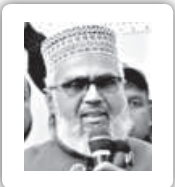


Kushtia Jamaat
ameer dies while
addressing rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Kushtia district Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Abul Hashem died while addressing a protest rally yesterday.



He was rushed to Mannan Heart Foundation, a private hospital in the district town, around 4:30pm, where doctors pronounced him dead.

Confirming the matter, district Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary Suja Uddin Joardar said, "I was standing right beside him while he was speaking. He collapsed in my hands."

Dr Shamim Ara Begum of Mannan Heart Foundation said the Jamaat leader was already dead when he was brought to the hospital.

Suja Uddin said the deceased's first namaz-e-janaza will be held at 9:00am today at Chadagara Eidgah ground in the town. The second janaza will be held in Mirpur upazila.

The rally and gathering were organised yesterday to protest alleged death threats against the Jamaat-nominated candidate for the Kushtia-3 (Sadar) constituency, Amir Hamza.



Battery-run auto-rickshaw owners and drivers block Rampura Road in Uttor Badda around 10:00am yesterday, demanding unhindered operation in the capital. The blockade continued till afternoon, causing severe gridlocks in the surrounding areas, inset.

PHOTO: STAR



Teesta Mega Plan
work to begin
after scrutiny
Says Rizwana

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Despite a commitment to start implementing the Teesta Mega Plan this January, the work has not begun yet but will commence soon, Water Resources Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan said yesterday.

However, she did not specify when the work would begin.

Saying there was no reason for disappointment, Rizwana said both the Bangladesh and Chinese governments remain committed to the Teesta Mega Plan, which will be implemented after proper verification and scrutiny to avoid future mistakes and meet long-standing public expectations.

She spoke to the media after visiting erosion-affected areas along the Teesta shoal near the Teesta Bridge in Kaunia upazila of Rangpur.

Chinese Ambassador Yao Wen was also present. "China is providing technical and financial support for the Teesta River management and large-scale development project. China is fully committed to implementing the Teesta Mega Plan. Today's visit is an important part of that process," Rizwana said.

She said protecting the lives and livelihoods of people living along the Teesta was a priority, noting that climate change has been severely affecting the region every year.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 6

Chilli growers in Rangpur
cash in on higher prices

S DILIP ROY

Favourable weather conditions for chilli farming and increased market demand have boosted earnings for farmers in the Rangpur region this season.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), chillies have been cultivated on a total of 4,320 hectares across five districts of the Rangpur region – Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Rangpur, Gaibandha and Nilphamari – during the current season.

Last year, chilli cultivation in the region covered 4,670 hectares. Although the cultivated area has decreased, farmers' incomes have risen due to higher yields and better market prices.

Farmers said the average cost of cultivating chillies per bigha ranges between Tk 35,000 and Tk 40,000. Each bigha produces around 60 to 70 maunds of chillies. At this time last



Gajerkuti village in Kurigram, said he cultivated chillies on one bigha of land, spending around Tk 38,000. He has already harvested and sold 20 maunds, earning Tk 60,000. He is currently harvesting and selling 40 to 50kgs of chillies from his field every day.

Anil Chandra Barman, 65, a farmer from Bhatibari village under Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said he expects to make a profit of Tk 2.5 lakh by cultivating chillies on two bighas of land. He has already sold chillies worth Tk 1.5 lakh.

Majedul Islam, 50, from Chowdhurani village in Rangpur, said he earned Tk 1.5 lakh last year by cultivating chillies on five bighas of land. This year, he hopes to make a profit of Tk

4 lakh from the same area.

Shah Jamal, a vegetable wholesaler at Rangpur municipal market, said last year, chillies had to be brought in from other regions. But this year, due to lower production in other parts of the country, chillies are being sent from the Rangpur region. As a result, local farmers are receiving double the price.

Sirajul Islam, additional director of the DAE (Rangpur), said chilli cultivation has been particularly high in the char areas along the Teesta, Dharla, Brahmaputra and Dudhkumar rivers.

Due to higher demand in local markets, farmers are receiving better prices compared to last year, he said.



year, chillies were sold at Tk 35 to Tk 40 per kg. This year, however, prices have increased to Tk 70 to Tk 80 per kg.

In retail markets, chillies are selling at Tk 100 to Tk 110 per kg.

Alfal Hossain, 58, a chilli farmer from

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY CASE

Charges pressed against
Shamim Osman, 11 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Awami League lawmaker AKM Shamim Osman phoned then bridges minister Obaidul Quader, saying he had taken up firearms after police sought his help, and asked Quader to inform the deposed prime minister not to be angered if photographs of him carrying weapons were published, the prosecution told International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday.

Prosecutor Gazi Monawar Hossain Tamim referred to and read out a transcript of part of the conversation while pressing formal charges in a crimes against humanity case against Shamim and 11 others, including his family members and relatives, over the alleged killing of 10 people and causing injuries to dozens of others during the 2024 mass uprising in Narayanganj.

Those include Shamim's son Imtihan Osman Ayan, also known as Ayan Osman; his nephew Azmeri Osman; Ayan's brother-in-law Minhaj Uddin Ahmed Diki; and Shamim's brother-in-law Tanvir Ahmed Titu.

The names of six others were not disclosed to the media. All the accused are

absconding.

The tribunal took cognisance of the charges after hearing the prosecution and issued arrest warrants against the accused, asking police to produce them before the court by January 26.


The prosecution brought three charges against the 12 accused.

According to Charge 1, on July 19, 2024, in several areas of Narayanganj, Shamim, in person and on his instructions, along with Ayan, Azmeri, Minhaj, Titu and others under his control, allegedly carried out attacks on unarmed protesters using firearms and sharp weapons. Six people, including six-year-old Riya Gope, were killed, and many others were critically injured.

Charge 2 says on July 21 in Fatullah, Shamim and his associates allegedly opened fire on unarmed protesters, killing two people and injuring many others.

Charge 3 says on August 5, the same accused allegedly carried out another armed attack in Chashara, killing two protesters and attempting to murder many others, offences punishable under the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973.





পাওয়ার গ্রিড বাংলাদেশ পিএলসি
POWER GRID BANGLADESH PLC
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Grid Bhabani, Avenue-3, Jahurul Islam City, Aftabnagar, Badda, Dhaka-1212 Web: www.powergrid.gov.bd

স্মারক নং- ২৭.২১.০০০০.৬৫৮.১৮.০১৬.২৬.১১৮৫ তারিখঃ ১৮/০১/২০২৬খ্রিঃ

e-Tender বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পাওয়ার গ্রিডের জিএমডি, ঢাকা (দক্ষিণ) দপ্তরের আওতাধীন নিম্নলিখিত দরপত্র e-GP পোর্টালে প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

ID	Package	Title of Works	Closing & Opening Date and Time
1194154	GMDDS: 2025-2026/09	Civil Maintenance Work of Ansar Barrack Building at Hasnabad 230/132kV Grid Substation under GMD, Dhaka-South.	03 Feb 2026 at 12:30
1195031	GMDDS: 2025-2026/10	Grass & Jungle Cutting, GIS Room, Underground Cable Room, Drain Cleaning, Septic Tank & Overhead Water Reservoir Cleaning, Inspection Pit Cleaning & Glass Cleaning of GIS Room on Annual Basis at Shyampur 230/132kV Grid Substation under GMD, Dhaka-South, Power Grid.	
1195210	GMDDS: 2025-2026/11	33kV Renovation Work at Munshiganj 132/33kV Grid Substation under GMD, Dhaka-South, Power Grid.	08 Feb 2026 at 12:30
1195305	GMDDS: 2025-2026/12	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of IP Based camera Surveillance System at Munshiganj 132/33 kV Grid Substation under GMD, Dhaka South, Power Grid.	
1199937	GMDDS: 2025-2026/13	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of IP Based camera Surveillance System at Sreenagar 132/33 kV Grid Substation under GMD, Dhaka South, Power Grid.	

আগ্রহী ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে www.eprocure.gov.bd সাইটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

মোঃ মোস্তাফিজুর রহমান
নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী (অঃদাঃ) জিএমডি, ঢাকা (দক্ষিণ)

‘How can I contest
polls under already
biased admin?’
Says Rumeen Farhana

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Independent candidate in Brahmanbaria-2 constituency, Barrister Rumeen Farhana, has raised questions about the neutrality and credibility of the local administration following the issuance of a show-cause notice against her over allegations of violating the electoral code of conduct.

Talking to local journalists at the Brahmanbaria Press Club yesterday afternoon, she questioned whether a level playing field exists in the ongoing electoral process.

She also accused the administration of bias. "I did not make any obscene gesture. I was referring to an obscene gesture previously made by the Ashuganj BNP general secretary," she said.

"How can I contest an election under an administration that is already biased?" she asked.

Referring to her rivals, she claimed that other candidates are holding gatherings under the guise of condolence meetings, using microphones and stages, slaughtering cattle, and making indecent remarks against her, yet no action is being taken against them.

Regarding the show-cause notice, Rumeen said she received a copy of the letter through Facebook and her lawyer would respond within the stipulated time. She also argued that issuing such a notice before the formal start of election campaigning contradicts the code of conduct.

According to the notice, on Saturday between approximately 4:00pm and 5:00pm, Rumeen held an election rally at Islamabad in Noagaon union of Sarail upazila in the presence of around 400 to 500 people. When the executive magistrate conducting a mobile court ordered the immediate suspension of the gathering, Rumeen behaved in an "arrogant" and "discourteous" manner and issued various threats.



INVITATION FOR TENDER of Outsourcing Cleaning Services

1	Name Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare			
2	Procuring Entity	icddr,b			
3	Invitation for Tender	Services			
4	Invitation Ref No	icddr,b/SCM/GoB/OTM/Pkg#PS-04/2025-26			
5	Date	20-01-2026			
KEY INFORMATION					
6	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (National)			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
7	Budget and Source of Funds	Government of Bangladesh and other sources			
8	Development Partners (if applicable)	N/A			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
9	Tender Package No.	PS-04/2025-26			
10	Tender Package Name	Outsourcing Cleaning Services			
	Date	Time			
11	Tender Publication Date	20-01-2026	--		
12	Last Date of Selling Tender Document	09-02-2026	10:00 am to 02:30 pm all working days		
13	Tender Closing Date and Time	10-02- 2026	03:00 PM		
14	Tender Opening Date and Time	10-02- 2026	03:30 PM		
15	Name & Address of the office(s) - Selling Tender Document	Address: Finance Department, Main Building, Level-4, icddr,b, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. Interested bidder is requested to deposit the price of each set Tender Document i.e. BDT 5,000/- to the Account Name: "icddr,b", Account No. 0200002442981, Agrani Bank Ltd., icddr,b Branch and submit original Customer Copy to Finance Department while collecting the Tender Document within the stipulated time. Please bring NID while collecting tender documents and participating in the pre-bid meeting and use north (IPH) gate.			
NO CONDITIONS APPLY FOR SALE, PURCHASE OR DISTRIBUTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS					
- Receiving Tender Document		Supply Chain Management, Chiller Building (Ground Floor), icddr,b, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.			
- Opening Tender Document		Supply Chain Management, Chiller Building (1st Floor), icddr,b, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.			
16	Place / Date / Time of Pre-Tender Meeting	FMS Meeting Room, Chiller Building (3rd Floor), icddr,b, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 on January 27, 2026 from 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
17	Brief Eligibility and Qualification of Tenderer (Details eligibility criteria are described in the tender schedule)	General Experience 7 years	Specific Experience 5 years	Annual Turn Over 10 Crore	Liquidity 2 Crore
18	Brief Description of Services Outsourcing Cleaning Services				
19	Brief Description of Related Services Cleaning and Related Services				
20	Price of Tender Document (Tk) BDT=5,000/- per schedule (non-refundable)				
21	Pkg No	Identification of Schedule	Location	Tender Security (BDT)	Completion Time in Months
Pkg-04: Outsourcing Cleaning Services		icddr,b 68 Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sharani, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212		66,00,000/-	Service Contract for 2 (two) years
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
22	Name of Official Inviting Tender Mirza Muhammad Masud Rana				
23	Designation of Official Inviting Tender Senior Manager, Supply Chain Management				
24	Address of Official Inviting Tender 68, Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani, icddr,b, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212				
25	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender 02-2227001-10: 16340 Extn # 4405/4400		e-mail: tenderquery@icddr.org		
26	This Tender Notice is available in icddr,b Website: www.icddr.org				
27	The Procuring entity reserves the right to reject all the Tenders or annul the Tender proceedings.				



Sd/-
Senior Manager, Supply Chain Management
icddr,b, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.