

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 Uttar 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

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 Chowdhuri 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 70 to Tk 80 per kg.

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

Anzal Hossain, 58, a chilli farmer from

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.

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 BN 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.

'How can I contest the polls under a biased admin?'
Says Rumeen Farhana

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Brahmanbaria



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স্মারক নং- ২৭, ২১, ০০০০, ৬৫৮, ১৮, ০১৬, ১৬, ১৮

তারিখ: ১৮/০১/২০২৬

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	GMDD: 2025-2026/09	Civil Maintenance Work of Ansar Barrack Building at Hasnabad 230/132kV Grid Substation under GMD, Dhaka-South.	
1195031	GMDD: 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.	03 Feb 2026 at 12:30
1195210	GMDD: 2025-2026/11	33kV Renovation Work at Munshiganj 132/33kV Grid Substation under GMD, Dhaka-South, Power Grid.	
1195305	GMDD: 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.	08 Feb 2026 at 12:30
1199937	GMDD: 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 টিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানকে www.eprocure.gov.bd সাইটের মাধ্যমে দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

মোঃ মোতাফিজুর রহমান

নির্বাচী প্রকৌশলী (অংশী) জিএমডি, ঢাকা (দক্ষিণ)

Court frames charges

FROM PAGE 3

AM Trading proprietor Md Abdulla Al Mamun. During yesterday's hearing, Rashedul and Nahida Runai, who were brought to the courtroom from jail custody, pleaded not guilty after the judge read out the charges against them, said the prosecution.

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.

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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 Imtiaz 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.

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				
11 Tender Publication Date				20-01-2026
12 Last Date of Selling Tender Document				09-02-2026
13 Tender Closing Date and Time				10:00 am to 02:30 pm all working days
14 Tender Opening Date and Time				03:00 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. 020002442981, 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 (IP) 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				