



An age-old tree is being sliced into pieces (left) and another being felled on the Barisal Circuit House compound.



PHOTO: STAR

## Tree felling in Barisal sparks protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Barisal Nagorik Parishad, a citizens' forum, has launched a movement to protect old trees in and around Barisal Circuit House and Central Shaheed Minar premises.

Leaders of the Parishad in a press release alleged that a section of corrupt officials of Public Works Department (PWD) are cutting big trees without any prior permission from the Department of Environment (DoE).

Felling of these trees will destroy the beauty of the city and make it bereft of greens. They called upon all the city dwellers to come forward to save these.

Men engaged by PWD started cutting the big trees last week and at least 13 old Mehgoni, Chambal, Krishnachura and rain trees have been felled.

Humaun Kabir, Executive Engineer of Barisal PWD, when contacted, said the trees were sold out through tender for construction work and development of Barisal Circuit House.

An official in the district administration seeking anonymity claimed that many of the trees were sold though not needed for the construction work.

# Hunt for bombers still active in Khulna city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) have launched a fresh combing operation to arrest listed bombers and bomb-makers in the wake of increasing terror attacks.

The operation followed intelligence reports that extremists are trying to regroup in north of Khulna city, comprising areas under Khalishpur, Daulatpur and Khanjahan Ali police stations.

The reports said at least 100 bombers aged between 16 and 20 recruited by Islamist militant groups are still active and may go for action any moment. Most of these youths are from slum areas, according to KMP sources.

Besides, there are 49 listed bomb makers wanted by police. They can make powerful bombs

only in 10 to 15 minutes if they are provided with necessary ingredients, said a source in an intelligence agency.

The listed bombers belonging to outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddho) made 12 bomb attacks in city in last eleven months, killing five leaders of BNP and Jaitiya Party and maiming five others including AL leader Shaikh Yunus Ali.

Khulna city Awami League General Secretary Mizanur Rahman while talking to this correspondent expressed grave concern over regrouping of outlaws in Khulna city and recruitment by Islamist militant outfits.

He blamed BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami for harbouring bombers and bomb makers to serve their hidden political purposes.

Shaharuzzaman Martuza, member-secretary of Khulna city BNP convening committee, however brushed aside the accusation, saying the bombers belong to a group in Awami League leaders and they could be used to create anarchy in the city.

City Ameer of Jamaat Mian Golam Parwar MP accused law enforcers of lax vigilance, giving further scope to extremists to raise their heads.

Police Commissioner Khan Saeed Hasan said the special combing operation has been launched to nab bombers and extremists. He did not rule out the possibility of sudden increase in terrorist activities in the city. Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) intelligence men are hunting for bombers and bomb makers, he said.

## A befitting campaign for child education

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

It was an excellent campaign for education. The audience was awed when children from different schools staged a drama with the theme 'Shikkha Chai Bachte Chai (We want education and better life).

Part of a day-long cultural programme in the town, it was organised by Brahmanbaria Shishu Natyam.

Over 1500 children joint the programme on Sunday that included discussion, painting competition, drama, folk song, Nazrul songs, Tagore songs and dance.

Many of the invitees talking to this correspondent later said the drama will create awareness among parents to send their wards to school. Such programmes should be held in rural areas where many parents do not take care of the children's education, they said.

The Shishu Natyam set up by Niaz Muhammad Khan in 1986, so far trained over 3000 children in painting, dance recitation, songs and computer use.

# Hang them who turned my son into suicide bomber

Father of Hossen Ali of Tangail demands

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Family members of JMB suicide bomber Hossen Ali have demanded capital punishment to militant kingpins Abdur Rahman and Siddikul Islam alias Bangla Bhai for misleading the young man.

Hossen Ali, 18, died in a bomb attack on Chittagong Judge Court premises on November 29 last year. One policeman was killed and many others were injured in the blast.

Son of Mofazzal Hossen of Taktarchala village in Sakhipur upazila in Tangail district, Ali was a student of class ten at Nalua Abdul Baset Khan High School. He succumbed to injuries at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) two days later of the suicide bombing.

JMB chief Abdur Rahman and his second-in-command Bangla Bhai are the main accused in the cases filed in connection with the



Killed bomber Hossen Ali

bombing.

Talking to this correspondent, family members of Hossen Ali demanded capital punishment to both the kingpins of Jamaatul Mujahideen, Bangladesh (JMB) and their godfathers.

"Although the militant kingpins sent my son on a suicide mission they surrendered to Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) one after another

almost safely," said Mofazzal Hossen, 55.

"My son was a meritorious student and had he been alive he would have appeared at the SSC examination this year", the small yarn trader said.

"I want exemplary punishment to the two JMB kingpins who turned my son into a suicide bomber in the name of Islam. I came to know about his involvement with JMB after his death", the father said.

He also demanded that patrons and godfathers of JMB kingpins be identified and punished.

Like Mofazzal Hossen, many in Taktarchala village also demanded capital punishment to the JMB leaders.

After Hossen Ali's death, Sakhipur police arrested his father, his elder brother Sona Miah and brother-in-law Iman Ali on November 30. They were freed on bail after one and a half months.

## SUNDAY'S B'BARIA CLASHES

# 4 villages wear a deserted look

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Male members of most families have left homes in Birampur, Hablaucha, Shila and Ishan Nagar villages in the Sadar upazila fearing arrest after Sunday's clashes between rival villagers in which two people were killed and about 100 injured.

Kasam Ali Fakir, 70 and his rival Abu Taher, 68, who led two groups in Birampur village, were killed and at least 100 houses were ransacked during clashes allegedly for supremacy in the area.

Addition District Magistrate Banamali Bhaunik visited the spot. Separate cases were filed but police arrested only one persons till yesterday. A police team has been deployed there.

Sunday's clashes that lasted for about four hours erupted over

ownership of a disputed pond in the village. There was chase and counter-chase between their groups on Friday also.

Some of the injured people were treated at different clinics and at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital. But many did not go to hospital fearing arrest, sources said.

This correspondent during a visit to the four villages found only women at homes but they also were panicked.

Some women alleged that police were informed about the situation after Friday's chase and counter-chase but they did not take any measure.

But Sadar thana Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md Ismail said police went the spot on Friday and rival villagers assured them that there would not any further clash.

## 25 hurt as JCD factions clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia

At least 25 Jatyiatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists were injured in a factional clash in Saikupa upazila in Jhenidah on Sunday over purchase of trees in an open bidding.

According to police, Saikupa Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) SM Mahbubur Rahman arranged an open bidding to sell 11 eucalyptus trees worth about Tk one lakh on the upazila compound.

Two groups of JCD activists, one led by Saikupa Municipality Cgairman Khalilur Rahman and the other by upazila BNP secretary Amzad Hossain, took part the bidding.

During the open bidding, one Fazlur Rahman belonging to Amzad group bought the trees at Tk 33,100. Instantly, he came under attack by men of Khalilur at the UNO office.

The rival groups were locked in a clash for about an hour.

The clash then spread to Chatura, Malopara, Satgachi and Aushia areas in the upazila headquarters.



PHOTO: STAR

A children's painting competition organised by Brahmanbaria Shishu Natyam as part of a cultural programme with the theme 'Shikkha Chai Bachte Chai.

10x3

6x2

10x3