

3 held over BNP leader's murder in Lakshmipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Noakhali

Three people were detained yesterday in connection with the fatal shooting and stabbing of a local BNP leader in Lakshmipur Sadar upazila on Saturday.

Police, however, did not reveal their identities.

Around 8:30pm on Saturday, Abul Kalam Johir, 40, was hacked and then shot to death by miscreants on the road in front of a shop in Paschim Latifpur village under Chandraganj union in Lakshmipur Sadar upazila. He died on the spot.

Police and local sources said Kalam was once involved in drug and sand trading. Police suspect the murder took place over establishing supremacy.

Kalam was the general secretary of ward 4 unit of BNP in Chandraganj union, the union's BNP President Md Belal Hossain told The Daily Star.

"The three were detained in a combing operation carried out in various places in Lakshmipur Sadar from Saturday night to Sunday morning," said Chandraganj Police Station OC Faizul Azim Noman.

44 AL men arrested in Cumilla

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Cumilla

Police have arrested 44 leaders and activists of the Awami League and its associate bodies from Cumilla.

Among them, 29 were arrested from the Tomsom Bridge, Jhautola and Badurtala areas of the city along with sharp weapons, including machetes, hand bombs and crude bombs around 6:00am yesterday, said Mahinul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Model Police Station.

According to police, the group had gathered to mobilise for a protest scheduled for today centring the verdict in a case against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

The OC said Cumilla District Police remained on alert, similar to the rest of the country, to prevent sabotage, arson and vandalism.

In separate operations elsewhere in the district, police arrested 15 AL leaders and activists on Saturday night, the OC said.

Legal procedures are underway against those held, he said.



Passengers remain stranded at Nathullabad Bus Terminal in Barishal yesterday, while others resort to three-wheelers and pay extra fare to reach their destinations. Bus services stayed suspended in the city after a clash between students and transport workers on Saturday over half fare.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Clash over half fare halts bus operations in Barishal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Bus operations on all routes, including those to Dhaka, remained suspended from Barishal's Nathullabad Bus Terminal yesterday following a clash between transport workers and students over half fare.

The suspension began in Saturday evening and was still continuing till last reported yesterday evening.

The sudden halt caused immense suffering as hundreds of passengers were left stranded at the terminal since morning.

"No buses left the terminal for any destination since morning," said Hira Paik, a transport worker. Only a few BRTC buses were seen operating.

On Saturday evening, a violent clash broke out at the terminal between students and transport workers over a fare dispute, leaving at least 50 people from both sides injured. More than 50 buses and several ticket counters were vandalised.

Traffic on the Dhaka-Barishal-Kuakata highway near the terminal remained halted for about two hours until army personnel intervened to bring the situation under control and resume vehicular movement.

With no buses leaving the terminal, many passengers resorted to smaller vehicles such as three-wheelers, paying higher fares to reach their destinations.

Farida Begum, who came to the terminal with her husband and child to travel to Faridpur, said, "We have been waiting since 9:00am. We didn't know the buses wouldn't run."

Abdur Rahman, a Dhaka-bound passenger, said he waited at the terminal for two hours before returning home.

Students said the clash erupted after an argument with a bus supervisor over half fare, leaving several students injured. They denied the allegation of vandalism.

Bus Owners' Group President Mir Mosharraf Hossain claimed nearly 100 buses were damaged, causing losses of Tk 3-4 crore, while around 50 ticket counters were vandalised and at least 50 workers injured.

Five more die of dengue, 1,139 get hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five dengue patients died while 1,139 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services, among the deaths, two each were reported from Dhaka South City Corporation and Mymensingh division, and one from the Dhaka North City Corporation area.

With the new deaths and cases, the total number of dengue-related deaths this year rose to 336, while total cases rose to 84,997.

Currently, 3,219 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country.

Contacted, HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said most deaths occur among patients who arrive at hospitals in extremely critical condition -- often too late to be saved.

Groundwater depleting fast in Cox's Bazar

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Cox's Bazar

Groundwater levels are depleting rapidly across almost all upazilas in Cox's Bazar, raising fears of an acute water crisis in the near future.

According to the Department of Public Health Engineering, the situation is most severe in Cox's Bazar municipality, Ukhiya, and Teknaf.

Uncontrolled extraction and unplanned management have caused groundwater levels in Cox's Bazar municipality to drop by 6-14 feet annually, says a DPHE report. In areas like Kolatoli and Tekpara, water is now found at depths of 90-110 feet.

Severe water shortages persist in Wards 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the municipality. Many residents are forced to collect water from distant areas or buy it. Tube-well water has high salinity and is suitable only for bathing and household chores, while residents complain that water supplied by the municipality is of poor quality and has a foul smell.

DPHE officials estimate that around 30,000 deep and shallow tube-wells are operational across the district.

Usain Chi, 60, of Boro Bazar, said, "After the 1991 cyclone, the groundwater here became saline, and it has worsened since then. Finding fresh water is now our biggest challenge."

Mang Su Prue, owner of a five-storey building in the same area, said, "Even after drilling 400 feet deep, I couldn't find fresh water. The municipal water supply smells bad and isn't fit for drinking."

The situation in Ukhiya and Teknaf, near the Rohingya camps,



is even more alarming due to excessive extraction. In parts of Rajapalong and Palongkhali unions of Ukhiya, water is now found at depths of 100-110 feet, dropping 8-14 feet annually, said Md Ibne Mayaz Pramanik, executive engineer of DPHE in Cox's Bazar.

Water is now found at 40-60 feet in Jhilongja and Bharuakhali in Sadar upazila, 25-45 feet in Eidgaon, 20-28 feet in Ramu,

20-40 feet in Chakaria, and 12-40 feet in Pekua, with annual declines averaging 2-5 feet.

Mayaz said although there are no permanent observation wells yet, 28 monitoring wells have been installed in Ukhiya and Teknaf under the World Bank-supported EMCRP project.

In addition, 32 mini pipe schemes are being equipped with real-time data loggers to provide regular data from the next dry season. A groundwater monitoring project is also underway in Cox's Bazar, Ukhiya, and Teknaf with support from Dhaka University and Unicef.

"Effective steps, including rainwater harvesting, increased use of surface water, and groundwater recharge initiatives,

are needed urgently to prevent future crisis," he warned.

Due to the alarming depletion, Cox's Bazar's water supply system is under severe strain.

Rubel Barua, assistant engineer of the municipality, said, "Our nine pump houses were set up in 2011-12. Since then, the water table has kept falling. Earlier we could find water at 150-200 feet, but now even at 1,200-1,500 feet it's difficult."

"The water we get is of poor quality, foul-smelling, and unfit for use. Most private tube-wells no longer work, which puts strain on municipal supply. We're now trying to supply water twice a day from the few pumps that still work," he said.

As a long-term solution, the municipality is turning to surface water treatment.

"The surface water treatment plant on the Bankkhali river will become the main source of safe water in future. Its commissioning work is underway and it's expected to be fully operational by late December or early January," said Barua.

Abul Mansur, assistant engineer of DPHE in Cox's Bazar, said the plant would be able to treat around 10 lakh litres of water hourly.

"We hope that once it becomes operational, it alone can meet up to 55 percent of the municipality's water demand," he added.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Upazila Health & Family Planning Officer Dakshin Surma Upazila Health Complex Email: southsurma@uhfpo.dghs.gov.bd

Ref No. UHC/Surma/e-Tender/2025-26/785

Date:16-11-2025

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Tender Id	Name of Goods	Tender/Proposal Last Selling Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Closing/Opening Date & Time
1177699	Procurement of Medicine (Non EDCL) for the F.Y 2025-2026 at Dakshin Surma Upazila Health Complex, Sylhet.	24-Nov-2025 11:00	24-Nov-2025 14:00
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(Dr. MD. SALAHUDDIN MIA)
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1170210, DMPI/OTM/2025-26/e-GP_1/192	Supply of Books	18-Nov-2025 10:00:00 , 03-Dec-2025 12:00:00
1170212, DMPI/OTM/2025-26/e-GP_2/193	Computer Accessories	18-Nov-2025 10:00:00 , 03-Dec-2025 12:00:00
1170214, DMPI/OTM/2025-26/e-GP_3/194	Supply of Office stationary	18-Nov-2025 10:00:00 , 03-Dec-2025 12:00:00
1170215, DMPI/OTM/2025-26/e-GP_4/195	Supply of Raw Materials	18-Nov-2025 10:00:00 , 03-Dec-2025 12:00:00
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1170223, DMPI/OTM/2025-26/e-GP_8/199	Supply of Engineering and other equipment for digital Electronics Lab.	18-Nov-2025 10:00:00 , 09-Dec-2025 12:00:00
1170226, DMPI/OTM/2025-26/e-GP_9/200	Supply of Office Equipment	18-Nov-2025 10:00:00 , 03-Dec-2025 12:00:00
1170228, DMPI/OTM/2025-26/e-GP_10/201	Supply of Educational and learning Aides.	18-Nov-2025 10:00:00 , 03-Dec-2025 12:00:00
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(Md. Khorshed Alam)
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