



PHOTO: STAR

Improvised three-wheelers locally called Bhotbhoti, Nasimon, Kariman, Easy Bike etc ply roads and highways, often with people on the roof, adding to the risk of passengers of the unauthorised vehicles. The photo was taken from Bangabandhu Bridge approach road at Elenga in Tangail district on Monday.

BGB man hurt in attack by human traffickers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

A BGB member was injured in an attack by a gang when the border guards tried to foil human trafficking by them at Baro Achra of Benapole yesterday.

Injured BGB lance nayek Nuruzzaman was posted at Benapole Camp.

Subedar Rafiqul Islam, commander of 26 BGB Benapole Camp, said a gang of human traffickers were trying to take a group of people to India through the border point in the morning.

Being tipped-off, a patrol team of BGB raided the area. At this, the traffickers threw brickbats at the team, leaving Nuruzzaman injured.

BGB later arrested two youths identified as Shaiful Islam and Saiful Islam of Gatipara village in Benapole.

In another drive, BGB members arrested 51 Bangladeshi people, including 12 women and six children while they were crossing the border without valid documents yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a BGB team raided Raghunathpur point and caught them on the spot.

The arrestees hailed from Narail, Faridpur and Gopalgang districts, said BGB Benapole Camp Commander Rafiqul Islam.

12 injured in clash over disputed land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

At least 12 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups over a piece of disputed land at Balarchira village in Sundarganj upazila yesterday.

Of the injured, nine were admitted to the upazila health complex while the rest given first aid.

Police and locals said, there was a longstanding conflict between army man Mozaffer Ali and Abdul Kader Mia of the village over the land.

Mozaffer along with his men came to the land yesterday morning and started erecting a house there.

On information, Kader along with his supporters rushed to the spot and resisted the rival group triggering a clash.

Away in Bagerhat, a young man, who sustained bullet injuries during a clash between two rival groups over taking possession of a land in the char area of Madhumati River in Mollarhat upazila on Saturday, died at a hospital in the capital on Monday night, reports our correspondent.

The deceased was identified as Mohsin Sardar, 25, son of Aual Sardar of Singanti village, said assistant superintendent of police Mahfuzul Alam.

NATORE GUNFIGHT WITH BNP

Bullet-hit Jubo League leader Palash dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Jubo League leader Palash Karmaker, who sustained bullet injuries during a gunfight with BNP in the town on Saturday night, died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital early yesterday.

Palash, 32, joint convener of Jubo League Natore town unit, and Farhad Ali Dewan Shahin, a central committee member of Swetchasebok Dal, were injured by bullets as the activists of Jubo League and BNP locked in a fierce clash near district BNP office at Alaipur in the town at around 11:00pm.

Palash was admitted to Natore Sadar Hospital while Shahin given first. The Jubo League leader was later shifted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at around 4:30am yesterday, said Zillur Rahman, officer-



Palash Karmaker

in-charge (OC) of Rajpara Police Station.

Central BNP leader and former deputy minister Ruhul Kuddus Talukder Dulu was arrested from his Natore residence early Sunday for his alleged involvement in Saturday night's gunfight at Alaipur. District BNP enforced a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the district on Monday protesting the arrest of Dulu.

Shariful Islam Ramzan, Jubo League district unit

president, claimed that his party men brought out a procession in the town on Saturday night protesting the 18-party alliance's blockade programme on Sunday. When the processionists reached near Dulu's residence at Alaipur, BNP men opened fire, leaving Palash injured.

On the other hand, district BNP General Secretary Aminul Haque claimed that Swetchasebok Dal leader Shahin was injured in an armed attack by Jubo League activists at Alaipur.

Immediately after the incident, Mortuza Ali Bablu, Sramik League Natore unit general secretary, filed a case with Natore Sadar Police Station, accusing Ruhul Kuddus Talukder Dulu and 14 other BNP leaders and activists, said Officer-in-Charge Abdullah Al Mamun of the police station.

Man kills his daughter, woman tries to sell son

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A 10-year-old girl was killed allegedly by her father in Netrakona yesterday while a woman was held for allegedly trying to sell her 4-year-old boy in Jessore on Monday.

The first incident took place at Konadohor village in Purbadhola upazila of Netrakona.

The hapless baby was identified as Rokhsana Begum, daughter of Nabi Hossain, reports our correspondent.

Police and locals said, ten years ago Nabi married Ayesha Khanom of the same village. Six months ago, he divorced his wife and Ayesha went back to her father's house.

After the divorce, Nabi used to mentally and physically torture Rokhsana.

On the fateful day, Nabi Hossein hit his daughter Rokhsana with a lethal weapon after an altercation, leaving her dead on the spot.

In Jessore, police arrested a woman on charge of trying to sell her baby at Bezpara in the town on Monday night, reports UNB.

Assistant police superintendent Naimul Islam said, Ayesha of Pirojpur brought her son Alif Ibrahim, 4, to Bezpara to sell him.

A man, Imon driver, brought the woman to the town two days ago.

Tipped off, a team of police, led by Naimul, raided the area and arrested Ayesha and two customers while bargaining on the amount.

The two other arrestees were identified as Intiaj Khan alias Guddu and his relative Rahima Khatun of Bezpara in the town.

Imon, however, managed to flee the scene.

Being hit by extreme poverty, Ayesha came to Jessore for selling her baby to Rahima, said police.

Violent acts mark 18-party enforced shutdown in dists

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The countrywide daylong shutdown enforced by BNP-led 18-party alliance passed off amid vandalism, arson attacks, bomb blasts and clashes between pickets and law enforcers in different districts yesterday, report our correspondents.

At least 82 people were injured in clashes and over 50 vehicles were vandalised and set afire during hartal hours. Police arrested 212 pickets from different districts.

In Narayanganj, police picked up at least 16 Jamaat-Shibir men and Narayanganj district BNP General Secretary ATM Kamal from a procession in Chashara area of the city. Pickets vandalised several vehicles in the area.

Police also detained Fatulla Swetchasebok Dal President Md Shamim, three Jamaat and seven Shibir activists from the area in the morning.

Besides, BNP men set fire to a bus and two trucks at Kanchon under Rugganj upazila during hartal hours.

In Chittagong, pro-hartal activists torched a bus at Chandganj in the city at around 9:45am. Later, police picked up city BNP Vice-President Abu Sufian from Bahaddarhat.

Five pickets were also arrested at Sagarika intersection in the port city. The pro-hartal activists set a bus afire near Boropool at Halishahar at around 11:45am. Bus driver Md Hassan sustained burn injuries.

Habibur Rahman, deputy commissioner (west zone) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police, said law enforcers picked up 20 pickets from the area on charge of setting fire to the bus.

In Rajshahi, at least 10 people, including a police officer, were injured during a clash between police and pickets at Charghat in the morning.

Of the injured, Ziaul Haque, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Charghat Police Station, was admitted to the upazila health complex while the rest were given first aid.

The pickets vandalised a microbus and torched three motorbikes during the clash. Police fired at least 20 tear gas shells and 30 rubber bullets to bring the situation under control, said Emran Hossain, additional superintendent of police, Rajshahi. Police also picked up 30 pro-hartal men from the scene, he added.

In Khulna, at least 25 people, including two cops, were injured during sporadic clashes between police and pro-hartal activists in different areas of the city during hartal.

Pro-hartal activists set fire to several vehicles. Police picked up 36 BNP and JCD men, including district BNP Vice-President Kawser Jamadder.

On Monday night, police arrested 10 BNP and JCD men, including Shafiqul Alam Mona, general secretary of BNP Khulna district unit from their houses.

In Sylhet, at least 10 people, including two photojournalists, were injured during a clash between JCD

and BCL men in the city's Khojarkhola area.

Injured photojournalists are Ashkar Amin Rabbi of Kaler Kantha and Nurul Islam of local daily Sylhet Surma. They were admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Police arrested two JCD men from Dakkhin Surma area, said Rezaul Karim, deputy commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police (SMP).

Md Nasir Uddin, officer-in-charge of Dakkhin Surma Police Station, said police chased JCD men as they were hurling brick chips at the law enforcers from a procession in the area at around 12:30pm.

Sylhet district and city AL units took out an anti-hartal procession from Court Point area. City Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran, Zila parishad administrator Abduj Jahir Chowdhury Sufian, and lawmaker Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury also joined the procession.

In Rangpur, police detained two Jamaat-Shibir activists, Abdullah Morsalin, 24, and Anwarul Islam, 30, on charge of vandalising vehicles in Dharmadash area of the city during hartal.

Altaf Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said the two were arrested while damaging vehicles in the area.

In Lalmonirhat, at least seven people, including district BNP General Secretary Hafizur Rahman Babla and two policemen, sustained injured during sporadic clashes between pro-hartal activists and police at Mission Road and Mahendranagar areas of the town.

Law enforcers fired several rounds of rubber bullets and teargas shells to disperse the pickets from Mission Road area.

Pro-hartal activists vandalised two buses in Mahendranagar area. Police fired tear gas shells and rubber bullets to disperse the pickets and arrested seven of them from the spot.

In Pabna, BNP and AL activists clashed in Ishwardi, leaving at least 10 people from both sides injured. Train services between Dhaka and northern districts remained halted for two hours from 7:00am as pro-hartal activists put up barricades on track in Ishwardi.

Police and locals said pro-AL activists swooped on an AL procession near Ishwardi bus stand, prompting the AL men to retaliate. Both sides traded several rounds of bullets and exploded bombs during the clash.

Later, the AL men vandalised the residence of Md Jewel, convener of Ishwardi municipality unit of Swetchasebok Dal, and ATM booth of Islami Bank in Ambagan area.

In Chapainawabganj, police arrested 25 BNP, Jamaat and Shibir activists from five upazilas on Monday night and a BNP activist named Sarwar Hossain from Biswa Road intersection in the town during yesterday's hartal.

In Manikganj, ten pro-hartal activists were injured when police charged batons on their procession in bus stand area of the town yesterday.

Sramik Dal leader Abdul Kader, JCD activists Razib Hasan Khan, Ramil, Tanvir, and Yusuf, and Juba Dal leader Bashir Uddin are among the injured.

Besides, police picked up four BNP men from Ghior while they were picketing on the roads.

In Gaibandha, activists of BCL vandalised district BNP office at Circular Road in the town during hartal hours.

In Palashbari upazila, a pick up van, carrying food for cops, came under attack by pro-hartal picketers. They vandalised the vehicle and later set it afire. Two policemen received injuries during the attack. Police lobbed tear gas shell and fired blank shots to disperse the pickets. They arrested five people for picketing.

In Narsingdi, law enforcers picked up 15 people, including BNP town unit President Golam Kabir Kamal, from a procession at Bamundi intersection at around 8:45am.

In Feni, pickets set fire to a covered van on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Mohammad Ali Bazar in Sadar upazila at around 4:00am.

Pickets exploded at least four bombs on the highway at Mohipal near the district town in the morning.

In Mymensingh, at least 10 pickets were picked up from Mymensingh town and Bhaluka upazila during hartal hours.

Motaleb Mia, officer-in-charge of Bhaluka Police Station, said seven pro-hartal activists were held on charge of vandalising a police van at the upazila headquarters.

In Bogra, Jubo Dal and Jubo League men clashed at Satmatha in Bogra town, leaving at least ten people from both sides injured.

Pickets exploded at least three cocktails in front of Bogra Sadar Police Station at 8:30am.

They vandalised and torched several vehicles at Nawdapara, Puran Bogra, Tinmatha intersection and Charmatha bus terminal in the town.

Police picked up two pickets from Charmatha area in the morning.

In Bagerhat, police arrested four Jamaat men, including district unit President Ajmal Hossain from Adalat area on Bagerhat-Khulna highway at around 7:00am.

Pickets vandalised three motorcycles in Dema area in the morning.

In Sirajganj, at least five people were injured during a clash between pro-hartal activists and police at Rahmatganj in Sadar upazila.

Pickets vandalised at least 15 vehicles on Bangabandhu Bridge approach road and two trucks in Mirpur area.

Besides, law enforcers arrested 29 BNP and Jamaat men from different areas of the town on Monday night on change of vandalism during 18-party alliance's road blockade programme on Sunday.

Month of Victory

House allocated to FF's widow 20 years ago still eludes her

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Widow of a freedom fighter is living amid misery in a makeshift room on a railway land in Bangalipur Mahalla of Saidpur municipality under the district as she is yet to get possession of a government allocated house, despite receiving its official documents 20 years ago.

Rezia Khatun, 65, wife of late freedom fighter Moharram Ali, got allotment of a five-decimal land with a tin-shed house (No 204) at Golahat in Saidpur municipality on December 12, 1992, said sources of Saidpur upazila unit of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad.

The then Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC -- Revenue) of Nilphamari handed over relevant land documents to Rezia Khatun and directed the then government surveyor of Saidpur to hand over the house to her.

But due to negligence of the officials concerned and conspiracy of a vested quarter, Rezia is yet to get possession of the house, sources said.

"Abdul Gani, a retired sub inspector (SI) of police, who managed to get allotment of an abandoned house (No 205) beside my allotted house (No 204) a few years ago, forcibly occupied my house and made it an



Rezia Khatun, widow of late freedom fighter Moharram Ali, still waits to get possession of the house (marked X) allocated to her 20 years ago at Golahat in Saidpur municipality.

PHOTO: STAR

extended part of his house," Rezia Khatun said.

"I fail to get elated even on the Victory Day and the Independence Day as I have no value in the society as a freedom fighter's widow," said Rezia in a choked voice.

Her only son died in an accident a few years ago. Ekramul Haque, commander of Saidpur upazila unit of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad, said, "I requested the officials

concerned a number of times to make arrangement as per law to hand over the house to Rezia Khatun, the real allottee, but to no effect yet."

"The office of Public Works Department in Nilphamari issued a letter in 2003, terming the retired police officer as an illegal occupant, and asked him to vacate the house. In reply, the latter claimed that he was not in possession of house No 204,"

Ekramul added.

When contacted, Abdul Gani said, "The government had allocated 18 decimals of land with a house (No 205) for me. Some quarters claim a portion of my house to be allotted house of the widow. But it is not true, as it does not bear the inscription of house No-204. I don't know where the house No 204 is situated."

Visiting the spot on Saturday, this correspondent found that there was no number plate inscribing house No 204.

Perhaps someone removed it to make actual location of the house allocated for Rezia Khatun unidentifiable, said a few locals, adding that the boundary wall of house No 205 belonging to retired SI Abdul Gani was extended to occupy Rezia's house.

On November 28 this year, Rezia Khatun lodged a written petition to the deputy commissioner, also president of 'committee for allotment of government's abandoned properties', seeking help to get the possession of her government allocated house.

On contact, ADC (Revenue) SAM Rafiqunnabi said he did not know the actual position of the house under question. He, however, assured taking necessary step after gathering information.

Housewife killed over dowry

UNB, Pabna

A young housewife was killed allegedly by her husband at Dubla village in Sadar upazila early Monday.

The deceased was identified as Sonia Khatun, 20, wife of Rajib Hossain, 26, of Mondal Para at the village.

Victim's uncle Afsar Ali said, Sonia, daughter of Osman Gani of the village in the upazila, was married off to Rajib, son of Siraj Mondal,

about one year ago.

Sonia's family gave Rajib Tk 60,000, gold ornaments and other goods worth Tk two lakh as dowry during their marriage.

But Rajib demanded more money from Sonia's father. Failing to realise the dowry, he started to torture Sonia which forced her to return to her father's house seven months ago.

Recently, Sonia gave birth to a baby boy.

On Sunday evening, Rajib came to the house of his father-in-law in the name of settling the conflict.

But he strangled his wife and fled the scene in the early hours of Monday.

Police recovered the body in the morning and sent it to Pabna Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Sonia's father filed a case against Rajib with local police station.