

50 hurt as police, Bangalees clash at Syedpur

UNO, ASP and 10 policemen among injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Nilphamari*

At least 50 people including Syedpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shamsul Islam, ASP Ehsanul Haque and 10 other policemen were injured in intermittent clashes between Bangalee residents and police at Syedpur on Sunday.

Police fired 45 tear gas shells and as many rubber bullets during the clashes that began in late afternoon and continued till about 11 at night.

Nine of the injured policemen were admitted to Nilphamari and Syedpur hospitals. Three of them constables Lokman Hossain, Elias Ali and Aminul Islam-- were later shifted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital as their conditions deteriorated, district administration sources said. The injured police personnel include three women SI Rupsha and consta-

bles Arzina Begum (25) and Hosne Ara.

The injured civilians are taking treatment at private clinics. They are avoiding government hospitals fearing arrest, local people said.

Police yesterday lodged a case and started indiscriminate arrest, local people alleged. Local Bangalees are fleeing homes to avoid arrest, they said.

The Bangalees are agitating for about two months for allotment of houses in the government's newly built 'Uttara Housing Project' but the local administration says those are only for Beharis.

Bangalees in villages around Syedpur town had a pre-scheduled long march towards the project on Sunday to press their demand.

At about 2 am on Sunday, police arrested their leader Dr Abul Hasan Bulu.

As the news spread, people from

the villages began to gather at Wapda Natun Hat near the project.

At 2 pm, they brought out a big procession and came to the road at Dhelapur near the project. They then went on the Nilphamari-Dhaka highway and squatted, blocking it.

Several hundred stick-wielding people were seen stopping vehicles. About 100 vehicles became stranded, witnesses said.

A police team of about 12 led by SI Ashim and SI Rafiqul Islam persuaded the squatters to leave.

The squatters encircled them and confined them in a tea stall.

As another police team came, the demonstrators pelted stones, injuring two policemen.

Injured ASP Ehsanul Haq and constables Rafiqul Islam, Antim Roy, Nurul Islam and Khalilur Rahman and the three policemen are under treatment at Nilphamari Hospital.

pelted stones at police, witnesses said.

Police then resorted to baton charge and fired rubber bullets and teargas shells. About 40 people were injured in the action.

Local people alleged that police also torched two thatched houses there.

At about 9 pm, the mob again swooped on police, injuring Syedpur UNO Shamsul Islam and ASP (circle) Ehsanul Haque and seven policemen.

Nilphamari Police Superintendent Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun later told this correspondent that 11 policemen were injured. He also said a rifle of a policeman was missing.

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Fishermen recover SMG snatched from police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *B'baria*

Two fisherman brothers have set a laudable example of honesty and responsibility. They have deposited to police a firearm they found in the Meghna riverbed while fishing.

Brahmanbaria Police Superintendent ATM Tarek rewarded them with Tk 5000.

Pichan Chandra Das, 42, and Ranjit Chandra Das, 34, of Lalpur village found the SMC along with 20 bullets in the magazine in deep water near Ashuganj on March 18.

The firearm is among two SMGs and three rifles snatched from policemen during an armed dacoity in passenger launch MLC Queen near Ashuganj on January 27. It was found about 400 yards from the spot of dacoity.

The other SMG and one of the snatched rifles were recovered earlier by local people and deposited to police. Two rifles are yet to recovered.

7 teenagers in B'baria jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *B'baria*

Seven teenaged boys including one Indian are in Brahmanbaria jail for trial in cases like murder, smuggling and theft.

The Indian boy is Sumanta, son of Mangal Debi Barma of Hawa Bazar in West Tripura, India.

Five of the Bangladeshis are from Brahmanbaria. They are Murad, son of Shahjahan of Kamru village in Ashuganj upazila; Raup Mia, son of Bajlu Mia of Uluchara village in Kasba upazila; Mutaleb, son of Abdul Hekim of Gupinathpur village in Kosba upazila; Md Annar Mia, son of late Jaled Mia of Poyerata in Brahmanbaria town and Rubel Mia, son of Md Noor Mia of the town.

The rest one is Md Shah Alam, son of Muhammad Ali of Rajibpur village in Kendua upazila in Netrakura.

Sources said as per rule they should be lodged in a juvenile correction centre.

Sources at Brahmanbaria jail said petitions for their bail will be submitted soon by the government.

The District and Session Judge, Deputy Commissioner, Pourasava Chairman, Public Prosecutor and the Jail Superintendent at a recent meeting discussed release of boys on bail and their trial.

'Resist closure of sugar mill at any cost of'

Menon tells public meeting at Mohimaganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gaibandha*

fascist as it has become isolated from people after coming to power democratically."

"It is destroying everything instead of reforming. Nothing will remain in the country if they are not given farewell as early as possible".

He was addressing a public meeting at Mohimaganj Town Club ground on Sunday, arranged by the Alliance to protest closure of the mill. The government earlier presided over by CPB leader Dewan Naimul Huq, the meeting was addressed by, among others, Bangladesher Communist Party President Monjurul Ahsan Khan, BSD Convener Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan, Shammaybadi Dal General Secretary Dilip Barua,

Gono Azadi League President Al-hajj Abdus Samad, Jatiya Krishan Samity President Anisur Rahman Mallick.

Monjurul Ahsan Khan said this government is destroying all institutions and closing down mills and factories. Time has come to resist them.

He called upon the people to unite under leadership of democratic forces to dislodge the government.

Abdus Samad said the government is flouting its poll pledges.

Khulna politicians demand KU VC's removal by Apr 5

"Corrupt" VC blamed for death of 11 students: Memo to President, PM today, human chain tomorrow to press demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

The Greater Khulna Development Action Co-ordination Committee (GKDACC) has demanded removal of Khulna University Vice-chancellor Prof Dr Abdul Kadir Bhuiyan by April 5.

Leaders of GKDACC blamed the VC for the recent death in the Sundarbans of nine students of the university and two of BUET and said he is unfit for the post.

They also demanded a judicial probe into the incident and threatened agitation if he is not removed by April 5.

Addressing a press conference here on Sunday, the GKDACC

leaders urged members of the KU Syndicate not to attend any meeting with the VC in the chair. The VC is "corrupt and inefficient" to run the university, they alleged.

The GKDACC will submit memorandums to the President and the Prime Minister through the Khulna Deputy Commissioner today and form a human chain at the Picture Palace Square tomorrow for the VC's removal.

GKDACC President Abu Mohammad Ferdous said at the press conference that while serving in Rajshahi University Dr Abdul Kadir Bhuiyan had distributed sweets among students to celebrate assassination of President Ziaur Rahman.

Ferdous said head of the Architecture Department Prof Mohammed Ali Naki is equally responsible for the death of eleven students and should also be removed from the university by the deadline.

The press conference was attended by, among others, Khulna Awami League President Shaikh Haroon-or-Rashid, City BNP vice-presidents SM Morshed Alam and Sekander Zafrullah Khan Shacchu, Workers Party city unit Vice-president Shaikh Hafizur Rahman Bhuiyan, CPB leader advocate Feroze Ahmed, Jamaat-e-Islami leader advocate Shaikh Abul Kasham and freedom fighter Gazi Rahmatullah Dadu.



PHOTO: STAR
An exhibition of ornaments made of burnt clay by Miranaj Afroz Lucky, a third year student of Fine Arts, drew a large number of visitors at the Rajshahi University (RU) central cafeteria. Over 300 varieties of ornaments are on display at the exhibition, first of its kind in Rajshahi region. These include rings, necklace and earring. RU Pro-Vice-chancellor Prof KAM Shahadat Hossain Mondol inaugurated the exhibition on Saturday. It will conclude today.

OUTLAWS' DEATH THREAT FOR TOLL 30 families flee homes in Uzirpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

Male members of 30 families in five villages in Guthia union under Uzirpur upazila are on the run following outlaws' demand for toll and death threat for non-compliance.

Twenty-five of families are Hindus and five are Muslims. Some of the families have taken shelter at the upazila Sadar.

Hardly any male member is available in Nattanondi, Kamlapur, Robdradi, Terodron and Haun villages as members of Sharbohara party demanded tolls ranging from Tk 20,000 to one lakh from the 30 families.

Panic gripped the area after outlaws killed one Hiralal Halder, 40, at Nattanondi village on the night of March 19 for refusing to pay toll.

Even old women were not willing to talk to newsmen during a visit to the area on Sunday.

It was gathered that armed outlaws came to the villages about a month back and demanded toll.

5 ruling party men dropped from murder charge

Fresh probe demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Re-investigation of landless farmer Anwarul Islam murder case by CID has been demanded after five FIRs named accused have been dropped from the charge sheet.

The five are Aben Kena, son of Habibur; Shawkat Ali, son of Nuran Dhali; Manirul, son of Haymat Sardar; Alamgir, son of Mohammad Ali and Mahatab, son of Hermat Ali of Debnagar village in the Sadar upazila.

All of them are local ruling party activists, Wahab Ali, president of Satkhira Bhumihin

Samity, claimed at a press conference at Satkhira Reporters Club on Friday. Wahab demanded re-investigation of the case, alleging that names of seven others have been included in the charge sheet by dropping the five ruling party men.

Anwarul Islam, 28, son of Amir Ali of Debnagar village in the Sadar upazila was hacked to death in front of Debnagar Primary School during day time on July 11 last year.

The victim's relatives filed a case accusing five ruling party men including Rashed, Alamgir and Jahangir Hossain

Sreepur AL council postponed fearing clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Magura*

The council of Sreepur thana Awami League (AL) was postponed hours before the scheduled time yesterday without announcement of a fresh date.

Party sources said the council was postponed on orders from the district unit due to internal feud. Holding of the council would intensify the infighting, they said.

With this, the council of district AL scheduled for March 31, has also become uncertain, they said.

AL insiders said party leaders and activists are split into two groups over formation of new committees at union level in Sreepur upazila. The two rival groups are led by Molla Nabuat Hossain and Kutubuddin Kuti.

On January 19, two rival factions clashed during the council of Kadirpara union AL at Radhanagar High School ground, leaving at least eight people injured.

Molla Nabuat is being backed by local lawmaker MS Akbar while Kutubuddin Kuti is backed by district AL convener Md. Attaf Hossain, they said.

AL activists clashed at least seven times at different meetings in the recent past.

Mentionably, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil has called senior party leaders to Dhaka on March 8 to resolve the infighting, but to no result.

When asked, district AL convener Md. Altaf Hossain however said a new date for Sreepur AL council will be announced soon.



PHOTO: STAR
Khwaja Mozammel Haque Foundation organised a free medical camp at Rajdarul village in Phulpur upazila recently. About 7,000 patients were examined and given medicine free of cost at the camp, its organisers said.