

## NARSINGDI MUNICIPALITY Police, admin at odds over road tolls

JAHIDUL ISLAM, Narsingdi

Police and the local administration in Narsingdi municipality are locked in a dispute over toll collection from roads.

While police say the practice is illegal, the local administration has allowed it by inviting tenders, creating confusion and chaos in the town's transport system.

Documents show that Local Government Deputy Director Mousumi Sarkar Rakhi, then administrator of Narsingdi municipality, floated tenders on February 27 for leasing nine locations – including markets, bus and truck terminals, and several roadside CNG and auto-rickshaw stands – for collecting tolls.

BNP leader Md Alamgir Hossain, vice-president of the party's Narsingdi city unit, won the lease by depositing Tk 25.20 lakh into the government treasury.

Police, however, said such toll collection amounts to extortion and violates a High Court directive that prohibits the practice.

The conflict escalated on October 4, when Additional Superintendent of Police (Sadar Circle) Md Anwar Hossain and his team were attacked by 40-50 men while attempting to arrest illegal toll collectors at Arshinagar Intersection. Two detainees were forcibly freed during the assault, leaving Anwar seriously injured. He was later taken to Rajarbagh Central Police Hospital in Dhaka for treatment.

Police have since filed a case naming five people, including BNP leader Alamgir Hossain, and 25-30 unidentified others. Seven suspects have been arrested so far.

On April 21, 2022, the HC issued a directive prohibiting toll collection from any road or highway without designated terminals. The Local Government Division later issued a circular on September 25, 2022, reinforcing the order.

Under Section 98(7) of the Municipal Act, collecting tolls or parking fees outside officially approved terminals is entirely illegal.

Despite this, Narsingdi municipality allegedly continued to authorise toll collection from nine roadside locations, of which only two are approved terminals.

Contacted, Alamgir, the lessee, said, "I have legally taken the lease from the municipality by depositing money in the government treasury. We collect the lease fees in accordance with the rules and regulations set by the municipality."

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The Law Department of Rajshahi University yesterday celebrated its 72nd anniversary and reunion with a colourful ceremony marking its long and illustrious journey. The main event began at 9:30am in front of the department and was inaugurated by Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed as the chief guest. Around 3,000 alumni, including 29 judges of the Supreme Court and High Court Divisions, district and sessions judges from across the country, and many lawyers, attended the programme.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

### PATUAKHALI, COX'S BAZAR

## Fishers set sail again as 22-day hilsa ban ends

### STAR REPORT

Fishermen in Patuakhali and Cox's Bazar districts are eagerly preparing to set sail for the deep sea as the 22-day ban on hilsa fishing came to an end at midnight today.

The ban, imposed from October 4, was aimed at ensuring the safe spawning of mother hilsa, prohibiting the catching, selling, and transporting of the fish across the country.

A visit to fishing villages in Patuakhali's Kalapara upazila, including Alipur and Mohipur, revealed a festive atmosphere among the communities despite the financial strain many endured during the ban.

Most fishermen in the district

spent the past weeks idle, grappling with debt and waiting for the ban to be lifted.

The fishing terminals of Mohipur and Alipur, after 22 days of silence, finally gave way to bustling activity



yesterday, with boat owners and crews putting the finishing touches on their preparations – painting trawlers, repairing and sorting nets, and loading daily essentials – all hopeful for a bountiful hilsa catch.

Abdul Aziz, a fisherman at the Mohipur BFDC terminal, said, "During the ban, the government provided only 25 kilogrammes of rice per fisherman. While it is difficult to run a family with that aid, everyone did not even receive it. Many of us have fallen into debt. Only a good catch can now change our days."

Shafik Hossain, a fisherman from Nilganj in Kalapara, said, "All preparations are complete. Many trawlers are already anchored near the Khaprabhanga river estuary. At midnight, we will cast our nets into the sea. If we don't get a good hilsa catch, it will be a big worry for us."

Kamrul Islam, district fisheries officer in Patuakhali, said the

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## Six-month-old Ludo feud ends in deadly clash

### One killed, 30 hurt in Brahmanbaria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

What began as a simple Ludo game during Ramadan in March this year has turned into six months of simmering hostility – finally erupting into a deadly clash that left one man dead and at least 30 others injured in Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The victim, identified as Nasir Mia, 65, of Birampur village, was killed when two rival groups – the "Harun chairman group" and the "Iqbal-Anis Member-Sachhu group" – clashed with local weapons around 5:00am yesterday, said Mohammad Azharul Islam, officer-in-charge of Brahmanbaria Sadar Police Station, quoting locals.

Police sent the body to Brahmanbaria General Hospital morgue for autopsy.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

During the hours-long clash, several houses and shops were vandalised and at least four homesteads were set on fire, he added.

Locals said many were wearing helmets, life jackets and cricket pads during the clash.

Police eventually brought the situation under control, said the OC.

Mohammad Nasir Uddin, chairman of Sadeqpur Union Parishad, said the fight was the culmination of months of tension that began with a quarrel over a Ludo match between two villagers, Jewel of Pirbari and Hadis Mia of Khalpar, during Ramadan.

Jewel supports the "Harun chairman group", while Hadis belongs to the other camp.

That dispute spiralled into a series of violent confrontations, injuring around 20 people earlier this year. Local elders later arranged an arbitration, which ordered Hadis to pay Tk 1.2 lakh to Jewel. But Hadis's failure to pay reignited anger and fuelled long-standing enmity between the two sides, he added.

No case was filed yet, police said.

### Bank Asia

## NOTIFICATION OF BANK ASIA EARNINGS DISCLOSURE PROGRAM Q3, 2025

This is for information of all concerned that an Earnings Disclosure Program on Un-Audited Third Quarter (Q3) Financial Statements 2025 of Bank Asia PLC. will be held at 4: 00 p.m. on 29 October 2025 through a digital platform, as per the BSEC notification dated 20 June 2018. All concerned shareholders, existing and potential investors across the globe, research analysts, financial reporters and individuals involved in capital market activities are cordially invited to participate in the program through the live webcast facility at following link :

<https://meetbd.live/BankAsiaQ3-2025>,  
User name : BankAsiaQ3-2025, Password : basia@321.

Dated: Dhaka  
23 October 2025

## Minority rights

FROM PAGE 3  
an election alone does not guarantee democracy, but without elections, the democratic process cannot begin. Bangladesh is heading towards a national election, and it remains to be seen how that process unfolds.

"The question of who is marginalised in this country is a complex one. Data shows that although there are around 55 registered political parties, only 18 have signed the 'July charter'," he said.

Zillur said women make up nearly 50 percent of the population, yet their representation, along with that of other minorities, has been notably limited in this historic process. Therefore, how this consensus was

reached remains a matter of reflection.

CGS Executive Director Parvez Karim Abbasi said in past electoral processes, those who came to power became immensely powerful after the elections, while those who lost almost disappeared from the scene.

"When we discuss political minorities, the issue of religious minorities naturally comes up. Economic marginalisation is also a major challenge, where the same groups continue to enjoy privileges repeatedly.

"At the same time, cultural marginalisation has become increasingly evident, often imposed through coercion and, at times, with the support of the state," he said.

Writer and researcher Maha Mirza moderated the workshop, which was attended by representatives from various student political organisations.

## Highest budget

FROM PAGE 3  
"We also want to ensure that teachers can focus fully on teaching. At the same time, we will provide social and economic support to teachers so that they do not have to think about doing other jobs and can devote their full attention to educating children," he said.

Tarique said lessons on rejecting and protesting against corruption must be included at the primary level of education. "Through primary teachers, such values should be instilled in students so they understand from an early age that corruption is an evil practice."

He advised students that there is no shortcut to success in life and warned them not to waste time on electronic gadgets and social media.

Tarique said his party has a plan to identify and nurture talents in all fields – academics, recitation, mathematics, and sports – and help them grow.

He expressed hope that upon returning to Bangladesh from London, he would sit face-to-face with the youth to discuss how to rebuild and advance the country together.

### PHULBARIA UPAZILA IN MYMENSINGH

## Decades on, locals still depend on wooden bridges

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

For decades, hundreds of people have been using three wooden bridges over the Banar river in Mymensingh's Phulbaria upazila.

The bridges, managed by the local union parishad, require maintenance every year, costing around Tk 5 lakh. They are located at Anuhadi Akta, Babuganj Bazar Khalpar, and Ustorbazir Ghat in the Horipur area.

Md Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury, chairman of Rangamatia Union Parishad, said, "Once there were bamboo bridges on the river. Later, those were replaced by wooden ones as bamboo bridges became risky during the monsoon."

Officials of the Local Government Engineering Department surveyed the areas on several occasions, raising hopes among residents that their demands for

concrete bridges would be met, but no action has yet been taken, he said.

There are around 15 educational institutions on both sides of the river, and about 1,000 students cross the bridges daily.

Abdul Kader Mondol, a member of the parishad, said people from about 15 villages in three unions – Rangamatia, Kaladah, and Naugaon – use the bridges regularly.

The upazila headquarters is about 17 kilometres from the bridges, but the journey takes over an hour, said Md Farhad Hossain, a primary school teacher.

He said students suffer greatly during the rainy season.

Contacted, Mahbub Hasan, sub-assistant engineer of LGED in Phulbaria, said, "We sent proposals for five bridges last year, but no approval has been obtained yet."



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### বনজন্ম বিক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি (ঝাঁড়া/ অন্যান্য উৎস হতে আহরিত গাছ)

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, পানি উন্নয়ন বোর্ড ও এলজিইডি'র বিভিন্ন প্রকল্প এলাকায় অপরিসীম হিসাবে অপসারণ যোগ্য বিদ্যমান গাছ উন্নয়নমূলক কাজের স্বার্থে অপসারণ ও উপকূলীয় বন বিভাগ, ভোলার আওতাধীন বিভিন্ন রেঞ্জ/কেন্দ্রের ঝাঁড়া গাছ ও অন্যান্য উৎস হতে আহরিত বনজন্মবোয় লটসমূহ বিক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী মোতাবেক বন্ধ খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও মূল্য	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান / তারিখ ও সময়
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দরপত্র দাখিলের পূর্বে সংশ্লিষ্ট লটের বনজন্ম অবশ্যই সরেজমিনে দেখে নিতে হবে। দরপত্র দাখিলের পর বনজন্ম না দেখার অজুহাতে কোন ওজর আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য/বিবেচিত হবে না। দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী ও অন্যান্য জ্ঞাতব্য বিষয়াদি অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে অত্র বন বিভাগের অধীন সংশ্লিষ্ট রেঞ্জ/ভারপ্রাপ্ত কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয় হতে জানা যাবে।

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