

# JCD vandalism vitiate RU academic atmosphere

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Incidents of violence and toll collection allegedly by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists and their demand for jobs for party men have vitiated the academic atmosphere in Rajshahi University, campus sources said.

The JCD activists, joined by Islami Chhatra Shibir, have made teachers, students and the administration virtually hostage, they alleged. The university authorities do not dare to go against their will.

Friday's explosion at JCD leader Shafin Ahmed's room at Nawab Abdul Latif Hall while making bomb was the latest incident of violence. More such explosives are there in possession of some JCD and Shibir activists on the campus, kept only to keep it under their control, the sources claimed.

They are demanding 'party quota' in recruitment of 350 class III and class IV employees, now being processed by the university

authorities.

The sources claimed that some JCD activists took money from a number of job seekers, assuring them jobs.

Bombs were being made at Shafin's room to create anarchy on the campus after the ongoing summer vacation if party men are not recruited, the sources claimed adding that he also supplied explosives and arms to party cadres in previous clashes and incidents of violence.

Shafin of Jhinaidah district is accused in at least 15 criminal cases, filed with different police stations in Rajshahi and Ihenidah, the sources claimed.

In December last year, two bombs exploded in front of Shafin's room in the same hall, police sources said.

In January this year, at least 20 JCD activists were injured in a clash between two groups on the campus, when Shafin exploded three bombs.

Campus sources said, in last

three months, at least 12 party men, some teachers and students were injured when rival JCD factions clashed on the campus.

JCD cadres vandalised some small shops on the campus and snatched at least four mobile phones as shopkeepers declined to pay them toll.

On June 2, JCD men dismantled 12 electrical poles in front of Agrani Bank and beat up university security guards.

Last month, some JCD men attempted to kidnap a student from in front of Bangabandhu Hall after he drew Tk 25,000 from the bank for his treatment. He was rescued by other students.

In December last year, some JCD activists from Latif Hall kidnapped an admission seeker and released him after realising Tk 50,000 as toll, campus sources said.

In March this year, the same group of JCD men kidnapped a student from Binodpur area and released him after payment of Tk

5,000 ransom.

Various development programmes of the university are suspended and construction farms stopped work as JCD men demanded toll from them.

Renovation of Shaheed Habibur Rahman Hall was suspended for several months as JCD activists demanded a big amount of toll from the construction firm. The work resumed after negotiation, campus sources said.

JCD cadres vandalised at least 30 office rooms of the university and torched a teacher's room, demanding admission of party men in first year courses. The university authorities later withdrew admission quotas for players, artists and freedom fighters' wards.

When asked about alleged involvement of JCD activists in violence, RU JCD convener Nuruzzaman Likhon said some expelled party men are doing this on the campus to damage the party image.

## AL leader Latif Mirza among 25 hurt in police action

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

At least 25 people including district Awami League president and former lawmaker Abdul Latif Mirza were injured when police charged batons on them at thana road in Ullapara in Sirajganj yesterday.

The injured were admitted to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital and Ullapara health complex. Of them, condition of three persons is critical, political sources said.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) staged separate demonstrations on the campus demanding exemplary punishment to the JCD cadres for making bombs inside the hall. They strongly criticised the university authorities and police administration for not conducting search operations in the rooms of the Shibir cadres. They threatened a tougher agitation if the university authorities failed to nab and punish the culprits. They also demanded of the authorities to ensure safety and security of general students.

Police arrested him on Friday night from his resident at Chaksa village in connection with the murder of Saiful Islam, chairman of Lalit Mohonpur Union Parishad.

Police also lobbed at least five teargas shells.

Earlier, AL activists held a rally in upazila AL office with Abdul Latif Mirza in the chair protesting the arrest.

## KUSHTIA AGO 17 BLASTS Charge framing in Khulna STT June 26

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna Speedy Trial Tribunal (STT) sent letters to the jail authorities in different places to produce 11 Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) cadres in court on June 26.

They will be produced in court in connection with hearing on charge framing of two cases recorded with Kushtia Sadar Police Station under Explosives Substances Act for exploding bombs at different places in Kushtia town on August 17 last year.

The JMB cadres included its chief Abdul Rahman, second-in-command Siddiqui Islam Bangla Bhuiyan and operation commander Ataur Rahman Sani

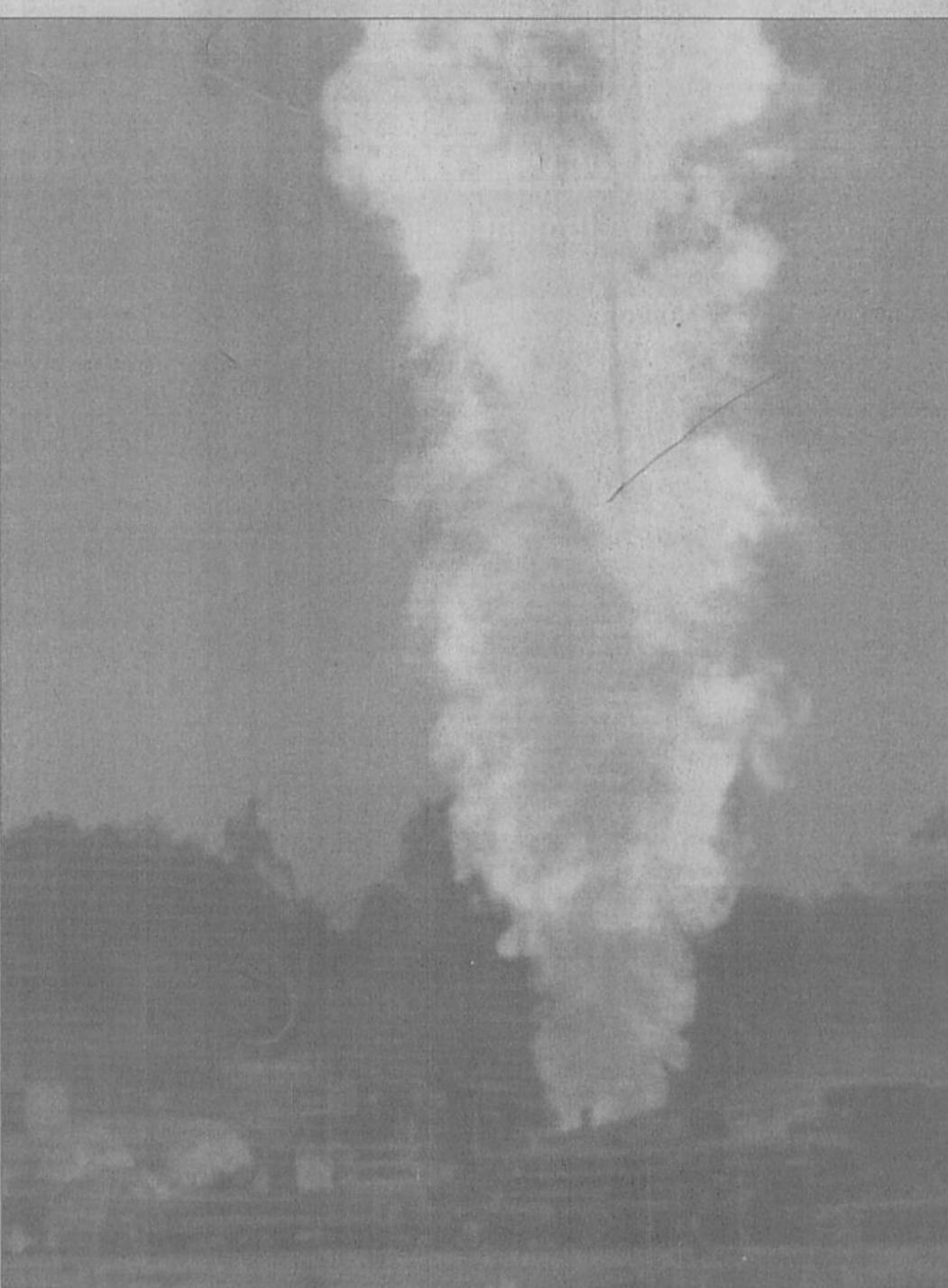


PHOTO: STAR

File photo of Tengratila gas field blowout in Sunamganj.

## A YEAR INTO TENGRA TILA BLOWOUT

# Siege of gas field office today for compensation

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

A year into the second blowout in Tengratila Gas Field, affected villagers in the area have launched a fresh agitation programme to realise their 6-point demand including payment of compensation.

They formed a human chain, brought out a procession and held a rally on Friday under the banner of Tengratila Dabi Aday Sangram Parishad.

They will lay a siege to the gas field office for two hours today to press the demands.

At the rally, speakers gave the authorities a 15-day deadline to meet the demands and threatened of tougher agitation for non-compliance.

The second blowout at Tengratila gas field in Sunamganj took place on the night of June 24 last year. The blowouts caused extensive damage to the environment and property of local people.

Since the blowouts during drilling of well by Canadian company Niko, affected local people under the banner of Sangram Parishad have been agitating for payment of compensation for the damages.

The authorities could not yet settle payment of compensation for the burnt out gas as well as for the environmental damage though these have been estimated by high level technical committees formed by the government.

However, a gulf company - Al Mansur - contracted by Canadian company Niko, withdrew from the gas field.

June 9 after news of its flare tests in the field without Petrobangla permission appeared in the media. During flare test on June 7, flames rose up to 50 feet, creating a panic in the area.

Canadian company Niko resumed well survey in the area in the first week of June.

Local people joined Friday's Sangram Parishad rally wearing black badges, protesting resumption of survey without full payment of compensation.

The rally was presided over by its convener Azim Uddin Ahmed.

Speakers at the rally urged the government to meet the 6-point demand immediately. They alleged that Niko resumed work in the field without giving prior notice to locals.

Agitation will continue till the demands are met, Azimuddin told the Daily Star later.

The demands include payment of Tk 84 crore in compensation for environmental damage, proper compensation for 611 families affected by the blowouts, employment for locals, setting up of a gas-based 50 MW power plant near Tengratila, arrangement for supply of safe drinking water in villages in the area, establishment of a health complex and inclusion of 28 affected families dropped 'intentionally' earlier from the list prepared for compensation.

## 2 GPA-5 scorers end life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Two GPA-5 scorers in SSC examination committed suicide yesterday as they were rebuked by their parents for their affair.

Faruq Hossain, 17, son of Md. Mozammel Hossain, and Anki Akhter, 16, daughter of Rafiqul Islam, were residents of Halishahar Block-B residential area in the port city.

They appeared at the SSC examination from Halishahar Housing Estate High School under Chittagong Education Board. Both got GPA-5.

After publication of results, Faruq went to Anki's residence with sweets Friday evening to convey his result and greet Anki for her success.

Ankha's parents scolded Faruq for his affair with their daughter.

Learning this, Faruq's parents also rebuked him for the same reason. Reprimanded by both sides, emotionally charged Faruq entered his room at around 10pm and took poison.

He was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where he died at around 3am yesterday.

As Anki got the news, she ended her life by hanging herself from a ceiling fan with a scarf in her room at around 7:30 am.

## 4 SSC examinees commit suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Four girls committed suicide in south western districts after failing in SSC examinations held under Jessore Education Board this year.

According to police sources, Jasmim Akhter, 16, who appeared at the examination from Pilot Secondary School in Satkhira Sadar upazila took poison and ended her life Thursday midnight. She failed in SSC examination this year and last year also, police said quoting her father Jalaluddin of Kaliganj upazila.

Rashida Khaton, 17, daughter of Inzar Ali Sarder of Basutia village in Keshabpur upazila in Jessore, committed suicide by hanging herself with a scarf in her bedroom on the same night. She had appeared at the SSC examination from Keshabpur Girls High School.

On Friday night, Chandana Khaton, 18, daughter of Abu Bakar of Bijulia village in Shalkupa upazila in Magura, committed suicide by hanging. She had appeared at SSC examination four times.

Umme Touhila Akhter Meera, 17, daughter of Asraful Huq of Kamalpur in Alomadanga upazila of Chuadanga, took her life by hanging herself Friday morning.

## Hunt for 70 teenage outlaws in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) Special Branch (SB) prepared a new list of 70 newly-recruited cadres of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBPC-Janajadu).

The list was handed over to the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

The youths aged between 16-18 years of age are trained on how to make bombs and explode it successfully. But it is very difficult to identify them as they move in guise. Most of them come from low profile families, said KMP Detective Branch assistant police commissioner Zahir Chowdhury.

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