

30 hurt as JP, AL men clash in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Attack and counter-attack by Jatiya Party and Awami League activists at Badarganj upazila headquarters yesterday left over 30 people injured.

The trouble began when JP activists, wielding sticks, reached in front of the house of Badarganj Upazila Parishad Chairman and local Awami League leader Bishawnath Sarker Bitu at around 1:30pm to protest against 'insult' to JP lawmaker Anisul Islam Mondol by a union parishad chairman in a Test Relief committee's meeting on Saturday. Bitu chaired the meeting.

As Awami League activists swooped on the JP men, they retaliated and at one stage stormed into the chairman's house and damaged furniture and portraits of some national leaders.

At least 30 people from both sides were injured during the attack and counter-attack. The JP men also damaged three motorbikes at a workshop adjacent to the house of the upazila chairman.

Later, AL activist brought out a procession at the upazila headquarters protesting attack on upazila chairman's house and pelted brickbats at the house of a relative of lawmaker Anisul Islam Mondal. They also set fire to a billboard beside the house.

Anisul Islam Mondol, JP lawmaker from Rangpur-2 constituency (Badarganj and Taraganj upazilas), alleged that Bitu's men attacked a JP procession, leaving at least 12 processionists injured.

The lawmaker said he lodged a case with Badarganj Police Station yesterday against Bitu's accomplices who threatened him with death following Saturday's incident at the auditorium of Badarganj upazila complex.

"As I lodged the case against them, they became violent and attacked the JP men in front of Bitu's residence," the lawmaker said.

Badarganj Upazila Parishad Chairman Bitu alleged that Mondol's men attacked the AL activists and ransacked his house as upazila Test Relief Committee refused to give him rice under the programme at a meeting on Saturday.

The lawmaker refuted the allegation, saying that Upazila Parishad Chairman Bitu is trying to tarnish his image, bringing false allegation against him.



Broti, a non-governmental organisation, forms a human chain at Tanore upazila headquarters in Rajshahi yesterday protesting discrimination against indigenous students at Tanore College allegedly by the college authorities and at a hotel at the upazila headquarters by its owner recently.



Stick wielding Jatiya Party activists yesterday demonstrate in front of Badarganj Upazila Parishad chairman's house. They damaged three motorbikes at a workshop (inset) adjacent to the house.

Diarrhoea breaks out in 4 remote Rangamati villages

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

One person was killed on Saturday and at least 15 others were affected as diarrhoea broke out a few days ago in four villages in bordering Farua union under Bilaichhari upazila.

Kethega Tangchangya, 40, son of Chola Tangchangya of village Tiger Para of Farua union died on Saturday night, locals said.

Diarrhoea spread to almost entire area of the four villages of Farua, the remotest union in the district in the last couple of days, according to sources.

The most affected villages are Tiger Para, Tyindong Para, Bilchhari and Sanjong Para. At least 500 people live there in about 100 houses without nominal healthcare facility.

Every year, people of those areas are suffering from water borne diseases like diarrhea, dysentery and jaundice. They also severely suffer from malaria, sources said.

In 2004 and 2005, seven people died of diarrhoea without any treatment. But no health worker from district health department visited those areas due to inaccessibility.

"People of health department rarely visit our areas. Last year, they came to our villages with some medicine. But nobody visited our union this year," Jakob Tripura, a UP member of ward no 9 of Farua union, who came to district headquarters yesterday, told this correspondent.

"When I asked a field worker for medicine, he told me that he has no medicine allotted for my area," added Jakob.

District Civil Surgeon Mohammed Abdullah yesterday said that a three-member team along with necessary medicine has been sent to the area.

"I hope the situation in the diarrhoea affected areas will improve soon," he said.

Students punished by KU say they were wronged

Stage protest, give deadline to change decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A section of students of Khulna University (KU) yesterday demanded cancellation of the authorities' decision to take punitive action against 34 students.

Giving a 72-hour ultimatum, they warned of tougher agitation if the authorities did not meet their demand by the deadline.

The university reopened yesterday after remaining shut for over two months.

The authorities on June 8 decided to permanently expel four students and take punitive measures against 30 others for their involvement in an untoward incident on the campus on April 5.

Yesterday, some 100 students including the punished 34 formed a human chain on the campus to press home their demand.

During the three-hour programme that began at about 10:00am, the agitating students urged the general students of the university to join them.

But their move fell flat, according to witnesses.

The four students, who were expelled from the university, yesterday denied their involvement with the incident.

They said the university authorities took an one-sided action against them.

KU Vice-Chancellor Prof Md Saifuddin Shah, however, told this correspondent that they took action against the 34 students giving them a chance to appeal against the decision.

The four students permanently expelled from the university are Abir Hossain Talukder of Urban Planning, Golam Faruque of Social Science, Saiful Islam Bappi of Business Administration and Zakaria Jaber of Architecture department.

Besides, seven students have been expelled for two years and fined Tk. 15,000 each, in default, to face expulsion for more one year, 13 students for one year and fined Tk 15,000 each while 10 others fined Tk 15,000 each as their involvement was proved beyond doubt by the probe committee.

Earlier, the Vice Chancellor formed a seven-member committee on April 6 to probe the untoward incident of April 5.

On April 5, a few students of the university locked in an altercation with flexiload shop owner Shahnewaz over non-payment of dues.

At a stage it turned into a fierce clash between two groups forcing the authorities to shut the university indefinitely.

Man gets life for killing his wife

UNB, Chapainawabganj

A court here on Thursday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment for killing his wife in 2008.

The court also fined convict Tahurul Islam, son of late Babul Mia of Golabari village in Nachole upazila, Tk 10,000, in default, to suffer one year more RI.

According to the prosecution, Tahurul following a family feud tactfully took his wife Julekha Begum to nearby Addar More and strangled her to death on Feb 16, 2008. Later, he dumped the body in a ditch and fled away.

BCL attacks Shibir men at Khulna medical

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Three students of Khulna Medical College (KMC) loyal to Islami Chhatra Shibir were injured in an attack by a group of students belonging to Chharta League (BCL) at about 11:00 am yesterday.

Two out of the three injured were identified as Mehedi Hasan and Ziaur Rahman.

According to witnesses, a group of 60 to 70 BCL students with sticks in hands attacked Shibir students all of a sudden as they came out of classes.

On information, police rushed to the campus and rescued about 20 Shibir students who were confined to the canteen.

According to acting principal Dr Hamid Asgar, agitated BCL students resorted to vandalism as police entered the campus to save Shibir students.

They damaged doors, chairs, tables and window panes of the administrative building.

Police later chased the attackers out of the campus, witnesses said.

The attack was made without any provocation and in a preplanned manner, alleged Abdullah AL Mamun, president of the KMC unit of Chhatra Shibir.

Chayan Biswas, President of KMC unit of Chhatra League, denying the allegations of attack and vandalism said that Shibir was trying to vitiate academic atmosphere and foil trial of war criminals creating false issues.

Three platoons of riot police were deployed outside the campus and all residential halls to thwart further violence.

The acting principal of the college yesterday formed a five-member committee headed by Dr Manoj Bose to probe the incident and submit a report within a week.

CHITTAGONG CITY CORPORATION POLLS

1

1. Army personnel, who will start patrolling Chittagong port city from today, are going to their camp at MA Aziz Stadium yesterday.

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2) AL Advisory Council member Suranjit Sen Gupa addresses an election rally of Nagorik Committee-backed mayoral candidate ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury in the city.

3

3) Unnayon Andolon supported candidate M Manjur Alam along with BNP central leader Abdulla Al Noman also conduct a mass contact.

4

4) Law enforcers searching vehicles and examining their valid licences at different check points in the port city ahead of the Chittagong City Corporation election scheduled for June 17.