Shots fired at singer Asif's car in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unknown assailants opened fire at the private car of singer Asif Akbar in Dhaka's Moghbazar early yesterday.

Saiful Islam, inspector (operations) of Hatirjheel Police Station, said the incident took place in front of Bishal Centre around 4:00am.

Asif, who has a private office in Moghbazar, had parked his car in front of the centre. He was not inside the vehicle when the shooting took place, the police official said.

Asif informed police about the incident around 5:00am, Saiful said.

Police visited the scene following the report. No casualties were reported.

Saiful said investigators could not collect CCTV footage immediately as the shops at the market were closed.

Police say they will collect the footage after the shops open and take further action based on their findings, he added.

CWASA plans 90,000 smart meters by 2030

SIFAYET ULLAH, *Ctg*

Chattogram WASA plans to install 90,000 automatic meter reading (AMR) meters by December 2030 to curb water losses, prevent billing irregularities and improve revenue collection.

The initiative, part of the World Bank-funded Chattogram Water Supply Improvement Project, aims to reduce non-revenue water (NRW) to 10 percent.

Around Tk 100 crore of the Tk 3,921 crore project has been allocated for installing the meters.

Under the existing system, inspectors manually collect readings from individual connections and enter them into software. With AMR meters, sensors will automatically record readings and transfer the data to the software when inspectors visit connection areas once a month.

"The system would prevent consumers and meter inspectors from manipulating readings, and help prevent water theft and reduce the NRW rate," said Rezaul Ahsan Chowdhury, project director and executive engineer of CWASA.

He said the automated system would prevent inspectors from entering arbitrary readings.

NRW refers to water that generates no revenue because of pipeline leaks, unauthorised consumption, metering and billing problems, theft and other operational irregularities.

According to CWASA data, the average NRW rate stood at 22.33 percent in the first six months of 2026, down from 30 percent in the 2023-24 fiscal year, when estimated revenue losses exceeded Tk 100 crore.

Abdur Rahim, a building owner in Khulshi-1, said water meters remained manual, unlike modernised gas and electricity meters.

"Automatic meters would benefit both consumers and CWASA. For instance, a meter inspector might issue an average bill without visiting, or record a higher reading than the actual consumption. That would be a form of harassment for me. An automated system would eliminate such problems," he said.

As of June 2026, CWASA had 1,06,339 registered water connections across a 965-kilometre pipeline network and produced an average of 479 million litres of water daily.

Project officials said CWASA would initially bear the cost of the meters, but a final decision had yet to be made on whether customers would eventually be charged.

Salim Md Jane Alam, managing director of CWASA, said construction work under the project would begin soon.

Several international companies have participated in the tender, and their bids are being evaluated before contractors are appointed, he added.



- Tk 100cr allocated for meter installation
- Water losses targeted to fall to 10%
- Automated readings to curb billing irregularities
- Decision on customer charges still pending

Half-day blockade in Rangamati, Khagrachhari

STAR REPORT

A half-day blockade of roads and waterways in Rangamati and Khagrachhari yesterday disrupted transport services as protesters demonstrated against alleged attacks, baton charges and vandalism during Thursday's blockade at Ujo Bazar in Sajek, Rangamati.

Called by the Chhatra Janata Sangram Parishad, the blockade began in the morning and ended at noon.

In Rangamati, protesters blocked the Rangamati-Khagrachhari road with logs and set fires at Sapchhari Khamar Para and Kutukchhari Dharmaghar. They also brought out a procession from Kutukchhari Half Bazar to Dharmaghar.

Vehicular movement on the Rangamati-Khagrachhari road remained suspended throughout the morning, while traffic continued on the Rangamati-Chattogram road despite the blockade in Betbunia.

Md Yusuf, joint general secretary of the Rangamati-Chattogram Bus-Minibus Workers Union, said bus services on the Rangamati-Khagrachhari route resumed after noon, although passenger numbers were low.

In Khagrachhari, no long-distance buses departed, although some auto-rickshaws operated in the town.

Protesters burnt tyres at Chengi Bridge, Swonirbhar and Jorabridge in Guimara, while felled trees blocked the Chattogram-Khagrachhari road at Sapmara.

Khagrachhari Sadar Police Station OC Md Kay Kislu said police escorted overnight buses from Dhaka into town. Some vehicles stranded in Ramgarh were instructed to enter Khagrachhari after noon.

[Our correspondents from Rangamati and Khagrachhari contributed to this report]



FILE PHOTO

CUET stalemate drags on over VC row

ARUN BIKASH DEY

As universities reopen after the Durga Puja holidays today, Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (CUET) remains mired in a month-long deadlock, with no indication of when academic activities will resume.

Classes, examinations and practical sessions have remained suspended for over a month as students, teachers and staff demand the reinstatement of former vice-chancellor Prof Abu Sadat Mohammad Sayem and removal of newly appointed VC Prof Sheikh Shariful Alam.

Protesting students have announced that their all-out shutdown will resume after the holidays.

Although the University Grants Commission has formed a six-member advisory committee to resolve the crisis, teachers and students have questioned its effectiveness, pointing out that it includes no CUET representative.

Samiun Basir, joint general secretary of the CUET Teachers' Association, said, "There is no one from CUET in the committee formed to solve the stalemate."

Protesting student Ahnaf Shahriar Arnob said demonstrations would continue until their demands were met.

The UGC formed the committee on Monday following directives from the education ministry.

The committee held its first virtual meeting on Thursday, said Prof Dr Yousuf Elahi Chowdhury, vice-chancellor of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University and a committee member.

Another member, Chittagong University Vice-Chancellor Professor Al Forkan, said the committee would soon meet all parties to facilitate the resumption of academic activities.

The crisis began after Prof Sayem was removed as CUET VC on September 21 and Prof Shariful of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology was appointed in his place.

Students launched a shutdown on September 22, while teachers, officers and employees joined through work abstentions and non-cooperation programmes.

Following a ministry directive on October 18, the UGC formed the advisory committee on October 19, naming UGC member Professor Dr Abdullah-Al-Mamun convener and Additional Director Dr Md Mohibul Ahsan member secretary.

Prof Mamun said, "We will start working to resolve the CUET deadlock very swiftly. It will not take much time."

'An internal matter of foreign ministry'

Shama Obaed on keeping envoy in Dhaka during PM's Japan visit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The decision to bring Bangladesh's Ambassador to Japan Md Daud Ali back to Dhaka during Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's upcoming visit to Japan is an internal matter of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said State Minister Shama Obaed Islam yesterday.

She was talking to reporters after an event at the CIRDAP auditorium in Dhaka.

It emerged two days ago that Ambassador Daud Ali had been asked to remain in Dhaka ahead of the visit and would not be in Tokyo during the PM's Japan visit, scheduled for October 26-29.

"It is absolutely an internal matter of the ministry. This is neither a national nor an international issue," Shama said.

Highlighting Dhaka-Tokyo ties, she said Japan had remained Bangladesh's top trade and development partner for many years.

On the PM's upcoming visit, Shama said a number of memorandums of understanding could be signed in areas including infrastructure, energy, technology, garments, education and health.

10 killed, 23 hurt in road crashes in four districts

STAR REPORT

At least 10 people were killed and 23 others injured in road accidents in four districts yesterday and on Friday night.

In Munshiganj, three people were killed and at least 16 injured as a bus of Darshana Paribahan plunged into a ditch beside Dhaka-Mawa Expressway in Hasara, Srinagar upazila while attempting to overtake a covered van early yesterday, said police and fire service.

The deceased are bus supervisor Rokunuzzaman Ranju, 57; helper Chanchal Biswas, 23; and passenger Salauddin Ahmed Sakib, 32.

Muhammad Shafiqul Islam, deputy assistant director of Munshiganj fire service, said the bodies were handed over to Hasara Highway Police.

The injured were undergoing treatment at Srinagar Upazila Health Complex and Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

In Jashore, three youths were killed and two others injured in a head-on collision between two motorcycles in the Natunhat Bazar area yesterday.

Siam Hossain, 18, Joy, 18, and Omar Ali, 17, died on the spot, said Kazi Babul Hossain, inspector (investigation) at Jashore Kotwali Police Station.

Rohan, 19, and Rifat, 17, were taken to Jashore General Hospital.

In Gazipur's Tongi, a man and his son were killed after being hit by an unidentified vehicle while standing beside the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway near Kutumbari Hotel in the Gazipura area yesterday.

Tapan Chandra Das, 50, and his son Likhan Chandra Das, 20, were from Kaibartapara in Sherpur's Dewanganj, said Nureja Akter, duty officer at Tongi East Police Station.

In Chattogram's Satkania, a man and his two-year-old daughter were killed and five others injured as a passenger bus hit a CNG-run auto-rickshaw near Jafar Ahmad Degree College on Friday night.



The deceased were identified as Delwar, 30, and his daughter Jannat, 2, of Malihabad area, said Dohazari Highway Police Station OC Md Nurul Absar.

The victims were in the three-wheeler, he said.

Following the accident, locals set the bus on fire and blocked the highway, disrupting traffic from 8:00pm to 9:30pm.

When a patrol vehicle from Satkania Police Station went to the spot, people vandalised it, leaving a policeman injured, OC Nurul said.

A unit of the Satkania fire service later brought the fire under control.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Home Affairs
Office of the Commandant
BCG Base Agrajatra, Patuakhali Sadar, Patuakhali-8600

INVITATION FOR TENDER

BCG Base Agrajatra e-GP Invitation no. 44.08.7895.453.22.256.26.16 Date: 19 OCTOBER 2026

E-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the following procurement:

Ser	Tender ID	Package Name	Method	Date & Time		
				Publication	Last Selling	Closing and Opening
1.	1358358	Repair and maintenance of existing vehicles in the MT pool of Bangladesh Coast Guard Base Agrajatra specifically: Dhaka Metro Gha 13-7430, Patuakhali Sa 11-0006, Bhola Gha 11-0044, Patuakhali A 11-0007, Patuakhali Gha 11-0051, Dhaka Metro Chha 71-0874, Dhaka Metro Cha 56-2065, Dhaka Metro Cha 56-6338, Dhaka Metro 10-4916, Dhaka Metro A 11-4835, Dhaka Metro Ga 26-9161, and Dhaka Metro Tha 13-4894.	OTM	22/10/2026 10:00 AM	01/11/2026 15:00 AM	02/11/2026 10:00 AM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd). For more details, please contact support desk contact numbers.
Documents can be downloaded till deadline of Tender/Application/Proposal submission.

KANIZ AZAD
Lt Commander BN
For Commandant

GD-2571

5 more die of dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five dengue patients died and 1,898 others were hospitalised in the 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Of the deaths, two were reported in Chattogram division, and one each in Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), Khulna and Rajshahi divisions.

With the latest deaths and cases, the death toll this year has risen to 376, while the total number of cases has reached 1,21,699.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Department of Architecture
Ministry of Housing & Public Works
Sthapatya Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000
www.architecture.gov.bd
Phone No- 02-223350954.

Memo No-General- 1506 /Arch Date:19-10-2026

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify for all concern that the following tender have Published through e-GP Portal.

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Package No	Name of Works	Publishing Date & Time	Last selling Date &Time	Closing Date &Time
01	1357898	DOA/egp/26-27/04	Procurement Of Software from Software and Database Maintenance Department of Architecture	25-Oct-2026 08:00	12-Nov-2026 09:00	12-Nov-2026 12:10
02	1358366	DOA/egp/26-27/05	Computer & Computer Accessories Department of Architecture	25-Oct-2026 08:50	12-Nov-2026 09:50	12-Nov-2026 11:50

The interested persons/firms/suppliers may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get details of the tender.

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and offline/hard copies will not be accepted. To submit e-Tender registaration in the National e-GP portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd/) *is required.* Further information and guideline are available at the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

19.10.26
(S.M. Anisul Haque)
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GD-2572