

# Inspection of meat shops triggers violent clash

10 including 5 policemen hurt, 12 traders of Trimohini market in Rajshahi arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police on Tuesday night arrested 12 businessmen, eight of them leaders of local business association, of Trimohini Bazar in Puthia upazila.

The arrests followed a clash between police and traders that left 10 including five policemen injured.

The arrested businessmen include Puthia Bazar Banik Samity president Hasibur Rahman, general secretary Abul Hossain and Mamunur Rashid, organising secretary Shah Alam, office secretary Sujit Kumar, joint secretary Joyanal Abedin and executive member Nawshad Ali.

Other arrestees are Joyanal's brothers Asadul Haq and Aynal, businessmen Bazlur Rashid and Sanjay Kumar.

Sub inspector GM Mahbub

Alam Chowdhury of Puthia police station lodged a case against 50 people under the Speedy Trial Act on charges of barring police from performing duty, launching attacks on police and threatening public security.

The clash erupted on Tuesday noon after police went to inspect meat shops at Trimohini Bazar following allegations of slaughtering sick animals by a section of butchers.

M Ziaul Alam, officer-in-charge of Puthia PS told this correspondent that police, acting on a local newspaper report that meat traders are slaughtering sick animals, went to the Bazar and challenged some meat sellers.

Led by sub-inspector GM Mahbub Alam Chowdhury, the squad found four dead calves at the makeshift shops of meat sellers Mortuza, Korban, Kalachand and Lalchand. During the raid,

locals told police that the same shops slaughtered pregnant cows on the previous day.

Witnesses and police said, the meat sellers, being challenged, hurled abuses at policemen and assaulted SI Mahbub triggering a clash at around 3pm.

Following chase and counter chase at the market the traders barricaded the Rajshahi-Dhaka highway for one hour until 4pm while police beat up two businessmen -- Sujon and Aynal.

After putting up barricade, the businessmen also beat up traffic constable Selim Reza, SI Abdus Sattar Pramanik, SI Abdur Rashid and constable Golam Mostafa on the road.

They then damaged three vehicles including a police truck.

Later at night, the businessmen laid a siege to the police station.

Police after a while called 12

of them to the police station for talks and at a stage arrest all at around 10pm.

After the arrests, no businessman was available at Puthia for comments. Their mobiles were also switched off.

Relatives of some businessmen told this correspondent that the clash erupted as police demanded bribe and beat up some businessmen including Sujon and Aynal.

They alleged that police also beat up the arrestees mercilessly inside the police station.

OC Ziaul refuted the allegations.

"Those businessmen are ruthless. They barricaded roads five times in the last three months over trivial issues. If any of my officers commits offence, they should come to me and lodge a complaint. They don't need to block roads for that", said the OC.



An indigenous student addresses a discussion and cultural function organised by Karitas at Abolokpur village in Godagari upazila of Rajshahi district marking World Literacy Day yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# 700 locals stranded as Kaptai hanging bridge submerged

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, Rangamati

Some 600-700 people of about 150 families, living on Dewanpara island in Kaptai Lake, have remained stranded as the hanging bridge over Kaptai Lake, their only link to mainland, lies submerged for the last two days.

In absence of necessary water transport, they cannot even go to market for daily requirements.

"We of five families have managed an engine boat for daily movement but the rest of our neighbours are facing difficulties for want of water vehicles," said Basona Chakma, a resident of Dewanpara to the south of the Parjatan Motel.

Considering public safety, the Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) and local administration has banned use of the bridge.

"BPC Chairman Hemayet Uddin Talukder discussed the matter with Rangamati Deputy Commissioner Sourendra Nath Chakrabarty last week. Then the DC instructed us to ban public movement on the bridge," said Aloke Bikash Chakma, executive officer of



PHOTO: STAR

Hanging bridge over the Kaptai Lake in Rangamati gets inundated with rise of water level in the lake, compelling the authorities to ban movement of people on the bridge.

Rangamati BPC.

The bridge will reopen for visitors after renovation and reduction in water level, he added.

Sporadic but heavy downpour in the upstream led to the rise in water level of the lake. The bridge goes under water during the rainy season every year.

Although this current season has been dull for tourism in the district, domestic tourists are expected to throng Rangamati during the Eid holidays, like every year.

BPC earns over Tk 1 lakh during and after Eid holidays each year, BPC sources said.

But it has already stopped selling tickets for the bridge for the time being.

"Our motel is already booked till September 20," said Aloke, adding that two cottages, one wooden and another bamboo-made, were constructed to accommodate the tourists.

# Eid today, tomorrow for many in dists

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Around one lakh people will celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr in Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Jhalakathi, Barguna and Madaripur districts today or tomorrow in conformity with Saudi Arabia.

Over 40,000 people of eight upazilas under Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Jhalakathi, Barguna districts will celebrate Eid in conformity with Saudi Arabia and offer prayers at 80 Eid congregations in the districts, according to a correspondent.

The devotees claim that they are the followers of Kaderia, Jahagiria and Chistia tarikas and pir of Allahabad Sufia Darbar Sharif and Pir Shaheb of Mariachi Darbar Sharif in Satkania of Chittagong district.

The followers of these troikas are the residents of Madhabpasha, Kedarpur, Tajkati, Talukdar Char, Nishan Baria and Haji Banskhati of Babuganj upazila, Sundarkati of Bakerganj upazila and Harinapulia of Sadar upazila of Barisal district; Galachipa, Baufal, Kalapara and Sadar upazilas of Patuakhali district; Charfesson upazila of Bhola district; Nalchhity upazila of Jhalakathi and Taltali upazila of Barguna districts.

They said they usually observe all religious festivals in conformity with Saudi Arabia.

Golam Mir Md Fazlul Huq, a follower Pir Shaheb of

Mariachi Darbar Sharif, said they started fasting on August 10 as per directive of their pir and 30 days of Ramadan ended yesterday.

In Madaripur, More than 50,000 followers of Shah Nur-e-Hossain of Sureshwar Darbar Sharif under Naria upazila of the district will celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr today or tomorrow in conformity with Saudi Arabia, reports a correspondent.

Pirjada Mahtab Shah Nue-e-Hossain said at least one lakh people of Madaripur and Shariatpur district will celebrate holy Eid today or tomorrow.

Chairman Abdus Sattar of Panchkhola Union Parishad under Madaripur Sadar upazila said about 50,000 people of Kalikapur, Talluk, Mohisherchar, Jajira, Jafraabad, Bagerchar, katla and Chargobindapur villages in his union will celebrate Eid today.

Eid congregation will be held at Madaripur Charkalikapur Primary School field, Andarchar Khanka Sharif field and Sahebrampur Khanka Sharif field.

Our Patuakhali correspondent adds: Around 5,000 people of 22 villages under Sadar, Galachipa and Kalapara upazilas celebrate Eid today.

They are the followers of Kaderia tarikas and pir of Sureshwar in Shariatpur district. They start fasting and celebrate Eid in conformity with Saudi Arabia.

# Eid bereft of joy for the bereaved

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

The coming Eid-ul-Fitr brings no joy to the relatives of Abdus Salam Badsha of Hat-Malifa village in Najirganj union of Sujanagar upazila under the district as a tragic road accident on Tuesday morning killed him, his wife and two children.

The air became heavy as bodies of the deceased reached Hat-Malifa village where Badsha was well-known as a social worker.

Badsha, 45, his wife Farhana Khatun, 35, their daughter Sabina Salam Promy, 13, son Adnan, 10, and their maid were going to the village home on a car to observe the Eid with near and dear ones.

They reached Dhawal area on west side link road of Jamuna Bridge in Kamarkhand upazila at around 11:00am Tuesday when a speedy truck rammed their car, leaving the five people and the car driver killed.

The namaj-e-janaza of the four members of the family was held at Malifa Primary School ground at about 10:00am yesterday. Thousands of people of Hat-Malifa and surrounding villages participated.

The people of Hat-Malifa as well as the Najirganj union have lost the charm of Eid-ul-Fitr this year as glorious son of the village Badsha and his family members lost lives in the tragic road accident, Hazari Zakir Hossain Chhunnu, chairman of Najirganj union parishad, said after the janaja.

"Reckless driving and uncontrolled traffic system is responsible for increase of road accidents before the Eid. The government should take immediate steps for preventing road accidents to save valuable lives," he said.

A large number of people thronged Badsha's residence to have a last glimpse of the bodies.

An established businessman, Badsha was managing director of Al-Amin Scale Corporation in Dhaka.

"Badsha was living in the capital for the last 15 years. He used to come to Pabna during Eid-ul-Azha but this year he wanted to observe Eid-ul-Fitr at his village home. The Eid this time will be a gloomy one as we have lost our brother, his wife and children a couple of days before the festival," Badsha's younger brother Abdus Sabur Raja said.

During a visit to their residence yesterday, this correspondent saw Badsha's 80-year-old mother Saleha Begum too grief-stricken to speak.

Lamenting the tragic incident, Badsha's nephew Jahidul Haque Jony said, "Uncle was coming home on the occasion of Eid to distribute cloths to the poor people of the village although his brothers carried the cloths every year."



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