VIOLENCE IN RAJSHAHI EDN INSTITUTIONS

31 killed since '71

30 BCL men sued for latest killing at polytechnic institute

ANWAR ALI, *Rajshahi*

At least 31 people, including 28 students, were killed and over 2,500 injured in some 61 incidents of violence at different educational institutions in Rajshahi since the country's independence.

Justice has hardly been meted out in any of the cases and in most cases the perpetrators got away with the crimes by exerting their political clout.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of Awami League, was involved in two of the murders after the Awami League-led government came to power in 2009 greatly affecting the educational atmosphere in the city.

The latest incident of murder took place on Thursday following a clash between Bangladesh Chhatra League and Chhatra Moitree, student wing of Workers' Party. After the killing of Sunny, vice-president of Chhatra Moitree of Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute, the institution was closed indefinitely.

The government and the local leaders of the ruling alliance have miserably failed in restraining Chhatra League activists from internecine clashes and clashes with Islami Chhatra Shibir and Chhatra Moitree in the district.

The killing of Shibir leader Sharifuzzaman Nomani in March 2009 on Rajshahi University campus left all higher educational institutes of the city closed for 79 days.

After the murder, an all-party meeting with heads of the educational institutes, was able to, though for the time being, maintain a relatively congenial atmosphere on the campuses. That too now is gone as student organisations seldom obeyed the rules, campus sources said.

Shibir was the archrival of both Moitree and Chhatra League in the 90s but in the changed political atmosphere Chhatra League now regards both Moitree and Shibir as its main opponents in Rajshahi University.

Meanwhile, Sunny's father Monwarul Islam Chowdhury lodged a case with Boalia Police Station accusing 30 persons including the Polytechnic Institute Chhatra League president Nizam Uddin, general secretary Saddam Hossain Tushar, Nazmul Huda, Shariful Islam, Zahidul Islam Manik, Nahid Sarwar, Rahim, Rokon, Matin and Masum.

The police showed Nazmul, Shariful, Zahidul and Nahid arrested in the case and sent them to the court seeking a seven-day remand. Police arrested the four on Thursday.

After the killing, both Rajshahi mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton and local lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha, also Workers' Party politburo member, directed local police to arrest the killers even if they are members of Bangladesh Chhatra League.

However, a senior police official

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Cherie Blair, wife of former British prime minister Tony Blair, meets Bangladesh Premier Sheikh Hasina at the latter's official resident Jamuna in Dhaka yesterday to mark the completion of the first year of Awami League government. PHOTO: PID

Bangladeshi workers cheated in Libya

46 left with no jobs or salaries for 6 months

PORIMOL PALMA

At least 46 Bangladeshi workers in Libya have been passing days with no jobs or salaries for around six months, which placed them and their families at home in total misery.

"We are living in a shabby abandoned camp with no sanitation or water facilities. Our company used to give us some money for food, but now it is stopped," Kaiser Ahmed, one of the workers facing hardship in Libya, told The Daily Star over phone on Sunday.

These workers went to Libya to work for Rastota General Constructions through recruiting agency Orbit Consultant early April last year. Only for first two months up to mid-June, they were paid lump sums, said the workers from the North African country.

From then on, the company did not pay any wage for four months. From November the Rastota neither provided any work nor any wages or food, water or sanitation, said Kaiser from Al 'Aziziyah, a northwestern city in Libya.

They now seek for day-labour jobs. "If we can manage one, we live on it. Otherwise, we go hungry. Sometimes we boil leaves to eat," said Kaiser.

Relatives, meanwhile, are seriously anxious for the workers each of who spent over Tk 2 lakh

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No plan to attack Bangladesh High Commission in Delhi: Ulfa

INDO ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, *Guwahati*

The outlawed United Liberation Front of Asom (Ulfa) yesterday denied any plans to attack the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi and said media reports in both India and Bangladesh to this effect were baseless.

"Let us clarify once for all that we don't have any plans now or in the future to attack the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi as Bangladesh is one of the poorest nations in the world and

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Blast kills 8 at militant den in Karachi

5 killed in suicide bombing in northwest Pakistan

AFP, *Karachi*

A blast flattened a house being used by militants in Pakistan's financial capital Karachi yesterday, with eight people killed when explosives apparently detonated accidentally, police said.

Guns, grenades and suicide vests were recovered from the house in a poor Karachi neighbourhood, which officials said was a den for Islamist insurgents waging an escalating campaign of violence across the nuclear-armed nation.

In a separate incident in northwest Khyber district, five militants were killed when a suicide bomber from a rival Islamist militia blew himself up.

Attacks have intensified as Pakistan's military -- with vocal support from Washington -- pushes into northwest Taliban strongholds. Karachi suffered its worst attack in two years when a bomb killed 43 people in December.

Fayyaz Khan, a senior police official in southern Karachi, said eight people were killed in Friday's early morning house blast.

"We have pulled out all the eight bodies from the rubble and shifted them to hospital for the autopsies," he said.

Another police official, Abdul Majeed Dasti, said grenades, a Kalashnikov rifle and suicide vests were found at the scene, while city police

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Cherie Blair hails Hasina for women empowerment

UNB, *Dhaka*

Cherie Blair, wife of former British prime minister Tony Blair, highly praised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's role in social and political empowerment of women in Bangladesh.

Cherie, also the head of Cherie Blair Foundation, came up with the appreciation when she met Hasina at her official residence Jamuna

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OnlinePoll

Do you agree with BNP that Awami League-led grand alliance has failed in every sector in the first year of its rule?

Yes	(23.8%)
No	(72.8%)
No Comments	(3.3%)

Total votes: 927

TODAY'S POLL

Do you see any positive change in the activities of Bangladesh Chhatra League since Sheikh Hasina left as its organisational head?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

January 9

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-30	5-35
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

PHOTO: SHAFIQUL ALAM

A fire blazes through South Begunbari slum in the city burning down at least 30 shanties and also damaging three adjacent buildings yesterday evening.

Five die in bus plunge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bandarban*

A bus carrying Buddhist pilgrims fell into a roadside ditch at Kashempara in Bandarban yesterday leaving four passengers and the driver dead and another 29 injured.

Of the deceased, Happy Rani Barua, Shova Barua and bus driver Badi Alam were burned to death on the spot as the bus caught fire following the accident. Rupun Barua and Milon Barua died in hospital.

The bus from Baruapara of Jobra village in Chittagong left for a pilgrimage to Swarna Mandir (golden temple) in Bandarban in the morning, police said.

The driver lost control over the steering when reached Kashempara around 11:30am. As the bus went off the road and fell into a ditch, its CNG cylinder exploded causing a huge fire that quickly engulfed the vehicle, a passenger said.

Immediately after the accident, police, fire fighters and army started rescue operation and took the injured to Bandarban Sadar Hospital.

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4 pirates hurt in gunfight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

At least four pirates were injured during a gunbattle with the forest guards at Boyatir Khal under Sharankhola range of Sundarban Forest Division Thursday evening.

The injured could not be arrested as they managed to flee with their accomplices in one of their engine boats.

Md Ekramul Huq, station officer of Sharankhola range

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30 shanties, a dozen shops gutted in fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire gutted 30 shanties at a slum in South Begunbari while 16 shops and business establishments burnt down in Mirpur in the capital yesterday.

At least 10 people, including women and children, were injured in the fire incident at South Begunbari.

Witnesses said the slum dwellers could not save their belongings as the fire that broke out at around 5:30pm engulfed the tin-shed shanties quickly.

Three buildings were also damaged in the fire.

Jasim Uddin, a tenant at a nearby building, claimed that the fire was caused by an explosion in a gas pipeline at the construction site of Hatirjheel Project in the area.

Slum dweller Amena Begum said they noticed a leakage in the pipeline a few days ago and requested the authorities concerned to repair it.

"But they did not pay heed to our request," she added.

Officials of Fire Service and Civil Defence said it took 19 fire engines over three hours to douse the flame.

Meanwhile, another fire broke out at a tin-shed market in Mirpur Section-1 at around 2:00pm.

The fire spread quickly and gutted the valuables of a four-storey building, four yarn

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2 killed in Natore clash

A CORRESPONDENT, *Natore*

Two people were killed and three others were injured in clashes between villagers over a piece of land Thursday night at Baraigram upazila of Natore.

The deceased were identified as Abdus Sattar and Abu Sama of Garhmati village.

Police and locals said a few hundred villagers clashed with each other following a dispute between Badsha and Nabarul over the land.

Witnesses said Abdus Sattar was killed when he tried

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The Daily Star Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus

Linking Young Minds Together

The Daily Star offers campus based weekly magazine 'Star Campus' - the ultimate magazine for the young generation - a common platform for the college and university students and academicians - to share their ideas, thoughts, dreams, opinions and views. Star Campus is an endeavour to bring into the center stage the visionary aspects of our college and university students, alongside their lifestyle, cultural trends and their multidimensional talents. Star Campus is a magazine broadly based on campus life! It contains articles, academic news, achievements, travelogues, interviews, book reviews, quiz, milestones, academic tips, profiles of educational institutes, cultural and extra-curricular activities in campus, jokes, cartoons, photographs and much more. This is a magazine Of the Students, By the Students and For the Students. Star Campus helps link young minds together.

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