



PHOTO: STAR

Jubo Dal factions clash on the Circuit House premises in Barisal yesterday and (left) an injured being rushed to hospital.

A different day for the socially underprivileged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

It was a unique event when over 1,000 socially underprivileged people attended a function organised by a local NGO working for them, yesterday inaugurated three mobile information centres and distributed textbooks among their wards.

The mobile information centres are the first such initiative by any NGO in the district to increase the knowledge of information technology of the extreme poor of the society.

The function organised by Paritran and jointly financed by Caritas and Diocesana Ditrivento, held at the Tentulia Union Parishad premises in Tala upazila with Uday Das in the chair.

Bishop of Khulna Diocese Bishop Bijoy D'Cruze was the chief guest while Chuknagar Catholic Mission in Dumria upazila Father Antinio Germano SX, journalist (Prof) Abu Ahmed and Principal Matiar Rahman were the special guests.

The speakers, lauding the initiative of the NGO, called upon the underprivileged people to be united to establish their own rights. They also urged the government to take measures so that no one is deprived of their rights.

Jubo Dal factions clash in Barisal: 13 injured

Central leaders, chief and special guests fail to join BNP youth front's divisional conference

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Barisal divisional conference of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, the youth front of the ruling BNP yesterday witnessed factional clashes, chases and counter-chases leaving at least 13 activists injured.

The conference was later held without the presence of central leaders, chief and special guests.

Party sources said the divisional conference was being held as preparatory to the central Jubo Dal conference, scheduled to be held in Dhaka on February 26.

Barkatullah Bulu, advisor to the commerce ministry and central president, Moazzem Hossain Alal, lawmaker and central secretary, other central leaders and about 600 delegates from six districts were invited and scheduled to attend the

conference.

The venue of the conference was changed from BDS auditorium to Rangon community centre of the city expecting a huge number of the guests and all preparations for the programme were complete.

Jasimuddin Mahmud, central Jubo Dal vice president from Dhaka and Mahbubur Rahman Nannu, Barisal divisional organising secretary were present at Barisal Circuit House to attend yesterday's programme.

At about 11-00 am a disgruntled faction of the Barisal city and district Jubo Dal started assembling on the Circuit House premises chanting slogans demanding cancellation of the old committee and formation of a new committee.

Another group, led by Manirul Ahsan Moni, city president of the

'date-expired' committee, also came to the same spot with processions chanting slogans in favour of his activities.

This led to clashes and at least 13 activists from both groups were injured.

Ratan, Chhoto Manir, Jahangir and Mizan received minor injuries while Sohail was admitted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

The two groups continued slogans, counter-slogans and chasing on the road in front of the Circuit House till 12-30 pm.

During the clashes and chases and counter-chases the central leaders remained confined to the Circuit House. They assured formation of a new committee as early as possible after the February 26 central programme and promised

to submit resignations from their posts in case of failure.

In the face of on-going agitation the scheduled programme was curtailed and a small function was held at Rangon community centre.

In a press release signed by central executive member of Jubo Dal Kazi Shahinul Islam, however, claimed the programme was successfully carried out at Rangon community centre at 11-00 am attended by 154 delegates from 8 organising districts of the front.

At least 3,000 activists and leaders by a launch from Barisal and other 25 thousands of activists and leaders from 7 districts by other 5 launches will start for Dhaka from their respective points of departure to attend the grand conference scheduled to be held on February 26, the press release added.

JMB threatens to kill Dinajpur dist judge

A CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) has threatened to kill Dinajpur district judge and members of his family and blow up his residence within February 23.

Judge Md Motiur Rahman received a letter sent by post Saturday afternoon. The letter asked the judge to practice 'Law of Allah', otherwise he would be blown up by February 23 along with his family members.

When contacted, Motiur Rahman admitted receiving the letter and said he filed a General Diary with Dinajpur Police Station. He, however, said that he would continue going to the court at Dinajpur Circuit House. He further informed that he earlier received twice such letter of threat from JMB in the last three months.

Meanwhile, Dinajpur police on Saturday arrested a suspected member of JMB from Setabganj upazila.

Moniruzzaman, 19, son of Mokshed Ali of village Nashratpur under Chirirbandar upazila of Dinajpur was later sent to Dinajpur jail.

Suicide bomber
Our Staff Correspondent from Khulna reports: JMB suicide bomber Obaidur Rahman Babu in a statement at the court of Subdivisional Magistrate of Murshidabad district in West Bengal last Wednesday (February 8) confessed to his involvement in the serial bomb blasts in Dhaka, Gazipur and Chittagong districts.

The Murshidabad district SP Niroj Singh told Kolkata journalists that the JMB suicide bomber was quizzed in remand for 16 days.

Obaidur Rahman, who was arrested by Indian police on January 22 from Jorhagacha village under Raghunathganj thana of Murshidabad district, was sent to Murshidabad district Jail after recording of confessional statement by the

court, said a top police source in Khulna.

Look-alike
Our Correspondent from Mymensingh adds: Police on Tuesday arrested one person suspecting him to be Siddiqur Rahman alias Bangla Bhai, chief of outlawed JMB, from the Mymensingh Railway Station.

Later he was identified as Kahit Iftekhar Ahmed, 48, son of the late Mir Fayek Ali, a resident of Khalishpur Residential Area in Khulna. He was released from Kotwali police station at 3 pm the next day.

Being informed that Bangla Bhai was travelling by Teesta inter-city train to Dhaka from Dinajpur, police cordoned off the Teesta train and checked all the compartments at 6 pm and nabbed Iftekhar Ahmed as he resembled Bangla Bhai.

He was taken to Kotwali police station and interrogated by police. He was found to be a look-alike and released, police said.



30 shops gutted in Barisal, 13 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Thirty shops and a godown were gutted and 13 people injured in a devastating fire at Ulania Bazar under Mehendiganj upazila of Barisal district Sunday morning.

Police said the fire originated from a short circuit in a bakery at Ulania Bazar.

It damaged property worth one crore taka while looters took away valuable items in the name of rescue and recovery work.

As there was no fire station or fire-fighting facilities in Mehendiganj, the fire rapidly spread destroying 30 business enterprises including wholesale godown of betelnuts, medicine shops, grocery, cosmetics, stationary, readymade garments, jewelry, bakery and other shops.

Among the injured, Kajal Sarkar, 45, Sumon Chowdhury, 26, Zakir, 29, Milton, 25, Nuru, 35, and Mantu, 55, received severe burn injuries.

Two tiny-tots join the function welcoming Pahela Falgun, the first day of spring yesterday at Jagadish Swaraswat Girls School in Chittagong city.

PHOTO: STAR

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