

## 20 injured in clash between JCD, Shibir at Muladi College

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Barishal

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between activists of Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir at Government Muladi College in Barishal yesterday.

Witnesses said the incident occurred around noon when JCD activists allegedly attacked Shibir members, who were preparing a freshers' reception programme in the college.

Shibir leaders claimed that the attackers, armed with locally made weapons, carried out vandalism and created panic on the campus. At least 15 Shibir activists were injured in the attack.

Of the injured, six were admitted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barishal, while the others received treatment at Muladi Upazila Health Complex.

Shibir's Barishal district president, Md Akbar Hossain, alleged that Muladi upazila JCD convener Mohiuddin, secretary Belal, college unit president Rifat Mallik, and secretary Kawser led the attack.

"We demand immediate arrest of the attackers," he added.

However, JCD refuted the allegations. Muladi upazila JCD convener Mohiuddin Dhali said, "Shibir men barred our activists from entering the campus and beat up at least five of our local activists."

Jahangir Hossain, a physician at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, confirmed that six injured students were admitted to the surgery ward and are undergoing treatment.

Muladi Police Station Officer-in-Charge Shafiqul Rahman said, "A scuffle took place centring Shibir's programme, leaving several people injured. We have not received any written complaint yet."



School children along with members of Amar Prakriti Amar Chabi staged a protest demanding the installation of a foot-over bridge in the area adjacent to Khilgaon Bagicha railway. Students said that a foot-over bridge was essential to ensure they could cross the street safely to attend their schools and then return home. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## 357 iron bridges in Barguna at risk of collapse

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

At least 357 iron bridges in Barguna have become unfit for use due to years of neglect, causing immense suffering for locals.

Among them, 18 have already collapsed. Despite their dilapidated state, thousands of people and vehicles continue to cross these risky structures every day.

According to the Barguna office of the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), the bridges were built during the 1997-98 fiscal year under a low-cost project meant for light vehicular movement.



Patharghata, and 31 in Taltali.

Rebuilding them is estimated to cost Tk 1,400 crore, while 142 identified as "urgent" would require around Tk 650 crore, according to officials.

Locals said the structures have not been repaired since their construction, leaving them severely worn out. In many cases, cement sleepers, railings, and other structural parts are broken, while some iron components have been stolen.

In Bamna upazila's Hogopati village, fourth grader Asma Akter has to cross a shaky iron bridge every day to reach her school. "The bridge trembles when I step on it. Sometimes I'm too scared to go to school," she said.

During a recent visit, a 30-year-old iron bridge over the Holta river, which separates Bamna and Mathbaria upazilas, was found to be almost unusable. Its beams have nearly disappeared, with

villagers propping it up using palm tree trunks just to keep it functional.

In Sadar upazila's Gaurichanna Bazar area, another inter-upazila bridge used daily by hundreds of students and commuters has also become hazardous.

"The iron pillars gave way about six years ago. Now motorcycles and autorickshaws cross over wooden sleepers. A major accident could happen anytime," said resident Masum Billah.

Monir Hossain Kamal, president of Barguna's chapter of Transparency International Bangladesh's Citizens' Committee, said, "These 357 iron bridges have become death traps. Fatal accidents may occur at any time."

Contacted, Barguna LGED executive engineer Md Mehedi Hasan said, "All 357 iron bridges in the district have been declared risky. Of them, 142 have been marked as urgent for reconstruction. A proposal has been submitted under a new project to rebuild the bridges. Once implemented, it will end the longstanding suffering of Barguna residents."

**PRAYER TIMING**  
SEPTEMBER 12

Fajr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:35	12:30	4:30	6:20	7:45
JAMAAT 5:10	1:15	4:45	6:25	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Security scanner left idle at Cox's Bazar train station



MOKAMMEL SHUVO

With the launch of train services between Cox's Bazar and Dhaka, tourism has entered a new era. At the same time, yaba traffickers have become increasingly active, choosing trains as a mode of transport.

To curb smuggling, Bangladesh Railway installed a US-made "Astrophysics" brand scanner machine at the main entrance of Cox's Bazar Railway Station on August 4 – the first such initiative in the country's rail history. But sources said the machine has remained non-operational since its inauguration.

Locals had hoped drug trafficking through the railway would finally be brought under control. Instead, during a recent visit, passengers were seen freely entering the platform through the main gate while the scanner stood idle. Two workers from the station construction project were posted near the machine, while law enforcement members further ahead manually checked the luggage of some passengers.

The workers said the scanner was

occasionally switched on but, in practice, security personnel relied mainly on hand-checking bags.

Cox's Bazar Railway Station Manager Golam Rabbani said the machine was functional, but sometimes remained off.

He said no drugs had yet been seized using it.

Sources said the scanner was used only in the first couple of days after its inauguration and has since been left unused.

Contacted, ABM Kamruzzaman, Chattogram divisional railway manager, said in the initial stage, operation of scanning machine was hampered due to some complications over trained manpower and technical setup.

"But currently, as far as I know, the machine is fully operational," he added.

Passenger train services on the Cox's Bazar route began on December 1, 2023. Currently, Cox's Bazar Express and Parjotak Express run on the Cox's Bazar-Dhaka route, while Saikat Express and Probal Express operate between Cox's Bazar and Chattogram.

## Ichamati dredging stalled

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The 82km Ichamati river originates from the Padma and flows into the Hurasagar in Bera upazila of Pabna. Over the decades, the river has almost disappeared due to rampant encroachment and pollution.

"People of Pabna have long been struggling to save the Ichamati, which is our lifeline. Finally, the much-talked-about project has started. We want proper dredging as per the CS map to rejuvenate the river," said SM Mahabub

Alom, an organiser of the Ichamati saving movement.

WDB earlier identified 1,053 illegal structures on the river and removed them. Yet encroachers, who allegedly prepared land documents in their favour over decades, have taken the matter to court.

"Ichamati will be dredged according to the CS map. Once legal issues are settled, we will complete the project," said Shudhangsha Kumar Sarkar, superintendent engineer of WDB and project director of the

scheme. "As encroachers have gone to court, we have to fight it out legally."

Land occupiers, however, claimed that a petty settlement known as petty-CS was made during the British period. "Most occupiers have four records. Those who have legal papers went to court," said Md Maxim, one of the listed encroachers.

"We are not against the river. If our land is needed, it should be acquired as per government rules with proper compensation," he said.

## Pakistan PM calls

FROM PAGE 3

satisfaction over the "positive trajectory" of the two countries' bilateral relations, including people-to-people contact, academic exchanges, and trade links.

Recalling earlier meetings in New York and Cairo, Sharif praised the leadership of Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus for his work in poverty alleviation and for his commitment to strengthening ties between Dhaka and Islamabad.

During the meeting, Khalid conveyed greetings from Prof Yunus and handed over a letter offering condolences for the loss of lives and property

caused by recent floods in Pakistan, along with an offer of relief assistance from Bangladesh.

Both sides also discussed the prospect of resuming direct flights between the two countries at an early date.

Sharif expressed hope that both countries would continue to exchange high-level visits to sustain the existing momentum in bilateral relations.

He reiterated his invitation to Prof Yunus to visit Pakistan, while the Bangladeshi side also extended an invitation for Sharif to visit Dhaka, on behalf of the chief adviser and the Bangladesh government.

## Hilsa gets costlier in markets across Barishal

Traders say prices may climb further as export of 1,200 tonnes approved



SUSHANTA GHOSH

The announcement of hilsa exports has immediately pushed up prices by at least 10 percent in wholesale markets across Barishal, with traders warning that rates may climb by 50 percent once exports actually begin.

A visit to the city's largest wholesale hub, Barishal Fish Market on Port Road, found traders preparing to send consignments of hilsa to Dhaka in corkshit boxes.

Mohammad Arif, manager of Shakil Enterprise, said a day ago one maund (40kg) of one-kilo-sized hilsa was selling for Tk 85,000, but yesterday the price jumped to Tk 88,000. Similarly, hilsa weighing 700-800 grams – known as LC-size – rose from Tk 73,000 to Tk 76,000 per maund within two days.

"Prices will soar further once export starts," Arif said. "A kilo of hilsa could soon cost one and a half times more than it does now."

According to the Barishal divisional fisheries office, hilsa production in July was 10,876 tonnes, while on September 19 alone, 22,066 tonnes were landed across 372 stations in the division. Despite the rising supply, retail prices remain high.

Md Anisuzzaman, assistant director of the divisional fisheries office in Barishal, said, "In Barishal, a one-kilo hilsa is already selling for Tk 2,200. I don't see how exporters will manage at a lower price."

The government has approved the export of 1,200 tonnes of hilsa, with each kilo priced at \$12 (around Tk 1,500), still below current domestic market rates.

Md Alauddin, a hilsa trader from Bhola, said fish are now being caught mostly in deeper seas, raising operational costs. Frequent fishing bans due to rough weather also force fishermen to borrow from moneylenders, pushing up prices further.

Shariful Islam, manager of the BFDC station in Alipur, said medium-sized hilsa (600-800g) sold for Tk 65,000 per maund yesterday, up from Tk 55,000 last year. "Prices were already higher this year, even before the export decision," he added.

## Kalpona named

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"She was critical to the Bangladesh Safety Accord after the Rana Plaza factory collapse in 2013, urging brands in the Global North to sign up, and she made sure that worker groups were involved in the European Union's Sustainability Compact (a series of EU initiatives and measures aimed at promoting sustainability and a circular economy within the trade bloc and through international partnerships)," it added.

Vogue Business noted that Kalpona is driven by a deep commitment to labour justice, gender equality and climate resilience for working-class communities and that she is a continued ally of workers in their struggle against systemic oppression.

"This year, she demanded a substantial increase in the minimum wage for Bangladeshi garment workers and championed their rights on the global stage, actively pushing for the EU's Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) to include legally binding measures that protect

workers and prevent human rights violations," said the magazine.

It noted Kalpona's work involves championing a "just transition" to a more sustainable future.

This year's list includes entrepreneurs, founders, tech innovators and industry disruptors.

"It was never easy to be a sustainability thought leader, but this year has tested even the strongest-willed. From the US to the EU, politicians have whipped up an anti-ESG (environmental, social, and governance) frenzy, prompting regulators to roll back hard-won policy momentum and taking the wind out of the fashion industry's sustainability efforts in the process," the magazine mentioned.

"Undeterred by political, economic and organisational headwinds, these innovators are pushing fashion to confront its social and environmental impacts head-on."

Laudes Foundation, an independent philanthropic organisation, congratulated Kalpona for her fearless advocacy for garment workers.

**পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি**  
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**e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

পাওয়ার গ্রিডের "Dhaka and Western Zone Transmission Grid Expansion Project" শীর্ষক প্রকল্প দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Reference	Title of Works
1143220	27.21.0000.453.14.001.25.317; Dated: 09.09.2025	Procurement of Manpower Service (02 Nos. of office attendant) for 24 Months through outsourcing under Dhaka and Western Zone Transmission Grid Expansion Project

আগ্রহী ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে www.eprocure.gov.bd সাইটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

মোঃ আবুল কাশেম  
প্রকল্প পরিচালক (প্রধান প্রকৌশলী)  
ঢাকা এবং পশ্চিমাঞ্চলীয় গ্রিড সঞ্চালন ব্যবস্থা সম্প্রসারণ প্রকল্প