagh Police Station.

Zakir used to live in the Uttar Manikdiya area with his wife, two daughters, and a son, said his younger brother Sumon Mia.

He had long-standing property disputes with their uncles, he also said, alleging that the murder was orchestrated over land and that hired killers may have been involved.

"They didn't just kill my brother – they mutilated his body and buried it in pieces," Sumon added.

Police have also detained three other suspects for questioning.

The body has been sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Two killed in road accidents in two districts

STAR REPORT

At least two people were killed in separate road accidents yesterday.

In Pirganj upazila, an elderly man was killed in a road accident on the Thakurgaon-Pirganj road at Banbari village yesterday.

The victim was Joynal Abedin, 62. Sub-Inspector of Pirganj Police Station Abdul Halim Khan said the accident occurred around 10:30am when a Pirganj-bound easy-bike hit him while he was crossing the road, leaving him seriously injured.

Locals took him to the Thakurgaon 250-bed General Hospital, where the on-duty doctor declared him dead.

Meanwhile, in Sirajganj, a motorcyclist was killed when a speeding bus hit his motorbike in the Vuiahati area of Raiganj upazila yesterday noon.

The deceased Khogendronath, 45, was returning home on his motorbike when the crash took place.

Hatikumrul Highway Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Abdur Rouf said a Bogura-bound bus hit the motorbike around 12:30pm.

The victim immediately died on the spot. On information, police rushed to the scene and recovered the body.

The bus driver managed to flee the scene along with his bus, but police have so far not managed to trace the vehicle, the highway OC said.

3 children drown in two districts, one missing

STAR REPORT

Two siblings drowned in the Nagor River yesterday afternoon while bathing with their father near the Dabri border in Thakurgaon's Haripur upazila.

The victims were Sadia Akhter, 11, and her brother Saddam Hossain, 6, children of Aminul Islam from Jalchakar Moynakuti in Rangpur Sadar.

They were visiting their maternal grandparents during the Eid holidays.

The incident occurred around 2:00pm, said Haripur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Jakaria Mondol.

Locals recovered Sadia's body after an hour of searching, but Saddam remained missing.

A diving team from Rangpur arrived to conduct a rescue operation, but they couldn't find Saddam last night. Their operations will resume this morning, said OC Jakaria.

An unnatural death case was filed with the police station in this connection, he added.

In a separate incident around 11:00am the same day, two more siblings drowned in a pond at Bahirdia village in Saltha upazila of Faridpur.

The victims were Tanha Akhter, 7, and her younger brother, Md Abu Talha, 5, children of Sumon Sheikh from Nowpara village in Madhukhali upazila.

Quoting family members, Boalmari Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mahmudul Hasan said the two went to the pond for bathing. They were visiting their maternal grandparents' home after Eid.

A neighbour alerted others after noticing the children were missing. Locals rushed to the spot, pulled them out of the water, and took them to Boalmari Upazila Health Complex, where doctors declared them dead.

Dr Shakila Azad, a medical officer at the health complex, said both the children were brought in dead.

OC Mahmudul said Boalmari police prepared an inquest report, and Saltha police were notified to take further legal steps, as the incident took place there.

Under-construction dyke collapses in Kurigram

Repairs yet to begin more than 2 weeks on

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

A 12-metre stretch of an under-construction embankment along the Dudhkumar river at Islampur village under Kurigram's Bhurungamari upazila has yet to be repaired after it collapsed two weeks ago, leaving local residents at risk of further erosion in monsoon.

The collapse occurred before the Tk 10-crore river protection project was

2022 and was supposed to be completed by 2023, but remains unfinished even after two deadline extensions.

Locals alleged that sand mined from the riverbank areas was used improperly in making the concrete blocks for the embankment, adding that the blocks were also not placed correctly. They expressed concern that the embankment may collapse further if left unrepaired.

Ariful Islam, project manager of the



completed, raising concerns about the quality of the work.

"Part of the under-construction embankment gave way even after it rained sparsely. When the river will swell up following heavy downpour in monsoon and exacerbate erosion along the banks, what will happen to us?" asked Atiar Rahman, a local resident.

Local farmer Soleman Munsu echoed him.

Bangladesh Water Development Board had awarded the construction work for the 500-metre embankment to Dhaka-based firm TIPVL-ZI JV. The project started in

construction firm, however, refuted the allegations. "We collected sand from 200 metres away, following regulations. Around 95 percent of the work is done. The collapse happened due to rain, and we plan to start repairs soon. Concrete blocks needed for repairs have already been prepared," he said.

Rakibul Hasan, executive engineer of BWDB in Kurigram, said the contractor has been asked to repair the damaged section of the embankment. "As the project is still under construction, any damage occurring now is the contractor's responsibility," he said.