

AL men ransack, torch BNP office

4 receive burn injuries in Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Four people received burn injuries as Gokunda union BNP office at Mostofi village of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila was ransacked and set afire alleged by ruling Awami League (AL) men in the early hours of Tuesday.

A fire service team with the help of locals later doused the fire.

The burn injured men are Anis Miah, 40, Mostofa Islam, 45, Bhuttu Miah, 35, and Nurul Islam, 42, -- all residents of Mostofi village. Anis and Mostofa are undergoing treatment at Rangpur Medical College Hospital and

Bhuttu and Nurul at Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital, locals said.

Anis Miah is secretary of No 4 ward AL of Gokunda union and the three others are executive members of the union unit of AL, said local people and BNP activists.

"A tense situation is prevailing among the activists of Awami League and BNP over the incident. Additional police have been deployed at Mostofi village to check further unwanted incident," said Sadar Police Station Officer in Charge Moynul Islam.

Some chairs, tables, file cabinets, roof, doors and windows of Gokunda union BNP office were burnt to ashes as unidentified miscreants ransacked and later set fire to the office, police said.

Police is trying to find out the reason behind the incident and identify the miscreants, OC Moynul Islam said.

Lalmonirhat district BNP President Asadul Habib Dulu alleged that identified AL cadres ransacked BNP office and set fire on it at midnight and a couple of them got burnt when they were trying to loot furniture.

However, district AL Secretary Motiar Rahman denied BNP men's allegation, saying, "Awami League is not responsible for ransacking and setting fire to BNP office. It occurred due to internal clash in BNP. The burn injured people are not Awami League activists. They are linked with BNP men."



PHOTO: STAR

Gokunda union BNP office at Mostofi village in Lalmonirhat Sadar lies ravaged as criminals allegedly belonging to Awami League ransacked and set fire to it early yesterday.



1) Narsingdi district BNP President Khairul Kabir Khokon faces wrath of police, 2) Rapid Action Battalion men beat the Dakkhin Surma BNP general secretary as party activists bring out a procession near the court premises in Sylhet, 3) Bogra district Mohila Dal President Lovely Rahman being taken to hospital after she fell ill during a scuffle with police, 4) Removal of a steel plate from the floor of the bailey bridge by pickets at Shialy on Barisal-Patuakhali road causes suspension of vehicular movement for a few hours, 5) Shop owners at Shaheed Satu Hall Market in Chapainawabganj town keep their shutters down, and 6) BNP activists bring out a procession in Manikganj town during yesterday's countrywide hartal.

24 'militants' arrested in Patuakhali, Natore

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Police on Monday night arrested 24 suspected Islamist militants in Patuakhali and Natore districts.

Our Patuakhali correspondent reported that police arrested 15 suspected militants from Goshinga mosque under Baufal upazila on Monday midnight.

The arrestees were identified as Zakaria, 32, Abdul Karim, 37, Rabiul, 20, Selim, 24, Shakhawat, 25, Motaleb, 28, Abu Teher, 45, Shahidul, 40, Sharif Hussain, 15, Billah, 27, Ibrahim, 25, Mehedi Hasan, 35, Shahjahan Patwary, 45, Ruhul Amin, 32, and Mizan, 22-- all from different villages of Barisal, Bhola, Sherpur, Mymensingh and Jhenidah districts.

Shilmoni Chakma, OC of Baufal police station said they arrested 15 people from a local mosque as

militants. But no papers regarding militancy could be recovered from their possession.

"We will take lawful action after proper investigation in this regard", the OC added.

Zakaria, leader of the team said the arrestees came to the mosque from Bhola district on Monday. Abdul Majid, former professor of Charfashion College under Bhola district is our spiritual chief, he added.

Our motto is to publicise and spread Islam, he said.

Police later sent all of them to the court under Section 54 and the court sent them to Patuakhali jail.

In Natore, police arrested nine 'Kalemar Jamaat' members including two women from Baro Harishpur area of the town on Monday night. Five Islamic books were recovered from the house during the raid, reports our correspondent.

The arrestees were identified as Golam Mastofa, 32, Ameer of Natore district unit Kalemar Jamaat and resident of Puthia upazila in Rajshahi, his wife Rabeya Sultana, 23, Hafez Idris Ali, 32, and his wife Aklima Begum of village Nabnagar under Lalpur upazila in Natore, Kabir Hossain, 26, and Solaiman Islam, 15, of village Dingadoba, Monoar Hossain, 25, of Puthia upazila, Rasel, 20, of village Chandar and Asaduzzaman, 21, of Krisnapur village under Puthia upazila.

Apel Mahmud, Assistant Superintendent of Police in Natore said police arrested them from one Abdul Alim's house where they have been living for last two years.

On secret information, police raided the house and arrested them and recovered five Islamic books, he said.

Police later sent them to a Natore court and the court sent them to jail.



PHOTO: STAR

Police arrest 15 people yesterday suspecting their involvement with militant activities in Baufal upazila of Patuakhali district.

PROF HARUN MURDER IN SYLHET Prime suspect Kawser remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) took Abdul Latif Kawser, prime suspect in Prof Harun-ur-Rashid murder case, on a three-day remand on Monday.

CID Inspector Muhiuddin Islam, also the investigation officer of the case, prayed for a 10-day remand, but Chief Judicial Magistrate Md Amir Uddin granted three days.

Rab arrested Kawser at bordering Chinakandi village under Biswambharpur upazila of Sunamganj district on November 24.

He was immediately taken to Rab headquarters in the capital and presented before media. The law enforcers later brought Kawser to

Sylhet and handed him over to the CID.

Harun-ur-Rashid, associate professor of Sylhet Government Mohila College, was stabbed to death in front of his rented house in the city's Goura Govinda Tilla area on March 21 this year.

Five people were arrested in connection with the murder on the night of March 28. They are Sujia Akhter muni, her friend and classmate Safia Khatun Lipi, Russel Ahmed, Alimul Haque and Lokman Ahmed, a hotel manager, who gave shelter to Kawser just after the murder.

Munni told police that Kawser and his friends swooped on Prof Harun, who had earlier rebuked the girl for developing an affair with Kawser. Munni and Lipi later gave confessional statements before the judicial magistrate.

Arms, bombs recovered in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in a drive in the early hours of yesterday recovered arms, ammunition and bombs from Courtpara area in the district.

Rab commander ASP Rezaul Karim said, acting on a tip-off, a team of the elite force raided spot near a bridge in Courtpara area and recovered two shutter guns, two bullets and 11 bombs.

The arms and ammunition were kept in a packet. No one was arrested in this regard, the commander said.

In Bagerhat, police on Monday night recovered two cocktails and four bullets from Rajoir village under Sharankhola upazila, reports a correspondent.

Police also picked up two local leaders of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami and later released them yesterday afternoon after interrogation.

The leaders are Abdul Wahab, 37, joint general secretary of Jatiyatabadi Olama Dal of Sharankhola upazila unit and Md Zakir Hossain, 48, ward secretary of Jamaat-e-Islami.

Officer-in-charge Md Azizul Haq of Sharankhola police station said, acting on a tip-off, they raided the house of Abdul Barek, a retired Army man of Rajoir village and recovered those cocktails and bullets from a storeroom.

Top outlaw murdered in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A top leader of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP), Janajuddha faction was murdered in a remote village of Faridpur upazila yesterday.

Deceased Md Nurul Islam, 38, was son of Ahammad Ali of village Goalgram in Hadal union in the upazila. He was 'regional leader' of outlawed PBCP ML Janajuddha faction and accused in several cases, police said.

Officer-in-charge of Faridpur police station Md Abu Zafar said unidentified criminals chopped and shot Nurul at Shikuria Beel, a water body in remote area of the union anytime yesterday noon.

On information, police rushed the spot and recovered the body, the OC said adding that rival cadres might have killed him over past enmity.

Over 150 hurt during hartal

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Sporadic clashes between pickets and law enforcers left at least 150 people injured in different districts during yesterday's countrywide hartal enforced by BNP.

Over 120 people were arrested while picketing at different district headquarters during hartal hours. Vehicles were off the roads, shops and markets remained closed while activities at sea and land ports were normal, report our correspondents.

Sylhet: At least 20 people were injured as law enforcers charged truncheons on pro-hartal activists at Modhuban, Zindabazar and Surma Market points and on the court premises during hartal. Police and Rab also picked up at least 30 people from these areas as they pelted brickbats at the law enforcers.

Narsingdi: Around 30 BNP leaders and activists were injured as police clubbed pro-hartal activists who were picketing on the Dhaka-Sylhet Highway near Narsingdi Jail gate area. Police also fired tear gas shells to disperse the pickets and picked up 10 BNP activists for vandalising shops.

Patuakhali: Law enforcers

arrested 10 BNP activists for damaging vehicles in the town. The pro-hartal activists removed steel plates from a bailey bridge near Patuakhali airport, halting vehicular movement on the Barisal-Kuakata road for several hours.

Keraniganj: At least 50 people, including a police officer, were injured during a clash between police and pickets. Police fired tear gas shells and rubber bullets to disperse the pro-hartal activists at around 4:30pm. Five BNP men were arrested here, reports UNB.

Chapainawabganj: Four lawyers were injured as police charged baton on them when Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum brought out a procession in the town during hartal hours. The injured lawyers are Timir Kurnar, Motaleb Hossain, Abdur Razzak and Shahidul Islam.

Khulna: Rickshawpullers faced no obstruction on all roads under five police stations of the city during BNP-enforced hartal. Though vehicles, including passenger buses, were off the roads, cargo handling at Mongla port was normal. Three auto-rickshaws were damaged during chase and counter

chase between police and pro-hartal activists.

Rajshahi: BCL activists armed with machetes chased JCD men off RU campus while they, led by RU unit president Ashique Rahman, were picketing. Later, they exchanged brickbats in front of the university's Kaja Gate. Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Dinajpur: Over 15 people were injured as police charged baton on pro-hartal pickets in the town. Police also picked up at least 30 BNP men from different areas of the district during hartal.

Gaibandha: At least 15 people, including three cops were sustained injuries when pro-hartal supporters clashed with police near T&T office at Palashbari upazila headquarters in the morning. The injured cops are Sub-inspector Babul Ahmed and constables Fazlur Rahman and Shaheed Ali.

Lalmonirhat: Export-import through Burimari land port in Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat was normal during yesterday's hartal.

Moulvibazar: Seven pro-hartal pickets were arrested in Moulvibazar town. Inter-district buses were off the

roads during hartal. Brahmanbaria: Police arrested four pickets who hurled brickbats at the on-duty law enforcers on Tufayel Azam Road in the town during hartal.

Jhenidah: All shops and markets remained closed and vehicles were off the roads during hartal. Activities at government offices were normal while attendance at private offices was thin.

Madaripur: Law enforcers also picked up five picketers from town during hartal hour.

Noakhali: At least 15 JCD and Jubo Dal activists were injured as police clubbed pro-hartal activists in Sadar and Sonaimuri upazilas of the district yesterday.

Narayanganj: At least 10 hartal supporters were injured as police charged baton on their rally in Mondolpara area of the town during hartal. Police also picked up three BNP men from the spot.

Barisal: Barring some stray incidents, hartal was by and large peaceful in Barisal. BNP and ruling party activists brought out processions and held rallies at different points in the city. No major incidents occurred during hartal.

CUTTING WATER BODY DYKE IN RANGPUR Police take fish farm's case while turn villagers down

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Authorities of an agricultural farm has lodged a case with Pirganj police station against 30 people of Khearpura village under Mithapukur upazila in connection with the November 22 incident of cutting embankment at the Mithpukur end of Chatra Beel, a large water body in adjoining Pirganj upazila.

During the incident, ansars at Chatra Beel fired at the villagers, causing injuries to seven of them but Mithapukur police did not accept their case in this regard, alleged the affected villagers of Khearpura.

Over forty others also sustained injuries as men of

the owners of the farm attacked them.

Bishwanath, manager of Rabea and Raida Agro Complex Ltd, lodged the case accusing 30 people of Khearpura adjoining Chatra Beel on Saturday, Officer-in-Charge of Pirganj police station Jahangir Alam said.

The villagers with sharp weapons attacked director of the project Fazlul Hoque Bachchu and a team of 20 ansars who were on duty for security at the water body, goes the case statement.

They removed an embankment across the beel and looted fish worth Tk 1.22 crore on

November 22, it adds. The accused villagers have been on the run to avoid

arrest. Sazzad Hossain Sajju, a resident of Khearpura, alleged that Mithapukur police station did not agree to record their case although ansar men fired 25 rounds of bullets on the villagers, causing injuries to several of them.

Admitting that residents of four adjoining villages removed a portion of the embankment allegedly built by the management of Rabea and Raida Agro Complex across Chatra Beel, the affected villagers said the management of the complex lodged seven cases against 200 villagers of Khearpura since 2004.

When asked about the allegation of not receiving the villagers' case, officer-in-

charge of Mithapukur police station Altab Hossain said, "None of the affected villagers came to lodge any case in connection with Chatra Beel incident."

Asked if police themselves can lodge a case when a firing incident takes place, Superintendent of Police Saleh Mohammad Tanvir said, "The deputy commissioner has formed a committee for an executive enquiry to detect whether the ansar members opened fire under necessity without the permission of a magistrate."

"The enquiry has already begun and it would take time to prepare the report," said Mithapukur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Saiful Islam.