

## BNP faction 'backed by AL men' foils rivals' rally in Hizla

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Barisal

A faction of local BNP allegedly backed by ruling party men foiled a programme on BNP founding day at Hizla upazila headquarters yesterday.

Sources said BNP activists belonging to upazila unit convenor Dewan Muhammad Shahidullah faction organised a meeting on the party's founding day at upazila BNP office in the morning.

When the meeting was in progress, supporters of former upazila BNP president Mezbahuddin Apu Chowdhury reportedly backed by local AL leaders and activists attacked the meeting.

During scuffle, at least 15 BNP men from both factions were injured. Of them, upazila BNP Convenor Dewan Muhammad Shahidullah, Joint Convenor Dewan Mainul Islam Dulal, activists Sagor

Ahmed, JCD Hizla College unit President Abdur Rashid, Secretary Jahir Rahim, Jubo Dal leaders Ismail Hossain and Abu Bakar Siddique were admitted to hospital while the rest given first aid.

Activists of Apu faction also ransacked the house of upazila BNP Joint convenor Dulal near the meeting venue. Shahidullah blamed the local Awami League for the incident. He claimed that AL activists ransacked BNP office, upazila BNP Joint Convenor Dulal's house and desecrated the portraits of Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia.

Hizla Upazila Chairman and Secretary of local AL unit Sultan Mahmud Tipu denied the allegations, saying that the clash between the two BNP factions, led by Mezbahuddin Apu Chowdhury and Dewan Muhammad Shahidullah, was a sequel to a feud surfaced over formation of new upazila convening committee.



PHOTO: BANGLA CHOKH  
People living in char areas of Bhupur upazila under Tangail district still remain marooned though the flood situation has improved in other affected upazilas of the district.

### SNIPPETS

#### Jamaat leader killed

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

A Jamaat leader was stabbed to death while two others were injured at Pakundia in Kishoreganj on Monday night. Victim Mahbubul Alam was general secretary of Jamaat-e-Islam of Sukhia Union. Police and locals said, one Jewel of Char Polash village in Pukundia upazila had enmity with the Jamaat leader and one Mofiz of the same area. Recently Jewel came out of jail and was looking for Mofiz and Mahbub. On Monday night, Jewel found Mahbub and stabbed him. He also attacked Mona, 12, daughter of Mofiz and an unidentified woman. Mahbub died on the way to hospital. A case was lodged with Pakundia police station.

#### Roadblock by students

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Students of Boda Pathraj College put up a barricade on Thakurgaon-Panchagarh Road for about two hours on Tuesday demanding removal of the principal. They also submitted a memorandum to the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO). Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Boda police station quoting students said the principal punished two students two days ago. He also seized 17 mobile sets from students in different classes on Monday. This agitated the students, he said. Witnesses said, the students put up barricade on Thakurgaon-Panchagarh Road from 12:00am to 1:45pm. At one stage when some of the students were not joining the programme, a group of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists appeared with sticks and forced them to put up barricade. General secretary of Boda Upazila Chhatra League led the agitation programme. Hearing the news, lawmaker of Panchagarh-2 constituency Nurul Islam Shujan suspended all activities of Boda upazila Chhatra League for indefinite period.

#### Ansars abstain from duty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Thirty-three Ansar members working at Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) abstained from work for three and a half hours yesterday protesting non-payment of increased salary. "We are not getting increased salaries since May due to delay in approval by Ruet authorities", said district adjutant of Ansars M Shah Alam. He said that the government increased in May their salaries to Tk 180 from Tk 110 a day but they are not getting the increased amount. At around 11:30am, when Ruet's founding anniversary was continuing, the ansar members went to the Ruet authorities to know the fate of their increased salaries, said witnesses. Failing to get a satisfactory answer, they returned to their camp on the campus and sat in front of the camp gate for over three hours from 12am refraining from duty. Contacted, Ruet registrar Dr Murtaza Ali said, the decision regarding the increased salaries was delayed as they could not hold the university's finance committee's meeting.

### FEAR OF ANTI-SWINE FLU DRIVE

## Harijan community eating up their domestic pigs

RAFIQUL ISLAM, Barisal

People of the Harijan community in Barisal have started killing and eating their domestic pigs fearing possibilities of an anti-swine flu drive that might lead to culling the animals.

About 300 people of 75 Harijan families reside at their colonies locally known as mathorpati or domepati at Nazir Pole, Falpatti, Katpatti, Marok Khola, Kawnia Janoki Sen Road and Amir Kutir in Barisal city domestically rear pigs for food, sacrifice during rituals and business.

During a visit to the Kawnia and Marokkhola Harijan colonies of the city yesterday, this correspondent saw that several members of the community have matured pigs and swine in their domestic firms.

A few of them, namely Badal, Babu and Manua killed two, three and four domestic pigs for food in a day. Following wide publicity about swine flu over media, many Harijans are hiding their herds in fear of anti-swine flu drives.

Harijan community people said there are about 200 pigs at six Harijan colonies.

"We are habituated to eating pork. We sacrifice pigs during our religious and social and cultural rituals," said Munna Dome, secretary of the association of the local Harijan community.

"After the breeding season every year, we collect herds of 10 to 12 young pigs or porkers from the Harijan areas in Faridpur, Madaripur and Rajbari for Tk 30,000 to 35,000 per herd. After rearing, we sell the matured pigs for Tk 12,000 to 15,000 each," he said.

"We are engaged in pig business traditionally, but never before a scare like the one of swine flu hit our trade," he added.

"We do not know anything about swine flu. But we are afraid about the possibility of anti-swine flu drive," said Mithu, a resident of Kawnia Harijan colony.

The situation is now under our close observation although we have no swine flu testing kit or lab facilities. There is no reason as yet to suspect existence of swine flu virus in the pig herds of the local Harijans as they have not come from the countries attacked with the disease," Mrinal Kanti Mitra, scientific officer of Barisal Livestock Disease Centre and Laboratory, said.

There is nothing to be panicked till now as no one in the district has been diagnosed with swine flu virus so far, Dr Harunur Rashid, divisional health director, said.

Dhirendranath Sardar, director of Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, said he opened an anti-swine flu ward at the hospital last week.



PHOTO: BANGLA CHOKH  
Teachers and students of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) bring out a colourful procession in the city yesterday on the occasion of the seventh founding anniversary of the university.

## 25 BNP men injured in attack by BCL activists in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Kushtia

At least 25 leaders and activists of BNP were injured in an attack yesterday by the Chhatra League (BCL) men in Kushtia.

Besides, around 10 BCL leaders and activists were injured in a clash with the members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

The BCL men also ransacked and set fire to a news-paper stall.

According to police and Rab, BNP men led by Ohidul Islam Biswas was returning to their party office in the morning from Sahid Hasan Chattar after holding a programme there on the occasion of BNP's 31st founding anniversary.

When they were crossing Hasan Chattar intersection, the BCL men who were holding rally there to protest publication of reports in two national dailies suddenly swooped on BNP men.

The BCL men assaulted former municipality chairman of Almangal, also former president of Almangal upazila BNP Ohidul Islam. They also beat up other leaders and activists leaving at least 25 injured.

After the incident, the unruly BCL men torched a newspaper

stand at the intersection.

Sources said one of the dailies recently published reports on Chuadanga politics and outlaws. It blamed the ruling party leaders in the district for their role while the other daily published a similar report yesterday.

BCL also brought out a procession in protest of the reports.

Police said they rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control and dispersed the BCL men.

However, after a while, the BCL men gathered in the government college area in the town and brought out another procession.

A team of Rab-6 went to the spot and tried to manage the BCL leaders and activists. But the BCL men attacked its members which triggered a fresh clash as Rab charged baton on the unruly BCL activists.

Obaidul Rahim Chowdhury, BCL Chuadanga district unit president and 10 others were injured during the clash.

Of the injured BNP leaders, Ohidul Islam and one Lalor Biswas were shifted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH). The other leaders and activists of both parties were admitted to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital.

### 7 UPAZILAS IN MANIKGANJ

## 45 sued for not disclosing poll expenditure

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Manikganj

Saturia upazila. The vice-chairman candidates are Md Monjurul Haque Khan of Daulatpur upazila, SR Reza, Md Ali Akbar (also known as Babul Akter Monjur) and Md Babul Mandal of Shivalaya upazila, Md Abu Hasan Pintu, Md Rafiqur Rahman Chowdhury, Zahir Ahmed, Md Faridur Rahman and Dilip Roy of Harirampur upazila, Mottezur Rahman Khan and Md Tofazzel Hossain of Singair upazila, Mizanur Rahman Khan, Md Sanwar Hossain Sana, CMA Khalek, Helal Uddin Ahmed, and Suvash Chandra Rajbangshi of Manikganj Sadar upazila, Afas Uddin Ahmed and Md Foyzullah of Saturia upazila.

Returning officer of the upazila election in the district, Manikganj Additional Deputy Commissioner Md Salah Uddin Chowdhury on Monday filed the case with Manikganj Sadar Police Station against the 45 candidates, said Azizul Haque, officer-in-charge (OC) of Manikganj Sadar Police Station.

Thirteen of them contested for chairman posts, 18 for vice-chairman posts and 14 for woman vice-chairman posts.

The last time for submitting the election expenditure report of Ghior, Shivalaya, Harirampur, Singair, Manikganj Sadar and Saturia upazilas was 5:00pm on March 4 this year while March 13 was the deadline for the candidates of Daulatpur upazila, said Returning Officer Salah Uddin Chowdhury.

The sued chairman candidates are Md Azharul Islam, Md Abul Kashem of Daulatpur upazila, Md Abdul Mannan of Ghior upazila, Md Moniruzzaman Monakka, Md Anwar Hossain Badal, Md Nuruzzaman, Md Mortaza Ali and Syed Zalal Uddin Ahmed of Shivalaya upazila, Khan Mohammad Rumi of Singair upazila, Muhammad Moazzem Hossain Tusher, Md Daud Ali Hiru, AKM Nurul Haque and Abdul Kuddus Khan Mojlish of Manikganj Sadar upazila and Hasmat Ara of Saturia upazila.

Earlier on July 23, Manikganj deputy commissioner and returning officer of the district in ninth parliament election, GM Saleh Uddin filed a case with Manikganj Sadar Police Station against Khelafat Majlis candidate for Manikganj-3 constituency Habibur Rahman for the same reason.

The police gave charge sheet against Habibur Rahman on July 25, said OC Azizul Haque.

### Food office attacked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,  
Bogra

Jubo League and Chhatra League workers and supporters on Monday attacked and ransacked Shariakandi upazila food office demanding procurement of their rice a day after the expiry of August 30 deadline.

Upazila food official Enayet Hossain Mollah told them that there was no scope for purchasing rice violating government policy.

This infuriated the Jubo League and Chhatra League workers and it followed attack and ransacking of the food office.

They also laid a siege to the office of the upazila chairman and beat up some employees. They confined upazila chairman Shahjahan Ali to his office for about 30 minutes.

Police rushed to the spot and rescued him.

Jubo League and Chhatra League workers warned that if a decision to procure their rice was not taken by today they will go for fresh and tough action programme.

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