

ATTACK ON NCP RALLY VENUE Four killed as violence grips Gopalganj

Dozens injured, curfew imposed in district

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

At least four people were killed and dozens injured in daylong running battles between law enforcers and Awami League followers in Gopalganj yesterday.

Tensions were already high in Gopalganj -- the home district of ousted AL leader Sheikh Hasina -- over the National Citizen Party's pre-scheduled rally at Poura Park in the town.

Since morning, activists and supporters of the AL, armed with local weapons, took position on the Gopalganj-Teknaf road in Ulupur area of Sadar upazila, blocking several roads by felling trees. They also set fire to a government vehicle and smashed another.

Later, they vandalised the venue of the NCP's rally in Poura Park area.

Fatalities were reported in clashes that erupted after the rally when AL members attacked the motorcade of NCP activists.

Mentionable, all political activities of the AL have recently been banned by the government.

Following the clashes in the southern district, the government enforced a curfew from 8:00pm yesterday until 6:00pm today to bring the situation under control.

The HSC, Alim and HSC (Vocational) exams in Gopalganj district have been postponed. The respective boards issued separate notices around 10:30pm yesterday announcing the decision, according to education board notices.

Gopalganj Civil Surgeon Abu Sayeed Md Faruk said four people were killed and

13 injured. The deceased are Dipu Saha, Ramzan Kazi, Sohel, and Emon. They are all from Gopalganj Sadar upazila.

Gopalganj General Hospital Superintendent Jibitesh Biswas told The Daily Star around 6:30pm that Dipu and Ramzan were brought to the hospital dead with bullet wounds.

AT A GLANCE

- 1 NCP leaders leave Gopalganj under army escort
- 2 Cops attacked, vehicles set on fire, vandalised
- 3 NCP issues 24-hour ultimatum to arrest culprits
- 4 NCP, Jamaat to hold countrywide protests today
- 5 Today's HSC, Dakshin exams in Gopalganj postponed

He also said that another eight people with bullet wounds were undergoing operations at the hospital.

Ramzan's father, Kamrul Kazi, told journalists, "My son was killed. I want justice. As a father, I cannot accept the death of my young son."

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SCENES FROM GOPALGANJ... Plastic chairs burn on a street, *left*, in Gopalganj town after members of the Awami League and banned Chhatra League attacked the venue of an NCP rally before and after the event yesterday. Afterwards, army personnel patrolled the area in armoured vehicles, *top right*, while locals were seen rushing an injured man to hospital on a rickshaw-van, *bottom right*.

PHOTO: AFP



Those responsible will face justice' Says govt; parties condemn attack on NCP rally venue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government has said the attacks on the venue of the National Citizen Party's rally in Gopalganj, carried out by members of the Awami League and the banned Chhatra League yesterday, will not go unpunished.

Meanwhile, several political parties, including the BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis, the I2 Party Alliance, Gono Odhikar Parishad, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, AB Party, and Khelafat Majlis condemned the attack, blaming the deteriorating law and order situation and calling it an administrative failure.

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'We'll bury Mujibism'

Vows Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party Convenor Nahid Islam yesterday said they would bury "Mujibism" in the country to build a truly democratic Bangladesh.

He was speaking at the Poura Park in Gopalganj town, where the stage set up for an NCP rally had earlier been vandalised by leaders

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ABU SAYED KILLING Justice within this govt's tenure

Says law adviser; Sayed's brother claims no visible trial progress

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

One year has passed, but there has been no visible progress in the trial of the Abu Sayed murder case, his elder brother Ramzan Ali alleged as the nation observed his first death anniversary yesterday.

Ramzan, also the complainant in the case, could not hold back tears after offering fateha at Sayed's grave at their village home in Madankhali, Pirganj upazila, Rangpur.

The day was observed as "July Martyrs' Day" to honour the martyrs of the July uprising.

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CHILD VICTIMS OF JULY UPRISING

Of abandoned toys and unlived tomorrows

YOUNGEST VICTIM

Abdul Ahad, 4, shot on
8th-floor balcony



FIRST CHILD VICTIM

Farhan Faiyaz, 17, killed in
Dhanmondi on July 18



YOUNGEST GIRL CHILD VICTIM

Riya Gope, 6, shot on
rooftop in Narayanganj



KHALID HASAN, 16

DEATHS IN DHAKA

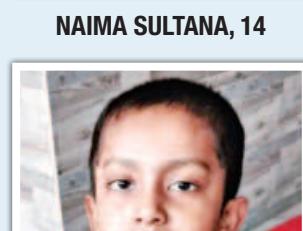
57 children



NAIMA SULTANA, 14

DEATHS OUTSIDE DHAKA

32 children



JABIR IBRAHIM, 6

STUDENTS

42



SAFKAT SAMIR, 11

CHILD LABOURERS

29

GUNSHOT OR SHOTGUN PELLETS

79 children

DEATH BY STUN GRENADE SPLINTER

1 child

NILIMA JAHAN

They were readers of fairy tales, keepers of marbles, chasers of kites across twilight skies. Some still asked to sleep in their mother's arms. Others, on the cusp of adolescence, had just begun to dream in the language of futures -- of stethoscopes, classrooms, galaxies. They were children, dreamers of careers, cartoons, and cricket.

Some were students with notebooks in hand. Others were street children swept up in crowds. In the heat and fury of the July uprising, they died -- on streets, in alleyways, even on their own rooftops.

Bullets did not ask for age.

Official figures say 132 children died. The UN confirms that at least

118 children made up over one in every eight of the victims.

Each number hides a name, a dream, a future that now exists only in memory; each representing a shattered family and a nation mourning the true cost of the unrest.

Take six-year-old Riya Gope, one of the youngest to die. She was born after years of her parents' waiting -- on a December 24. She left this world on another 24th, in July last year.

On July 19, she was playing on the rooftop of their four-storey home when a bullet struck her. She held on for five days at Dhaka Medical College Hospital before her heart gave out.

"We miss her terribly. She was the centre of our lives, and the grief just won't ease," said her father, Deepak Kumar Gope. "Sometimes, when

she comes home, I still expect her to run to me. It feels like she's everywhere, yet nowhere. The house is so quiet without her."

The couple are now trying desperately for another child.

"I've asked other parents if the

child they had after loss looked like

the one they lost; if the faces match;

if the smile is the same. If we're lucky

enough to have that... maybe then,

our broken hearts will heal a little."

But Riya's mother, Beauty Ghosh, continues to battle both gynaecological complications and trauma. They've packed away Riya's belongings in an attempt to ease the pain. Still, the silence lingers.

In March, the Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex in Dhanmondi was renamed the Riya

Kumar Gope Sports Complex.

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We Deeply Mourn



Sayeed Hossain Chowdhury

11 November 1957 – 15 July 2025

HRC family of companies deeply mourns the sad demise of Sayeed Hossain Chowdhury, our founder Chairman. He breathed his last on Tuesday, 15 July, 2025. Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Illayhi Raji'un.

Sayeed H. Chowdhury was also a founder promoter Director of ONE BANK PLC and a key figure in the development of ONE BANK PLC. He served as Chairman from 2001 to 2008 and again from 2012-2020 and in later years as a Director.

A distinguished business leader, he completed his education in the UK and began his career managing his family's business in the Gulf before returning to Bangladesh in the year 1987.

In 1991, he established HRC family of companies, which grew into a large blue chip conglomerate includes ship owning an chartering operations, shipping agency, distribution, leasing, foreign representation, travel trade, tea and rubber plantation, plantation owning, tea blending/packaging for local market/export, real estate, GLS bulb manufacturing, print media, etc.

HRC through its associate companies also has substantial investments in general insurance, housing finance and IT sectors.

Mr. Sayeed Hossain Chowdhury also served as president of BOGSOA and Honorary Consul of Spain in Bangladesh. He will forever be remembered with deep respect and admiration.

We pray for the salvation of his departed soul and extend profound condolence to members of his bereaved family.



Since March 1991

HRC Family of Companies