

20 injured in JCD-Shibir clash at Muladi College

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between activists of Jatiyatabadi 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.

Shibir sweeps DU male hall

FROM PAGE 3

installing water purifiers, setting up libraries in hall guest rooms and mosques, and introducing motorcycle and bicycle washing stations.

Their activities and close involvement with residential students helped them build influence across the campus.

In Surja Sen Hall union, six out of seven executive posts went to former Sringkhala Committee members.

Talking to The Daily Star, elected VP Azizul Haque and GS Mokhlesur Rahman admitted their involvement with Shibir. Azizul said he is a Sathee (associate) at Shibir, while Mokhlesur described

himself as a former Sathee.

In Bijoy Ekattor Hall, the top three posts were also won by former disciplinary committee members Hasan Al Banna, Ashiq Billah, and Emran Hossen – all Shibir members.

The VPs and GSs of Zia Hall and Bangabandhu Hall are also members of Shibir.

Ahmed Al Sabah, elected general secretary of Bangabandhu Hall and also a Sathee, said they [Shibir] have won ten out of the thirteen posts.

SM Hall's GS Sadman Abdullah was also a former member of the disciplinary committee of that hall.

Mohsin Hall's GS Rafid

Hassan Safwan also said he is an associate of Shibir.

FR Hall's VP Rafiqul Islam said that though he is not affiliated with Shibir, he got "support" from the organisation.

Samsun Nahar Hall VP Kuratul Ain Kaniz and GS Samia Masud Momo were active in BGCS politics and members of a committee named "Floor Representative".

In Moitree Hall, both the VP and GS were members of the "student representative committee". They are both BGCS activists.

Pakistan PM calls

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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 Barishal division markets

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 corkshut 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 Alaiddin, 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.

ACC sues ex-Ctg MP Didar, wife over illegal wealth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has sued former Chattogram-4 (Sitakunda) lawmaker Didarul Alam and his wife Ismat Ara Begum for allegedly amassing a huge amount of illegal wealth from unknown sources of income and suspicious transactions through 20 bank accounts.

ACC Chattogram Integrated Office-1's Assistant Director (AD) Abdul Malek lodged the two cases yesterday against Didarul and his wife, ACC-1 Deputy Director Sobel Ahmed told The Daily Star.

According to a case statement, the ACC has found evidence of suspicious transactions totalling Tk 950 crore through 20 accounts between 2014 and 2025.

The case documents also said Didarul amassed Tk 13.98 crore beyond the known sources of his income. Apart from that, his wife was sued for accumulating Tk 1.47 crore by misusing her husband's political power, added Sobel Ahmed.



পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি
POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Grid Bhaban, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212 Web: www.powergrid.gov.bd
স্মারক নং- ২৭.২১.০০০০.৪৫৩.১৪.০০১.২৫.৩৩১ তারিখঃ ১০/০৯/২০২৫খ্রিঃ

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