

150 hurt as AL rivals lock in fierce clash

UNB, Narsingdi
At least 150 people were wounded by gunshots and spears in a fierce clash yesterday between the supporters of local leaders of ruling Awami League (AL) at remote Mirzar Char of Raipura upazila.

Banchhampur upazila health complex and 50 of Mirzar Char union admitted to Nabinagar upazila police complex, locals and police said.
The injured avoided Raipura and Narsingdi hospitals to escape possible police action, locals said.
The fierce clash started at about 10:00 am continued for hours till a large contingent

of police rushed to the spot at about 4:00 pm. Upazila Nirbahi Officer led the police contingent.
Locals said the clash was a sequel to rivalry for domination in the local body election next year.
Local AL leader Salam Member of Bashgar union along with his supporters numbering more than 500

launched the attack with guns, spears and other sharp weapons on supporters of his rival Judge Mia of Mirzar Char union, also of Awami League, at Mirzar Char bazaar.
Supporters of Judge Mia repulsed the attack with equal force and with same kinds of weapons, leaving about 150 people wounded on both sides.

One killed, 80 injured in B'baria

Another killed in C'nawabganj clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

One person was killed and at least 80 others were injured in a fierce clash over possession of a shop at Ananda Bazar in the town yesterday.

Two rival groups of Natai and Birashar villages under Brahmanbaria pourasaba also damaged 10 houses during the clash.

The dead was identified as Md. Joynal Mia, 32, son of Md Phul Mia of Natai village.

According to eyewitness, hospital and police sources, three was a long standing rivalry between Dulal Mia of Birashar village and Ibrahim Mia of Natai village over possession of a shop at Ananda Bazar in the town.

Yesterday, Ibrahim group attacked and damaged a dry-fish shop of Dulal Mia at the Bazar at around 6am.

Within minutes both the groups equipped with lethal weapons locked in a bloody clash at Natai-Birashar cropland.

The clash lasted till 2pm leaving Md. Joynal Mia, 32, son of Md Phul Mia of Natai village dead on the spot and at least 80 others injured.

Of the injured, Farook Mia, 19, Gazi Mia, 30, Chotto Mia, 20, Surab Mia, 35, Aminul, 20, Jasim, 18, Nurul Islam, 45, Niamul, 13, Rahman, 25, Jasim Mia, 20, Abul Hossain, 20, Yeasmin, 17, Shohrab Hossain, 35, Shah Alam, 28, Nahidul, 26, Lalchan, 31, Arafat, 10, and Abu Bakkar Mia, 35, were admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital and 55 others given first aid at the same hospital while the



PHOTO: STAR

Law enforcers fire tear gas shells to disperse two rival groups during their clash over possession of a shop at Ananda Bazar in Brahmanbaria town yesterday. One person was killed and 80 others were injured in the clash.

rest seven were treated at two private clinics in the town.
On information, a large of police headed by Assistant Police Superintendent (Sadar Circle) rushed to the spot and fired 38 rubber bullets and lobbed 45 tear gas shells to control the situation.
Police arrested seven rioters from the spot.

C'nawabganj clash
In Chapainawabganj, a man was killed and another person was injured as a rival group attacked them at Chandana village of Nachole upazila.
The deceased was identified as Rezaul Haque, 40, son of Zillur Rahman of Chandana village under Kasba union in the upazila.

our Chapainawabganj correspondent.
Ekramul Haque Sarkar, office-in-charge (OC) of Nachole police station said, Rehana, sister of victim Rezaul called an arbitration meeting on Friday at 6:30pm at Chandana village as her neighbour Asadul who borrowed some money but refused to pay it back.
Just before start of the meeting, Asadul's men all of a sudden started beating

Rehana.
At this, her two brothers Rezaul and Tohrul came to her rescue. But the men mercilessly beat them too injuring seriously. Locals rushed them to hospital but Rezaul died at RMCH at 5:00am yesterday.
Police arrested five people from the village in this connection. They are Abdul Latif, 60, his two sons Asadul, 40, Korban Ali, 23 and Ashraf Haque, son of late Sayed Ali.
Victim's wife Tanzila Begum filed a murder case with Nachole police station yesterday.

Robber-police gunfight in Narsingdi, 8 injured

UNB, Narsingdi

A fierce gunfight between a gang of robbers and police at Sristighar village in Shibpur upazila left three robbers and five policemen injured early yesterday.

The injured policemen were identified as SI Badrul Alam, constables Sakhawat Hossain, Emdad Hossain, Khairuddin and Nazrul Mia.

Police said, the robbers numbering 10/15 were challenged by their patrol team while they gathered at a place in the village to commit a robbery at about 3:20am.

Sensing their presence, the robbers opened fire on them prompting the law enforcers to fire back which triggered a gun battle, leaving eight from both sides injured.

Later, police held the three bullet wounded robbers while others managed to escape.

Of the injured, SI Badrul Alam, constables Emdad Hossain, Khairuddin, Nazrul Mia, robbers Milon Mia, 22, Al-Amin, 25 were rushed to Shibpur upazila health complex. Constable Sakhawat Hossain was admitted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital in critical condition and robber Billal Hossain, 28, was admitted to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital.

Police recovered three sharp weapons from the spot. A case was filed in this connection.

In Manikganj, robbers looted cash and gold ornaments worth Tk6 lakh from a house in broad daylight in launch ghat area on Wednesday.

The gang entered the house of Abdul Aziz by breaking open the collapsible gate and looted cash Tk2.15 lakh and 13 tolas of gold ornament between 9:30 am to 2:30 pm, members of the house told our correspondent.

Aklima Begum, wife of the house owner, said she and her sister live in the house with their family members.

Aklima and her sister Kona locked the gate and doors of their house and went to their children appearing at the primary education terminal examination at Manikganj SK Government Girls' High School centre at around 9:30 am, they said.

After the examination, when they returned to their house at around 2:30 pm, they found their house looted by robbers.

3 outlaws arrested in Pabna, Meherpur

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Three outlaws were arrested in Pabna and Meherpur districts on Friday.

Ataikula police in Pabna district arrested two more operatives of outlawed PBCP Janajudhha faction from the remote villages of two upazilas on Friday and sent them to the court yesterday.

The arrestees were identified as Md Abdus Sattar of village Rangamati in Santhia upazila and Md Almas alias Boma Almas of village Goashbari in Ataikula under the district.

Sub Inspector of Ataikula police station Md Zahidul Islam said, acting on a tip off Ataikula police arrested them from their villages in raids on Friday.

They are two hardened operatives of outlawed PBCP Janajudhha faction, the SI said.

In Meherpur, an outlawed party leader was arrested at Kharampur village of Gangni upazila on Friday night, reports UNB.

Gangni police said, a joint team of Rab-6 and local police conducted a drive at Bhatpara More of Kharampur at midnight and held Korban Hossain, alias Kur, 35, allegedly a regional leader of Lal Pataka faction of Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP, ML).

Acting on his confessional statement, the law enforcers conducted another raid and recovered a LG, a shuttergun, two bullets and two bombs from a field at Mathpara of Dhankhola village.

He is wanted in a number of cases, including murder, the OC of Gangni PS added.



PHOTO: STAR

Police seize two maunds of jatka (hilsa fry), at Char Kajal Launch terminal in Golachipa upazila of Patuakhali district yesterday. The fish were later sold on auction in front of Galachipa police station.

27 sued in Patuakhali on war crime charges

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Twenty-seven people of Galachipa upazila in Patuakhali district have been sued on war crime charges.

Abdul Halim, a freedom fighter, filed the case with the Judicial Magistrate's Court on Thursday. Taking the case into cognisance, Judicial Magistrate Nuruzzaman asked the officer-in-charge (OC) of Galachipa Police Station to take necessary actions against the accused after proper investigation.

The accused are Alauddin Sikder, 80, the then chairman of Galachipa peace committee, Iusuddin Pada, 80, member of the peace committee, Nuru Moulvi alias Nuruddin, 82, former chief of Al Badar Bahini's Galachipa unit, Maulana Ashrab Ali Khan, 75, former leader of Patuakhali district unit of Jamaat Islami and rajakars Md Motaleb Mridha, 70, Abdur Razzak Pada, 65, Md Fayzul Islam, 65, Shahjahan, 70, Md. Kawsar alias Khaleq, 62, Abdul Khaleq Pada, 60, Nasu Mridha, 70, Abdur Rashid Mridha, 68, Jalal Mridha, 65, Delwar Hussain, 65, Shahid Munshi alias Ismail Hussain, 60, Sahanur alias Sanu, 60, Moslem Master, 62, Hanif Mridha, 63, Jalal Master, 65, Bashar Sheikh, 60, Fazlu Sharif,

60, Amir Hussien, 68, Mainul Islam alias Manik, 58, Kasem Bihari, 62, Rashid Mridha, 70, Sattar Khan, 73 and Abul Shaikh, 70. They hail from different villages of Galachipa upazila.

The complainant alleged that the collaborators of Pakistani occupation forces attacked his house at Nalubagi village at around 10:00am on May 24, 1971. Failing to get him at the house, they tortured the other members of his family, looted valuables and Tk75,000 in cash from the house, he said.

The collaborators swooped on the houses of Niranjan Biswas, Radhika Mohon Saha and Radhesham of Bot Tola area of the upazila at around 11:00am on May 25 and looted valuables worth about Tk 10 lakh from the three houses, the complainant said, adding that they took Niranjan, Radhika, and Radhesham to Patuakhali town in a speedboat and then killed them.

He further stated that the accused picked up Subal Chandra Kundo from his Galachipa town residence on May 26, took him to Chiknikandi Bazar and killed him.

When contacted, Tapan Kumer Saha, officer-in-charge of Galachipa Police Station, said they will investigate the allegations brought against the accused and then go for legal action.

Now Recodex for phensidyl addicts Pouring in thru' border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Indian cough syrup Recodex, having properties similar to contraband phensidyl, are entering Chapainawabganj through the border as the new drug has gained popularity among a section of drug addicts in short time.

Acting on a tip, a team of BDR 39 Rifles Battalion arrested two drug peddlers and seized 16 bottles of Recodex from their possession at Boalia in Gomostapur upazila of Chapainawabganj district at around 9:30pm on Friday when they were returning from India, said BDR officials.

The arrestees are Abdul Hakim, 40, and Mohammad Rubel, 35, hailing from Boro Bangeswarpur of Gomostapur upazila, confessed that they continued smuggling the drug from India and selling it in the country during the last one month as addicts prefer it to phensidyl and other drugs, said BDR officials.

Demand of Recodex is higher than that of phensidyl among the drug addicts, as drug Codin is mixed with Recodex prepared by Indian pharmaceutical company Biogenetic (pvt) Limited, said Abu Bakar Abu, commanding officer of 39 Rifles Battalion.

Bottles of the drug are also similar to those of phensidyl, he said.



PHOTO: STAR

A large number of people of Dakope upazila in Khulna district still live a miserable life in roadside shanties as their dwellings are frequently flooded by tidal water entering through the breached portions of embankments that got damaged by cyclone Aila on May 25 last year.

MINISTER VISITS CONSTRUCTION WORK IN AILA-HIT DAKOPE Dyke to be complete by Mar 6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

State Minister for Water Resources Md Mahabubur Rahman was warned of stern legal action in case of any allegation of corruption in construction of embankments in the Aila affected areas of the south-western region.

"The government will no more tolerate any sort of negligence and lame causes for delaying construction of embankments damaged by cyclone storm Aila. The Aila affected people would be able to return to their homesteads after completion of construction works of sustainable embankments within the shortest possible time under supervision of the Army," he

said during his visit in Kamarkhola and Sutarkhali unions of Aila-hit Dakope upazila on Friday afternoon.

Over a hundred members of Bangladesh Army headed by Major Ahsan have been engaged since November 21 to supervise and monitor construction works of damaged embankments in Aila affected Dakope upazila under Khulna district.

Construction works of embankments damaged by Aila on May 25 last year began on last November 7 at a cost of Tk 45 crore allocated by the government, said Engineer Anwar Hossain of Water Development Board (WDB).
The work is expected to be completed by March 6 next year, he said.

"We are delighted to see

army men supervising construction works of embankments in Kamarkhola and Sutarkhali unions of Dakope upazila. Embankments need to be sustainable which can be ensured under such supervision. I am also visiting the sites and monitoring construction works," said Dakope upazila Chairman Sheikh Abul Hossain.

Ten thousand and six hundred families of Kamarkhola and Sutarkhali unions will be rehabilitated after completion of embankment construction, UNO Md Daulatuzzaman said.

Nearly one lakh Aila-hit people of these two unions are still staying in makeshift camps in subhuman condition without adequate food and safe drinking water.

"We need sustainable embankments for better living. Aila has not only destroyed our homesteads but also thrown us into an uncertain future," said Haider Ali Sarder of Joynagar village under Kamarkhola union.

So was the observation of fishermen Hafizur Rahman Gazi and Monirul Islam of Nalian village of Sutarkhali union who lost their homesteads and all fishing equipment due to the cyclone.

Among others, lawmaker Nani Gopal Mandol, Khulna Deputy Commissioner Jamsheer Ahmad Khandaker, Major Ahsan of Bangladesh Army, Additional DG of WDB Md Azizul Huq and Chief Engineer Abdul Mannan accompanied the state minister during his visit.

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