

# 80 hurt as police clash with Islamist party men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 80 persons including six policemen were injured in a clash between police and leaders and activists of 12 Islamist parties yesterday after Juma prayers in the capital.

Police picked up over 100 activists during chase and counter chase.

The parties brought out the procession demanding withdrawal of cases filed against their activists and supporters during the September 23 hartal, which was called by the parties in protest of the anti-Islam film made in the US.

Witnesses said several hundred people under the banner of the 12 Islamist parties brought out the procession from the north entrance of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque towards Jatiya Press Club after Juma prayer.

When the procession reached Paltan intersection, police threw tear gas shells at the protestors. Law enforcers also shot rubber bullets and charged baton on the protestors, they said.

Witnesses said the protestors retaliated by hurling brick chips at police and the clash spread to adjacent areas.

Khalilur Rahman Madani, joint secretary general of the 12 like-minded parties' alliance committee, told The Daily

Star that they brought out the mass procession peacefully demanding withdrawal of cases filed against their supporters and fulfilment of their religious claims.

"We are doing procession peacefully. Police initially let us to bring out the procession but as we reached Paltan intersection, they attacked on us", Khalilur Rahman said.

About a hundred people were injured in the incident, he claimed. Anwar Hossain, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police of Motijheel Division, said 105 persons were held by police of Paltan and Shahbag police stations in the incident.

He said police used 70 rounds tear gas shell and 60 rounds rubber bullets.

Anwar, however, said the protestors were carrying brick chips in their pockets and bags and they hurled those at police prompting police to hit back.

Transport movement in the area was halted for over an hour causing panic and public sufferings.

The 12 Islamist parties will bring out a countrywide protest rally on October 15 and hold campaigns from October 16 to October 23. If the supporters and leaders are not freed, they will go for tougher movement, said Khalilur.



Police fire tear gas and use batons on a protest procession by 12 Islamist parties in front of Baitul Mukarram Mosque in the capital yesterday. The protesters were demanding withdrawal of the cases filed against the supporters of the parties before and after the September 23 hartal which was called in protest of a US film and cartoons deemed insulting to Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). Inset, two girls, among others, take refuge under a foot overbridge in the area to save themselves from the gas. The protest procession was brought out after Juma prayers.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Buet student dies from electrocution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A student of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) died after being electrocuted during rag day celebration at Abdur Rashid Hall last night.

The deceased, Sourav, 24, was a student of civil engineering. He was supposed to sit for the final exams next week.

Sourav contacted a live wire used in light decorations at the ground floor of the four-storey hall when the students were splashing coloured liquids.

The incident occurred at about 11:30pm. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the on-duty doctor declared him dead.

## ELIMINATING CHILDREN'S DISEASES Bangladesh joins global campaign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 100 Bangladeshi kids in the capital yesterday took part in a global effort to eliminate the diseases which affect the children.

They joined a relay race at Gulshan Youth Club field campaigning to act fast for child survival from diseases including pneumonia, malaria and diarrhoea.

The race titled "Race for Survival 2012" was organised by Save the Children.

Similar races are also being held in 40 countries, including India, Pakistan, Kenya, Indonesia, the Philippines, Cambodia, Australia, and the USA.

The campaigners, including the Bangladeshi ones, are urging their governments for placing a health worker within the reach of every child and ensuring vaccines and nutrition.

The relay races across the world will end on October 16.

From Bangladesh, 105 children joined the race while 2000 children runners from the forty countries joined their respective events.

They competed with the aim of beating the world record marathon (42.195km) time of 2h3m38s set by Patrick Makau, each running approximately 1.4km.

"I wish elders, attracted by our innovative campaign, will now work better for child health," said 12-year-old Ratri of Nari Maitri School in the capital's Goran.

"Children, with their passion and commitment, are the best advocates to encourage the world leaders to take notice and reduce child deaths," said Michael Foley, director of Health and Nutrition Department of Save The Children.

## ENSURING RIGHTS TO TRADITIONAL PRODUCTS Draft act to be finalised by January: Dilip Barua

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will finalise the draft of "Geographical Indication (GI) Act of Bangladesh" within January to ensure entitlement to the country's traditional products and protect the reputation of these products against piracy, Industries Minister Dilip Barua said on Thursday.

GI is a name or sign used on certain products referring to a specific geographical location or the country of origin. It certifies that a product possesses certain quality, is made according to traditional methods or enjoys a certain reputation just because it belongs to a specific geographic location.

"In the absence of the GI act, Bangladesh is going to lose its rights to some traditional products such as Jamdani sari, Nakshikatha and Fazli mango," said Rafiuddin Ahmed, an assistant professor of the marketing department, Dhaka University.

India has already got entitlement of these products as its own traditional goods under its GI act, he told a discussion at the business studies faculty, DU. Compared to other countries, Bangladesh is behind in recognising these products, he said.

"Bangladesh's government should be careful to address this imperative issue to promote local products and save our heritage."

The minister said, "The government

will give importance to recognise the producers or community of different geographical locations, which have earned fame by making products with special qualities and characteristics."

The draft has been posted on the ministry website to take comments from experts and stakeholders before finalising it, he said.

Head of News of Channel 24 Abdun Noor Tushar said the government should finalise the act as early as possible, while Chairperson of Department of Marketing Razia Begum said it was very necessary for the people of Bangladesh to know about this act.

Build Better Bangladesh, a platform of students of the DU marketing department, hosted the discussion.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Prof Deen Mohammad Noorul Huq, director of National Institute of Ophthalmology & Hospital (NIO & Hospital), inaugurates a rally organised by NIO & Hospital that paraded from the south plaza of parliament compound to the eastern end of Manik Mia Avenue in the capital on Thursday to mark World Sight Day.

## Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the 46th death anniversary of Justice Mohammad Ibrahim.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil has been arranged in the capital today morning.

Also, food will be distributed among destitute and floral wreaths will be placed at his grave in the city's Azimpur Graveyard.

## Mukundalal Sarker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 33rd death anniversary of Mukundalal Sarker, a prominent

leader of anti-British movement and a war veteran of 1971.

On the occasion, special prayers will be offered for him at his son's residence in the capital's Lalmatia.

A discussion will be held in his honour at his native village Dharmarayer Bari under Mukedpur in Gopalganj on October 23.

## Syed Ator Ali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Today is the 41st death anniversary of Liberation War organiser Syed Ator Ali.

He was made the political convener of 8 and 9 sectors during the War of Liberation in 1971.

He fell sick while discharging his duties as the convener and died on this day in 1971 while undergoing treatment at a hospital in India.

Magura district unit AL and Syed Ator Ali Public Library have arranged separate programmes, including discussion and milad mahfil, to mark the day.

## Doctor held with human skeletons from India

STAR REPORT

A doctor was held with 10 human skeletons in Sirajganj on Thursday evening on his way to Dhaka from Rajshahi.

In a regular drive, a team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-12) halted a Dhaka bound coach of National Travels from Rajshahi, and recovered the skeletons from three black bags of Dr Tanvir Ahmed, a graduate from Sir Salimullah Medical College.

Police said Dr Tanvir, son of Sohrab Ali Talukder of Pallabi in the capital, works at a private hospital in the capital's Mirpur-14 area after passing his MBBS in 2011.

A case was filed with Bangabandhu Bridge West Police Station in Sirajganj on Thursday night.

Dulal Hossain, sub-inspector at the police station, who is also the investigation officer of the case, told The Daily Star that in preliminary interrogation Tanvir

confessed that he was taking the skeletons from Rajshahi to Dhaka.

The skeletons were not assembled in the bags, the SI said.

Quoting the arrestee Dr Tanvir, Ashok Kumar Pal, assistant superintendent of Rab-12, said the skeletons were being taken to Dhaka for selling those to different private medical colleges and medical students.

Tanvir bought the skeletons with around Tk 20,000 each, and he would sell those for around Tk 40,000, he said.

The skeletons were smuggled from India, and Tanvir collected those with the help of a staff of Rajshahi Medical College, Ashok Kumar said.

Tanvir was involved in the human skeletons business since his student life, he added.

Sources at Dhaka Medical College said human skeletons are smuggled in from India due lack of adequate supply of skeletons in the country.

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