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Akhra
vandalised,
set on fire in
Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Netrakona

A group of locals vandalised and set fire to Kafil Uddin's akhra at Amanpur village in Netrakona's Khalajuri upazila on Monday.

OC Mokbul Hossain of Khalajuri Police Station said the incident took place around 5:00pm, when 150 to 200 individuals, under the banner of "Tawhidi Janata", stormed the site.

Several surrounding houses were also damaged in the fire, the OC said.

The police official said the attack was triggered by a social media post allegedly made by Md Mohsin, 35, from Homna in Cumilla, which contained derogatory remarks about religion on September 17.

Md Mohsin is the grandson of Kafil Uddin.

Mentionable, a group of people vandalised and set fire to a shrine of Kafil Uddin in Homna on that day.

Following protests by locals, Mohsin was detained, and a case was later filed against him.

Mirza Sayem Mahmud, superintendent of police for Netrakona, yesterday said law enforcement agencies are closely monitoring the situation.

MILESTONE CRASH
Families want
'martyr' status
for victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Families of those killed and injured in the July 21 jet crash at Milestone School and College in Dhaka's Uttara have demanded "martyr" status for all the victims.

During a press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday, they placed an eight-point demand, including compensation for the victims, and lifetime medical care for the injured.

Ashraful Islam, father of Milestone students Tahia Ashraf Nazia and Ariyan Ashraf Nafi who were killed in the jet crash incident, read out the demands.

"No one from the government has checked on us recently. The chief adviser met with three teachers' families, but ignored the rest of us," he said. "If the pilot can be called a martyr, why not our children who died in their school uniforms?" he asked.

"We also seek Tk 5 crore in compensation for each bereaved family and Tk 2 crore for each injured individual," he said.

The aircraft crash left 37 people dead, including 28 schoolchildren, three teachers, three guardians, and a school staff member.

**One more dies
of dengue, 664
hospitalised**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least one dengue patient died, while 664 others were hospitalised in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

According to the DGHS, the sole death occurred in DSCC area.

With the latest fatality and new cases, the total number of deaths has risen to 182 this year. The total number of cases now stands at 43,173, with 40,867 patients released so far.

I quoted Fakhrul as saying that Jamaat had

STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS

Following a long 35-year wait, the Rucsu election is set to take place on October 16. In the run-up to the polls, the RU campus is abuzz with anticipation as candidates put forward their pledges. The Daily Star spoke with two such aspirants -- VP candidate Mostakur Rahman Zahid and GS candidate Nafiu Islam Jibon -- to gain insight into their thoughts and aspirations.

Mostakur to prioritise students' welfare

SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK

Mostakur Rahman Zahid, vice-president candidate in the Rucsu election from the Shibir-backed "Sammilito Shikkharta Jote" panel, has



pledged to work for students' welfare if elected.

In an interview with The Daily Star, he said Rajshahi University, despite being one of the country's oldest

universities, suffers from many

problems.

"The past administration

failed to address them and instead

focused on its own interests. I am

contesting to work for students

and solve their problems," said Mostakur, a student of the Agronomy and Agricultural Extension department.

Noting that most RU students come from lower and middle-class families, he said, "My first priority will be to ensure their economic

status through tuition, incentives, and residential facilities," he said.

He also promised a safe campus for female students, free from bullying and tagging, and initiatives to resolve issues of food, transport, and other basic crises.

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Jibon pledges cyber cell to protect students

SHARIF M SHAFIQUE

Nafiu Islam Jibon, general secretary (GS) candidate from the "Oikyabodhdo Notun Projonno" panel backed by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, has pledged to establish a cyber cell and revive the long-defunct Rajshahi University railway station if elected in the upcoming Rucsu polls.

In an interview with

The Daily Star, he said, "After 35 years, the Rucsu election is finally taking place, stirring great enthusiasm among students. I am running to restore student rights, and they have been responding

positively to our panel."

Jibon, a student of Arabic, vowed to ensure full residential facilities for students, with subsidies for those unable to get accommodation, if elected.

He also promised to modernise the university medical centre, calling its current state "terrible".

On transport issues, Jibon said his panel would push to reopen the long-closed RU railway station. "Although the railway line runs through the campus, the station has remained shut for years due to vested interests.

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Fakhrul dismisses Ei Samay interview as 'AI-generated'

STAR REPORT



BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday dismissed as "fake and fabricated" an interview published by Kolkata-based Indian news outlet Ei Samay, which attributed remarks to him.

"That news is fake. They [Ei Samay] used artificial intelligence to create this false and misleading report," Fakhrul told UNB over the phone from the US.

Fakhrul, who is accompanying Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus to the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, said the report was "completely imaginary."

He stressed that no political leader could make such "absurd" comments as quoted in the article. "It is intentional. I never gave any interview to Ei Samay of Kolkata," he said.

On its website, the Kolkata-based outlet on Monday carried a report headlined, "Why is India putting BNP and Jamaat in the same bracket? asks Mirza", claiming that its correspondent had recently interviewed Fakhrul in Dhaka.

The interview has touched off debate across social media and drawn sharp criticism from Jamaat-e-Islami.

I quoted Fakhrul as saying that Jamaat had



People wait in long queues from early morning to buy rice and flour at reduced prices from OMS outlets in Rajshahi city. Despite multiple outlets across different neighbourhoods, latecomers often miss out on these essentials. The photo was taken at Monnafer intersection yesterday.

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Cucusu election deferred to Oct 15

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong University Central Students' Union (Cucusu) and hall union elections have been deferred to October 15, following demands from most of the candidates.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the university Election Commission yesterday, said member secretary Prof Dr AKM Ariful Haque.

This year's Cucusu election, the seventh in the university's history, was supposed to be held on October 12.

The central union has 28 posts, while each hall union has 16. A total of 27,637 students are eligible to vote.

Drafting ordinance to protect journo rights: info adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is working to draft an ordinance to protect journalists' rights in line with the recommendations of the Media Reform Commission, said Information Adviser Mahfuj Alam yesterday.

He made the remarks during a meeting with Unesco's Bangladesh Representative Susan Vize at the information ministry, according to a press release.

On the upcoming national election, Mahfuj Alam said the government would fully cooperate to ensure journalists can work independently.

"The government has no interference in the media at present. It expects a neutral and responsible role from the media," he added.

Eviction at Harijan Palli halted for three months HC issues status quo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to maintain status quo for the next three months on the eviction of Harijan Palli residents from Barishal city's Kathpotti area.

The court also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain why its action for evicting Harijan people from the area should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Bishwajit Debnath issued the order and rule following a petition filed by four Supreme Court lawyers seeking necessary directives.

Utpal Biswas, Saumitra Sardar, Biplob Poddar, and Hindol Nandi submitted the writ petition to the HC, following reports published in different newspapers including The Daily Star on this issue.