

72 hurt, 25 houses vandalised in pre-poll clashes in 3 dists

STAR NATIONAL DESK

At least 72 people were injured and 25 houses vandalised during clashes between the supporters of the prospective candidates in the upcoming elections to union parishads in Shariatpur, Narsingdi and Madaripur districts yesterday.

In Shariatpur, the supporters of two probable chairman candidates clashed in Chitolia Union of Sadar upazila in the morning, leaving at least 45 people from both sides injured, reports our Madaripur correspondent.

Rabiul Alam, officer-in-charge of Shariatpur Sadar Police Station, said the clash ensued following an altercation between the supporters of Abdus Salam, a member of Awami League district unit, and Sirajul Haque Mollah, a local BNP leader and prospective candidate for the post of chairman of Chitolia Union Parishad, at around 10:00am.

Salam's men equipped with lethal weapons first attacked the houses of their rivals, prompting them to retaliate. At least 25 houses were vandalised during the clash.

Of the injured, 31 were admitted to Shariatpur Sadar Hospital while the rest

given first aid. Sadar hospital later referred two of the injured to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital as their condition deteriorated.

Additional police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel have been in the union to avert any further incident.

According to a correspondent from Narsingdi, the supporters of a prospective

chairman candidate in the upcoming election to Nazarpur Union Parishad under Sadar upazila injured two of their rivals in the morning.

The incident occurred at Kalai Gobindapur Natun Bazar in remote char area.

Probable chairman candidate Jalal Uddin Sarker along with some of his supporters went to Kalai

Gobindapur Natun Bazar at around 10:00am to meet the local people and seek their blessings.

Eight to ten youths led by Jebin Gazi, son of sitting chairman of the union Shafiuzzaman Gazi, obstructed them and beat up one of his supporters named Bhutto Sarker.

As Jalal Sarker's brother Safazuddin Sarker rushed to

the spot, the youths hit him with sharp weapons, leaving him seriously injured. They also looted a shop at the bazar.

The youths left the scene, firing blank shots. Safazuddin Sarker and Bhutto Sarker are undergoing treatment at Narsingdi Sadar Hospital. A case was filed with Narsingdi Sadar Model Police Station in the afternoon.

On Thursday, at least 20 people were injured as the supporters of two prospective chairman candidates equipped with three-pointed spears clashed at Anantarampur village under Chardighaldi Union of Narsingdi Sadar upazila.

In Magura, at least 25 people were injured as the supporters of two probable UP member candidates clashed at Kalinagar village in Sripur upazila, reports UNB.

The clash ensued following an altercation between the supporters Gafur and Habibur Rahman over the upcoming polls to Amalsar Union Parishad.

At least four houses and one shop were ransacked and looted during the clash. The injured were admitted to Sripur and Magura hospitals.



PHOTO: STAR

Safazuddin Sarker and Bhutto Sarker, injured allegedly by the men of incumbent chairman of Nazarpur union parishad in Narsingdi Sadar upazila yesterday, undergo treatment at Narsingdi Sadar Hospital.



Growers eye a bumper mango production

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

Growers and agriculture officials are eyeing a bumper production of mango in Chapainawabganj this season as favourable weather conditions have helped large-scale flowering of the mango trees and smooth growth of the delicious summer fruit.

If the helpful weather continues, around two lakh tonnes of mango will be produced in the famous mango-producing district although 1.72 lakh tonnes of mango was produced in the district last year, said officials of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE).

Dr Shafiqul Islam, chief scientific officer of Regional Horticulture Research Station, said there would be a bumper production of mango this year if there is no prolonged draught, storm or foggy weather.

According to the traditional yielding nature, mango trees flower and bear fruits in abundance in alternative years and this year would be considered an 'off year' in view of last year's good production.

"But this nature of the trees has changed as the farmers are now more conscious and they take timely measures for flowering. So trees can now bear the fruit in abundance regularly," Shafiqul Islam said.

"As about 70 per cent mango trees flowered and borne fruits in good amounts, bumper production is expected if the weather continues to remain favourable," Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman, deputy director of Chapainawabganj DAE, said.

Mango growers who started taking good care of the mango trees from December last year are now spraying pesticides on the trees for protection of the fruit.

"If the ideal weather continues, it will lead to bumper production and we hope a good earning this season," said Abul Kashem, a mango grower of Nayalavanga village of Shibganj upazila.

Sources at DAE, Chapainawabganj office said there are 18 lakh 87 thousand and 806 mango trees on 23,700 hectares of land in the district where Shibganj upazila alone has 10 lakh 12 thousand and 855 mango trees on 12,785 hectares of land.

Chapainawabganj, known as the 'mango capital' of Bangladesh, has a long tradition of producing at least 150 varieties of high quality tasty mangoes including fazli, langra, gopalbhog, khirshapat, khirshabhog, lakhna, bombai, mohananda, mohanbhog and ashwina.

Farmers are cultivating different varieties of mango on more areas of lands in the district following repeated bumper production, DAE officials said.

The district produces mango worth Tk 2,500 to 3,000 crore every year, said Abdul Wahed, president of Chapainawabganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mango cultivation is a profitable venture also in a few other districts of the north-western region.

A large number of people are employed for nursing of the mango trees, harvesting the fruit and packing and transporting it to different areas of the country during the mango season every year.

Housewives, schoolgirl commit 'suicide'

Woman hacked to death by step son

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two housewives and a schoolgirl allegedly committed suicide while a middle-aged woman was hacked to death on Friday and the day before.

A housewife allegedly committed suicide by taking pesticide at Mohin village in Jhikargachha upazila of Jessore on Friday.

The deceased was identified as Sabirun Nesa, 22, second wife of Bablur Rahman of the village, reports UNB.

Police quoting family sources said Sabirun locked in an altercation with her husband in the morning over a trifling matter and took pesticide in a bid to commit suicide.

She was rushed to the upazila health complex in critical condition where she died at about 12 noon.

In Pabna, a housewife and a schoolgirl allegedly committed suicide early of Thursday in Chatmohar upazila, reports our correspondent.

The victim were identified as Khaleda Khatun, 25, wife of Shahidul Islam of village Amritakunda and Bina Parvin, 15, a student of class ten at village Siddinagar.

Of them, Khaleda allegedly committed suicide following inhuman torture by husband while the reason for suicide by

Bina could not be known.

Police and family sources said Khaleda's husband Shahidul often tortured her for dowry.

After severe torture on Wednesday night, Khaleda hanged herself from the ceiling of her house, said Sayed Shahid Alam, officer-in-charge of Chatmohar police station.

Bina Parvin allegedly committed suicide after drinking poison at her residence on Wednesday night.

Bina, a student of class ten at Asraf Zindani High School of the upazila was a mental patient, police said quoting her family sources.

In Satkhira, a middle-aged woman was hacked to death by her step son at Senergati village in Tala upazila Friday morning.

The deceased was identified as Bokul Bibi, 45, second wife of Akram Sardar of the village.

Police and local people said Jahangir Alam locked in an altercation with his step mother Bokul over a trifling matter at around 10am.

At one stage, Jahangir hit Bokul with a sharp weapon indiscriminately, leaving her dead on the spot.

The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy. Jahangir went into hiding while a case was filed in this connection.

Elderly man jailed for rape of schoolgirl

Two youths punished for stalking

STAR NATIONAL DESK

An elderly man was jailed for rape on Thursday while two youths were punished for stalking yesterday and the day before.

A court sentenced an elderly man to life term imprisonment in Satkhira on Thursday for violating an eight-year-old girl in 2008, reports our correspondent.

The court also fined Khondokar Omed Ali, 65, of Nagarghata village in Tala upazila Tk 20,000, in default, to suffer three months more RI.

The prosecution story, in brief, is that Omed Ali took the girl to his house at Nagarghata on December 1 in 2008 and raped her.

As the girl raised a hue and cry, villagers rushed to the spot and rescued the victim and sent her to Sadar hospital in critical condition.

The victim's father later filed a case with Patkelghata PS accusing Omed Ali.

Besides, a youth was sentenced to six months' simple imprisonment for stalking a teenage schoolgirl at Chingrikhali in Shyamnagar upazila of the district yesterday.

Shyamnagar upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) Sabbir Ahmed, also the executive magistrate, who led the mobile court, delivered the judgment after hearing both sides.

Convict Uttam Kumar

Mondal, 21, is son of Sukumar Mondal of Saidalipur village in the upazila.

Mobile court sources said, Uttam used to stalk the class nine student of Chingrikhali High School on her way to school and home.

The convict waylaid the girl while she was going to school yesterday morning. As she raised a hue and cry, local people rushed there and caught Uttam red-handed and handed him over to the law enforcers.

Our Kushtia correspondent adds: A mobile court sentenced a young man to one year's imprisonment at Mongolbaria in the town for stalking on Friday evening.

Convict Atair Rahman alias Ati, 25, is son of Motiar of the same village.

Police and locals said Ati used to stalk an HSC student of Kushtia Government College on her way to college and home.

On the day, when the girl went to a nearby shop at Mongolbaria bazar to buy something at about 4:30 pm, Ati made an indecent proposal. The girl cried for help and locals caught Ati on the spot and informed police.

Later the mobile court led by Kushtia Sadar upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) Mamtaz Begum handed down the punishment.

Milon was murdered as he protested teasing of sister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

College student Milon Sheikh was murdered for protesting teasing of his sister by a group of stalkers.

Babul Sheikh, a prominent poultry farm owner said this in his complaint lodged with Khulna Sadar police station on Thursday.

He accused 11 people of killing his nephew Milon Sheikh. Milon Sheikh, 22, son of betel leaf seller Monir Sheikh was stabbed to death at about 8:30 pm on Wednesday at Tootpara. He was a student of first year honours class at Haji Malek College in the city.

The eleven accused are Jitu, Raju, Panna, Munna, Mefta, Shifat, Shagor, Rafin, Shohag, Oliar and Abdul

Follow-up

Mannan.

The complainant said in the FIR that his nephew Milon Sheikh was killed in a pre-planned way for protesting frequent teasing of his sister Mita who is a student of class eight at Sultana Hamid Ali Girls' High School in the city.

On Wednesday noon, Milon had a quarrel with some of the accused over the matter which, at a stage, turned into an exchange of hot and abusive words

between them.

At about 8:30 pm on the day, the accused waylaid Milon Sheikh near Baitur Najat mosque in Mohir Khalpara area of Tootpara. All of a sudden, one of the accused stabbed the college boy in his chest twice killing him on the spot, the complainant said in his FIR.

Of the accused, Munna, Saju and Imran were arrested on Friday evening while seven others are still at large, OC Kamruzzaman said.

Meanwhile, Sub Inspector Habibur Rahman, investigation officer of the case, yesterday took two arrestees Munna and Imran on remand for two days.



PHOTO: STAR

Flood water from hills across the border washed away the road linking the pontoon bridge on the Kangsha River at Thakurkona in Netrakona Sadar upazila on Friday, snapping road communication between Netrakona town and eight upazilas of the district.

People suffer as road to pontoon washed away

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Road communications between Netrakona town and eight upazilas of the district have remained snapped since Friday morning as a portion of the road linking pontoon bridge on the Kongsha River at Thakurkona under Sadar upazila was damaged by onrush of water from hills across the border.

The road was constructed following collapse of the 120-metre-long bailey bridge on the river at this point on November 9 in 2010. The bridge collapsed under heavy pressure of two goods-laden trucks.

This situation has caused untold sufferings to a large number of people including office staffs, businessmen and students.

They are now crossing the river by boats.

Contacted, an official of the RHD said people of the eight upazilas are facing serious trouble due to disruption of the road communication. We are trying to make an alternative arrangement for them, he added.

Uttam Kumar, assistant engineer of Netrakona RHD, told this correspondent that onrush of hill waters from across the border damaged the road.

He further said they will arrange an alternative means of communication as early as possible.

Roads and Highway Department sanctioned Tk 4.53cr for repair of the bailey bridge and assigned a contractor to do the job which is likely to be complete by September this year, RHD sources said.