

WARD QUOTA PROTESTS Students, staffers scuffle at RU

RU CORRESPONDENT

An altercation broke out yesterday between students of Rajshahi University and its teachers, officials, and employees over a demand to abolish the ward quota.

Around 2:30pm, the students set tyres on fire in front of the university's administrative building.

Later, around 3:30pm, they surrounded VC Saleh Hasan Nagib's residence. At that time, they also blocked the Pro-VC Prof Mohammad Main Uddin's car.

Following that, students locked Prof Main's residence, preventing him from entering his home.

At 4:30pm when Main and Proctor Mahbubur Rahman tried to enter a building, they faced obstruction again.

The altercation broke out between the two groups at the time.

Several students, including some journalists, were injured in the incident.

Till last reported, students and the Pro-VC remained face-to-face inside the Juberi Building.

Proctor Mahbubur said, "Demanding the cancellation of the ward quota, the students locked the pro-vice-chancellor inside his residence."

"In the midst of the scuffle, my watch and Tk 10,000 I had with me were lost." On Friday afternoon, a section of students started a hunger strike at the university's Zoha Square over the same demand.

Expatriate dies in motorbike accident in Madaripur

UNB, Madaripur

An expatriate in Saudi Arabia was killed in a motorbike accident in Shibchar upazila of Madaripur district early yesterday.

The incident happened around 2:00am at Kandi village in Sonysair Char union of the upazila, when the motorbike struck a bridge which is under construction.

The deceased was identified as Mezbah Morol, 30. He was son of Ayub Ali Morol from Bakhor Kandi village in Shibchar upazila.

Mezbah had returned home from Saudi Arabia on Friday night.

During the accident, Mezbah Morol was going to his in-laws' house on his motorbike. His motorbike collided with the bridge which caused serious injury and left him dead.

Md Rokibul Islam, officer-in-charge of Shibchar Police Station, said the law enforcers recovered the body from the scene.

The police officer told reporters that the family did not file any case or complaint regarding the accident. "So, we handed over the body to them."



Traders bring bamboo by floating it down the Atai river to a weekly market at Abhaynagar in Jashore. Held every Wednesday, the market sells bamboo at wholesale prices ranging from Tk 150 to Tk 600 per pole. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

PATUAKHALI EPZ PROJECT Bribery allegations surface over land acquisition

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Marginal farmers in Auliapur union under Patuakhali Sadar upazila have alleged that they are being forced to pay bribes to officials and brokers at the land acquisition office to receive compensation for land taken for the Export Processing Zone (EPZ).

Md Bellal, a farmer of Pachakoralia village, said 10.75 decimals of his land were acquired for the project, for which he received Tk 5.07 lakh as compensation.

"But I had to pay 6 percent of the total amount, about Tk 30,000, just to get my rightful money," he told this correspondent.

Bellal further alleged that his family's ancestral land -- over 3 acres -- was also acquired, for which they received Tk 1.34 crore in compensation, but the family had to pay Tk 8.40 lakh as "processing cost" to secure the payment.

Another villager, Md Shahabuddin, said the government acquired 3.50 of his 8.60 decimals of land.

"I have not received any compensation yet. They are demanding money first. Since I refused to pay, I have been told repeatedly to come back after a week," he alleged.

The Patuakhali EPZ Project, undertaken by the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority, was approved by the Executive



Committee of the National Economic Council on August 29, 2023.

A total of 410.78 acres of land has been acquired in Pachakoralia village, of which around 300 acres are already filled with sand for site preparation.

Work on internal roads and boundary walls is ongoing, and rehabilitation of 154 affected families is also in progress.

Affected villagers said the land acquisition office at the Patuakhali deputy commissioner's compound has turned into a hub of harassment and corruption.

According to them, a syndicate of officials and brokers is demanding between 6 and 12 percent in bribes to release compensation cheques. Those who refuse are allegedly subjected to deliberate delays, false objections, or fabricated paperwork to block their payments.

Contacted, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Md Masudul Alam acknowledged receiving complaints.

"The newly appointed deputy commissioner has been informed of the matter, and necessary steps will be taken," he said.

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If you're sure

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Youth's State of Thought, titled "Human Value-based Education and Campuses", at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh.

Salahuddin, a BNP Standing Committee member, also accused Jamaat of showing "double standards", saying the people are noticing who Jamaat has joined in its simultaneous movement for various demands, including introducing a PR system and banning the 14-party alliance and JP.

"Among the seven parties (in Jamaat's movement alliance), one is now your ally that took part in the sham election on January 7, 2024," he said without mentioning the party's name.

"If they are deemed innocent just because they are with you, then what about the 28 others who took part in the dummy election with Awami League? Are they sinners? To suggest that joining you in the simultaneous movement absolves one of past wrongs, while siding with others makes them sinners -- this principle is not right," said Salahuddin.

Salahuddin said differences of opinion are part of democracy and any party can take to the streets to realise its demands by exercising democratic rights.

"But we have been saying that these issues are still awaiting settlement at the

negotiation table. So, are you taking to the streets to apply extra pressure? If you do, we will also have to go to the streets to counter it. Is that what we want now? We want these matters resolved at the negotiation table," he said.

Salahuddin said political parties need to remain united on national issues, including the country's interests, independence, sovereignty and democracy.

"In democratic practice, there will be debates, differences of opinion and pluralism, but the settlement must come at the dialogue table. If both dialogue and street movement are carried out on the same issue, that is a contradiction," he observed.

The BNP leader said some parties are talking about proportional representation (PR), but it is the people who will decide that.

He urged political parties to include their demands in their election manifestos and contest the polls. "If the people give their verdict in your favour, you can implement them. That is the democratic way."

PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 21

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-40 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30

JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Two new panels

FROM PAGE 3

primarily to blame. An hour later, Chhatra Odhikar Parishad and Islami Chhatra Majlis jointly announced a 24-member panel under the banner "Sarbojonin Shikkharthi Sangsad".

The joint panel features Chhatra Odhikar Parishad convener Tamjid Uddin, a master's student of the EEE department, as vice-president candidate, while Islami Chhatra Majlis CU president Sakib Mahmud Rumi will contest for general secretary. Roman Rahman of Chhatra Odhikar Parishad has been nominated for assistant general secretary.

Earlier, Chhatra Odhikar Parishad had informally announced a standalone panel under the banner "Cucusu for Rapid Change", which has now been dissolved.

Speaking on behalf of the coalition, GS candidate Rumi said his panel members will work above political or ideological differences for the greater interest of the students.

"We want to transform the campus into a better environment with rapid changes. That is why we have included students with diverse involvement, including visually impaired students," he added.

The preliminary list of candidates will be published today, with the final list due on September 25. Voting will take place on October 12.



2 bridges collapse in Chuadanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Heavy rainfall and intense river currents have led to the collapse of two bridges in Chuadanga's Jibannagar upazila, cutting off communication for several villages and severely affecting local businesses.

One of the bridges, located over the Bhairab river in Santoshpur village, collapsed on Thursday night after the embankment in neighbouring Singnagar village gave way.

The structure had served as the only link between Santoshpur and neighbouring areas. As a result, villagers, including students, traders and farmers, are facing immense hardship.

Residents of Santoshpur, Manikpur, Rajapur, Ratrimampur, Singnagar, Dhopakhali and

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29 districts vulnerable ahead of Durga Puja

Claims civic platform Sampriti Jatra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A civic platform, Sampriti Jatra, has identified 29 districts across the country as vulnerable ahead of the upcoming Durga Puja celebrations, citing a decade-long pattern of "communal unrest" and "targeted violence".

At a press conference yesterday at the Dhaka Reporters Unity, the organisation shared findings based on media reports and human rights documentation over the past ten years.

The analysis focused on attacks on puja mandaps, processions, and homes of minority communities.

Of the 29 districts flagged, five -- Dhaka, Rangpur, Jashore, Chandpur, and Noakhali -- were categorised as high risk.

Twenty-four others -- Gazipur, Faridpur, Manikganj, Rajbari, Chattogram, Bandarban, Cumilla, Brahmanbaria, Lakshimpur, Feni, Pabna, Chapainawabganj, Natore, Lalmonirhat, Dinajpur, Gaibandha, Satchira, Bagerhat, Khulna, Kushtia, Sunamganj, Barisal, Patuakhali, and Netrakona -- were marked moderately vulnerable.

The remaining 35 districts were assessed as low risk.

In a written statement, author and researcher Mir Hojaifa Al Mamduh said religious sites beyond Hindu temples are increasingly under threat.

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

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১। মুদ্রালয়/ ডিপিলেন	বরাট্ট মন্ত্রণালয়।
২। সংস্থা	বাংলাদেশ কোষ্ট্ট গার্ড।
৩। দরপত্র আজ্ঞায়ক	মুদ্রণ প্রতিবেশ নথি বর্তন কোষ্ট্ট গার্ড এবং আগরাইও প্রাইভেট এক্সেলেন্সি, সেক্রেটারি-জেনেরেল, ঢাকা-১২০৫।
৪। দরপত্র আজ্ঞায়কের স্থান	সমর সদর, বাংলাদেশ কোষ্ট্ট গার্ড, আগরাইও প্রাইভেট এক্সেলেন্সি, সেক্রেটারি-জেনেরেল, ঢাকা-১২০৫।
৫। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি বন্ধু	Marine Binocular ক্ষয়।
৬। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি মন্ত্র ও তারিখ	৮৮.০৮.২৬৮০.০২০.২৫.০০২.১২.০০ টাকা।
৭। ক্রেতে প্রতি	উন্নত দরপত্র প্রতি (Open Tendering Method)।
৮। বাস্তো এবং তারিখের উপর	গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার।
বিশেষ ক্রমান্বয়	
১। টেকার প্যাকেজ নং	বি আর (অপেক্ষ-১)।
২। দরপত্র প্রতিবেশ নথি	Marine Binocular ক্ষয়।
৩। দরপত্র প্রতিবেশ আজ্ঞায়ক	২২ মেটের বৃত্ত।
৪। দরপত্র প্রতিবেশ প্রতি আজ্ঞায়ক ও সময়	২২ মেটের বৃত্ত।
৫। দরপত্র প্রতিবেশ আজ্ঞায়ক ও সময়	০৭ অক্টোবর ২০২৫, মুঠো ১৪০০ টাকা।
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৭। অফিসের নথি ও টিকানা	অগ্রারেশন প্রতিবেশ, বাংলাদেশ কোষ্ট্ট গার্ড সদর দপ্তর, আগরাইও প্রাইভেট এক্সেলেন্সি, সেক্রেটারি-জেনেরেল, ঢাকা-১২০৫।
৮। দরপত্র প্রতিবেশ নথি ও টিকানা	১৮। দরপত্র প্রতিবেশ নথি ও টিকানা।
৯। টি-টেকার প্রতিবেশ নথি ও সময়	১৫ মেটের বৃত্ত।
১০। দরপত্র প্রতিবেশ নথি ও টিকানা	১৫ মেটের বৃত্ত।
১১। প্রযোজ্য নথি	এই দরপত্র প্রযোজ্য নথি ও বিবিক্ষণ মোগাতা থাকতে হবে।
১২। দরপত্র প্রতিবেশ নথি ও টিকানা	২২ মেটে