

BNP men, police clash in Natore

Sec 144 in Meherpur

STAR NATIONAL DESK

At least 10 people including five policemen were injured as BNP processionists threw brickbats at police prompting the later to charge batons in Natore town yesterday.

On the same day, local administration imposed Section 144 in Gangni of Meherpur district disrupting BNP's protest programme in the upazila.

Natore and Meherpur demonstrations were part of BNP's countrywide programme to protest against what the party dubbed, repression against journalists.

A correspondent from Natore reports: BNP alleged that its district unit president and ex-deputy minister Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu was among the leaders and workers clubbed by police.

Dulu said police charged baton on him and BNP leaders and workers without any provocation.

On the other hand, ASP (Circle) of Police Apel Mahmud said, "Every body has right to participate in meetings and processions in democratic way.

Police asked the processionists to follow a specific route to avoid traffic jam and indiscipline. But as BNP men tried to enter Station Bazar defying police request, the law enforcers obstructed them."

20 hurt as BNP rivals clash over council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

At least 20 people, including two policemen, were injured as local BNP factions clashed over holding council of two Jabo Dal units at Tanore upazila headquarters yesterday.

As the situation was getting worse, the local administration imposed Section 144, banning rallies and processions at upazila headquarters for 12 hours since 12:00 noon.

According to police and witnesses, a BNP faction led by Tanore BNP President Emran Ali Mollah, also the upazila chairman, was holding council of Tanore municipality and upazila units of Jabo Dal at upazila parishad auditorium in the morning. District Jabo Dal President Tofazzal Hossain Topu was also present.

At around 12:00 noon, supporters of former district BNP president Shish Muhammad, equipped with sticks and iron rods, entered the auditorium and swooped on Emran's men who also retaliated.



Rickshaw-puller carries passenger on the submerged Sylhet-Balaganj road while floodwater inundates a bazar in Beanibazar upazila of Sylhet district.



PHOTO: STAR

Fresh areas flooded in five Sylhet upazilas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Flood situation in Sylhet region worsened yesterday with new areas in Zakiganj, Beanibazar, Golapganj, Fenchuganj and Jaintapur upazilas of Sylhet going under water in the last 48 hours.

Suffering of the people mounted due to disruption in rural communications in most areas.

All the rivers in the region remained above danger mark at all points as onrush of hill water from upstream coupled with rain continued unabated.

The Surma was flowing 20cm above danger level in Sylhet city while 18cm above red mark at Sunamganj district headquarters and 139cm above danger level at Kanaighat upazila headquarters

at 3pm yesterday.

The Kushiyara at its starting point on Indo-Bangla borders at Amolshid was 50cm above the danger level while it was 95cm above red mark at Sheola yesterday evening.

Road link of Zakiganj, Beanibazar, Gowainghat and Kanaighat with the district headquarters remained suspended as flood waters submerged the roads at several points.

Prices of essentials marked sharp rise in the flood hit upazilas due to disruption of road links and transportation problem, locals said.

Around five lakh people in the district are badly affected by the floods, said an official at the district flood control room, yesterday.

In Netrakona, flood water submerged fresh areas in Khalajuri upazila, reports our correspondent.

Around 10 thousand people have been marooned in 20 new villages in the upazila. Hill water from upstream washed away at least 50 kutch houses at Laxmipur, Majibnagar, Balli Purbapara and Jagannathpur villages.

Khalajuri upazila administration sources said, flood water damaged vegetables on several hundred hectares and 50 percent seed-bed of amon crops in the affected areas.

Erosion by the river Dhanu took a serious turn devouring at least 10 houses and 20 hectares of cultivable land of Baranter village in the last few days.

BCL men stab rival leader in Rajshahi

A CORRESPONDENT, RU

A group of Chhatra League (BCL) men of Rajshahi Medical College (RMC) unit yesterday stabbed a Rajshahi Dental College unit BCL leader following an altercation over upcoming BCL council at dental college.

Witnesses said a group of BCL men allegedly led by RMC unit secretary Ashikur Rahman severely stabbed Tanveer Ahmed, a BCL leader of dental college on the dental college campus at around 4:00pm.

Tanveer was admitted to RMC in an unconscious state.

Sources said a tense situation was prevailing for the last few days on the dental college campus as two factions of the college unit BCL men frequently engaged in altercation over the upcoming BCL council.

College authorities said additional police have been deployed on the campus to avert any untoward incident.



Awami League lawmaker from Pabna-5 constituency Golam Faruk Prince addresses a function at Imam Gazzali Girls' School and College, a Jamaat-backed institution, in Pabna town on Saturday. Central Jamaat leader Maulana Abdus Sobhan attended the programme. The presence of the AL MP at the function triggered protests by pro-AL men.

Attack on journalist in Jhenidah protested

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Protesters in Rangpur and Narayanganj yesterday blocked highways snapping road links and triggering long tailback.

In Rangpur, about 3,000 bidi workers of Haragachhi under Kounia upazila blocked Rangpur-Bogra highway for about one hour demanding withdrawal of VAT on bidi and protesting imposition of fresh VAT on cigarette in the proposed budget, reports our correspondent.

The bidi workers sat on the road from 12:00am to 1:00pm snapping road communications between northern region and other parts of the country. Hundreds of vehicles to and from Rangpur got stranded on Rangpur-Bogra highway.

Later bidi workers went to the deputy commissioner of Rangpur and submitted a memorandum.

In the memo they said due to fresh VAT and tax the number of bidi factories at Haragachhi and other places in the country sharply declined in greater Masdar in the last few weeks causing immense sufferings to the residents.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Journalists here yesterday formed a human chain and staged a sit-in in front of Deputy Commissioner's office protesting assault on a fellow newsman.

They also submitted a memorandum to the prime minister through DC Roma Rani Roy.

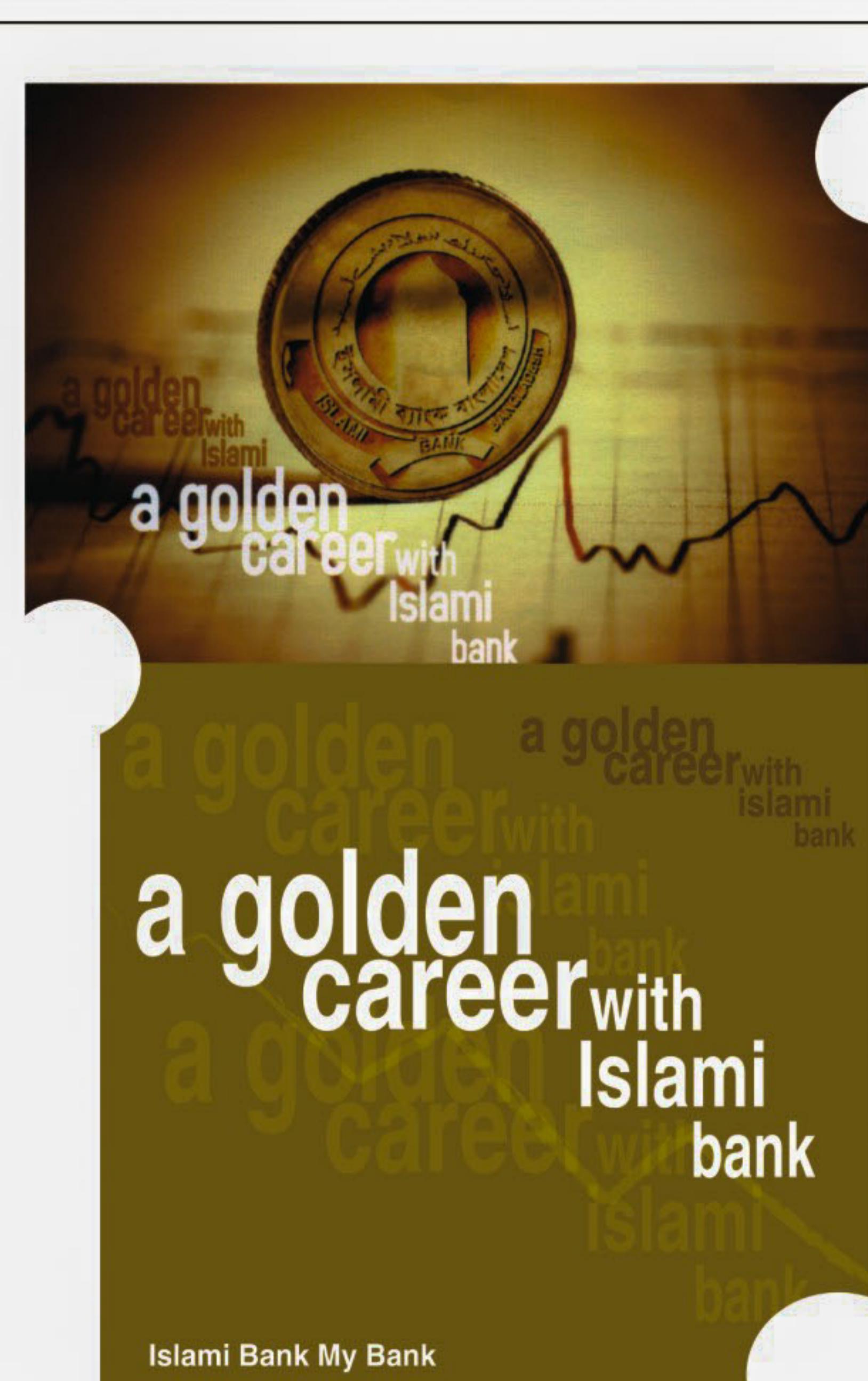
At about 11:00 in the morning, the journalists of six upazilas assembled in front of the DC office. They formed a human chain, held a rally and submitted a memo to the DC demanding punishment of

Chhatra League and Jabo League leaders for assaulting Ala Uddin Azad, reporter of The Dainik Nayadiganta. Ala Uddin is also ex-president of Jhenidah press club and acting editor of the Dainik Nabobchitro.

Ala Uddin Azad was assaulted on June 13 while taking snaps of attack by the Chhatra League and Jabo League leaders on Shibir and Jamaat men.

Additional DC Rafiqul Islam received the memo on behalf of the DC.

The journalists also urged the DC to take necessary steps against the attackers.



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Executive Vice President