

TEESTA BRIDGE TOLL

# 10 hurt as AL, BNP men clash over tender

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Lalmonirhat

Ten people were injured as activists of ruling Awami League (AL) and main opposition BNP engaged in a clash after the ruling party men allegedly obstructed the BNP men's attempt to drop tender papers at the office of the superintendent of police (SP) in Lalmonirhat town yesterday.

The injured include district Chhatra Dal President

Limon Islam, six other BNP activists and three AL men.

Lalmonirhat district Sramik Dal office on Station Road in the town was also set afire allegedly by AL men during the incident.

"People belonging to both Awami League and BNP came to Lalmonirhat SP office for dropping tender papers for toll collection at Teesta Bridge yesterday noon. AL men dropped their tender documents in the box but a clash occurred when

BNP men tried to drop tender there," said Lalmonirhat Sadar police station OC Jamir Uddin.

Police controlled the situation by firing tear gas shells and charging batons, he added.

"I and some other BNP men went to the SP office for dropping tender documents but failed due to obstruction by Awami League men. They attacked and injured us in presence of police," injured Chhatra Dal leader Limon

Islam said.

"At one stage, a group of Awami League men set fire to Sramik Dal office, destroying furniture worth about Tk five lakh and necessary papers and files. I called the police but they came late, after the ruling party men left the spot. I recognised the attackers," said Omar Faruque Bablu, president of Lalmonirhat district Sramik Dal.

Later fire fighters doused the fire.

"The ruling party activists are now conspiring to lodge false cases against BNP men. Protesting attack on BNP men and setting fire to Sramik Dal office, we will hold a rally in Lalmonirhat town tomorrow [Wednesday]," said Hafizur Rahman Babla, general secretary of Lalmonirhat district BNP.

On the other hand, Motiar Rahman, general secretary of Lalmonirhat district AL, said, "BNP activists attacked and injured some Awami League men at the SP office over tender dropping. The BNP men also attacked police. Awami League men were not involved in setting fire to Sramik Dal office."

Additional policemen have been deployed at important places in the town to prevent further unwanted situation, police said.



PHOTO: STAR

The ruling party men yesterday burn down Sramik Dal office in Lalmonirhat town following a clash with BNP activists over dropping tender papers for toll collection at Teesta Bridge.

OCT 12 INCIDENT AT SZMCH

## Doctors at Bogra hospitals begin four-day strike

A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) yesterday began a four-day work abstention in all government and private hospitals in the district, demanding arrest of the culprits who assaulted the doctors at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital (SZMCH) on October 12.

Sufferings of the patients mounted as doctors started

work abstention from 8:00 in the morning.

Earlier, BMA leaders announced the programme at a press conference at the local BMA building on Monday. The work abstention will continue till Friday, they said.

The leaders of the association alleged that three doctors were assaulted by the relatives of a patient who died at the hospital on Friday.

Abdullahil Baki, adminis-

trative officer of SZMCH, filed a case against 10 people with Sadar police station the following day.

Police said they have already arrested three of the accused and are trying to arrest the remaining seven.

BMA will announce its next course of action on October 20 if their demand was not met by the authorities during the four days of the programme, the leaders said.

## 2 get life for schoolgirl killing in Chuadanga

UNB, Chuadanga

A court here on Monday convicted two youths and sentenced them to life term imprisonment for killing a schoolgirl seven years ago.

The convicts -- Abdur Rashid and Azim, residents of Titudah village of Sadar upazila -- were also fined Tk one lakh each, in default, to suffer five years more RL.

Of them, Azim still remained absconding.

According to the prosecution, a group of youths kidnapped Afroza Begum, 16, a class VI student of Titudah Secondary School in Sadar upazila on the night of December 12, 2005 and killed her. Her body was recovered from a sugarcane field later.

Afroza's father Mujibur Rahman filed a murder case with the local police station.

After investigation, police submitted a charge sheet against Abdur Rashid, Azim, Alauddin and Nazim.

After examining records and witnesses, Abdur Rahman Sarder, additional sessions judge, handed down the verdict.

The court, however, acquitted two suspects -- Alauddin and Nazim -- as the prosecution could not prove the allegation brought against them.



PHOTO: STAR

As Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of Bangalee Hindus, starts across the country on Saturday, an artisan gives final touches to the clay image of the deity at Kahalu Babu Bari puja mandop in Kahalu upazila of Bogra yesterday.

## Four arrested in Mafu murder case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police on Monday night arrested four people in connection with the murder of Jubo league leader Mahfuzur Rahman Mafu from Salgaria on Dhaka-Pabna highway.

The arrestees are Shimul Hossain, 25, Jony Hossain, 24, Rana, 27 and Sumon Hossain, 25 of Krishnapur village under Pabna Sadar upazila. Of them Shimul, Jony and Rana are among the eight accused in the murder case filed by the victim's family, police said.

law enforcers arrested the four from Salgaria bypass at around 11:30 pm. During preliminary interrogation, the arrestees confessed to killing the Jubo League leader, the OC added.

They were produced in the Judicial Magistrate's Court yesterday, seeking a 10-day remand. The court fixed October 18 for hearing on the remand prayer and sent the arrestees to jail.

Mahfuzur Rahman Mafu, senior vice-president of Jubo League Pabna district unit, was stabbed by a gang of criminals at Krishnapur Girls' High School in the town on October, 7.

two local boys called Mafu out of his father-in-law's house at Chak Pailenpur in Sadar upazila at around 9:00pm. They took him to Krishnapur Girls' High School where a gang of criminals stabbed him mercilessly.

The gang admitted seriously injured Mafu to Pabna Medical College Hospital at around 11:30pm and fled the scene. He succumbed to his injuries on the way to the capital.

Mafu's younger brother filed a case against eight ruling party men, including Md Arifuzzaman Rajib, councillor of Ward No 12 of Pabna municipality, the following day.



PHOTO: STAR

Ferry services on Mawa-Kawrakandi route through terminal No 3 resume partially after completion of repair work of the terminal damaged due to severe erosion by the Padma at Mawa in Munshiganj. This photo was taken yesterday morning.

## Mawa ferry services resume after a seven-hour halt

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Munshiganj

Ferry services on Mawa-Kawrakandi route resumed partially yesterday afternoon, after a seven hour halt from 9am, following completion of repair work of terminal no.3.

Meanwhile, among a few hundred vehicles stranded at the terminal, only the smaller ones like private cars were given priority by the ferry authorities.

Due to severe erosion by the Padma, ferry services on Mawa-Kawrakandi route came to a total halt yesterday morning.

The operation stopped after a 120-foot deep hole developed along the terminal No. 3 which was partially running the ferry service alone till Monday.

"We stopped the ferry services as it was not possi-

ble for us to keep the terminal no. 3 operational because of massive erosion. The road to the terminal also caved in", said SM Ashiquzzaman, assistant general manager of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC).

As instructed by the shipping minister, we have already started construction of three new terminals near Rishibari in Mawa, at Mawa intersection and on Bhagyakul road of Kabutarkhana, he said.

Ferry services would be normal in the next seven days as we have decided to work round the clock, he said.

Meanwhile, more than eight hundred vehicles were seen waiting in queues at both ends of the route following suspension of the

ferry service.

Buses and goods-laden trucks were requested to use Patuaria route instead of Mawa until the repair work was finished.

People aboard buses enroute to their destinations faced untold sufferings due to scorching heat and crisis of food and drinking water while businessmen also counted losses as their trucks, mostly with perishable items, had to wait for uncertain period.

Abu Mia, one of the truckers waiting at Mawa to cross the river on way to Bagerhat, said "I came here from Dhaka at 8.00am. I don't know when I will be able to cross the river".

Bus passenger Renu Das said, she was waiting since morning with her three-year-old daughter on way to Bagerhat.

"I don't know whether we will reach home safely", she said.

The authorities on October 9 suspended operation of ferry terminal No. 2 after a portion of it went into the river. Ferry services through the terminal No 1 were also suspended the next day.

However, the operation at terminal-1 resumed after eight hours following repair work.

Later on October 14, five BIWTC staff were injured when the river washed away terminal No. 1 along with at least 15 shops.

Besides, six people went missing as over 100 people fell into the river when a big chunk of earth collapsed due to the erosion.

They are still untraced, said an official at the terminal yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Thirteen suspected militants, arrested from Kalikapur area in Patuakhali town yesterday, line up on the premises of Sadar Police station.

## 13 suspected militants held

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Patuakhali

Police arrested 13 suspected militants from the Kalikapur area in the district town yesterday noon.

The arrestees were identified as Md. Yunus of Bakergonj upazila in Barisal, Mamun of Barisal, Maulana Golam Ambia, Maulana Motiur Rahman and Osman Goni of Sirajganj, Moazzem Ali of Comilla, Nabi Hossain of Keraniganj in Dhaka, Hafez Abdul Awal of Sumaganj, Arukha of Naogaon, Abbas Hossain of Muladi and Golam Morshed of Ujirpur in Barisal, S a h i d u z z a m a n o f Madaripur district and Atikuzzaman of Firmgate area in Dhaka.

Police seized a microbus and recovered four sets of walkie-talkies and belts and shoes used by policemen from their possession.

The arrestees claimed

themselves as the followers of the pir of Babajan Kutubnagh Darbar Sharif at Firmgate in Dhaka.

They came to the area for what they said to motivate local people and spread the message of their pir in the area.

When they reached Town Kalikapur area locals became suspicious of their activities after seeing walkie-talkies in their hands and informed the police.

A police team from Patuakhali police station went to the spot and arrested them.

We are interrogating them to find their real identities, said Md. Monirul Islam, OC of Patuakhali police station.

The arrestee was identified as Azizul Haque, 20, son of Haibat Ali of Sindurkouta village under Gangni upazila in Meherpur, reports our correspondent.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team arrested Azizul at around 10:00am while he was distributing leaflets at the bus terminal.

The low enforcers also recovered books and leaflets from the Hizbut man, said SI Aminul Islam of Sadar model police station.

## No trade at Benapole port for 11 days from Oct 19

UNB, Benapole, Jessore

Import and export activities between Bangladesh and India through Benapole port will remain suspended for 11 days due to Eid-ul Azha and Durga Puja.

Trade between the two countries through the land port will come to a halt from October 19 to 29 and it will resume on October 30, said port sources.

Abdul Aawal, director of Benapole port, however, said unloading of imported goods from Indian trucks will not stop during the suspension of trade.

Akbar Hossain, joint commissioner of Benapole customs, said leave of all the staff at immigration and customs sections has been cancelled to facilitate services for the passport holding travelers during the suspension of trade.

Customs and immigration sections at the port will remain open even on the day of Eid, he said.

ঢাকা শহরের প্রাণকেন্দ্রে ১৫ বিঘা জমি বিক্রয়  
ঢাকা শহরের প্রাণকেন্দ্রে অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ লোকেশনে অতি গুরুত্বপূর্ণ স্থানে কমবেশী ১৫ বিঘা জমি একত্রে অথবা পুট আকারে বিক্রয় হইবে। কেবলমাত্র প্রকৃত ক্রেতাগণ যোগাযোগ করুন।  
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