

AGITATION BY JUTE MILL WORKERS FOR ARREAR SALARY

## 22 injured in Khaishpur, Sirajganj clashes

Indefinite rail-road barricade in Khulna-Jessore industrial belts

STAR NATIONAL DESK

At least 22 people were injured in incidents of violence in Khalishpur in Khulna and in Sirajganj as jute mill workers and employees continued agitation to press their eight-point demand including payment of arrear salaries and Eid bonus.

Ten persons were injured and 19 autorickshaws damaged in a clash between transport workers and jute mill employees at Khalishpur New Road intersection yesterday morning, our Staff Correspondent reported from Khulna.

The clash ensued as autorickshaw drivers ignored a call for indefinite rail-road blockade given by Patkal Sangram Parishad (PSP) to press its demands.

The blockade programme that again began on Tuesday at three important points of Khulna-Jessore industrial belt disrupted road transport services on long and short routes from Khulna.

It also halted train services for the second day yesterday.

Eyewitnesses said a large number of jute mill workers went on rampage at Daulatpur autorickshaw stand as drivers defied the call.

Chase and counter chase continued there for about half-an-hour, during which the clashing groups exchanged brickbats and clubs.

The eight-point demands of over 20,000 workers and employees of eight state-owned jute mills in Khulna-Jessore industrial belt also include reinstatement of

retrenched workers, reopening of closed jute mills and allocation of funds to buy jute to run the mills properly.

In Sirajganj, at least 12 people including the DGM of Sirajganj Quami Jute Mills and some leaders of employees union were injured in an attack by some workers yesterday during demonstrations for arrear salaries and Eid bonus.

The attackers also ransacked and damaged furniture at DGM's office. The injured were admitted to clinics in the town, reports our correspondent.

About 4000 workers and employees of the mill have been staged demonstrations for last few days to press their eight-point demand including payment of arrear salaries and Eid bonus. But they were not paid till yesterday.

Police and mill sources said the workers and employees besieged the DGM office mill at 9 am. At one stage, a section of the workers became unruly as they did not get any assurance from the mill authorities about payment of salary and Eid bonus. They attacked DGM Boni Israil Shelly and some leaders of the employees union as they failed to fulfill their demands.

Of the injured, condition of employee Anowar Hossain is critical.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control by charging batons.

A tense situation is prevailing in the mill compound. Additional police have been deployed in the area to avoid any more violence, mill officials said.

NARSHINGDI-1

## Broom protest against Mannan Bhuiyan

A CORRESPONDENT, Narshingdi

A faction of local BNP leaders and activists yesterday brought out a broom procession and burnt BNP leader Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan's effigy here protesting his nomination from Narshingdi-1 constituency.

The protesters also blockaded Dhaka-Sylhet highway from about an hour from 10 that created traffic congestion in the highway.

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan submitted nomination paper for Narshingdi-3 constituency on December 20.

When he filed nomination paper for Narshingdi-1 on Tuesday, local BNP leaders and activists loyal to former BNP lawmaker Khairul Kabir Khokon in the constituency became aggrieved and angry.

Yesterday afternoon, when a procession of BNP leaders and activists loyal to Khairul Kabir Khokon reached Bhelanagar, another faction loyal to Mannan Bhuiyan chased them. At least 20 people were injured in the clash.

Tension mounted in Bhelanagar and Madhobi area in Narshingdi after the clash, sources in the area said.



Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal, women's wing of BNP, brought out a broom procession in Chandpur town yesterday protesting nomination of ex-MP SA Sultan Titu from Chandpur-4 constituency.

MYMENSINGH-4 CONSTITUENCY

## Cancel ticket to ex-MP Delwar, 4 BNP aspirants demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Four BNP nomination seekers from Mymensingh-4 (Sadar upazila) at a press conference here yesterday demanded cancellation of alliance ticket to immediate past party lawmaker from the area Delwar Hossain Khan Dulu.

Mymensingh district BNP secretary Md Monjurul Haq Monju, and party leaders Prof. Amjad Hossain, Principal Ziauddin Shakir and Wahab Akanda made allegations of corruption and inefficiency against Delwar.

Vowing to resist Delwar, they said they would work together in the coming election if any of them is given the 4-party alliance ticket. The press conference was held at Mymensingh Press Club in the evening.

Monjurul Haq alleged that Delwar Hossain did little for development of



Delwar Hossain Khan Dulu

Mymensingh Sadar upazila and his 'poor performance' during the four-party alliance rule frustrated party leaders and activists as well as people.

Monjurul Haq also alleged that Delwar was barred from entering the office of former prime minister Khaleda Zia as his men misappropriation wheat and rice allotted for

development projects.

People of Mymensingh town want an educated leader with good moral character as the townspeople have a tradition of patronising education, they said.

They also announced a two hour sit-in and formation of a human chain on press club premises today to protest Delwar's nomination.

Many leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations including district Jubo Dal secretary Liton Akanda and organising secretary Mozammel Haque Tutu, Secretary and Organizing Secretary of Jubo Dal District unit, local JASAS president Sharif Mahmudul Haque Sanjoy and secretary Khandaker Moinuddin Ahmed, Sechhasebak Dal president Alamgir Mahmud Alam and secretary Rafiqul Alam Shamim and Chhatra Dal leaders were also present at the press conference.



PHOTO: STAR

Workers and employees of Sirajganj Quami Jute Mills laid a siege to the General Manager's office yesterday to press their eight-point demand including payment of arrear salaries and Eid bonus.

## 8 nomination papers cancelled in 4 dists

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Nomination papers of eight candidates were cancelled in Manikganj, Pabna, Moulvibazar and Khulna after scrutiny yesterday. Of them six were alleged loan defaulters.

Our Manikganj Correspondent reports: District returning officer Md Ataur Rahman cancelled nomination papers of three loan defaulters here. They are JSD-Inu central leader Afzal Hossain Khan Joki,

district Krishak League president Benzir Ahmed and AL leader Atoar Rahman.

A Pabna correspondent reports: Nomination papers of an Awami League (AL) candidate and that of a BNP candidate were rejected by the district returning officer in Pabna-5 (Sadar) constituency due to loan default.

District Election Office sources said the candidates are Awami League (AL) leader Md Idris Ali

Biswas and BNP leader Akram Ali Khan Shanju.

Our Khulna Staff Correspondent reports: Nomination papers of Jatiya Party (Ershad) leader Zaher Ali and that of Hindu League joint secretary Arun Kumar Das were cancelled by the district returning officer in Khulna-5 and Khulna-2 constituencies.

In Moulvibazar-4 (Srimongal and Kamalganj), nomination paper of BNP leader Md Ahad Miah has been cancelled as he did not repay bank loans. But Md Ahad Miah at instant press conference said he has no bank loan. The Returning Officer failed to mention with which bank his loan remained unpaid, Ahad Miah, claimed.

Returning Officer and Deputy Commissioner Md Ashraf Shamim said Ahad Miah's nomination paper was cancelled according to a report sent by CIB. He can appeal within next three days, the Returning Officer said.



## Kader Siddiqui to fight for 5 seats

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Krishak Sramik Janata League (KSJL) president and legendary freedom fighter Abdul Kader Siddiqui Bir Uttam submitted nomination papers from five constituencies, three of them in Tangail, party sources said.

The constituencies are Tangail-5 (Sadar-Delduar), Tangail-7 (Mirzapur), Tangail-8 (Basail-Sakhipur), Gazipur-1 (Sepur-Kaliakair) and Mymensingh-6 (Phulbaria), they said.

Party leaders submitted the nomination papers on behalf

Kader Siddiqui contested from Tangail-1 (Madhupur-Dhanbari), Tangail-2 (Gopalpur-Bhuapur), Tangail-3 (Ghatail), Tangail-4 (Kalihati), and Tangail-8 (Basail-Sakhipur) constituencies in the last election in 2001. He won from his own Tangail-8 (Basail-Sakhipur) constituency.

## 84 new polling centres in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Eight-four new polling centres were set up in five constituencies of the district as per convenience of Four-party Alliance, according to an allegation of Awami League (AL)-led Grand Alliance.

Grand Alliance district coordinator and city AL convener Advocate Shawkat Hossain Hiron said the new polling centres were set up at Barisal Sadar, Bakerganj, Babuganj, Muladi Uzirpur and Gournadi and Agoljehara upazilas. Those were set up aiming at

to split the votes of the grand alliance voters.

However, Sadar Upazila Election Officer Md Moniruzzaman said 84 new polling centres and 583 new polling booths were set up following rise in voters and exten-

sion of boundary of Barisal City Corporation (BCC) and municipalities.

Election office sources said the number of polling centres and booths were 475 and 2,617 in 10 upazilas in during election in 2001. At present the number of polling centres and polling booths stood at 559 and 3,200, he said.

The district election officials claimed the new centres were set up following recommendation of voters' applications by the concerned Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO).

Election office sources said the number of polling centres and booths were 475 and 2,617 in 10 upazilas in during the 2001 election.

Polls preparation is going on in full swing in the entire district.

6X2

7X4