

Mongu's nomination sparks clashes

BNP factions ransack each others' offices in Hizla, 5 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least five BNP activists were injured as party rivals clashed and ransacked each others' offices in Hizla yesterday over nomination.

The BNP faction loyal to law-maker Mosharrar Hossain Mongu ransacked offices of Krishok Dal and Swechchasebok Dal belonging to the faction led by Joynul Abedin.

In retaliation, Joynul loyalists attacked and ransacked the BNP office controlled by Mongu's supporters, injuring five activists, party sources said.

The incidents took place a day after prime minister and party chief Khalada Zia declared Mongu as party candidate to contest the coming election from Barisal-3

(Hizla-Muladi) constituency.

The sources said Mongu along with some supporters were going to Hizla from Muladi at about noon.

On way, Mongu's followers attacked and ransacked offices of Krishok Dal and Swechchasebok Dal at Pattonivanga and HizlarTek, controlled by supporters of Joynul.

Witnesses said photos of Ziaur Rahman, Khaleda Zia and Tarique Zia and furniture were damaged and thrown into a nearby canal in presence of Mongu.

As the news spread, followers of Joynul, central BNP law secretary, became agitated and gathered at Khunna Bazar in Hizla to resist Mongu on way.

Mongu crossed the area under police protection at about 2 pm.

Mongu however denied that the attacks were made in his presence. He said party men annoyed by 'rowdy' Joynul loyalists might have done this.

Joynul was not available for comment.

Earlier on Sunday, clashes between supporters of Mongu and Joynul left at least 20 people including four police men injured at the meeting venue of Khalada Zia in Muladi.

At the meeting, Khaleda Zia introduced Mongu as party candidate from Hizla-Muladi (Barisal-3) constituency for the coming general election.

Lockout in Popular Jute Mills in Sarishabari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Authorities of Popular Jute Mills in Sarishabari in Jamalpur district declared the mill lockout on Saturday.

The announcement followed the attack on Kazi Ilyias Zaman, project manager of the mill and alleged damage of mill property by workers on Thursday.

The lock-out notice signed by mill Manager Moshir Rahman at its Dhaka office was hung on the mill gate in Sarishabari on Sunday, sources said.

Mill official Nirapad Nandi said production and the mill office will remain closed during the lockout.

"We gave assurance to workers to investigate Thursday's incident

but they damaged valuable machinery, instruments, and equipment."

Nurul Islam, a Sardar (worker's leader) in the mill, taking to newsmen however alleged that workers burst into agitation when Kazi Ilyias Zaman beat worker Shafiqul Islam in the twisting unit without any reason Thursday night.

Incidents of such torture by Zaman took place earlier also, he claimed.

Sarishabari Upazila Nirbahi Officer Al Amin said he was trying to broker peace between the workers and the mill management.

Bablu Miah, acting CBA president in the mills said, "We are continuing discussion with higher authorities of the mill to reopen it".

Nine outlaws remanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Seven out of 10 alleged outlaws arrested on Thursday and Friday from Sultanpur in Satkhira town and Shahpur village in Tala upazila were placed on a four-day remand and two others on a two-day remand yesterday.

Those placed on four days' remand are Sattar Sardar, Lutfur Rahman, Akhtaruzzaman, Abdul Alim, Babul Gazi, Kamruzzaman and Babu Sardar, all arrested from a house at Sultanpur in the town on Thursday.

Abdul Ali Gazi and Uzir Ali Gazi, arrested from Shahpur in Tala on Thursday, were placed on two days' remand.

Seven outlaws were arrested when they were sharing Tk one lakh extorted from one Mafizul Islam of Kanipur village in Tala upazila, police said.

Acting on their confession, police arrested Abdul Ali Gazi and Uzir Ali Gazi.



Members of Bangladesh Civil Service (Education) Association formed a human chain in front of Moulvibazar Press Club yesterday to press their 6-point demand.



Qawami Jute Mill workers brought out a stick procession in Sirajganj town yesterday demanding payment of arrears salaries.

AL LEADER MAZURUL MURDER Main accused Ganesh held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Ganesh Banerjee, principal chargesheeted accused in Khulna city Awami League president Mazurul Imam murder case, was arrested on Thursday from a slum in Shyampur in Dhaka city, Khulna police disclosed Sunday night.

Police said they did not disclose the arrest till Sunday night as they were working to ascertain his identity.

An Indian passport was recovered from his possession. He will be brought to Khulna today or tomorrow for further interrogation.

Ganesh Banerjee, 32, son of NAP (Bhasani) leader late Kalidas Banerjee of Kachua upazila of Bagerhat district, is an 'operation commander' of Janajuddho faction of PBCP in charge of Khulna city. He is younger brother of Khulna Jatiya Party (Ershad) leader Babu Shubash Banerjee.

According to the charge sheet of the case, Ganesh is the principal accused, who allegedly threw two bombs at Manzurul Imam near his residence at Shamsur Rahman Road in Khulna sadar thana in the morning of August 25 in 2003. The AL leader died on the spot.

A most wanted listed terrorist of the south-western region, Ganesh is an FIR - named accused in 12

murder cases lodged with different police stations in Khulna and Bagerhat, police said.

He fled the country soon after killing Manzurul Imam and returned to Dhaka from India last week.

Police said Ganesh at first identified himself as Subrata Banerjee, who is his younger brother. But during interrogation and on recovery of his passport, he disclosed his real identity.

Sub Inspector Shajahan Molla of Khulna police station went to Dhaka Sunday night to bring the outlaw to Khulna.

OC of Khulna police station Abdul Hamid admitted the arrest of notorious outlaw Ganesh Banerjee.

Shukur Gazi, one of the six chargesheeted accused in Manzurul Imam murder case, in his confessional statement under in CMM court on September 2, 2003 said Ganesh was the ringleader of the mission that killed the AL leader.

UP chairmen boycott UNO's meeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Nine out of 12 Union Parishad (UP) chairmen belonging to ruling BNP and opposition Awami League yesterday boycotted a meeting of the Shyamnagar Upazila Development Co-ordination Committee, saying the meeting was called by the UNO to 'serve the purpose of a Jamaat leader'.

The chairmen demanded withdrawal of Shyamnagar UNO Zahidul Islam for allegedly serving the interest of the Jamaat leader.

The UP chairmen also decided that they would not attend any meeting convened by the UNO, said Bhurulia UP chairmen Liakat Ali.

Later, the UP chairmen held a press conference. They told newsmen that at the beginning of the meeting, they accused the UNO for "serving the interest of Jamaat".

After exchange of words, they walked out, Shyamnagar Sadar UP Chairman Jaglul Haidar said.

On contact, UNO Zahidul Islam denied the allegation. He said they boycotted the meeting as he did agree to give government land for building a public library and a mosque in Noornagar union.

EIGHT-POINT DEMAND Rail-road barricade by jute workers in Sirajganj today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Several hundred workers and employees of Qawami Jute Mills in Sirajganj brought out a procession with sticks and held a rally in the town to press their 8-point demand and to keep the mill running.

The demands include payment of arrears salaries and procurement of adequate jute for the mill's operation.

The processionists wielding babboos paraded the main roads of the town before holding a rally at Bazar Station. Mill workers' union leader Abdul Khaleque presided

over the meeting.

At the meeting, a rail-road barricade programme for today was announced to press the demands.

Speakers at the rally urged the government to allocate adequate funds to purchase jute to keep the mill running. They said some vested quarters are trying to privatise the mill by stopping production and showing it a losing concern. They warned them and vowed to resist any evil design.

They also demanded immediate payment of all arrears salaries and wages.

Protests on against Phulbari killings

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Protests continued in different districts yesterday against Saturday's killing of innocent people at Phulbari in Dinajpur by police and BDR.

Our Gaibandha Correspondent reports: Workers' Party (WP) and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) brought out processions chanting slogans against the government.

Later, a meeting was held where speakers demanded cancellation of the project by scraping the contract with Asia Energy Bangladesh (Pvt) Ltd., treatment of injured persons and compensation to affected people.

Our Khagrachhari Correspondent reports: Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP), student wing of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) staged a half-day road blockade here protesting the Phulbari coalmine killing.

PCP brought out a procession but police resisted them at Chenghi Square from proceeding towards the main road. Being resisted they staged a sit-in demonstration and held a meeting there.

Speakers condemned the killing and demanded proper investigation

into the incident and immediate arrest and trial of culprits.

They also criticised the Bangalee settlers for grabbing their land in Mohalchhari upazila.

In Rajshahi University (RU), Progotishil Chhatra Jote (PCJ), a combine of left-leaning student organisations, yesterday enforced a day-long strike on the campus protesting the killing.

Academic activities on the campus came to halt as PCJ leaders and workers prevented teachers from taking classes and examinations. They locked the main gate and the university administration building.

A meeting was held in front of the central library where PCJ leaders said the 4-party Alliance government killed innocent people just to protect interest of the Asia Energy Bangladesh (pvt) Ltd executives. They threatened to launch a Kansat style agitation at Phulbari and demanded proper investigation, trial of culprits, compensation to victims' families and proper treatment of the injured.

BELAL MURDER CASE

Hearing deferred till Sept 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Hearing of journalist Belal murder case was deferred in the court of Additional District and Sessions Judge Moshir Rahman Chowdhury till September 24 as principal accused Shahabuddin Lashkar alias Dhiora submitted a petition to High Court appealing for stay of the trial. The appeal was made on August 23.

Court sources said advocate SM Rezaul Karim of Supreme Court yesterday informed the Additional District and Sessions Judge that a petition was submitted to the High Court seeking stay of the trial.

The judge postponed the hearing and fixed September 24 as the next date.

Six chargesheeted accused of the case were present in the court yesterday. They are alleged extremists Iqbal Hossain Shadhin, Chowdhury Rafiqul Islam alias Hasan, Mirazul Islam and Goda Yunus who are all in jail. The two others are Jamaat-e-Islami leader Dhira and Shibir activist Ekhlashur Rahman who are now on bail.

Sheikh Belabuddin who was injured in a bomb attack on the night of February 5 last year died on February 11 at Dhaka CMMH.

Nasaka returns 20 after flag meeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Myanmar border security force Nasaka, after a flag meeting with BDR, yesterday returned 20 Bangladeshis it had abducted earlier.

The flag meeting was held at Mongdo near the Myanmar border.

BDR sources said Nasaka personnel trespassed into Bangladesh territory and abducted them from near the Naff river in Tekanf upazila. All the victims are from Naikkonchory village in Teknaf.

BDR 23 Rifles Battalion Commander Col. Shaydul Kabir led the 17-member BDR team. The seven-member Nasaka team was led by Assistant Director Border Immigration U Theng Theye.

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