

# NEWS

## 8 injured as BNP, Jamaat activists clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

At least eight people were injured in a clash between local leaders and activists of BNP and Jamaat in Chandpur's Hajiganj upazila yesterday over the sharing of "distorted images" of two central BNP leaders on Facebook.

The incident took place in Palishara village of Gandharbypur North union. Several injured were admitted to upazila health complex and Chandpur General Hospital.

Kazi Jasim, former member secretary of Hajiganj Jubo Dal, said Gandharbypur union Jamaat Amer Ilas Hossain had shared the images on Thursday night. "When BNP activists questioned him this [yesterday] morning, Jamaat men launched a sudden attack," he alleged.

Union Jubo Dal leader Nesar Ahmed, who was also injured, claimed at least five BNP men were hurt.

Confirming the post, upazila Jamaat leader Maulana Mozammel Hossain Poran said, "The post was deleted, and Ilas later expressed regret. At a mosque committee meeting this morning, BNP men attacked Ilas. While resisting, five to six Jamaat activists were injured."

Ilas said, "The photo was shared mistakenly. After being alerted, I deleted it and posted an apology."

Hajiganj Police Station OC Mohammad Mohiuddin Faruk said police were deployed in the area to maintain order. "We have reports that eight to nine people were injured. Action will be taken if a case is lodged."

## ISLAMI BANK Terminated staff demand reinstatement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited's terminated employees and those placed on OSD yesterday demanded reinstatement to their original posts and immediate withdrawal of the OSD status imposed on thousands.

The announcement came at a press conference at the Chattogram Press Club, where they outlined their six-point demands, which include cessation of conditional assessment tests imposed on employees; putting an end to "punishment transfers"; and return of all employees to workplaces.

At the press conference, they said that nearly 5,500 families are now in crisis due to the move. They alleged that the bank authorities escalated the situation by blocking their official IDs and personal salary accounts.



A trader transports rice straw (bichali) on a locally-made vehicle. During the monsoon, when pastures are submerged, grass becomes scarce and the demand for rice straw as cattle feed rises. Collecting straw from villages, traders bundle it into stacks and carry it to markets or farms. Each bundle sells for Tk 3-4. The photo was taken from the Phultala-Damodar area on the Khulna-Jashore highway recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

## PARKING BAN IN LAWACHHARA A win for wildlife, a headache for visitors

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

The Forest Department has recently imposed a restriction on parking vehicles of visitors in Lawachhara National Park in Kamalganj upazila of Moulvibazar.

The ban came into effect on October 1 and has been hailed by environmentalists as a necessary step to protect the park's wildlife species.

However, it has caused considerable inconvenience to visitors, many of whom have been left stranded as there is no designated parking area near the park's entrance.

Previously, visitors were allowed to park their vehicles in a space near the main entrance. That facility has now been removed, with a 'No Parking' signboard erected in its place. As a result, vehicles are being parked along both sides of the Kamalganj-Sreemangal road,

causing disruption to traffic flow.

Many visitors expressed frustration over the lack of alternative parking arrangements. "We bought

some others, unable to find a spot, had to turn back," said Sadeq Ahmed, a visitor.

Visiting the park premises on Thursday, this correspondent, however, saw



tickets and entered the park, only to find that the parking space had been closed. We were forced to park on the road, and

some visitors continuing to park their vehicles around the entrance, defying the restriction in place.

Shamsul Haque, general secretary of Lawachhara Peoples' Forum, said a drop-off point near the entrance could be a feasible solution, allowing tourists to access the park while keeping vehicles outside the sensitive forest area.

Abul Kalam, divisional forest officer in Sylhet, said the restriction was imposed following the ministry's decision to stop parking within the park to protect wildlife and reduce the number of visitors.

He said the main purpose of the no-parking order is to ensure protection of the park's ecosystem.

## With crutch and courage, he rows the Bay



SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

For fisherman Sohrab Hossain of Kuakata in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila, life has been a relentless struggle. A decade ago, a road accident claimed one of his legs, leaving many to believe he would never return to the sea.

Defying all odds, he still sets out before dawn, leaning on his crutch and relying on a single leg to battle the waves.

The sea has always been inseparable from his life. From childhood, he accompanied his father on fishing trips in the Bay of Bengal. Losing his leg in 2015 could not break that bond. Today, he rows out in a small boat, starts the engine himself, grips the tiller, and faces the turbulent waters head-on, because the sea remains his only means of survival.

Sohrab, 28, lives with his family in a government built

house under the Ashrayan Project in Kuakata Municipality's Ward-3 fishermen's colony.

But life is weighed down by NGO loans and advances from fish traders.

"My family includes my elderly parents, wife, and three children. The eldest son, only eight, helps by running a small tea stall on the beach. The middle son has just started school, though uncertainty looms over how long he can continue. The youngest is only seven months old," he said.

"All my struggles and hard work... it's for them," Sohrab

shores until he returns."

Age and hardship have left Kalam exhausted. "We spent all we had on his treatment. Now I am destitute," he said.

Yet Sohrab's wife Halima carries no complaints. "We married in 2016, a year after his accident. I never left him because we loved each other."

Local fishing leader Nijam Sheikh described Sohrab as an inspiration. "Despite such a tragedy, he never gave up. He still works tirelessly, and we stand by him through the fishermen's association."

Kalapara Upazila Nirbahi Officer Kawsar Hamid said, "Sohrab's life is not just one man's struggle – it is a symbol of resilience against all odds. He is a registered fisherman and receives government rice assistance three times a year, but it is not enough. We are exploring ways to do more for him."

## Man drowns in Ramna Park lake

UNB, Dhaka

A man died after drowning in the lake at Ramna Park in the capital yesterday. The deceased is Wasimul Haq, 55.

Ramna police SI Mizanur Rahman said the man was found unconscious around 6:00pm and was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Eyewitnesses said he had come to the park in the morning and was seen washing his hands and face while leaving his shoes on. A short while later, although his shoes remained, he disappeared and was later seen floating in the lake.

Police identified him through fingerprint records.

## Nation to pay tribute

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Institute in Kolkata honored him with the title 'Rabindraattacharya (Rabindra Exponent)', a recognition of his scholarship.

He also conveyed deep sympathy to the bereaved family.

Meanwhile, in separate

condolence messages,

Cultural Affairs Adviser

Mostofa Sarwar Farooki,

Women and Children Affairs

Adviser Sharmin Murshid,

and Information Adviser

Mahfuj Alam prayed for the

eternal peace of the departed

soul and conveyed profound

sympathy to the bereaved

family.

On behalf of Bangladesh

Shilpkala Academy, its

Director General and poet

Rezauddin Ahmed

Stalin expressed deep shock and

profound respect at the

demise of the Language

Movement veteran.

Dhaka University Vice

Chancellor Prof Niaz Ahmed

Khan also expressed deep

sadness at the death of Ahmad

Rafique.

Meanwhile, the nation

will bid a solemn farewell to

Ahmad Rafique today, as his

body will be brought to the Central Shaheed Minar for the public to pay respects.

His body will be kept there from 11:00am to allow people from all walks of life to offer their tributes to the celebrated intellectual and cultural icon.

Leaders from cultural, literary and political spheres are expected to attend and pay homage.

Born on September 12, 1929, in Shahbazpur under Brahmanbaria district, Rafiq was a noted figure in the 1952 Language Movement. He worked closely with students from various campuses and was the only student from

Dhaka Medical College to

have an arrest warrant issued

against him in 1954.

In 1958, he published his

first book Shilpo Songskriti

Jibon (Art, Culture, and

Life), and went on to write

extensively on language,

culture, and society.

For his outstanding

contributions to literature and

thought, he received

numerous accolades,

including the Ekushey Padak,

Bangla Academy Award, and

Rabindra Salsita Award.

DHAKA SATURDAY OCTOBER 4, 2025

ASHWIN 19, 1432 BS

The Daily Star

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## Part of Gohala river leased out illegally



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A portion of the Gohala river in Ullapara upazila of Sirajganj has been illegally leased to a businessman by a local mosque committee and influential, sparking widespread criticism.

The Udhunia Bazar Jame Masjid committee, along with some local elites, reportedly called an open tender on Thursday noon to lease out part of the river flowing through Udhunia village.

According to locals, a group of lease seekers attended the quotation process at Udhunia Bazar, where local trader Eusuf Ali Mollah secured the lease of a 2.5-kilometre stretch of the river for a year at Tk 1.6 lakh.

Hazi Abdul Hamid, vice president of the mosque committee, confirmed the matter to a local journalist.

Asked about the legality of leasing out a river, he could not provide an answer. The Daily Star has obtained a recording of the conversation.

This correspondent tried to contact the mosque committee president, but his phone remained switched off.

Me a n w h i l e ,

local fishermen

protested,

saying they

are being

restricted

from

fishing in the

open

waterbody.

Md Abdul Mannan,

a fisherman

from Udhunia

village,

said, "We have

been fishing in the

Gohala river for the past four decades, but nobody

ever restricted us.

This year, I have to catch fish by

paying money to a leaseholder."

"More than a hundred fishermen from the village are now worried about their livelihood. Local influential have begun setting up bamboo enclosures in the river for fish projects as monsoon waters recede."

MD ABDUL MANNAN

A fisher from Udhunia village

"More than a hundred fishermen from the village are now worried about their livelihood," he said, adding that local influential have begun setting up bamboo enclosures in the river for fish projects as monsoon waters recede.

"Gohala is one of the key rivers of the Chalan Beel region for the flow of water to and from the wetland. There is no scope to lease out a river in this manner," said SM Mizanur Rahman, organiser of Chalan Beel Movement.

Contacted, Ullapara UNO Abu Saleh Md Hasnat said, "No one can lease out a river in this manner. It is obviously illegal. I have heard about the matter. Steps will be taken following investigation into it."

## Press secretary

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