

THREE DAYS OF B'BARIA CLASHES

Males flee homes in 20 villages, 97 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *B'baria*

Fearing arrest, most male persons in 20 villages in Sarail upazila have left homes following three days' intermittent clashes between rival groups that left one boy killed and at least 400 including 20 officials and law enforcers injured.

The officials were injured while trying to quell the violence between villagers in Kalikatcha union and their rivals in Sarail Sadar union.

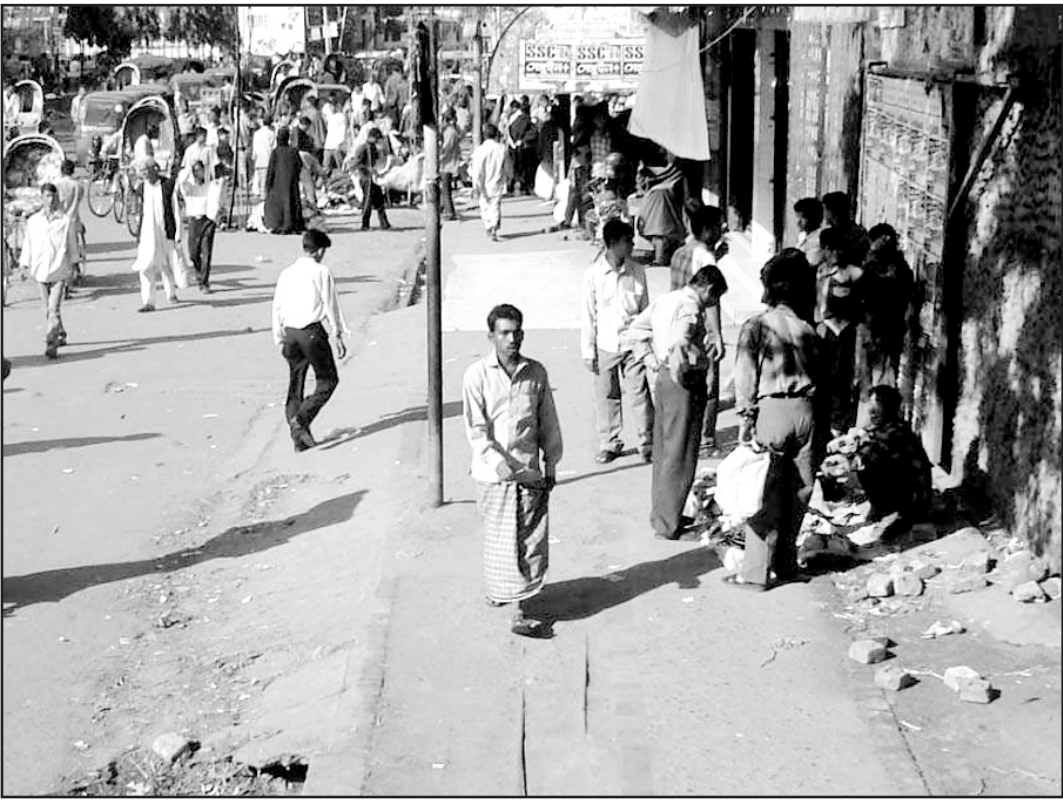
Police said three cases have been field accusing more than 10,000 people, two by them and the other by Md Maharan Ali, farther of Shah Alam, 10, killed in police firing.

At least 22 people were bullet-hit when police opened fire to disperse the clashing armed villagers.

The clash ensued from a trifle during a cricket march on Monday at Sarail College ground.

Additional Police Superintendent Md Jahangir Hossain said two platoons of Armed Police have been deployed at different points in the area to stave off further violence.

Sarail UNO Md Ashraf Uddin,



Hawkers were evicted from all important roads in Chittagong yesterday as part of a security blanket in the wake of the recent spate of country-wide bomb blasts by Islamist militants. The photo was taken from New Market area.

Islamists threaten IU VC, 2 teachers

A CORRESPONDENT, *IU*

Kushtia Islamic University Vice-chancellor and two teachers were threatened over of cell phone Friday night for "creating obstacles in the way of establishing Islamic rule in the country".

The unidentified callers threatened to blow up some installation on the campus, VC Prof M Rafiqul Islam told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said three persons gave the threats over cell phone at about 8.30 pm on Friday. The calls were made one after another.

The unknown voices said that teachers of A-Quran, Al-Hadith and Dawah departments should preach Islam. But they are creating obstacles in the way of establishing Islam rule. So we will attack them on the campus and blow up some buildings by bombing.

Prof Mostafa Kamal, Dean of Theology Faculty and Atiqur Rahman, Chairman of Law Department also received the same threat over telephone at about 10.00 pm.

The incident scared teachers and students on the campus.

Yesterday, they attended classes amid fear.

Talking tot this correspondent, Dr. Harun-ur-Rashid Askuri, Chairman of English Department, also expressed concern at the threats. "What the government is doing to stop it?" he said.

The authorities deployed extra police force and Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) on the campus, who were checking bags of students with metal detectors.

All students have been asked to keep identity cards with them.

Dialogue offer a ploy to cling to power: Jalil

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil has once again rejected the government's proposal for dialogue, terming it the ruling alliance's last resort to cling to power.

"There will be no result from such dialogue because they (BNP-Jamaat government) do not want to identify the root of the problem and take appropriate action", he said.

"They are talking of dialogue and in the same breath blaming the opposition for the crisis created by them", Jaill told a public meeting here.

The BNP-Jamaat government creates the situation so responsibilities lie with them. "Why the 14-party alliance would hold dialogue when our party activists are oppressed and killed?".

The public meeting was organised by the local unit of the opposition alliance in to protest government's failure to protect citizens' lives and to run the country.

The only solution now is resignation of the government, he said.

Held at Kushtia Public Library ground, the meeting spilled over to adjoining NS Road, the main road in the town, halting traffic for about three hours.

Presided over by Kushtia Awami League President Khondakara Rashiduzzaman Dudu, it was addressed by, among others, AL district secretary Ajar Ali and party leader Amir-Ul-Islam, JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu, Workers Party leader Noor Ahmed Bakul and Kushtia Municipality Chairman Anwar Ali Jaill said the government did not care when Awami League and some other parties earlier urged it to contain the rise of fundamentalist forces. This has branded Bangladesh abroad as a country of terrorists and fundamentalists, the AL general secretary said.

"BNP leaders then called us propagandists. This was only to save their ally Jamaat which shelters fundamentalist groups.

"Besides, in one hand, BNP secretary general is offering dialogue and on the other hand its chairperson is blaming us. Why 14-party alliance would sit for dialogue while fundamentalist Jamaat is with BNP?".

Referring to the resolution adopted at Awami League Central Working Committee's (ALCWC) meeting, he said the 14-party alliance has already decided to turn the on-going agitation into a mass upsurge to topple the government.

Jalil urged the people to intensify the agitation to dislodge the government in greater interest of the country and its people.

5 chargesheeted for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Manikganj*

Police on Friday submitted a charge-sheet against five persons in connection with killing of Juba Dal leader Khorshed Alam Rana and Chhatra Dal leader Hamidur Rashid Dulu on September 8 this year.

The five accused are Shaheen, bodyguard of the slain Juba Dal leader and four of his nephews Zahidur Rahman Biltu, a district JCD leader, Chanchal, Faruk Ahmed Philip and Saifuddin Ahmed Firoj, ex-Vice President of district JCD, also a Union Parisad (UP) chairman.

According to the case, the accused, wearing veil, opened fire on Juba Dal district unit Assistant Secretary Rana. He received bullet wounds in the abdomen. JCD leader Dulu was shot dead by the accused on the spot while Rana embraced him. Dulu was passing by the spot at that time.

They are vice presidents Abul Kalam Azad Babu and Abdul Hamid Master, committee member Mosharraf Hossain, also President of the Sadar upazila AL and Soheli Hassan Shahin, Secretary the Sadar upazila AL.

The decision of their expulsion was taken at a meeting of the district committee held in the party office on the day.

District AL President Shamsur Rahman Sharif Dilu (MP) presided over the meeting while Secretary Shamsul Haque Tuku, party leaders Advocate Golam Hasnain and Advocate Amzad Hossain addressed the meeting. At least 48 members were present at the meeting.

Pabna AL expels 4 leaders

A CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*



Leaders of 14-party opposition alliance wave at party men at a conference in Mugura yesterday.

Accept demands for reforms, then talk of dialogue

14-party workers' meetings in Satkhira, Magura told

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The government's proposal for dialogue is a ploy, designed to foil opposition's agitation and divert public attention from bomb blasts by Islamist militants sheltered by it, Awami League (AL) leaders said at 14-party workers' meetings in Satkhira and Magura yesterday.

Our Satkhira Correspondent reports: Awami League Presidium member Abdur Razzak said had the government any sincere desire to solve the present crisis, it would have accepted the opposition demand for reforms to the caretaker system and Election Commission and then talk of dialogue.

Non-acceptance of the demands is part of the ruling alliance's blue print to cling to power. The opposition will foil the dream, he said.

He called upon the activists to make opposition's December 9 grand rally in Khulna a success and to intensify the on-going 'oust-government' agitation.

Referring to frequent bomb attacks on court compounds, the former minister said the government has not proved its sincerity to rout the militants.

He alleged that a partner in the ruling coalition is linked to Jama'atul Mujahidin Bangladesh (JMB) which is blasting bombs. Many arrested militants admitted their links with Jamaat, a partner in the ruling coalition.

The conference held at PN High School ground with district AL president in the chair was addressed by, among others, workers party central leader Azizur Rahman, Rabiul Alam (JSD), Enamul Haque (NAP), Nurur Rahman, Zahirul Islam, Zakir Hossain, Asit Baran Biswas, Aliul Islam, Nazrul Islam, Mustafa Lutfullah, Obaidus Sultan Bablu.

Razzak said the November 22 grand rally in Dhaka has shaken the coalition government for which it has offered dialogue with the opposition.

The militants started organising themselves after the BNP-Jamaat government assumed power. Awami League and some other opposition parties had warned the government when the militants led by Bnagla Bhai came on the focus. But the government ridiculed the opposition allegations. The so-called Islamist militants are government's creation and the bomb blasts are taking place as per a plan of a coalition partner, Razzak alleged.

He also rejected Jamat Ameer Matiur Rahman Nizami's claim that his party has no link with the militants. Many of the arrested JMB militants during interrogation told police they were linked to Jamaat politics, he asserted.

Our Magura Correspondent reports: Awami League (AL) leaders said here that the government's lack of action and political will allowed rise of militants in the country.

Still, they (government) are offering talks keeping 'protectors' of militants in the ruling alliance, AL leaders said at a 14-party workers' conference here.

There is no alternative for the government to accepting the opposition demands for reforms to the caretaker system and the Election Commission. Otherwise, it will have to step down, the AL leaders said addressing the meeting held at Nomani Maidan in the town.

They also called upon party activists to make the December 9 grand rally of the 14-party alliance in Khulna a success.

AL Presidium members Tofail Ahmed, party leader Mohammad Nasim MP, Workers Party General Secretary Bimal Biswas, Gono Forum General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Jatiyo Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) Vice-president Sharif Nurul Ambia, Samyabadi Dal General Secretary Dilip Borua, Gono Azadi League General Secretary Abdus Samad, district AL General Secretary MS Akbar MP and local 14-party leaders addressed the meeting, presided over by district AL President Md. Altaf Hossain.

Tofail said, "We can not sit for dialogue with persons who are linked with bombers".

He asked the ruling coalition to step down immediately, paving the way for an early election under a reformed caretaker government.

Mohammad Nasim said, "We earned independence at the cost of blood. If necessary we'll shed more blood again to protect the independent".