

# JCD, Shibir clash at Barisal medical college: 15 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least 15 activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) and four of Jatitabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were injured when the two student fronts of ruling coalition partners clashed and ransacked each others' rooms at a hostel in Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College in the early hours of yesterday.

Three of the ICS activists were injured critically.

Twenty rooms belonging to ICS activists and two of JCD were ransacked in the clashes that broke out over fixing meal charge at the hall cafeteria, campus sources and police said.

A meeting was scheduled at 11 pm Friday for fixing the meal charge at Habibur Rahman Hall, dominated by ICS.

The meeting was attended by dining hall manager Mulukchand, JCD leader Akbar Kabir, ICS leader Abdul Alim Titu, hall students union general secretary KM Babar and other leaders of the two organisations.

At the meeting Mulukchand demanded that per meal charge be refixed at Tk 13.50 from Tk 12.50. JCD leaders supported the demand.

But ICS leaders proposed to increase the charge by 50 paise only.

An altercation ensued. At one stage, JCD leader Mustafijur Rahman assaulted ICS leader Aminul Islam.

Protesting this, ICS activists and supporters swooped on the JCD leaders and activists in the hostel.

JCD activists from other hostels came in their help and a fierce clash broke out.

They attacked ICS activists indiscriminately and ransacked their rooms.

Two rooms of JCD activists were also ransacked by ICS men.

Intermittent clashes and ransacking of rooms continued till 3am Saturday, the sources said.

Eleven of the injured ICS activists were identified as Aminul Islam, Amir Hossain, Amir Hossain Jibon, Dr. Mamun and Dr. Ahad, both former ICS presidents, Golam Forhad, ICS president of SBMC, Ahmad Kabir, Mohsin, Sharif, Mamun and Iqbal.

Of them, Aminul Islam, Amir Hossain, Amir Hossain Jibon were admitted to hospital in critical condition.

Injured JCD activists are Faisal, Aminul, Badrul, and Shamrat.

Meanwhile, local leaders of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami went to the medical college yesterday and tried to ease the tension.

## Kaptai plant's power generation lowest in 35 years

MONIRUL ALAM, Rangamati

Power generation at the country's lone hydroelectric plant in Kaptai is now at the lowest in 35 years.

Generation is declining gradually because all the machinery and equipment have become old, Project Manager Shafiqul Islam told this correspondent yesterday.

Units 1, 4 and 5 are out of operation because the old machinery can not cover the Mega Bar (MB) load from pressure of water, he said. Units 4 and 5 are inoperative for months while Unit 1 is not functioning for the last few days. Unit 1 is being repaired and will resume generation soon, he said.

Only two units (unit 2 and 3), with a capacity of 50 MW each, are in operation. These two produced 96 MW power on Thursday though the water level in the lake is adequate, he said.

The water level was recorded at 83 MSL (Mean Sea Level) on Thursday while the minimum required for smooth run of the powerhouse 76 MSL.

All the machinery need thorough renovation, he said.

A proposal has been made and it is under power ministry's consideration to renovate units 4 and 5 by March next year, the official said.

The plant was set up in early 1960s.



PHOTO: STAR

A human chain was formed in front of Ashaduzzaman Girls High School in Gaibandha town yesterday demanding trial of killers of 11-year old school girl Mafroza Begum Mili. She was raped before murder in Rajshahi.

## CENTRAL MOVE FOR NEW COMMITTEE

# Old-young rift in Rangpur AL

RAFIQUE SARKER, from Rangpur

Awami League high command's move to reorganise its Rangpur district committee is virtually creating a division in the party.

This has enthused young faces and frustrated the elders, party sources claimed talking to this correspondent.

In the wake dull party activities, AL Central Executive Committee recently asked district unit leaders to form new committees at all upazilas and towns by June 15.

Party sources said, the AL high command has decided to dissolve the district committee and a new convening committee is now awaiting approval of party president Sheikh Hasina.

Most of the elders in the party do not welcome the move, they claimed. Rather, at places, they are

creating obstruction in formation of new units.

Meanwhile the district committee has dissolved the party's city and Sadar upzila units.

On May 31, Awami League General Secretary Abdul Zaili approved a convening committee for the Sadar upzila. Since then, a group led by central committee member Sharfuddin Ahmed Zhoru, district unit secretary Elias Ahmad and organizing secretary Delwar Hossen Talukder is opposing the proposed committee, the sources said.

"They are pleading for another committee with their favourites and are throwing counter-programmes at every level", said district AL president Sha Abdur Razzak.

On Friday, two rival groups called a ward council at Rangpur Railway intersection. Apprehending clash, the district administration clamped

Section 144 at the venue.

At a press briefing at the district AL office yesterday, Eleas Ahmed said that some of the district leaders convinced General Secretary Abdul Zaili to approve a new committee for the Sadar upzila.

"The district unit does not want dissolution of the city and Sadar upzila committees. A number of leaders formed the convening committees."

On the other hand, Sha Abdur Razzak claimed that the convening committees have been formed as per party constitution. Forty-seven district committee members out of 60 voted for it at a meeting held on March 10, he said.

Young leaders have been included in these committees at the instruction of some central leaders, he said.



PHOTO: STAR

Two of the rooms of Habibur Rahman Hall at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College ransacked during JCD-Shibir clashes yesterday.

# Sylhet division gets only half of power needed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Load shedding amid the on-going heat wave has made life miserable in the city. HSC (Higher Secondary certificate) examinees are the worst sufferers.

The power crisis is also affecting small industries.

The power outage which continues for hours daily in the city is also affecting transmission from Sylhet centre of Bangladesh Betar, its officials said.

In upazilas, load shedding continues four to five hours at a stretch, prompting demonstrations at places in the past week, according to reports received here.

A high official in the Power Development Board (PDB) while talking to the Daily Star yesterday said, peak hour (5 pm to 11 pm) demand for power in four districts of Sylhet division is 170 to 180 MW.

But the supply is about half of it since March, he said seeking anonymity.

"We have no alternative to keeping power supply in areas suspended for hours", he said. Besides, supply is also interrupted at places due to line disruption as those can not carry the load, and also for repair work.

He however claimed that many of the vulnerable supply lines have been renovated and consumers' complaints have come down significantly in city areas.

"We have nothing to do unless

supply from the National Grid is increased, which is not expected soon", he said.

The situation in the city suburbs and rural areas is more precarious. Many subscribers in suburban Khadimnagar, Tukurbazar Salutar, Lalabazar, Srirampur, Kuchai, Hetimganj areas told this correspondent that they even do not get any response from complaint centers.

Power outage continues four to five hours at a stretch, they added. Subscribers under Palli Biddyt Samity (Rural Electrification Board) suffer more, they said.

President of Hatimganj Bazar committee in Golapganj upazila said, none can say when power will return once it goes. Shop owner Anwarul Haque in the market said, "We do not get any satisfactory answer even after lodging complaint with the Palli Biddyt Samity office".

Palli Biddyt, when contacted, blamed PDB for the crisis as they get power supply from it.

Different social organisations and political parties held rallies and brought out processions in the city in the last few days demanding uninterrupted power supply. They also threatened of tougher agitation, if the situation does not improve.

# Hot spell claims 11 more in 2 dists

## Attendance at schools in Dinajpur drops

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The heat wave now raging the country have claimed more 11 lives in Dinajpur and Satkhira districts.

Large scale death of chickens have been reported from Satkhira. In Dinajpur, diarrhoea and other intestinal diseases have broken out due to the excessive heat.

A Correspondent reports from Dinajpur: The ongoing heat wave killed at least 10 people including an under-trial prisoner in last seven days.

Prisoner Kashabuddin became unconscious at Dinajpur district jail due to excessive heat. He was shifted to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital on Friday where he died, hospital sources said.

Sources at Dinajpur Medical Collage Hospital said at least 70 people have been admitted to the hospital for treatment of sunstroke.

The hot spell has given rise to diseases like diarrhoea, influenza and dysentery. Intestinal diseases killed four children in Dinajpur town so far, sources said.

The unfavourable weather is also affecting academic activities at schools and production in mills and factories. Attendance at primary schools, high schools and colleges all over the district has dropped because of the sultry weather. Roads in Dinajpur wear a deserted

look at noon as people try to keep indoors unless compelled.

According to the hospital sources, the dead for sunstroke include Ansar Sheikh, 65; Kutubuddin, 50; Monosha Roy, 55 and Joynal, 45. Those killed by diarrhoea are five-day old Baby, 15-month old Lishita, two-year old Shumi and Ariful, 4.

The heat wave also killed a good number of poultry birds in different farms and also some goats and cows in the Sadar upazila in the last three days.

In many areas, farmers do not dare to go to fields to harvest IRRI-Boro paddy fearing sunstroke. Day labourers are now demanding more wage to harvest paddy.

Our satkhira Correspondent reports: A man died from sunstroke at Lohakura village in Kolaroa upazila. The victim is farmer Hossain Ali, 50, police said. He fell sick while working in the field. He died while being taken to hospital.

A heat wave sweeping the district for the last few days also killed at least 800 chickens in a poultry farm at Deara village in Kolaroa upazila. Mahidul Hoq, owner of the farm said poultry farming has now become a risky business as chickens die in large numbers in adverse climate.

He said he incurred a loss of over Tk one lakh due to the heat wave.

## New clues to Comilla editor murder

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Comilla police got new clues to murder of Mukta Kantha Editor Muhammad Golam Mahfuz Murder Case following interrogation of three arrested accused on Friday, according to police sources.

Police sources said the arrestees disclosed that the murder was committed in a pre-planned way. One Montu Acharya planned the murder after his failure to repay loan amounting to about Tk 7 lakh. He borrowed the entire amount from the victim with a promise to repay it with due interest. But, he took the plan to kill Mahfuz following a quarrel with him.

"We are very close to unveiling the mystery behind the murder," said the superintendent of police (SP) of Comilla, Aurongazib Mahbub.

The three arrestees are Md Sukkur, Md Monzil and Ayub. Sukkur and Monzil were nabbed from Shasangachha area while Ayub was arrested from Satarra.

Comilla editor Golam Mahfuz was slaughtered by some unidentified criminals on May 31.



PHOTO: STAR

Ganganagar, one of the villages in Netrakona Sadar Upazila, battered by Friday's tornado.