

Kader Siddiqui's rallies attacked in Jamalpur

One BCL activist bullet-hit, 10 KSJL men hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail:

Rallies of Krishak Sramik Janata League (KSJL) President Abdul Kader Siddiqui Bir Uttam MP were attacked and foiled at Sarishabari and Old Jaganathganj Ghat in Jamalpur district Sunday evening, allegedly by activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

At least 10 KSJL men were injured in the attacks and a BCL activist was bullet-hit in shots fired allegedly by Kader Siddiqui's men in retaliation.

The injured BCL activist - Abu Bakr Siddiqui was admitted to Jamuna Fertiliser Factory Health Complex and later shifted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital on the same night. Abu Bakr is a member of Aona union unit of BCL, party sources said.

BCL activists also damaged two jeeps in Kader Siddiqui's motor-

cade, police and witnesses said.

Protesting the firing, leaders and activists of Awami League (AL) and its front organisations instantly brought out a procession and held rally at Old Jaganathganj Ghat and demanded arrest and punishment of Kader Siddiqui and his gunmen.

Police and local sources said Kader Siddiqui, after Iftar at Sarishabari, tried to hold a street rally there. Earlier in the afternoon, he held a rally on the Shaheed Minar premises in Jamalpur district town. He was on a five-day tour of Sherpur and Jamalpur districts.

In Sarishabari, the legendary freedom fighter tried to hold a rally at Jamuna Fertiliser Factory intersection in Tarakandi at around 7:30pm on his way to Tangail.

But he could not hold the rally in face of resistance by activists of Awami League and its student front

BCL. As he attempted to make an address, AL and BCL activists vandalised the rally.

Later, Kader Siddiqui with his motorcade went to Old Jaganathganj Ghat and demanded another attempt to hold rally there.

Activists of AL and its front organisations chased the motorcade and attacked the rally, police and witnesses said.

At least 10 KSJL men were injured there, party sources claimed.

During the clash, two bullets were fired from one of the vehicles in Kader Siddiqui's motorcade. On of the bullets hit BCL activist Abu Bakr Siddiqui, AL activists and witnesses claimed.

Sanwar Hossen Badsha, general secretary of Sarishabari AL, however claimed that his party men brought out a procession when Kader Siddiqui hurled abusive

words about AL chief Sheikh Hasina at his Old Jaganathganj Ghat rally.

At one stage, Kader Siddiqui's gunmen opened fire on AL men, he alleged.

"We condemn the incident and demand punishment of the culprits," the AL leader said.

On the other hand, KSJL sources

alleged that AL men attacked their peaceful rally at Jaganathganj Ghat only to foil it.

This correspondent could not contact Kader Siddiqui over cellphone despite repeated attempts yesterday and Sunday night.

Jamalpur Police Superintendent,

when contacted over cellphone yesterday, admitted that two shots

were fired during the clash at Old Jaganathganj Ghat. No one was arrested in connection with the incidents, he said.

BSF abducts 2
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The Indian Border security force (BSF) abducted two Bangladeshi nationals from Kushtia and Meherpur border points on Sunday.

Otherwise, cattle trader Bhagir Hossain was abducted from near the border in Kushtia and farmer Azbar from Meherpur.

According to 9th Rifle Battalion, a BSF patrol team from Jalangi camp in Murshidabad district crossed into Bangladesh territory through near border pillar no. 81 at Chalishpara in Daulatpur upazila in Kushtia at about 7:30pm and abducted Kushtia, 40, son of Azgor Ali of Talpatti village of Daulatpur upazila.

BSF also fired several blank shots during the abduction.

In another incident in Meherpur, BSF from Gongra camp in Nadia district of West Bengal abducted farmer Azbar from Muzibnagar border when he went there in the evening to see his paddy field. BSF personnel entered into Bangladesh territory through border pillar no. 964. BDR

said.

BDR had strong protests against the abductions and requested BSF to hand over the Bangladeshi citizens to them.

BSF did not make any response till yesterday, BDR said.

JP MP declared 'unwanted' in Kurigram-2 constituency

Civic body comprising AL, BNP men vow to resist him

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur:

A civic body comprising leaders of both Awami League and BNP and representatives of the elite at a rally in Rajarhat upazila in Kurigram district yesterday declared local lawmaker Tajul Islam Choudhury 'unwanted' in the area.

Speakers at the rally alleged that virtually there was no development work in Rajarhat and two other upazilas under Kurigram-2 constituency due to his 'corruption and nepotism'. Tajul Islam was elected in 2001 election with Jatiya party (Ershad) ticket.

They also alleged that the lawmaker's men misappropriated at least Tk 50 lakh and 500 tonnes of rice allotted for development projects in the constituency in last few

years.

The rally was held at Rajarhat Mir Ismail Hossain Degree College ground by the newly formed civic body titled 'Rajarhat Upazila Unnayan Sangram Committee'.

When contacted over cellphone, Tajul Islam said whose who declared him unwanted do not represent the people. "People of the constituency want to see me as MP again".

They also declared that members of the committee irrespective of party affiliations will move from door to door and urge people not to cast vote for Tajul Islam if Jatiya Party (E) nominates him from the constituency in the coming election.

Presided over by Dr Wahed Rafique, the rally was addressed by, among others, Kurigram district BNP vice-president Shafiqul Islam Bebu, Rajarhat upazila BNP

secretary Anisur Rahman, upazila Awami League secretary Aktaruzzaman Abu Noor, Upazila Chhatria League convenor Bablu and upazila Juba Dal organising secretary Zakaria Hossen.

When contacted over cellphone, Tajul Islam said whose who declared him unwanted do not represent the people. "People of the constituency want to see me as MP again".

He also refuted the allegations of corruption brought against him by the Sangram Committee.

"The allegations are false, made only to tarnish my image in the area", he said.



PHOTO: STAR

Rajshahi Journalists Union brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting against the four local newsmen by ruling BNP lawmaker Nadim Mostafa in last three days following publication of news.

Fuel crisis as Baghabari depots exhausted

Barges stuck up in shallow Jamuna water

OUR CORRESPONDENT, X Sirajganj:

Most of the fuel pumps in Sirajganj town stopped fuel sale yesterday

with their owners saying that stocks were exhausted as there was no supply from three oil depots in Baghabari.

This correspondent visited at least 12 pumps in the town and talked to their owners and employees.

They said their tank lorries returned empty from Baghabari as supplies to the depots of Padma, Meghna and Jamuna oil companies there could not be replenished because barges could not reach the spot due to fall in Jamuna water level.

Some bus and truck drivers at the fuel pumps told this correspondent that they were returning empty after queuing for fuel for long.

When contacted, Abdul Bashar, in-charge of Jamuna depot; Abdul Zalil of Meghna and Shahzahan Hawlader of Padma depot admitted that there was shortage of fuel in their depots as no barge reached Baghabari port in last two days. Their barges were stuck up on underwater shoals at Nakalia point on the Padma in Pabna, they said but could not specify how many were stranded.

They said the Jamuna channel should be dredged immediately at several points including Nakalia, Pechakola and Mohonganj. Otherwise, supply will be obstructed, aggravating the crisis.

PDB office besieged in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha:

People, under the banner of Nagoric Committee, brought out a procession, held a rally in the town and laid a siege to the Power Development Board (PDB) office yesterday demanding uninterrupted power supply.

The protest rally held on the Shahid Minar premise was presided over by Nagoric Committee convenor Aminul Islam Golap. The speakers included Abu Bakr Siddiqui, Farhad Abdullah Harun Balbu, Moinul Islam Raja, Anwar Hossain Chowdhury, Mosaddeque Ahmed Bulbul, Ziaul Hoq Jony, Shahidul Islam Abu and Shah Masud Jahangir.

They said power disruption has paralysed life and the economy in Gaibandha district. Small mills and factories are being closed due to frequent power outage, that equally affects businesses, trade and education of students. House hold electronic appliances are getting damaged due to power fluctuation.

The said Gaibandha gets only four MW power against a requirement of 20 MW. They demanded uninterrupted power supply and an end to alleged corrupt practices by power officials and threatened of tougher agitation after the ensuing Eid if load shedding is not stopped.

The Nagoric Committee kept the PDB office besieged for some hours but no untoward incident took place during the programme.

The committee handed over a memorandum to the energy minister through the PDB Executive Engineer for immediate steps to ensure smooth power supply.

8X2

4X2

15X4