

# 30 hurt as BCL, Shibir clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Around 30 people were injured as the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Islami Chhatra Shibir locked in clashes at Rajshahi New Government Degree College yesterday.

The clashes erupted at noon when a BCL procession confronted the procession of Shibir activists on the college campus, said police and witnesses.

At first BCL activists brought out a procession protesting Wednesday's attack on BCL activists Rajib and Mesbah by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

Minutes later, Shibir activists brought out their procession, said several BCL activists. As the processions of the two rival student organisations were running side by side, Shibir activists swooped on BCL men with hammers, pipes, iron rods and sticks, leaving a few activists including Sagor, Jony, Mamun and Pias.

The BCL men said the armed Shibir men later fled the scene using an ambulance of Islami Bank Hospital.

They alleged that some staffs of the hospital helped Shibir men to attack the BCL procession.

On the other hand, Rajshahi city unit Shibir president Noor Muhammad Mondol blamed

activists of BCL and Chhatra Moitree for attacking their procession from two sides.

A large group of BCL activists also attacked Shibir men's rooms at 'Shamsuddin Students' Dormitory', he said, adding that the BCL men later went to Islami Bank Hospital brandishing arms like machetes and iron rods.

He said five Shibir men including Sarwar were injured in the attack by BCL men.

Six windows of the hospital were damaged as the BCL men threw stones at Islami Bank Hospital at Laxmipur, hospital officials said, adding that a few patients including a child narrowly escaped the BCL men's attack.

Later, police went to the spot, dispersed the two clashing groups and took the situation under control.

Among the injured, BCL activist Sagor was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital while others were given first aid at different clinics.

Rajshahi city BCL President Abdul Momin blamed Shibir and JCD for the attack on BCL procession. He termed the attacks as a conspiracy to hamper the trial process of Bangabandhu murder case by creating chaos on the campus.



Motor workers, on an indefinite strike for a ban on plying of BRTC buses and locally made Nasimon, Karimon and Votvoti, forcibly stopped vehicular movement at Bishwa Road turning in Chapainawabganj town during second day of their programme yesterday, much to the suffering of common people. The workers, however, withdrew their strike at night following a fruitful talk with the authorities concerned.

PHOTO: STAR



## Zia's mural at Barisal medical gate damaged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Mural of late president Ziaur Rahman at the entrance to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College (SBMC) was damaged on Wednesday night.

Witnesses said six to eight unidentified people came to the campus at around 8:30pm and damaged the mural on a wall. They also beat up two caretakers who tried to resist the gang.

Contacted, Prof Abrar Ahmed, vice-principal of the college, said they will investigate the matter and rebuild the mural of the late president as early as possible.

District BNP Convener Majibor Rahman Sarwar MP, city BNP joint Convener Ahsan Habib Kamal have condemned the incident and demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JSD) Barisal district unit took out a procession in the city on Wednesday night protesting damage to the mural of late president Ziaur Rahman.

## JMB men remanded in PP murder case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Two activists of militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) were taken on two-day remand yesterday in connection with the case for killing Haider Hossain, who was the public prosecutor in Jhalakathi judges' murder case.

JMB kingpin Shaikh Abdur Rahman, military commander Siddique Islam Bangla Bhai and five of their accomplices were hanged for killing senior assistant judges Jagannath Pandey and Sohel Ahmed in Jhalakathi town on November 14 in 2005.

Unidentified criminals shot dead Haider Hossain on April 11 in 2007 when he came out of a mosque in Jhalakathi town after the Esha prayers.

Jhalakathi Senior Judicial Magistrate Abu Zafor Mohammad Noman gave the remand order for JMB members Md Sagar and Murad Hossain after the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) personnel produced them to the court with appeal for a ten-day remand for interrogation.

In the forwarding report placed before the court yesterday, CID Sub-Inspector Md Mosharef Hossain, who has recently taken charge as the 5th investigation officer (IO) of the case, said he gathered important information from the two arrestees about the murder and they needed to be remanded again for extracting more information.

## BCL activists lock RU medical centre

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists at Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday locked the university medical centre for two hours as its authorities refused to give them an ambulance for using for political purpose.

Sources said, a BCL activist yesterday went to the Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital (RMCH) for treatment and locked in a quarrel with the employees over a trifling matter.

Hearing the news, some BCL activists requested RU medical centre authorities to give an ambulance for going to RMCH to bring the activist to the campus.

As the authorities refused to give ambulance, the activists locked the medical centre from 2:00pm to 4:00pm and staged demonstration in front of its gate.

## UP chairman gets 10 yr RI for keeping illegal arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A Barisal court yesterday sentenced a Union Parishad (UP) chairman to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for possessing illegal arms.

Convict Shamsul Alam Fakir, is chairman of Chandpasha UP and former secretary of Babuganj upazila BNP.

Md Shahidullah, district and sessions judge of Barisal after examining witnesses and evidence announced the verdict in presence of the accused.

According to the prosecution story, a team of Rab-8 raided the house of Shamsu Fakir in Bogura Road area of the city on November 5, 2008.

During the raid, as Shamsu refused to open the door, the Rab officials called administrative magistrate A T M Mahbubul Karim and began to dismantle the gate of the residence.

At this, Shamsu opened the door allowing Rab to search his house. The elite force recovered a shooter gun from under his sofa set and arrested Shamsu.

The next day, a case under Arms Act was filed against accused Shamsu with Barisal Kotwali police station.

Sub Inspector Nazrul Islam, investigation officer of the case, filed charge sheet against the accused on November 26, 2008.

## 7 hurt as BCL rivals clash at Khulna Polytec

UNB, Khulna

At least seven people were injured in a clash between two groups of Chhatra League activists at Khulna Polytechnic Institute in the city on Wednesday.

Police said, the clash began at about 12:30pm as two groups of BCL men locked in an altercation on the institute premises over a trivial matter.

At one stage, they attacked each other with iron-rods and sticks, leaving seven people injured.

On information, police rushed to the spot and arrested Sumon, a student of the institute.

## INTRA-PARTY FEUD IN BNP

# Rivals assault Magura municipal unit leader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Intra-party feud in Magura BNP has deepened as municipal unit convener Abdul Gafur, who belongs to the faction led by district convener Kabir Murad, was assaulted by his rivals in the town yesterday.

The incident occurred at around 1:15pm when Gafur came out of the local press club after a meeting of Kabir Murad faction there.

Meanwhile, a delegation of anti-Murad faction, led by Joint Convener advocate Mokaddes Hossain and former general secretary

Nazimuddin Ahmed, met party chairperson and secretary general in the capital on Wednesday and demanded removal of Murad from his post.

Talking to local journalists immediately after the incident, district convener Kabir Murad held the members of his rival faction responsible for the attack. "The attack on Gafur was made by those who have failed to remove me from the post of convener," he said.

When contacted, anti-Murad faction leader Nazimuddin said they met party chief and secretary

general in Dhaka and urged them to remove Murad from the post of district convener for his "anti-organisational" activities.

He said they will meet the top-ranking party leaders in the capital on November 2 to resolve the problems prevailing in the district unit.

On October 24, the faction declared convener Kabir Murad 'unwanted' in the district.

The declaration came from an extended meeting of the faction held in Magura town with Joint convener advocate Mokaddes Hossain in the chair.



Chakma King Debashish Roy sees the work of a devotee weaving cloth after inaugurating the Kathin Chibar Daan festival at Rajban Bihar in Rangamati yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Kathin Chibar Daan ends today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Kathin Chibar Daan, one of the biggest religious festivals of the Buddhists, began at Rangamati Rajban Bihar yesterday.

Chakma Raja and chief of Chakma Circle Debashish Roy inaugurated the two-day festival at 3:00pm.

Later, Raja Debashish visited "Bain Ghar" where devotees were weaving 'Chibar' (cloths) to be offered to the monks.

At least 50,000 people from home and abroad are attending the festival, said Sanjoy Bikash Chakma, general secretary of Rajban Bihar Managing Committee.

The committee arranged a cultural programme at Tribal Cultural Institute here yesterday to mark the occasion.

Introduced by a disciple of Goutam Buddha, Bishakha, 2,500 years ago, the Kathin Chibar Daan festival is being celebrated around the world that featured making of cloth in saffron in 24 hours and offering it to the disciples of the Buddha.

A representative of the king of Thailand, Thai envoy in Dhaka, Industries Minister Dilip Barua and CHT Affairs Minister Dipankar Talukder are expected to attend the concluding programme today.

# Steps to stop deer poaching as Rash Mela starts tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Authorities of Sundarbans Forest Division have taken necessary steps to check poaching of deer during the three-day Rash Mela beginning tomorrow at Dublarchar near the Bay of Bengal.

Conventionally a festival of the Hindu community, the yearly Rash Mela at Dublarchar is celebrated with pomp and grandeur and religious fervour for the last several decades.

However, the mela (festival) also sees a large number of people from other communities, making the venue assume a festive look.

Around a lakh people from across the country and abroad, especially India, join

the festival, said Conservator of Forests Akbar Hossain.

Security measures have been strengthened in the entire Sundarbans to resist poaching of deer and tigers, he said.

Members of Rapid Action Battalion, police, coastguard and forest guards were deployed since Tuesday at all key points of the forest under the East and West wings of Sundarbans Forest Division, said the forest official.

Special teams have been formed to detect professional poachers and prevent them from entering into the forest in the guise of visitors at the festival, said Mihir Kumar and Aboni Bhusan, divisional forest officers of East and West wings.

Measures have also been taken to

check all modes of river transports with metal detectors and search bodies of any suspected person.

Security forces and intelligence agencies have been put on high alert at all vulnerable points of Sundarbans Forest Division to prevent criminals from carrying out destructive activities under the cover of the festival, said the two forest officials.

Dublarchar has assumed festive look as people from all walks of life started assembling on the festival venue, considered as a holy place.

On the concluding day of the Mela, devotees bathe in the seawater as part of their pilgrimage programmes.

## SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

### BDR man dies in Sylhet

UNB, Sylhet

A subedar of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) died of cardiac failure at BDR sector headquarters in Akhalia yesterday. BDR sources said Mokbul Hossain, who hailed from Bera upazila in Pabna, fell unconscious in the morning while participating in daily routine exercise. He was rushed to Sylhet Osmani Medical College and Hospital where doctors declared him dead. BDR sources said the body will be sent to his village home after autopsy.

### Nabinagar OC closed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Uttam Chakrabarty, officer in-charge (OC) of Nabinagar police station was closed to police line on Wednesday. According police superintendent's (SP) office sources, Uttam Chakrabarty failed to do his duty properly during a clash between two groups at Natgha village on Monday and Tuesday. As a result, one person was killed and at least 59 were injured. Contacted, Brahmanbaria SP Mukhlesur Rahman said OC Uttam was closed for neglect of duty. Eyewitness and police sources said, both the groups clashed for two days with lethal weapons resulting in death of former UP chairman Zillur Rahman. Zillur's son Mahbubur Raman filed a case with Nabinagar police station accusing 42 people.

### Prisoner dies in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A life term convict died of cardiac arrest at Rangpur Medical College and Hospital on Wednesday night. The convict was identified as Zohurul Islam, 32, of Darshana under Rangpur Sadar upazila. Sources at Rangpur Central Jail said Zohurul was hospitalised on Saturday as he felt pain in the chest. On Wednesday night, he breathed his last. Police handed over the dead body of the convict to his family members yesterday after autopsy.

### Shops, office gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

At least 20 shops, Bawshi union Awami League (AL) office, three NGO offices and five houses were gutted in a devastating fire at Bawshi Bazar under Barhatta upazila early yesterday. Fire fighters from Netrakona town rushed to the spot and doused the fire. Police and locals said, the fire originated from short circuit. The damage was estimated at Tk 30 lakh.

### SUST admission tests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Admission tests for first year honours courses at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) will be held today. Official sources said, 16,737 applicants will vie for 1,250 seats at 23 departments under six faculties. In that case, 13 will fight for each seat. In 'Ka' unit 7,550 students would sit for 585 seats while the figure is 9,187 for 650 seats in 'Kha' unit. The admission test of 'Ka' unit will begin at 10 am while 'Kha' unit at 3 pm. Examination will take place at different institutions in the city in addition to the university.

### Statue seized, one held

A CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

Members of Rab-8 arrested Jahangir Mollah, 27, of Tusharpur village under Bhanga police station of Faridpur district from near Pukuria Bridge early yesterday and recovered a Shiva statue worth about Tk two crore from his possession. A Rab member posing as buyer of the statue, laid a trap and arrested Jahangir. During interrogation, Jahangir confessed to police that he also killed the driver of a private car. As he disclosed names of accomplices, a Rab team went to Gazipur and arrested Md Saidul alias Sadiur, 25, son of Kuti Miah Matubbar of Pallipara under Bhanga police station.



A long march of indigenous people enters Dinajpur town after a 61-kilometre walk from Laterhat village under Birganj upazila in Dinajpur yesterday as part of their programme to press for constitutional rights and formation of a separate land commission.

PHOTO: STAR