NATIONAL

Violence flares up as politics goes downhill

Section 144 clamped in Barisal, Jaldhaka, Dinajpur and Saidpur

STAR NATIONAL DESK

As political uncertainty dragged on, violence between the four-party and the 14-party alliances rolled into the second day yesterday across the country, leaving scores injured and properties damaged.

The two power contenders led by major parties Awami League and BNP fought for supremacy on streets in district towns, clashing with each other, attacking rival party offices and damaging public prop-

People were virtually hostage as life was paralysed, according to reports by our correspondents. Gaibandha

The 14-party alliance's besiege programme virtually turned into a hartal in seven upazilas of Gaibandha district yesterday.

Vehicles kept off the road and train movement was suspended fearing violence, according to Railway control room in Lalmonirhat.

Shops and markets remained shut all day long.

In Sadullapur upazila headquarters, streets turned into battlefields as Awami League and Jamaat activists clashed and chased each other during processions. Four Agitated activists of 14-party alliance also burnt the Jamaat office at Saduillapur.

In Fulchari, 14-party alliance activists compelled shopkeepers to down their shutters and desist office-goers from going for work. Banks did not operate. The demonstrators barricaded Balashi ferry In Gaibandha town, Jamaat

brought out a stick procession at about 3 pm as a show of strength against 14-party's showdown earlier Later they held a meeting on the

Shaheed Minar premise, where speakers said nothing will go unchallenged. Earlier, at about 10 am, 14-party

alliance held a protest meeting at Shaheed miner, presided over by its convener Abu Bakker Siddique.

It was addressed by, among others. Aminul Islam Golap. Shah Shariful Islam Bablu, Moinul Hug Raja, Lutfar Rahman Ranju, Farhad Abdullah Harun, Shah Masud Jahangir, Kabir Milon, Shah Ashraf Kabir, Mostaque Ahmed Ranju and Sujan Proshad.

They called upon the President to appoint a non-partisan person as head of caretaker government immediately effect to avoid anarchy in the country.

Section 144 was imposed for an within 1000 yards of offices of BNP, Awami League, Jamaat, Workers Party and other political parties and areas in and around the Sadar Road, Hemayetuddin Road, Fakir Bari Road in the city yesterday afternoon to check the deterioration of the law and order situation.

Patrol by police, APBN and Rab was increased in the city.

Tension mounted in the city as one more BNP activist succumbed to head injuries at Barisal SBMCH yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Abul Kalam, 30, son of Abul Hossain of Jagotpatty of Swarupkati upazila under Pirojpur district. He was injured during Saturday's clashes with 14- party activists at Sadar Road in the city

The 4-party activists yesterday torched an office of Workers Party at Fakir Bari Road, which was also used as offices of Left Front and 11 Party, Local people extinguished the

The 4-party activists also attacked the house of Nizamuddin, a BCC ward commissioner and city Jubo League convener at Fakir Bari

The roadblock enforced by the 14-partt continued in Barisal city and

Banks and other financial institutions operated under close door with limited transactions.

Most of the shopping complexes and big markets remained closed. The 4-party alliance activists

exercised their supremacy in the north, northwest, east, southeast and central parts of the city, while the southwest part was under control of the 14-party alliance.

Satkhira

Awami League led 14-party alliance brought out a big procession, barricaded the Sadar Hospital road in the town and held a rally there yesterday to press electoral reforms and appointment of a nonpartisan person to head the caretaker government.

Speakers at the rally vowed to continue the movement to realisse the demands.

Agitated supporters of the alliance pelted stones and damaged windowpanes of the office of Islami Insurance at Palashpole in the town. At Kalaroa, 14-party activists

attacked the upazila BNP office and damaged ransacked it. At Shyamnagar, 14-party activists

torched upazila BNP office last night.

At least 37 people were injured and many houses and business offices damaged as BNP and Awami League activists clashed in different areas of the district yesterday and the night before.

The seriously injured party activists included district Sramik Leauge law affairs secretary Abdul Mannan, AL activists Mizan Chowdhury and Al-Amin, Sadar upazila BNP cashier Ashok Majumder and party activists Sujit Chowdhury, Mizanur Rahman, and Mohammad Ruhul Amin.

Of the injured, 15 were in Matiranga, two in Dighinala, five in Panchhari, four in Manikchhari and four in from Mohalchhari, police and party men said.

Police arrested at least 20 activists of both the parties during

Police and locals said BNP and AL cadres attacked on each others Zia Nagar, Shalbagan, Shantinagor, Narikel Bagan and Sabuz Bug areas in Sadar upazila: Belchhari, Navapara and Tabalchhari in Matiranga upazila. Clashed also took place at different areas in Dighinala, Panchhari, Manikchhari and Mohalchhari

In Khagrachhari town, the Press Club, Sramik Dal office, district election office, Shishu Academy, Comilla Samity. Bar Association office, family planning office, sericulture board Office were attacked, allegedly by BNP activists.

AL district secretary Zahedul Alam told this correspondent that BNP cadres attack their men but police arrested his party men.

District BNP press secretary Nazrul Islam however claimed that AL men were responsible for the attacks on offices and government property. He demanded their punishment

Bashir Uddin, officer-in-charge of Sadar thana, declined to comment on the attacks but said six cases ave been filed.

No vehicle plied roads in the district and most of the business centers remained closed

Kushtia Awmai League-led 14-party alliance in Kushtia yesterday brought out a mourning procession

and held a rally in the town protesting the killing of party activists across the country and in Kushtia on A leader of Krishak League, AL's peasant front, was gunned down

during a procession in Mirpur on Saturday, allegedly by BNP cadres. The 14-party alliance's procession started from Kushtia Shilpakala

The processionists paraded the town streets and then gathered at

Barabazar rail gate at about 11:30am, where the rally was held. With Kushtia AL acting president

Julfikar Ali Arzoo in the chair, the rally was addressed by, among others, AL secretary Azgor Ali, Sadar upazila AL president Akthruzzaman Masum, . Jatyia Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) organising secretary Golam Mohsin, former district BCL president Sheikh Hasan Mehedi and Sechchasebak League joint convenor Aktharuzzaman Labu.

The speaker vowed to avenue the of killing their party men in Kushtia and in other districts.

They said, AL, talking the people along will realise the demands for reforms. They urged the people to appoint an 'acceptable' person to head the caretaker government immediately to help stop the countrywide violence by BNP-Jamaat

district as vehicles kept off roads and shops and markets remained Kushtia Bar Association led by its

It was a hartal-like situation in the

general secretary Nurul Islam Dulal barricaded the Kushtia-Khulna highway for about two hours.

Sirajganj Over 100 people including policemen and journalist were injured in sporadic clashes involving Awami League, BNP, Jamaat and police in Belkuchi, Ullapara and Sirajganj

district town yesterday. Of the injured, 45 were admitted to Ullapara and Belkuchi upazila health complexes, Sirajganj Sadar Hospital and different local clinics. while two critically injured Ullapara AL secretary Shafiqui and Jubo Dal activist Shah Alom.

According to police, activists of AL and BNP-Jamaat were locked in a clash at Bazaar station square in Sirajganj town at about 9am over establishing supremacy on streets. They staged chase and counter-

chase and threw brickbats at each other. The clashes soon spread to other areas of the town. The attackers were also locked in clashes with police as the law

enforcers they tried to stop the Police lobbed 52 rounds of tear gas shells and charged batons on the clashing groups to bring the situation under control.

Fifteen people were injured in clashes between AL and BNP in Ullapara. The clash erupted when some BNP activists attack upazila AL secretary Shafiqul Islam at the upazila headquarters as he was going to UNO

At least 35 persons were injured in Belkuchi, when AL and BNP activists came head-on during processions

During the clashes, seven shops, five vehicles, two houses and a large number of signboards, billboards and nameplates erected during BNP government were

The 4-party alliance kept the city's Court Point and other prime areas under their possession the whole day yesterday while the AL led 14-party combine remained off the streets.

The 4-party activists took out motorbike processions in the city chanting slogans against 14-party for what they called creating 'anarchy' in the country.

The JCD and Islami Chhatra

Shibir also took out processions in

The BNP-led alliance held a rally at the Court Point in the afternoon with Sylhet city BNP chief Ariful Haque Chowdhury in the chair.

Speakers there said the AL-led 14- party is out to create an unstable situation in the country. We will not let them continue this. Peace loving people will resist them, they said.

They alleged that 14-party activists attacked 4-party men in a planned way on Saturday at the Court Point when a peaceful rally was being held there.

This was done at the instruction

of Sylhet city mayor and district AL president, they alleged.

The city mayor is now retreated to his house under police protection, the speakers said.

City Jamaat chief Shafiqur Rahman, former district BNP president MA Haque, city BNP secretary Nasim Hossain, Nurul Haque, district DAB chief Dr Shahriar Hossain Chowdhury, City BNP vicepresident Abul Kaher Shamim, joint secretary Badruzzaman Selim. Sylhet district (South) Jamaat Ameer Habibur Rahman and city Khelafat Majlish chief Nuruzzaman addressed the rally.

Earlier, the alliance leaders also addressed a press briefing at Jamaat office, bringing allegations against the 14-party combine.

Brahmanbaria An eeric silence prevails in Brahmanbaria town as most shops amd markets remained closed for the second day and vehicles kept off

the rods, paralysing life. At least 25 people were injured in clashes between activists of Awami League and BNP yesterday and the day before in different areas of the

BNP filed a murder case with Brahmanbaria Police Station accusing 39 AL workers following the killing of BNP vice-president Sheikh Md. Habibullah in a bomb attack Friday night. His younger brother Sheikh Md. Habibullah filed the case. RAM Muktadir Rabiul, former privet secretary to AL president Sheikh Hasina is the prime accused in the case.

To retaliate the murder, BNP workers Saturday night damaged Siam Chinese Restaurant, a diagnostic centre and some shopping complexes in the town owned by AL On the other hand, AL workers

burnt a motor cycle and damaged several vehicles on Biswa Road in Sarail and Sadar upazilas. They also damaged a BNP office

at Bancharampur upazila. On Saturday, AL workers damaged two trains --- Mahanagar and

Karnafuli Expressin Ashuganj The angry AL activists also damaged signal points and set ablaze railway slippers on the track

at Ashuganj railway station. At least 20 passengers were injured by as they jumped through

On the other hand, Nabinagar upazila BNP unit at a meeting declared former alliance lawmaker Kazi Anwar Hussain (JP- Munju) 'unwanted' in the area, saying he ignored BNP men. The meeting, presided over by

Nabibagar upazila BNP president Abdul Mannan, was addressed by central Krisak Dal joint secretary Takdir Hussain Jashim, local BNP leader Gulam Hussain Khan and Nabinagar Krisak Dal leader Abdul Manna Chowdhury.

On the other hand, BNP leaders said they are waiting for instruction from their leader and former lawmaker Haroon-Al-Rahid chairman of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, to retaliate alleged vandalism and attack by AL workers.

The district administration has increased the number of BDR and police deployed at sensitive spots in

Five platoon of BDR were deployed in the town, police source Section 144 would remain in

force till the situation returns to normalcy, DC office sources said. Dinajpur Dinajpur administration imposed

Section 144 yesterday in Birampur, Ghoraghat and Hili under Hakimpur upazila as Awami League-led 14 party combine and 4-party alliance called a public meeting at same At least 50 people were injured in

clashes between Awami League and BNP-Jamaat combine in different areas of the district yesterday.

The clashes erupted when Awami League-led 14- party alliance barricaded roads.

Some BNP and Jamaat offices were torched during the clashes, police and witnesses said. In Parbatipur, AL activists

torched at least two compartments of Dhaka Mail Saturday midnight. Being informed Parbatipur Fire Brigade defused the fire. In Thakurgaon, at least 10 AL activists were injured, three of them

BNP and AL in Ranishankail upazila. The injured were sent to Dinaipur Medical College Hospital. Later, angry AL activists set ablaze BNP and Jamaat offices in

critically, during clashes between two

In Haripur in Thakurgaon, at least four people were injured in a

Two banks torched in Jaldhaka

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Awami League and Jamaat-e-Islami activists clashed in Jaldhaka yesterday leaving at least 50 people

Another 20 people were injured Saidpur in clashes between Awami League and BNP activists.

Two commercial banks and residences of some Awami League and Jamaat leaders were also burnt or damaged in attacks by rivals. Section 144 was imposed in

Jaldhaka and Saidpur towns. Stick-wielding Jamaat workers from different areas gathered in front their office in Jaldhaka in the morning and brought out a militant procession in the small town at about 10:30 am. Clash erupted as Awami League workers threw stones on the proces-

workers were injured here. In retaliation, Jamaat processionists attacked and burnt offices of upazila Awami League and its labour front Sainik League. To retaliate, Awami League activists set fire to the local Islami Bank branch, claiming it to a Jamaat

sion in reply to provocative slogans

by Jamaat activists. Ten Jaamat

institution. .laamat men then burnt the house of upazila Awami League secretary Shaheed Hossain Rubel They also torched the local Sonal Bank beside Rubel's house. The business centre of upazila Awami League president Ansar Ali Mintu was also set on fire and looted.

Awami League activists then set fire to the residence of upazila Jaamat secretary Abdul Gani.

The fire spread to nearby houses. Fire brigade vehicles from Nilphamari and Saidpur rushed to the spot and doused the fire. At lease 30 shops were looted there.

Police were deployed in Jaldhaka town but their number was too small to control the situation. police and witnesses said. In Saidpur town, BNP and Awami

League offices were burnt by rivals Saturday night. The upazila administration imposed Section 144 Saidpur town but sporadic clashes between BNP

and Awami League activists continued in different areas, witnesses said. Three big business establishments were attacked at Saidpur bazar and goods worth at least Tk 60 lakh were looted, police and witnesses claimed.

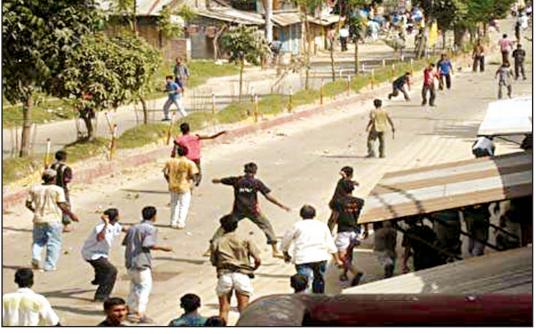
Injured people were lying on the floor and corridor of Saidpur 50-bed hospital. Doctors said they found it difficult to tackle the onrush of

Cancel controversial

appointments at RU









(From top) Shibir activists chasing a prison van in Sylhet city, a BNP activist wield a sword at a party rally in Cox's Bazar, a street battle between Awami League and BNP in Sirajganj and a plaque erected by BNP government damaged in Sirajganj yesterday.

RU CORRESPONDENT Progressive Teachers' Society

PHOTO: STAR

(PTS) yesterday demanded of the Rajshahi University (RU) authorities to cancel the 'controversial appointments' made during the Eid vaca-

PTS demands

Pro-Awami League (AL) and leftleaning PTS members submitted their demand to vice chancellor (VC) Prof Altaf Hossain at his residence at noon.

They also urged the university authorities to stop fresh recruitment during tenure of caretaker government. They urged the authorities to do only routine administrative activities at that time.

PTS convener Prof Abdus violating rules.

Sobhan, Syndicate member Saiful Islam, Prof Moloy Kumer, Prof Ananda Kumar and Prof Mokhlesur Rahman were present during submission of the demand.

After submission of the demand, they threatened a greater agitation if their demand is not fulfilled immedi-Earlier, the Raishahi University

authorities politically recruited about 546 employees. Workers' Party leader Fazle Hossain Badsha challeged the recruitment in court terming it illegal. here during the festival. During the Eid vacation, the

However, this year the number university authorities regularised 222 appointments allegedly maid by extent due to countrywide political unrest, puja organisers said.

5-day Katyani Puja begins in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

A five-day Katyani Puja began here on Saturday. Six puja mandaps have been erected in the town to mark the occasion. Many colourful arches have also been built on the streets of

Katyani Puja is a unique festival in Magura. People of all walks of life irrespective of caste, creed and religion enjoy the festivities.

Although Durga Puja is the main religious festival of Hindus in the country, but Katyani Puja became the main religious festival of Hindu community here during the last 20 years. Every year, people from home and abroad specially from neighbouring India and Nepal arrive

of visitors decreased to a great

RU Eid vacation extended till Nov 9

Shibir cadres occupy varsity halls

RU CORRESPONDENT

The Rajshahi University (RU) authorities have extended the Eid vacation for more nine days due to unavoidable circumstances'

The decision was taken at an emergency Syndicate meeting held at the vice chancellor's (VC) lounge yesterday noon. VC Prof Altaf Hossain chaired the meeting.

Administrative and academic activities of the university will now resume on November 10 instead of November 1

(www.ru.ac.bd) and respective departments free of cost. An amount of Tk 100 will have to be deposited during submission of the forms,

the vacation

Islami Chhatra Shibir cadres

have reportedly taken shelter in

different halls to carry out destruc-

tive activities on the campus,

authorities will distribute admission

forms on November 4. The forms

will be available at RU website

Meanwhile, the university

Residential halls will also open on the day. On contact, the VC declined to elaborate the reason of extending university sources said.

Life has been paralised as shops, markets remained closed and vehicles were of the roads in Brahmanbaria town

following Friday's clashes between Awami League and BNP.