

HATHAZARI CLASH

Authorities to curb noise, nuisance centring events

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

The local administration at Hathazari upazila in Chattogram has decided to take necessary measures for curbing noise pollution and public nuisance surrounding religious events.

As part of the efforts, volunteer teams comprising all quarters will be formed, said UNO Abdullah Al Mumin.

The decision was taken at a meeting attended by teachers of Al-Jamiatul Ahlia Darul Ulum Moinul Islam Hathazari Madrasa, leaders of Ahle Sunnat Wal Jamaat, government officials and local politicians at the UNO office yesterday afternoon.

“We asked both the groups to follow the rules, and they agreed,” said Additional District Magistrate Syed Mahbulul Haque, who was present at the meeting.

The meeting decided to bear treatment cost of those injured during Saturday’s clash and provide compensation to affected traders and bus operators.

The meeting was convened a day after the clash between the students of the Hathazari madrasa and the supporters of Jashne Julus in the upazila left at least 120 people injured.

Chattogram Range DIG Ahsan Habib Palash said the clash erupted following a Facebook post about the madrasa. “The man who posted an abusive photo about the Darul Ulum madrasa was arrested earlier by Fatikchhari police, before the clash broke out,” he said.

The youth who uploaded the abusive post about the madrasa was sent to court under Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, as no one lodged any case against him, Tarek added.

To prevent further unrest, the district administration imposed Section 144, banning all gatherings from 11:00pm on Saturday night to 3:00pm yesterday.

Yesterday, Hefazat-e-Islam Bangladesh accused a group of “Sunni activists”, allegedly backed by the Awami League, of attacking the Hathazari Madrasa.

Russia hits Ukraine with biggest air attack of war

Four killed, 20 injured; main govt building in Kyiv on fire; military-industrial complex hit

REUTERS, Kyiv

Russia launched its largest air attack of the war on Ukraine overnight, setting the main building of the Ukrainian government on fire in central Kyiv and killing at least four people in the capital including

Sumy and Chernihiv regions.

Russia’s defence ministry said it had carried out strikes on Ukraine’s military-industrial complex and transport infrastructure, according to the Tass news agency.

Timur Tkachenko, head of Kyiv’s military administration, said an



an infant, Ukrainian officials said yesterday.

President Volodymyr Zelensky said the drone and missile barrage also caused damage across the north, south and east of the country, including the cities of Zaporizhzhia,

Kryvyi Rih and Odesa, as well as in the

infant’s body was pulled from the rubble in the Darnytskyi district, where a four-storey apartment building was damaged.

A young woman was also killed in the attack on the district, which lies to the east of the Dnipro River, he said.

The interior ministry said more than 20 people were wounded in the attacks on the capital. Air alerts lasted for more than 11 hours in Kyiv and the surrounding region.

“Such killings now, when real diplomacy could have already begun long ago, are a deliberate crime and a prolongation of the war,” Zelensky said in a post on X, issuing a fresh appeal to allies to strengthen Ukrainian air defences.

Just after sunrise, thick smoke could be seen rising into the clear blue sky from the burning top floor of the main government building, located in the historic Pecherskyi district of Kyiv, Reuters witnesses said.

Elsewhere in Kyiv, residential apartments were hit and damaged, with dozens of residents wrapped in blankets gathering on the streets outside to survey the damage to their homes as rescue workers fought to extinguish the flames.

The attack underlined growing pessimism in Ukraine and among allies that the war can be ended any time soon, with Russian President Vladimir Putin resisting calls for a ceasefire and emboldened by strengthening relations with China.

Kader Siddique’s house attacked, cars vandalised

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Miscreants attacked the residence of Bangabir Abdul Kader Siddique in Tangail early yesterday.

They vandalised two cars in the parking area and broke windows of the Sonar Bangla Community Centre, located on the first floor of the building.

Tangail Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Tanvir Ahmed said that around 12:35am, 10–12 miscreants pelted bricks and stones, shattering windows on the first floor of Siddique’s residence. They later climbed into the building using ladders and vandalised two cars in the parking lot.

Siddique, president of the Krishak Sramik Janata League, was on the third floor at the time, the OC said.

The caretaker of the house, Subroto, said the vandals – wearing helmets and covering their faces with gamchhas (towels) – attempted to set the cars on fire using petrol. “When we came out with sticks, they escaped through the gate. All of them were carrying locally made weapons,” he added.

At a press conference at his residence yesterday afternoon, Siddique said he did not expect such an incident after the anti-discrimination movement that led to the fall of the authoritarian Awami League government last year.

“We did not expect this autocratic attitude. If the Awami League is a dictator, then what should we call today’s activities?” he questioned.

He said the attack was a conspiracy to thwart and destroy the anti-discrimination movement.



Special Constitutional Order mulled

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At yesterday’s meeting, the commission selected the reform proposals that can be executed through ordinances or executive orders and without any constitutional amendment.

Of the 84 reform proposals that have been agreed upon through consensus, some will require changes to the existing laws and regulations and some can be implemented through government orders.

However, a significant portion of the proposals are constitution-related and the core complexity lies in how to implement those.

Earlier, the commission had explored the possibility of holding a referendum and had suggested seeking an advisory opinion from the Supreme Court under article 106 to resolve key constitutional questions related to the July Charter.

However, the proposals were later set aside due to concerns over the timing of a referendum and the prevailing political climate, said commission members.

Meanwhile, the consensus commission held detailed discussions with experts on the finalisation and implementation strategies of the July Charter.

Retired Appellate Division Justice MA Matin, Dhaka University law faculty dean Mohammad Ikramul Haque, Senior Advocate of the Bangladesh Supreme Court Sharif Bhuiyan and Barrister Imran Siddique participated as experts.

During the meeting, the experts reviewed the final draft of the charter and provided opinions on possible implementation methods focusing on constitutional, legal and political dimensions.

The implementation plan would not carry a specific timeframe but the commission would seek a pledge from political parties to implement the charter, The Daily Star has learnt from people with knowledge of the meeting.

However, the commission aims to have the July Charter implemented during the tenure of the interim government.

The commission has revised the contentious commitments that several parties had objected to.

One of the pledges was that the July Charter would take precedence over the constitution and existing laws. Jamaat and the NCP agreed to this, but the BNP and some other parties opposed.

The July Charter would not take precedence over the constitution and existing laws, Riaz said, adding that the commission will recommend that the entire July Charter be included in the constitution.

After the fall of the Awami League regime in August last year, the interim government formed six commissions to recommend basic reforms.

Later, Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus constituted the National Consensus Commission comprising the heads of the reform commissions with the task of preparing the July Charter through dialogue and consensus among political parties and serving as a blueprint for future governance.

A night of stars and stories

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reward, and try to inspire new talent and the emerging creative world of Bangladesh.”

He called OTT “a new space for creativity,” telling the artists, “You are the pioneers. You will carry our culture and heritage, and help the world understand Bangladesh.”

Over the course of the evening, 27 on-screen and off-screen talents were recognised across four categories: Individual Content, Music, Critics’ Choice, and Popular Choice.

The organisers also awarded the film “Utshob” a “Special Honour for Cinematic Excellence”. Director Tanim Noor and lead actor Zahid Hasan received the award from Mahfuz Anam and Zahida Ispahani. Zahid said, “If everyone holds hands, no one falls behind. We should all stay united.”

Performances by Mondera Chakroborty and Sabila Nur added colour to the night.

In Popular Choice, Mosharraf Karim was named Best Actor (Male) for “Adhunik Bangla Hotel”, and Pori Moni Best Actor (Female) for “Rongila Kitab”.

Receiving award, Porimoni said, “I may win more awards in the future, but this one – this award for Rongila Kitab – feels deeply personal. The production was intimately tied to my experience of motherhood. I’m truly excited and grateful, because this project was an emotional journey for all of us.”

“Osomoy” won Best Supporting Actor awards for Saraf Ahmed Zibon and Runa Khan, while Kajal Arefin Ome earned Best Director (Film). Vicky Zahed won Best Director (Series) for “Chokro”.

Shihab Shaheen’s “Golam Mamun” took Best Drama/Series, while his

“Kacher Manush Dure Thuiya” was honoured as Best Film in the Popular category.

The Critics’ Choice awards went to F’s Nayeem (Kaalpurush) and Zinnat Ara (Sinpaat) as Best Actors. Mohammad Touqir Islam won Best Director for “Sinpaat”, which also took Best Film/Drama/Series.



“OTT is not just a platform, it has become a stage through which Bangladeshi stories, Bangladeshi actors and Bangladeshi talent can reach the world.”

Mirza Ahmed Ispahani
director of Ispahani Group



“This recognition belongs to everyone – it belongs to the entire film industry. Your love is my greatest strength.”

Shakib Khan (special honour for 25 years in cinema)

Largest Islamic bank in the making

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conglomerates accused of siphoning funds. Forensic audits commissioned by the government have revealed severe mismanagement, with non-performing loan ratios exceeding 90 percent at three of the banks. Regulators now argue that consolidation is the only viable path forward after years of weak oversight.

The decision was taken yesterday at a meeting on bank resolution chaired by Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed. Others in attendance included Anisuzzaman Chowdhury, special assistant to the chief adviser; Finance Secretary Md Khairuzzaman Mozumder; Financial Institutions Division Secretary Nazma Mobarek; and NBR Chairman Abdur Rahman Khan.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Ahsan H Mansur participated virtually, while Deputy Governor Md Kabir Ahmed and other central bank officials were also present.

A six-member working committee, led by Kabir Ahmed, was formed to plan and oversee the process. “The formal procedure has begun, and the majority of the work will be completed within one and a half months,” he told The Daily Star after the meeting.

He added that liquidation would be “more costly and painful for the economy and the public”, stressing that the jobs of bank employees would be safeguarded.

Ahmed said the government’s decision to prioritise banking stability was supported by the country’s relatively stable macroeconomic environment, including a steady exchange rate and sufficient foreign exchange reserves.

Officials indicated that donor funds were not being sought at present, though external support might be considered in the future. The government is also expected to apply to Bangladesh Bank for a licence for the new entity.

The merger follows consultations held by central bank officials with the boards and management of the five lenders between September 2 and 4, in which Governor Mansur also participated virtually. Three banks – First Security Islami Bank, Union Bank and Global Islami Bank – agreed to the regulator’s plan, while Exim Bank and Social Islami Bank opposed it.

Four of the lenders – First Security Islami, Union, Global Islami and Social Islami – were previously controlled by

the Chattogram-based S Alam Group, which allegedly borrowed heavily from them and funnelled funds through shell companies. Exim Bank, meanwhile, was long dominated by Nazrul Islam Mazumder, founder of Nassa Group and former chairman of the Bangladesh Association of Banks.

Following the change of government in August 2024, Bangladesh Bank dissolved the lenders’ previous boards and appointed new ones. Forensic audits by global accounting firms, commissioned by the interim government, exposed their precarious financial health. Non-performing loan ratios stood at 96.37 percent at First Security Islami, 97.8 percent at Union, 95 percent at Global Islami, 62.3 percent at Social Islami and 48.2 percent at Exim Bank.

Bangladesh now has the highest bad loan ratio in Asia, with defaults reaching 20.2 percent of total loans in 2024, according to an Asian Development Bank report published last month. The \$20.27 billion stock of distressed assets represented a 28 percent year-on-year increase, underscoring the country’s position as having the region’s “most fragile banking system”.

A voice of resistance

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at Bangladesh Specialised Hospital, Shyamoli, around 10:05am. He was suffering from old-age complications.

For more than six decades, Umar stood as one of the most uncompromising voices in Bangladesh. Through books, articles, and activism, he sought to expose injustice, resist authoritarianism, and champion the emancipation of workers, peasants, and ordinary citizens. His life embodied the rare union of thought and action. To admirers, he was not simply a scholar or politician but a conscience of the nation, a symbol of integrity, and a guide in turbulent times.

Born on December 20, 1931, in Burdwan, then part of the Bengal Presidency, Umar grew up in an environment steeped in politics. His father, Abul Hashim, was a prominent anti-colonial politician, an organiser of the Muslim League’s progressive wing, and a campaigner for a united Bengal. In 1950, amid growing communal tensions, the family moved to Dhaka. Umar soon threw himself into politics. He joined the 1952 Language Movement and later became one of its most respected researchers. After completing his studies in philosophy at Dhaka University, he travelled to Britain, where he earned the renowned Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) degree at the University of Oxford in 1961.

Upon his return, he briefly taught at Dhaka University before moving to Rajshahi University in 1963. There, he established the Department of Political Science and later the Department of Sociology. Yet academic life could not contain his growing discontent with the authoritarian practices of the Pakistani state. In 1968, in protest against Governor Monem Khan’s oppressive rule, he resigned from Rajshahi University to dedicate himself entirely to political activism and writing.

Umar’s pen became his sharpest weapon. His early works in the 1960s, “Sampradayikata” (Communalism), “Sanskritir Sankat” (The Crisis of Culture), and “Sanskritik Sampradayikata” (Cultural Communalism), exposed the role of communalism in dividing society and obstructing progress. These writings provoked the ire of military and civil authorities in East Pakistan but became essential texts for progressive activists.

His magnum opus, the three-volume “Purba Banglar Bhasha Andolon o Tatkaleen Rajneeti” (The Language Movement in East Bengal and Contemporary Politics), was the first major research-based history of the movement.

He later authored “The Emergence of Bangladesh” in two volumes, offering an incisive class-based analysis of the Pakistan period leading up to the birth of Bangladesh, a work that remains a central reference for scholars.

Over his lifetime, he published more than a hundred books and countless essays in both Bangla and English.

His political activism was as relentless as his intellectual work. Umar served as president of the Bangladesh Krishak Federation

and was central coordinator of the Gonotantrik Biplobi Jote (Democratic Revolutionary Alliance). In 2003, he founded the Jatiya Mukti Council (National Liberation Council), which he led until his death. He also presided over the Anti-Imperialist and Anti-Fascist Committee and remained an organiser of peasant and workers’ movements across the decades. For over 40 years, he edited the left-leaning magazine “Sanskriti”, which became a platform for progressive writers and political debates, even under censorship and state repression.

Throughout his life, Umar rejected the lure of prizes and honours, believing they compromised intellectual independence. In 1973, he famously declined a literary award from the Bangla Academy.

Half a century later, in 2025, he remained true to this conviction when he declined the Swadhinata Padak, the country’s highest civilian award.

This remarkable consistency was emblematic of a man who never traded principles for recognition. His writings on exploitation, imperialism, and inequality were unsparring, his critiques of ruling classes across regimes cutting and unrelenting. He believed democracy without social justice was hollow, and he remained a tireless advocate of secularism, equality, and anti-communal politics.

Even in his final years, Umar’s voice did not waver. In late 2024, he warned against distortions of Liberation War history and criticised efforts to turn history into a tool of political expediency.

Earlier this year, he cautioned that right-wing forces were gaining ground in the wake of the student-led mass uprising, and he urged young activists to remain vigilant in protecting secular and progressive values.

Badruddin Umar’s life was marked by sacrifice, courage, and steadfast refusal to compromise. He gave up the comfort of an academic career, declined state recognition, and endured hostility from those in power. Yet he never stopped writing, organising, or speaking out.

Bangladesh today bids farewell to an indomitable public intellectual, a revolutionary thinker, and a comrade of the oppressed. Badruddin Umar has passed into history at the age of 94, leaving behind a towering legacy of resistance, intellect, and moral courage that will inspire generations to come.

CONDOLENCES POUR IN

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday expressed profound shock and sorrow at the death of Badruddin Umar.

In a message, Yunus said, “Badruddin Umar was a shining beacon of our struggle for free thought and progress.”

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman called Umar a “pioneer of progressive left-wing politics”.

Besides, Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar, Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed, Education Adviser Prof CR Abrar, Law Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul, Social Welfare Adviser Sharmin Murshid, and Information Adviser Mahfuj Alam also offered their condolences.