

# Bomb ingredients, bombs seized in 2 districts

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered huge bomb-making materials from a house at Jalkopara in Kashiani upazila of Gopalganj while law enforcers in Jessore recovered 12 air guns and four bombs and arrested two persons yesterday.

Following a tip, a team from Rab-8 Madaripur camp recovered bomb making materials from under some leaves in the kitchen of the house of Abul Kalam Master of the village at around 11:00am yesterday, reports a correspondent from Gopalganj.

The recovered materials include 400 grams of high powered gunpowder, 500 grams of potash, 400 grams of sulphur, 50 iron and lead balls, 120 glass tubes and corks, 10 empty tin pots, half litre of petrol and two red scotch tapes.

The materials would be enough to manufacture 10

high-powered bombs and it seems the criminals had plan to cause huge fire with the bombs and petrol, said Rab Deputy Assistant Director Md Kausar Ali, who led the drive.

However, none could be arrested in this connection as nobody lives at the roadside house.

"Explosives experts from Barisal will come and exam-

ine the materials. Then it will be handed over to Kashiani Police Station with written complaint," said Lt Commander Hasan of Rab-8 Madaripur camp.

A correspondent adds from Jessore: Rab and police in separate raids overnight recovered 12 air guns, four bombs and arrested two people yesterday.

A team of Rab-6 halted a Nasimon, a locally made human hauler at Tangur More on Jessore-Chaugachha road, recovered 12 air guns from it and arrested Babul of Singhazuly village and Chaluer Hossain of Anduliya village under Chaugachha upazila in the district early Sunday.

The arrestees said they brought the air guns from India, Rabsaid.

Earlier Jessore police raided one Kazal's house at Khorki area in the town and recovered four bombs from a nearby sand heap on Saturday night.



PHOTO: STAR

Rapid Action Battalion seizes bomb making materials from Jalkopara in Kashiani upazila of Gopalganj district yesterday.

## FALLOUT OF FEB 23 VIOLENCE

# Khagrachhari schools still see poor attendance

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

Schools in Khagrachhari town still see poor attendance as feelings of insecurity prevail following the February 23 violence between indigenous people and Bangalee settlers that left one person dead and 50 others injured in the district.

This correspondent observed the situation during his recent visit to 10 educational institutions in the town.

"Most indigenous students could not take part in the ongoing SSC examinations due to the violence," said Bitan Chandra Barua, headmaster of APBn Primary School. There are 270 students including 100 Bangalees at Pankhaiyapara High School in Khagrachhari town but no Bangalee student attended the school on Thursday as the institution is located in an area dominated by indigenous people.

"Two of my brilliant students could not take part in the ongoing SSC examinations due to the violence," said Khagrachhari Textile Vocational Institute Superintendent Md Raihanul Mizan.

The institute has 220 students including 160 from indigenous communities but only 42 students attended the school on Thursday.

The Daily Star correspondent found similar situation at APBn High School,



PHOTO: STAR

Bakul Rani Tripura and Aung Thowai Marma, SSC candidates from Khagrachhari Textile Vocational Institute, could not attend their examinations on February 24 as they along with family members had to flee to the jungle for safety of life after their houses were burnt down during violent clashes between indigenous people and Bangalees in Khagrachhari town.

Khagrachhari Adarsha High School, Khagrachhari Collegiate High School, Khagrachhari Municipal Model High School, Kamolchhari High School and Vocational Technical School.

Abul Kalam, a class-VII student of a school in Shalbagan area, said his parents did not allow him to go to school which is located in an area where indigenous people are majority.

"Bangalee settlers burnt our Satbaiyapara residence during the clash. Our family lost everything including my books and I came to school without books and school dress," said Warma Marma, a student of class-VIII.

Admitting the poor attendance of students, acting headmaster of Pankhaiyapara High School Pritima Chakma said it happens in fear of further violence.

"We are working to establish peace in the area. If necessary we will deploy more police at all schools gates," Khagrachhari Superintendent of Police Abu Kalam Siddique said.

The district administration will sit together with students, guardians, teachers and officials to remove fear and mistrust among Bangalee and indigenous students, said Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Abdullah.

## Outlaw held in Khulna remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The outlaw caught red-handed on Saturday for bomb attack on Phultala upazila parishad chairman was taken on a five-day police remand yesterday.

Police said arrestee Alam Sheikh, 30, son of Rahmat Ali of Golabari village under Rupsha upazila and a member of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) gave important information during interrogation yesterday. However they declined to give details.

Meanwhile, sub-inspector Moniruzzaman of Khanjahan Ali police station lodged two cases Saturday night accusing four people in connection with the bomb and armed attack on Sarder Alauddin Mithu, Phultala upazila chairman and also the general secretary of the upazila unit BNP. The cases were filed under Arms and Explosive Substances Act.

Combing operations are going on to arrest the remaining accused, said Shahabuddin, officer-in-charge of Khanjahan Ali police station.

The upazila chairman came under the attack in front of police training institute at Shiromoni in the city around 5:00pm Saturday while he was returning to Phultala after attending a division-level conference of BNP at Zia Hall in Sonadanga.

Khanjahan Ali police with the help of BNP workers caught Alam Sheikh red-handed on the spot and seized a gun from his possession.

The critically injured chairman is now being treated at Phultala upazila health complex.



PHOTO: STAR

Patients with diarrhoea and pneumonia have to stay at the veranda of Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital as the hospital cannot accommodate increasing number of patients, especially children, who are most vulnerable to the two diseases during change of season. The photo was taken yesterday.

# 10 more Shibir cadres held in Ctg, Rajshahi, Sylhet

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Ten more Shibir activists were rounded up in Chittagong, Rajshahi and Sylhet on Saturday.

In Chittagong, four Islami Chhatra Shibir activists arrested on Saturday night in connection with February 12 Shibir-police clash in the city were sent to jail yesterday.

The arrestees are Saiful Islam, 22, Mahfuzur Rahman, 18, Abdullah Al Noman, 19, and Md Ibrahim, 18, reports outstaff correspondent.

Sources said, acting on a tip off police raided a Shibir mess on the 4th and 5th floors of Noor Jahan Building near Chittagong Government Commerce College at Pashchim (west) Madarbari under Double Mooring police station and held the four Shibir men at around 11:45pm on Saturday.

Police later showed the four arrested in the case filed in connection with Shibir's clash with police in Chittagong on February 12. Among the arrestees, Noman is a student of Chittagong Government Commerce College and Saiful a factory worker at Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ).

The Shibir activists clashed with police

over possession of the body of Chittagong University student Mohiuddin Masum who was stabbed to death at Sholoshahar Railway Station on February 10.

Shibir claimed that Mohiuddin, a master's final year student of political science at CU, was its activists while the family members and relatives denied Mohiuddin's link with any political organisation.

With the latest arrest, police so far have rounded up 85 Shibir men from different areas of the city in connection with the February 12 clash.

In Rajshahi, Motihar Police arrested two more Shibir men at Rajshahi University (RU) on Saturday.

The arrestees are Rajuan Ahmed and Shahidul Islam, both fourth year students of philosophy department, according to a RU correspondent.

Sources said police arrested them from an examination hall of the department at Shahidullah Arts Building of the university at around 5:30pm.

Tofazzel Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Motihar police station said the two arrested for their role in the campus violence. Previously arrested Jamaat-Shibir

men also disclosed his name also during interrogation.

Our Staff Correspondent, in Sylhet reports: Four Shibir leaders arrested on Saturday afternoon were sent to the jail yesterday afternoon after Kotwali police produced them before a court here.

Sylhet Kotwali police on Saturday afternoon rounded up Anwarul Wadud Tipu, president of the Madan Mohan College unit, Yousuf Bin Nuri Chowdhury alias Sunny, general secretary and Tanvir Ahmed, organizing secretary of the same college unit and Manzur Ahmed, finance secretary of the city unit of the student organisation.

All of them were caught from a students' mess near the college area at Rikabibazar in the city.

Police said the arrestees were held in connection with the police assault case, filed following clash at a Jamaat procession in the city 12 February last.

The processionists and police chased each other on the day leaving at least 30 injured.

Police filed the assault case against 300 people including 36 Jamaat and Shibir leaders.

Eleven people were caught earlier in the case.

## Indefinite launch strike in Barisal

A CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Bangladesh Launch Labour Association yesterday enforced an indefinite strike on 20 local routes of Barisal in protest against the suspension of four staff of a launch.

The association's joint secretary Ekin Ali Master told this correspondent that the strike would continue until reinstatement of the staff.

Launch movement remained suspended on the 20 routes of the district since morning following the strike, a port official in Barisal said.

Four staff of MM Chandradeep have been suspended on charge of misbehaviour with passengers, sources said.

According to UNB, the indefinite strike took effect from Saturday midnight to realise the workers' four-point demand.

A large numbers of passengers faced trouble due to the wildcat strike.

The association's demands included reinstatement of three launch workers, appointment of staff as per survey rule, payment of monthly salary instead of daily basis and regularisation of jobs after three months of joining service.

Launch Labour Association sources said three staff members of two launches-- MV Chandra Dip and Beauty of Bangladesh-- were terminated from their jobs on various charges on Saturday night.



PHOTO: STAR

Momen Tarafder, a seller at Shibchar municipality market in Madaripur district, holds a gourd that he has to sell at a nominal price as vegetables in the area see unusual fall of prices this season.

## Veg at throwaway prices

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Vegetables are selling at throwaway price at different markets in Madaripur.

Tomato is selling at Tk 3 to 5 per kg, beans Tk 6 to 7 a kg, brinjal at Tk 7 to 8, potato at Tk 9 to 10, big size gourd Tk 8 to 10 a piece, middle sized pumpkin at Tk 10, onion at Tk 20 to 24 per kg while green chili and garlic at Tk 28 to 32 per kg.

Though the buyers are happy at the fall of prices the farmers and traders are facing a difficult time.

During visit to different markets yesterday it was observed that the prices declined as the supply of items were surplus to demand while there is no storage facilities.

Farmer Momen Tarafder who was selling vegetables at Shibchar municipal market said as there is no cold storage in the area they are deprived of fair price for their produce.

Madaripur, a buyer at Pachchor Bazar and Rafiq Bepari, another buyer at municipal market said they

bought tomato at Tk 50 per kg and brinjal at Tk 40 or so just two weeks back. They expressed a mixed feeling at fall of prices.

Wholesaler at Shibchar Bazar Miajan Bepari said he is now selling items almost without profit as the vegetable prices are not good for the last 10 days.

Shibchar upazila agriculture officer Md Motiar Rahman said, the production of the vegetables was good this season due to good weather.

As there is no cold storage in the area the farmers are compelled to sell their merchandise at lower price. The situation may continue for more than one month, he said.

Trader Salam Sarder at Shibchar municipal kitchen market however expressed the hope that price of tomato will again soar to Tk 60 to 70 per kg and beans would sell at Tk 50 or so within a week or two as the supply will decline by that time.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU) lay siege to the administrative building yesterday demanding arrest and punishment to the outsiders who teased two female students on Saturday. The intruders also injured six male students who tried to save the girls.

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