

Over 45 hurt as BNP, BJP clash in Bhola

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

At least 45 people were injured after a clash broke out between activists of the Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP) and the BNP in Bhola yesterday.

Bhola Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge Hasnain Parvez said the incident occurred around 12:30pm when a BNP procession arrived in front of the BJP district office in the Notun Bazar area.

Locals said earlier in the day, the BJP had brought out a procession around 11:00am as part of its campaign ahead of the national election. After the rally ended at the party office, the BNP procession approached the same area, and some of its participants moved toward the BJP office, triggering the clash.



Both sides engaged in chase and counter-chase for about 15 minutes, during which several vehicles were vandalised.

Bhola Superintendent of Police Tariquul Haque said, “We had permitted both parties to hold processions, but on separate routes. However, a portion of the BNP rally deviated and reached in front of the BJP office, which led to the clash. The situation is now under control.”

Monirul Islam, organising secretary of the Bhola city unit of BJP, said four motorcycles and furniture inside the party office were vandalised during the incident.

Contacted, member secretary of the BNP city unit Raisul Alam said, “It was an unexpected incident. We have brought the situation under control.”

Additional police teams have been deployed in front of both the BJP and BNP offices, as well as in key areas of the district town, to prevent further escalation.



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Unchecked snail harvest threatens Khulna ecology

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Unchecked collection of snails from swamps, croplands and waterbodies in Khulna and neighbouring areas is posing a serious threat to the region's ecological balance.

Local markets in and around Khulna have been selling snail meat in large quantities, mainly for use as feed in fish farms, shrimp enclosures and hatcheries.

Snails are nature's silent allies. They act as natural water purifiers by filtering impurities and releasing cleaner water into the environment. They also boost the fertility and yield of croplands and are a vital source of food for many freshwater fish species, experts said.

They stressed the need for snail conservation and recommended promoting snail farming among farmers, reducing pesticide use in agriculture, banning snail collection during their breeding season (June-August), installing awareness signboards near waterbodies, taking measures to reduce salinity in wetlands, and raising public awareness against indiscriminate harvesting.

In Khulna district alone, nearly 5,00,000 shrimp farmers depend on snail meat as feed. A

50-kilogramme sack of snails is sold for Tk 550-700, and hundreds of such sacks change hands daily across Koyra, Paikgachha, Terokhada, Dumuria, Batiaghata and Rupsha upazilas.

During a recent visit to Dumuria and Terokhada upazilas, this correspondent found hundreds of people collecting snails from waterbodies using small boats. Each person collects 5-15 kilogrammes daily, later selling them to wholesale



buyers who transport the snails to Bagerhat, Satkhira and Jashore.

Rikta Akter from Terokhada upazila said, “I go to nearby swamps on a small boat early in the morning and return by afternoon, collecting around 30 kilogrammes of snails daily.”

“Around 300 men and women from nearby villages also collect snails. Snails with shells sell for Tk 20-30 per kilogramme, while

without shells they go for Tk 45-50. Most are used as feed for shrimp and duck farms,” she added.

Akmol Mia of Mostormore area in Dumuria said some local people collect snails for him for Tk 450-500 per sack. “On average, I buy 40-45 sacks daily and sell them to wholesale buyers who give me a commission of Tk 50-60 for every sack,” he said.

Prof Abdullah Harun Chowdhury of the environmental science department at Khulna University said, “Without snails, the natural purification capacity of waterbodies as well as fertility of croplands decreases. When snails die, their flesh and shells release nutrients including calcium, phosphorus and potassium into the soil, enriching it.”

Nirmal Kumar Paul, divisional forest officer in Khulna, said snails are listed as wild species under the Wild Animals (Preservation and Security) Act 2012.

“As per Sections 6 and 34 of the Act, no wild species shall be hunted, raised, destroyed or collected without permission. Buying, selling, importing or exporting any wild organism is also prohibited. Violation of these rules is punishable with six months' imprisonment and a fine of up to Tk 50,000,” he said.

Man, daughter killed in Sylhet road crash



UNB, Sylhet

A man and his daughter were killed, and four others injured, in a head-on collision between a bus and a private car in Osmaninagar upazila of Sylhet yesterday morning.

The deceased are Harun Mia and his 10-year-old daughter, Anisha Begum, residents of Khadimpur village in Osmaninagar, said Osmaninagar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Monayem Mia.

The injured – Mukit Mia, 35, Rahima Khatun, 30, Panna Begum, 23, and Munni Akter, 23 – were taken to Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Police seized the vehicles involved in the accident, the OC added.

EC acting arbitrarily in symbol allocation

Says Hasnat Abdullah

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Hasnat Abdullah, chief organiser (south) of the National Citizen Party, yesterday accused the Election Commission of acting arbitrarily in allocating the party's electoral symbol.

“We have seen such arbitrary decisions from this Election Commission before. Under what policy have they now included the water lily bud (Shapla Koli) in the list? Have they clarified that? Or explained under which policy they decided not to include the water lily? They have not,” he said at a coordination meeting organised by the NCP at the Barguna District Shilpakala Academy auditorium.

“Have they clarified under which policy other political parties were allocated symbols? This shows that the Election Commission's decisions on symbol inclusion or exclusion are obstinate, dogmatic, and arbitrary,” Hasnat added.

Jamaat sets sights

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NID Wing recorded 61,119 expatriate voter registration applications. Biometric verification was completed for 35,490, and 25,711 applications were approved. Another 1,036 were pending review, 5,136 were rejected, and 29,247 were under investigation. Data for 20,676 applicants have been uploaded to the EC's server, and 15,031 NID cards have been printed and distributed through embassies.

The registration programme has so far covered 21 stations in 11 countries – the UAE, Saudi Arabia, the UK, Italy, Kuwait, Qatar, Malaysia, Australia, Canada, Japan, and the US. Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar described engaging expatriate voters as a “political responsibility”. “If they have the opportunity to register, we advise them to collect documents and complete registration. They must realise their role in the country's politics. This should be the responsibility of every political party,” he told The Daily Star.

Ehsanul Mahbub Jubair, Jamaat assistant secretary general and head of the party's publicity department, said, “Our ameer, naye-b-ameer, and I have visited several countries multiple times. We've met local leaders to guide them on voter registration, NID issues, and the new voting app.”

He said EC centres are operating in several UK cities and US states. “We are discussing with community leaders how our brothers and sisters [supporters] can assist others in registering and voting,” he added.

“Expatriates are our remittance fighters who contribute enormously to the economy,” Jubair said. “It's our duty to ensure they can help choose national leadership through voting.”

He also urged other political parties to take similar initiatives. On October 28, Jamaat submitted 18 proposals to the EC to ensure a fair election. One of those

called for simplifying the expatriate voting process – allowing votes with either NID or passport – and for providing parties with a list of registered expatriate voters in due time.

“The EC faces a major challenge in bringing expatriate voters into the process,” said Porwar. “Once registration is complete, the voter list should be shared with political parties.”

Jubair said timing could be an issue since voting hours will vary by country. “We've advised the EC to study other countries' practices to ensure smooth voting,” he said.

Abdul Alim, a member of the Election System Reform Commission, said expatriate voting is important but often sees low turnout. “There are multiple reasons for this, depending on the voting method,” he said. “It's also a costly process, so the turnout rarely matches the level of spending.”

He said political parties also have a role in encouraging participation. “Since Bangladeshis abroad have party supporters, campaigning there is part of their political strategy – and there's no legal bar to it,” he said.

The 13th parliamentary election will introduce postal ballots for expatriate Bangladeshis alongside three categories of domestic voters. Expatriates can register online, and seat-based ballot dispatch and return will be handled by election officers.

The postal department will oversee logistics, while an EC ad-hoc committee, including representatives from relevant ministries and agencies, will supervise the process.



PRAYER TIMING					
NOVEMBER 2					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 4-55	12-45	4-00	5-30	7-15	
JAMAT 5-30	1-15	4-15	5-34	7-45	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					

November rain

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the city, and drizzle soon turned into a heavy downpour around 5:00pm.

Vehicles switched on headlights well before the evening as early as when streets darkened, and many commuters were caught unprepared without umbrellas, causing suffering to commuters.

BMD said the well-marked low over south Chhattisgarh and adjoining areas moved northeastward and weakened into a low-pressure area over West Bengal and nearby regions. It is expected to weaken gradually.

Maritime ports in Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Mongla and Payra have been advised to lower all warning signals.

Meanwhile, the Met Office also forecasts that another low-pressure area may form over the east-central Bay of Bengal

within 48 hours from last evening. Day and night temperatures across the country may drop slightly.

In its 120-hour forecast issued at 6:00pm yesterday, meteorologist Dr Abul Kalam Mallik said, “Light to moderate rain or thundershowers are likely at many places. Moderate to heavy rainfall may occur in some areas, and temperatures may drop slightly.”

On Monday, a few places in Chattogram division may experience rain or thundershowers, while the rest of the country will likely see partly cloudy to mainly dry weather. Temperatures may rise slightly.

On Tuesday, light rain is expected in Chattogram, Barishal, and Sylhet divisions, with dry weather elsewhere. Day temperature may remain unchanged, and night temperature may rise slightly.

Pledge equal

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said indigenous women's shops and farms are often attacked. She emphasised that how political parties address the safety of indigenous women will determine women's overall progress in Bangladesh.

Senior journalist Sohrab Hassan criticised the government and political parties for failing to act on women's rights, saying women, who make up nearly 51 percent of the population, should have ownership of 51 percent of the country's natural resources.

Ferdousi Sultana, member of the Women's Reform Commission, said tea workers receive Tk 570 a day, but Tk 400 is deducted for housing and medical services. She called for advocacy to ensure these services are actually provided and urged the government to allow landless women to lease small ponds for livelihood.

Dr Fawzia Moslem,

president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, said rural women's contributions to agriculture and family labour remain unrecognised, depriving them of equal rights to education, healthcare, food, and social recognition.

Shamsul Huda, executive director of ALRD, said political parties must include the roundtable's demands in their manifestos and the government must not neglect its responsibilities. He also criticised the government-formed consensus commission for lacking women and indigenous representation.

Presiding over the discussion, rights activist Khushi Kabir said women must be equally considered in all discussions on natural resources. She said indigenous women in the hills remain particularly marginalised and stressed the need to continue advocacy despite government inaction.

Bank Asia

Logistics & Support Services Division
Corporate Office, Bank Asia Tower, 32 & 34, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Karwanbazar, Dhaka.

Tender Notice for Selection of Contractor for Interior Decoration and Furniture with Related Work of Level-1, 2 & 7 of Rangs Tower, 68, Purana Paltan, Dhaka.

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by Bank Asia PLC for selection of Contractor for Interior Decoration, and Furniture with Related Work of Level-1, 2 & 7 of Rangs Tower, 68, Purana Paltan, Dhaka from reputed and eligible Interior Firm fulfilling the following qualifications and requirements:

- Eligibility Criteria:**
 - Should have valid registration/ownership document, up-to-date VAT/ TIN Certificate, Trade License, up-to-date Bank Solvency Certificate and other related legal document etc.
 - Should have minimum working experience of 15 years preferably in Bank having project value exceeding Tk.2.5 Crore. (Relevant experience in foreign projects, Bank and/or other international institutions, will be given preference.)
 - Should have at least 20 (twenty) ongoing and/or completed projects within last 03 (three) years.
 - Adequate and qualified Architectural team [have at least 5 (five) B. Arch.] having a team leader and/or Chief Architect bearing more than 10 years of total working experience.
 - Adequate and qualified Engineering team [have at least 5 (ten) B. Sc. Engineers] having a team leader [B. Sc., Civil Engineer] with total working experience of more than 10 years with at least 01 (one) B. Sc. Electrical Engineer with 5 years of total working experience.
- Interested bidders are requested to collect Tender Document from the Office of the undersigned during office hours (10:00 am to 3:00 pm) up to 09.11.2025 upon submission of a request letter duly signed by any authorized person as well as Tk. 5,000.00 in the form of non-refundable Payment Order favoring Bank Asia PLC.
- Documentary evidence of all the eligibility criteria along with detailed “Company Profile” will have to be submitted along with the deliverables as mentioned above as Technical proposal. Please note that, if a participating bidder fails to fulfil the above requirement, will be rejected.
- Earnest money (more than 2.5% of total quoted amount) will have to be submitted along with the financial proposal, without which, the tender will be rejected outright.
- A pre-bid meeting will be held at the office of the undersigned at 11:00 am on 06.11.2025.
- Financial proposal along with all the deliverables as mentioned above to be dropped in the Tender Box kept at the Logistics & Support Services Division (LSSD), Corporate Office, Bank Asia Tower (4th floor), 32 & 34, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Karwanbazar, Dhaka, latest by 03:30 pm on 09.11.2025 and may be opened at 04:00 pm on the same day in presence of the participants and/or their representatives, who may choose to attend subject to availability of tender committee member(s) of the Bank.
- The successful bidder will have to prepare and submit detailed architectural, electrical, sanitary & plumbing and other related working drawing based on the layout plan. 3D design of specific area as identified by the Bank will also have to be submitted by the successful bidder within the project period.
- Authority of Bank Asia PLC. reserves the right to accept, modify and/or reject any or all the tenders or may divide the works amongst the participants without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Senior Vice President
Logistics & Support Services Division
+8809617001614