

12 killed, 2,000 hurt

FROM PAGE 1
The AL activists vandalised BNP offices at Rajarhat and Rourmari upazilas and set fire to Juba Dal office in Kurigram town.

They clashed again at Ghoshpara in the evening leaving four activists wounded.

MAGURA

An associate member of Jamaat's town committee was killed and 95 others injured in a clash between BNP and 14-party men at Magura bus stand yesterday afternoon.

Arafat Hossain, 45, was standing on a rooftop of the bus stand when he was bullet-hit. He died on the way to Dhaka.

NARSINGDI

Hazipur Union Parishad Chairman Saiful Islam Sarkar and his younger brother Ripon Sarkar were shot dead while four others of the same family were seriously injured yesterday afternoon as AL activists allegedly stormed into their house and opened fire.

The two died while being rushed to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital. The injured are Mahe Alam, 45, Shamim, 30, Hannan, 35, and Elem, 33.

BAGERHAT

A local BNP leader and former municipality ward commissioner, Asaduzzaman, 38, was chopped to death and 20 others were injured in a clash between AL and BNP activists in the town last night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the AL and BNP activists locked in a bloody clash at 7:15pm. Police found the body of Asaduzzaman in front of the Light Cinema Hall.

Earlier in the afternoon, the AL men damaged and set on fire six BNP offices, some business houses owned by BNP men. Sporadic clashes left over 50 people wounded.

NARAYANGANJ

Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) organiser secretary of Murapara union Motiur Rahman Panna, 25, died at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital after he was injured in a clash between JCD and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) in Narayanganj Friday night.

RANGPUR

At least 60 activists of 14-party and four-party alliances were injured in a series of attacks and counter-attacks in Rangpur town yesterday after BNP and Jamaat activists attacked 14-party leaders at Jahajgoon company point.

The BNP-Jamaat men ransacked AL office and Mercantile Bank on Station Road. They also set fire to a stage made by the 14-party combine and the house of a Juba League leader.

The 14-party men set fire to the daily Jugor Alo office owned by Rahim Uddin Bharsa, president of Rangpur district unit BNP, on GL Roy Road. They also burnt two autorickshaws, a microbus and a bus owned by Asadul Habib Dul, deputy minister for food and disaster management of the outgoing government.

RAJSHAHI

Ten people, including three policemen and president of Rajshahi Photojournalist Association Asaduzzaman Asad, were injured in Rajshahi city during an agitation programme of the 14-party at Shahab Bazar Zero Point yesterday.

The agitators ransacked BNP offices in Chapainawabganj sadar upazila and district town and damaged a business centre owned by a BNP leader and the house of Doctors' Association of Bangladesh President Dr Moyez.

Sonamasjid Land Port became inoperative as barricades were set up at different points on the Chapainawabganj-Sonamasjid highway.

TANGAIL

At least 100 people including 10 policemen were injured in a fierce clash between BNP and 14-party workers at Nirlala intersection in Tangail town yesterday.

The 14-party activists also vandalised BNP offices in Dhanbari and Basail upazila headquarters in the district while 20 people were injured during chase and counter-chase in Madhupur upazila.

SIRAJGANJ

At least 35 persons including policemen were injured in a clash between AL and BNP activists at Alupara yesterday after the BNP attacked an AL procession.

SATKHIRA

Workers of the 14-party alliance burnt Jamaat offices in the town and in Shyamnagar. They also damaged the office of Islami Insurance Division in the town.

Bogra

Seventy-five people were injured in clashes between the workers of 14-party combine and four-party alliance in Bogra town and adjacent areas yesterday. BNP men vandalised the offices of the AL, Juba League, JSD and Workers Party and attacked the house of former municipality chairman Rezaul Karim Montu, an AL leader.

Twenty-five people were injured in another clash between AL and Jamaat workers at Dhunai upazila while unknown people set fire to the house of Sonatola upazila BNP President Abu Taiyab Zaki.

Witnesses said Zaki opened fire on the agitated AL men during the incident, injuring three.

NETROKONA

At least 55 people were injured in three upazilas of Netrokona. Besides, 15 people were wounded in AL-BNP clash in Durgapur and 20 in Mohanganj upazila when BNP activists swooped on an AL procession.

DINAJPUR

At least 120 workers of four-party and 14-party were injured and a number of party offices burnt as they got locked into battles over establishing supremacy in areas of Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh.

AL workers set fire to Chiribanda BNP office and assaulted former MP Md Akhtarruzzaman.

PATUAKHALI

At least 30 activists of BNP and AL were injured in clashes at different places in Patuakhali district.

BNP cadres ransacked district offices of AL and NAP (National Awami Party), prompting AL activists to vandalise district BNP office.

They also attacked the house of BNP vice-president and president of district Krishak Dal and Sramik Dal in launch ghat area.

KHAGRACHARI
At least 25 AL men including AL district committee adviser Dina Bandhu Sarker were injured, many business centres and many government offices ransacked and torched in sporadic clashes between AL and BNP over getting supremacy at different parts of the hill district yesterday.

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With police escort, they were firing gunshots while entering the town and re-established their supremacy.

KAPASIA

Thirty AL men were bullet-hit in a sudden attack by BNP men yesterday afternoon.

GAIBANDHA

At least 15 people including three policemen were injured when 14-party workers attacked a BNP office and set fire to the house of BNP leader Hamidul Huq Chhana in Munispara.

They also ransacked Jamaat and BNP offices at Bonapara.

BARISAL

Fifty people, including four police constables were injured when the AL men vandalised over 100 establishments including houses of BNP leaders and activists and offices of the BNP and Jamaat in Barisal town yesterday morning.

Although they had control on the town the whole day, Juba Dal and Chhatra Dal activists led by City Mayor Mujibur Rahman Sanwar entered the town at 5:00pm.

With police escort, they were firing gunshots while entering the town and re-established their supremacy.

KAPASIA

Twelve AL men were bullet-hit in a sudden attack by BNP men yesterday afternoon.

SYLHET

Ten people including the president of the Sylhet district unit of Islami Chhatra Shibir sustained injuries in clashes between the activists of four-party alliance and AL-led 14-party in Sylhet city yesterday.

The 14-party activists forced away the Shibir and Jamaat men, who were preparing for a rally in city's court point area.

Shibir men vandalised at the AL office at Ibrahim Smriti Sangsad and five shops and injured Juba League activist Tapan Mitra.

Country

INSECURITY engrossed the city dwellers who eyed an uncertain future. Many important points of the city turned into battlefields.

"You see the appalling situation," a city dweller said, "My nephew started at 8:00am from Comilla but the bus had to go back from Meghnaghat."

Commercial establishments and most of the markets were kept closed.

Inter-district buses suspended their service. Schedules of Chittagong-bound trains Mahanagar and Godhuli were changed, while other trains stood still on the half-way. Chittagong-bound train Subarna was pelted with stones and there were rampant vandalism at Tongi, Ashuganj, Ghorasal and Sylhet stations.

Steamers started plying from Badamtoli Ghat but the number of passengers was much less.

Port city Chittagong was paralysed as the 14-party combine put barricades on the main points.

Mills and factories remained closed, only a few vehicles plied, and loading and unloading at the seaport were done in a limited scale.

Earlier Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury called halt in the port city from today.

An uneasy calm prevailed in the crowded areas of Mymensingh town. No inter-district bus entered the town as of evening yesterday. Train services were disrupted as AL activists halted Dhaka-bound Ekota Express from North Bengal to Goyeshwar and Jamuna Express at Mymensingh.

Following the incident, the journalists present at the scene protested the barbaric attitude of the police. Later, a police member reluctant to introduce himself apologised to the journalists, witnesses present on the spot said.

8 journos

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PATUAKHALI

Sri Lankan peace talks under way

BBC ONLINE

Sri Lanka's government and Tamil Tiger rebels have begun talks in Geneva in an effort to avert a slide back into war.

Violence between the two sides has soared. Since July, 372 security force members, 128 civilians and many rebels have died, the government says.

Correspondents say expectations from the talks are close to zero.

The best scenario, many believe, is that the two sides agree on another date for another round of negotiations.

The talks began with a strained handshake between the leaders of the Sri Lankan government and Tamil Tiger delegations, says the BBC's Imogen Foulkes, in Geneva.

They had been instructed to shake hands by Norway's minister for development, Erik Solheim, who had expressed his frustration at the delays in getting the factions to the negotiation table.

"We have shown a lot of patience and we are prepared to show more, but the people in Sri Lanka and the international community will be impatient," he said.

Swiss diplomats also reminded the Tamil Tigers and Sri Lankan government of their obligations under the Geneva Convention.

The talks are the first time the two sides have met in eight months.

On the eve of the talks, the rebels said the road linking northern Jaffna peninsula with the rest of the country should be opened to facilitate further negotiations.

Spokesman Daya Master told the Associated Press news agency that the rebels would not agree to any future meetings with the government if the demand was not met.

Top businesses

FROM PAGE 16

been deteriorating rapidly during this period of handing over power of a democratic government to a caretaker government, they observed.

The business leaders also noted that all these uncertainty and political violence are seriously damaging the country's image abroad and the economy of the country is about to suffer a severe negative impact.

"It is necessary to put an end to this unexpected situation immediately. Under the circumstances, we urge all political leaders and workers to refrain from creating chaos," the statement said.

Thirty people were injured and offices of different political parties and 25 shops ransacked during clash between AL and BNP men in the district yesterday.

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