

BSF pushes in

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Jaintiapur border in Sylhet, said BGB.

Around 7:45pm on Thursday, a patrol team from Lalakhali Border Outpost under BGB's Zakiganj Battalion detained 14 Rohingyas in the Bagchhara area of Jaintiapur upazila.

Lt Col Mohammad Zubayer Anwar, commanding officer of Zakiganj BGB-19 Battalion, said the group was found about 50 metres inside Bangladeshi territory.

During questioning, the Rohingya detainees said they were originally from Myanmar and had been living in refugee camps in Teknaf and Ukhiya before fleeing to India 5-6 years ago.

Of the 14 Rohingyas, four are men, four women, and six children. After identifying them, they were handed over to Jaintiapur Police Station.

The BGB official said they will be handed over to the police concerned to be transferred to the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar.



After loading a family's belongings onto the back of their pick-up truck, these movers set off -- not from inside the vehicle, but by dangerously clinging to the piled-up furniture. Their reckless ride puts their lives at serious risk as the truck makes its way to its destination. The photo was taken in the Bosila area of the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Ex-CEC Nurul Huda

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He said during the 2018 election, the police and administration operated under the Election Commission, which had the authority to form inquiry committees.

Under Nurul Huda's leadership, opposition activists were allegedly assaulted and arrested at home, and candidates' houses vandalised without recourse. Faruqi claimed that by 3:00am on election night, 200 candidates were already declared winners and presiding officers were instructed to conduct "night-time voting".

He called the election a "stage-managed polls" and said interrogation was needed to uncover who gave the directives and what role the then-prime minister Sheikh Hasina played.

He also accused Huda of abusing power to secure a nomination for his nephew in Patuakhali-3.

In response, defence lawyer Touhidul Islam argued that the remand prayer was almost identical to the one submitted on June 23, with no mention of progress made during the previous remand.

He said the initial charges were bailable, and that sedition charges -- added later -- require prior government approval, which was not obtained, making the case legally flawed.

He also said sedition cannot be prosecuted by a private individual, and called the entire case "defective".

The magistrate noted that the defence addressed all points except the allegation of night voting. When another defence lawyer pointed out that no media outlet had provided supporting documents, the court rejected Huda's bail plea and granted the remand.

Huda was arrested on June 22 after being assaulted by a mob at his Uttara residence and handed over to police. The following day, the court granted a four-day remand.

BNP Executive Committee member Salah Uddin Khan filed the case with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station on June 22, naming 24 people, including former CECs Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, KM Nurul Huda, and Kazi Habibul Awal.

4.8 lakh narcotics

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major reason for delays, with only one judge per 90,000 people.

"Despite legal provisions, dedicated narcotics courts have not been set up, overburdening general courts. Poor training, political appointments, inadequate evidence collection, and frequent procedural delays reduce conviction rates under 10 percent," he said.

He said the 2018 anti-drug drive caused a large increase in case numbers.

According to him, the majority of the accused are small-scale users or low-level dealers from low-income groups.

Wrongful arrests are common due to procedural flaws, and youth, low-income, and marginalised groups are disproportionately affected. The large number of narcotics cases has burdened the judiciary and led to overcrowded prisons, he said.

He said the filing of so many cases causes rights violations, as prolonged detentions and extrajudicial actions take place.

Manir recommended setting up dedicated narcotics tribunals, increasing the number of judges, prosecutors, and investigators, and improving training and use of forensic tools.

Muhammad Majharul Islam, secretary general of Bangladesh Judicial

Service Association, said more designated tribunals and prosecutors would help reduce the backlog.

Supreme Court spokesperson Muajjem Hussain said 13 committees led by HC judges have been formed recently to speed up trial proceedings.

According to media reports, over 22,000 people were arrested between May 12 and June 25, 2018, during the anti-narcotics drive. During that period, 160 people were killed in alleged "shootouts" involving law enforcement agencies.

Contacted, Mostaque Ahmed, spokesman and public relations officer at the Department of Narcotics Control, said the agency files charge sheets on time.

The officials, who serve as witnesses in narcotics cases, appear before the courts and also bring other witnesses on scheduled dates for depositions, he said.

He also acknowledged a shortage of judges and said the number of cases has increased due to expanded DNC activities.

The Narcotics Control Act, 2018, requires trials to be completed within 90 working days. If not possible, the court may extend the deadline by 30 working days and then another 15 working days if necessary, with written notice to the Supreme Court and the government.

LAWACHARA NAT'L PARK

Speed limit for trains, vehicles still ignored, wildlife at risk

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

The government imposed a 20kmph speed limit for trains and vehicles passing through Lawachara National Park in Kamalganj upazila of Moulvibazar in 2023 to protect wildlife.

Forest Department data shows that in 2022, steps were taken to implement a uniform speed cap on vehicles and trains inside Lawachara. The following year, the directorate general of Bangladesh Railway instructed relevant departments to enforce the restriction.

However, even after three years, the directive remains largely unimplemented. As a result, rapidly moving trains and vehicles have led to multiple wildlife fatalities, endangering the forest's fragile ecosystem.

To make matters worse, tourists visiting the forest, often with children, are regularly seen walking, sitting, and posing for photos and selfies along the rail tracks, ignoring the ever-present risk of fatal accidents from passing trains.

A tourist reportedly died in an accident on the rail track within the forest recently.

Miftaul Islam, a tourist from Dhaka who was seen taking photographs on the rail track with his wife and three children, said,

"Everyone is taking pictures here. The view is beautiful. So, we took photos too. But yes, it's risky."

Another tourist, Sajjadul Islam, said, "Most of my friends uploaded nice photos to Facebook that were taken here. I came for the same."

Several railway staff on the site said such scenes have now become common.

Kazi Nazmul Haque, ranger at the

According to Janak Debbarma, treasurer of the Lawachara Co-Management Committee, more than 2,000-3,000 tourists visited daily during the two Eid holidays this year alone.

Stationmaster Kabir Ahmad of Bhanugachh Rail Station said the matter falls under the jurisdiction of the Public Works Department, not the railway office directly.



Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division in Sreemangal, said, "Although the speed limit for trains and vehicles through the forest was set at 20kmph to protect wildlife, no one follows it."

Lawachara National Park is home to at least 460 species, including 167 types of plants, four amphibians, six reptiles, 246 bird species, and 20 mammals. Many of them are considered rare or endangered.

Sohel Shyam, an environmental activist, stressed that while the speed restriction was a commendable initiative, without enforcement it is just ink on paper.

Dr Jahangir Alam, divisional forest officer in Sylhet, said the department has discussed alternatives, including rerouting the train line through a tunnel or constructing underpasses or overpasses for wildlife crossings.

Bypass road

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the landfill and blocked our trucks. It was only for a few days, and later we moved the waste. After Eid, we have not dumped any garbage there or anywhere else except the landfill."

Rajshahi city produces about 500 tonnes of waste daily, which the RCC collects through a ward-based system.

Cleaning usually starts around 9:00pm, especially in markets and public areas, while household garbage is picked up from homes and businesses, and all this waste is taken to 18 Secondary Transfer Stations (STS) before being sent to the main landfill.

Selim Reza said a new landfill for disposing of the city's waste is on the cards.

"We have visited Dhaka north and south city corporations to learn from their waste management systems. We have already sent a proposal to the ministry concerned for a new designated landfill site. We hope work will begin after the newly elected leaders take office," he added.

Dengue cases triple

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He also highlighted the importance of public awareness. "Without community efforts to remove breeding sources at the household level, dengue will be hard to control."

Regarding the situation outside Dhaka, Bashar warned that all 64 districts could face worse outbreaks than in previous years. "Aedes mosquitoes are now present in every district," he said.

He urged the local government ministry to direct all deputy commissioners, municipalities, and city corporations to urgently destroy mosquito larvae and breeding sites. "The ministry should supply IGRs to local bodies or allow them to procure and distribute them with proper guidance," he said.

Entomologist GM Saifur Rahman echoed the warning. "The growing Aedes population is causing a geometric rise in dengue cases. Once infected, a mosquito can lay infected eggs, worsening the outbreak," he said.

Bashar added that current weather conditions are ideal for mosquito breeding. "In coastal areas, people often store rainwater during this season, creating perfect breeding grounds," he said.

He called for a dedicated vector control department to manage mosquito-borne diseases scientifically.

"This department should handle cluster identification, surveillance, and targeted action. Without a scientific and structured approach, existing efforts will not succeed," he said.

Waterlogging

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Md Shahidul Islam, member-secretary of the Bagerhat Inter-District Bus and Minibus Owners' Association, said the association had last submitted a written request in January, urging the municipality to carry out necessary development work before the rainy season.

Contacted, Abdullah Al Masum, executive engineer of Bagerhat municipality,

said, "I have inspected the terminal and found potholes that are affecting parking and movement. We have decided to carry out temporary repairs immediately."

"A project is being undertaken for a long-term solution to the terminal's problems. Our aim is to ensure the terminal can be used safely and effectively by the bus owners' association," he added.

BNP's name being

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name while carrying out a movement at the Income Tax Office. "He is now trying to remove the [NBR] chairman and may target others in the future. Who gave him this authority? I am the senior joint secretary general, and I know nothing about it," Rizvi added.

He urged BNP leaders and activists to remain vigilant against those committing misdeeds in the party's name.

The opportunity created through blood and struggle must be used to build a better political environment and establish true democracy, he said.

Rizvi also said while BNP criticises the interim government's failures, it supports any good work by the administration.

He said former Chief Election Commissioner

Habibul Awal admitted the 2024 election was a dummy one, which proves that all elections held during Sheikh Hasina's tenure were illegal.

Meanwhile, BNP Chairperson's Advisory Council Member Zainul Abedin Farroque yesterday said the interim government is likely preparing to hold the national election before Ramadan, in line with the chief adviser's commitment.

"Our humble request to Dr Muhammad Yunus is to fulfil this commitment. We believe an election will be held before Ramadan, and the government is working on it. We are hopeful," Farroque said at a discussion organised by the Education Development Campaign at the Jatiya Press Club.

He said the government has already delayed the election and urged that no further delays take place.

Keep ports under

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pay tribute to the martyrs of past struggles. Our anti-imperialist fight is long-standing and rooted in people's movements."

He added, "We call upon the interim government to immediately abandon any plans to lease out the port or give away corridors to foreign powers. After tomorrow [June 28], there may be no new announcements. But if the government does not act, we will declare a broader programme of action at tomorrow's rally."

Several prominent leftist leaders also attended the rally, including former CPB president Mujahidul Islam Selim, Bazlur Rashid Firoz of the Socialist Party of Bangladesh (Basad), Mushtaq Hossain of Bangladesh Jasad, Nasiruddin Ahmed of the People's Liberation Movement, and MM Akash of the Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, and Mineral Resources.

Renowned public intellectuals Serajul Islam Choudhury and Anu Muhammad expressed solidarity with the road march.

"Although they could not attend in person due to illness, they had extended moral support," said CPB leader Ruhin Hossain Prince.

A number of social, student, and women's organisations have also expressed solidarity with the movement.

Organisers said the road march will include brief rallies at various points along the Dhaka-

Chattogram Highway throughout the day.

A major public gathering is scheduled at Cumilla Town Hall in the evening. Today, participants will hold a rally at the Shaheed Minar in Feni, followed by the concluding assembly in front of Chattogram Port at 5:00pm.

District

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bar association, president of the district chamber of commerce and industries, principals of government and non-government colleges, chief executive officer of the district council, and heads of almost all government offices at the district level.


The committees may expand their membership beyond 35 if deemed necessary.

Earlier, the government formed a 36-member national executive committee to oversee the observance of the mass uprising. The committee is headed by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus.

The district committees are expected to implement the plans and programmes formulated by the national executive committee to observe the July mass uprising days across the country from July 1 to August 5.

They are also expected to provide recommendations to the executive committee regarding the local context.

The committees are set to carry out any responsibilities assigned by the executive committee.



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1	1125832, BE/CTG/3258209/ 2024-25/11	Works: At Jamalpur (JLX) Railway Station: Repairing & repainting of foot over bridge with other allied works.	NCT, OTM	26-Jun-2025 12.00.00, 16-Jul-2025 12.00.00
2	1126085, BE/CTG/3258207/ 2024-25/12	Works: At Kishoreganj Railway Station Area: Repairing and Repainting of 02 nos M.S. overhead water tank (size: 8' x 8' x 8' = 01 nos, 16' x 16' x 8' = 01 nos) and rebuilt 01 nos (size: 8' x 8' x 8') with staging & other allied works.	NCT, OTM	26-Jun-2025 12.00.00, 16-Jul-2025 12.05.00
3	1126261, BE/CTG/3258207/ 2024-25/13	Works: At Patiya Railway Station: Repairing, repainting of existing platform shed with rain water pipe and other allied works.	NCT, OTM	26-Jun-2025 12.00.00, 14-Jul-2025 12.10.00
4	1126365, BE/CTG/3258207/ 2024-25/14	Works: At Choumuhoni Railway Station: Repairing and repainting of iron works, rain water pipe and P-shed roofing of station with other allied works.	NCT, OTM	26-Jun-2025 12.00.00, 14-Jul-2025 12.00.00
5	1126371, BE/CTG/4111308/ 2024-25/15	Works: At TGI & JLX Railway Station Area: Conducting of 02 Nos. Test boring 38mm dia Upto depth 02 x 304.87 meter for each boring.	NCT, OTM	26-Jun-2025 12.00.00, 14-Jul-2025 12.05.00

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