

SATURDAY'S POST-ELECTION CLASH

200 sued in Rangpur on killing charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

As many as 200 people have been sued on charge of killing a supporter of a defeated councillor candidate during a post-election clash in Rangpur city on Saturday morning.

Foteh Ali Khan, elder brother of slain Dalim Hossain, filed the case with Sadar Police Station on Sunday night. Of the accused, 78 are identified while rest unnamed.

Dalim was critically injured during the clash between the supporters of Belal Hossain and Shamsul Alam, two councillor candidates from Ward No 31, in Kishamat-Bishu area of the city at around 11:00am on Saturday.

He succumbed to his injuries at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) at around 5:00pm on the day.

According to police and local people, the clash ensued when Shamsul's men equipped with lethal weapons attacked the house of Belal in the area, prompting his supporters to retaliate.

At least 16 people, including Dalim, were injured during the clash that continued for half an hour. Dalim was a supporter of Belal.

Being informed, police rushed to the spot and dispersed the clashing groups. They also arrested Shamsul, Mokshed, Hamidul, Selim and Apple from there.

Locals said the clash was

a sequel to an altercation between the supporters of the two councillor candidates on Thursday night. They blamed each other for their defeat in the election soon after the results were announced.

Altaf Hossain, officer-in-charge of Rangpur Sadar Police Station, said law enforcers have so far arrested 13 of the 78 identified accused in the case.

Drive is on to arrest the rest of the accused, he added.

After post-mortem examination at RMCH, police handed over Dalim's body to his family members on Sunday afternoon. Later, he was buried at the family graveyard at Kishamat-Bishu area.



One of the agitating general students of Islamic University lies on the Kushtia-Khulna highway during the road blockade programme yesterday. The students also blocked the road on Sunday, demanding immediate resumption of their classes and examinations.

IU DEADLOCK DRAGS ON Students again block road

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The agitating general students of Islamic University (IU) again blocked Kushtia-Khulna highway yesterday, demanding immediate resumption of their classes and examinations.

Around 1000 students took out a procession on the campus at around 10:00am and besieged the administrative building for half an hour.

They later put up barricades on Kushtia-Khulna highway in front of the university, disrupting traffic for two hours from 11:00am.

On Sunday, the general students also blocked the road for one and a half hours from 11:00am to press home their demand.

Yesterday, they withdrew the barricades at around 1:00pm after Deputy Commissioner (DC) Sayed Belal Hossain assured them of making an effort to end the deadlock that has been prevailing at the university since September 8.

The students sought prime minister's intervention in resolving the crisis and submitted a memorandum to her through the deputy commissioner.

Proctor Prof Akhtarul Islam, who also went to the spot to pacify the students, was manhandled by them. Police rescued the proctor and took him to the campus.

Academic activities at the university came to halt on September 8 due to a deadlock that followed controversy over recruitment of 132 teachers and officials on the previous day.

Islamic University Teachers Association (IUTA) began agitation on September 8 demanding removal of the vice chancellor, pro-vice chancellor and treasurer for their alleged involvement in irregularities in the recruitment of the teachers and officials.

They have been continuing agitation for the last three and a half months to press for their demand. Yesterday, they observed token hunger strike and held a rally in front of the administrative building with IUTA President Prof Yakub Ali in the chair. Around 200 teachers joined the programme.

The rally was addressed, among others, by IUTA General Secretary Prof ASM Tariqul Islam, Bangabandhu Parishad IU unit General Secretary Prof Ruhul Kuddus Saleh, Prof Mahbubur Rahman, law faculty dean Prof Shahjahan Mondol, Business faculty dean Prof Mizanur Rahman, Prof Mamunur Rahman, Dr Baqi Billah.

The speakers urged the government to break the deadlock by appointing honest and competent persons as new vice chancellor, pro-vice chancellor and treasurer, removing the present ones.



Migratory birds swimming in a water body, while some others fluttering over it at Dhalchar in Charfashion upazila under Bhola district, offer a captivating sight.

Migratory birds chirping in thousands in coastal areas

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Vast coastal areas, especially the forests and marshy lands in Patuakhali and Bhola districts, are now lively with fluttering and chirping of thousands of winter migratory birds.

A visitor to Sonar Char, Char Bestin, Char Kazal, Char Biswas in Patuakhali and Dhal Char and Char Kukrikuki in Bhola would often see flights of the birds that have found the areas their temporary abode.

Eagle, falcon, cedar waxwing, wall creeper, white-throated dipper, vultures, buzzards, bar-tailed godwit, swallow, pink-footed goose, black-tailed godwit, northern pintail, patisarali, rajsarali, heron, and

pochard are some of the most common migratory birds thronging the forests and wetlands in Patuakhali and Bhola region.

To protect themselves from the terrible cold of the northern countries, migratory birds start coming to Bangladesh in November and stay till late January, said Pijush Kanti Hori, former chairman of zoology department of Patuakhali Government College.

"During winter, around 1.50 lakh migratory birds belonging to at least 130 species come from cold countries like Siberia to the coastal areas of Patuakhali, Bhola and Noakhali districts. The birds prefer forests and wetlands that provide them sufficient food

and shelter," said Pijush, also a bird specialist.

"But the number of birds sees decrease every year due to various causes like disturbance by local hunters, increased salinity on land and consequent food shortage, depletion of forest lands in these areas. We should create awareness among the people to ensure better protection for the birds as they are part of our environment," he added.

Devdas Mukharjee, range office of forest department at Char Montaz under Rangabali upazila in Patuakhali district, said, "Despite manpower crisis, we are trying our best to save abode of the migratory birds from hunters."

For whose mistake they suffer?

A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Hundreds of teachers of 50 institutions in Adamdighi upazila have been facing untold sufferings as they could not draw their salaries of November allegedly due to faulty monthly payment order (MPO) sheet.

MPO listed teachers were scheduled to draw salaries on December 17 and 24 from Sonali Bank Adamdighi branch.

But the bank could not give salaries due to the fault made by the education ministry, alleged the teachers.

Manager of the bank Sarifuddin said there was a mistake in the salary sheet.

Assistant professor of Santahar Shahid Ahsanul Haque College Abul Kalam Azad sought education minister's intervention to solve the matter immediately.

BSF torures 2 youths of C'nawabganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Indian Borders Security Force (BSF) picked up two youths from Masudpur frontier, tortured them and left them in serious condition at a point of the border in Shibganj upazila early yesterday.

The youth were identified as, Kasimuddin, 19, son of Mohammad Tipu and Mohammad Rafique, 25, son of Moful Ali of Thuta para of Monakasha union under the upazila.

Quoting locals, Major Sheikh Mizanur Rahman, Deputy Commanding Officer of 9 BGB Battalion in Chapainawabganj, said two local youths -- Kasimuddin and Rafique -- were going to India illegally. When the due reached Masudpur border, Border Security Force men from ShovapurcampinMalda under Paschimabanga caught them at around 1:00 am. They beat them up mercilessly and later left them at a border point.

BGB said, they were preparing to send a note to BSF yesterday protesting torture of the two Bangladeshi youths.

Away in Jessore, a meeting between Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) was held at Haridaspur BSF camp, opposite to Benapole border yesterday, reports our Benapole correspondent.

Sources said, a joint border inspection began on Indian side at around 10:00am where Col Iqbal Hossain, Khulna BGB sector commander, led the Bangladesh team while ND Proshad, Kolkata Deputy Inspector General of BSF, led the Indian team.

Besides border pillar inspection, the two sides at a meeting discussed BSF firing, smuggling, trafficking of women and children, intrusion, arms and drug trafficking, torture and killing of innocent people.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Girl commits 'suicide'

UNB, Benapole, Jessore

A college girl allegedly committed suicide over a trifling matter at Rahelapur village in Sadar upazila early yesterday. The deceased was identified as Tazrin Khatun, 16, daughter of Robiul Islam of the village. Police said Tazrin locked in an altercation with her mother over her study at night. Incensed, she killed herself by hanging from a ceiling fan early in the morning. On information, police recovered the body and sent it to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

Indian goods seized

UNB, Chapainawabganj

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized huge Indian goods worth Tk 48 lakh from Chhoyrosia area in Sadar upazila on Sunday morning. A gang of smugglers left 25 sacks in Chhoyrosia field at around 11:00am, sensing a patrol team of BGB-9, said Lt Col Manzurul Alam of the battalion. The sacks were full of shawls, jackets, sweaters, shits and pants, various types of cosmetics and electronic products, he said.



Marma Students Council formed a human chain in front of the new court building in Rangamati town on Sunday demanding arrest and exemplary punishment of the culprits who killed indigenous girl Thoma Ching Marma after rape at Baradolupara village in Kawkhali upazila of the district on Friday.

Future of Khulna textile village hangs in balance

UNB, Khulna

Future of the proposed Khulna textile village hangs in the balance leaving the people of the district doubtful about the project.

Work on the project has remained stalled for several years now due to callousness of the textiles and jute ministry and complexities caused by three cases filed.

Khulna Textile Mill was established on 26 acres of land near Boyra main road in the city in 1931.

The mill was run by Adamjee until 1970 and its ownership was later transferred to Arshad Group in April, 1972.

It was later nationalised in the same year. There are now 32 people, 17 of them guards, employed at the mill which was declared closed in 1993.

The authorities started the work on establishing a textile village there after selling goods of the textile mill.

In 1999, the government gave approval to the work in the form of a project.

Around Tk 6 crore was allocated for the project in several phases.

With the implementation of the project, about 12,000 people would get employment opportunity, hoped the authorities.

But the work of the project remains halted for bureaucratic tangles and the cases filed against the mill.

Rupali Bank regional branch filed a case demanding repayment of Tk 2.8 crore loan in 2003, of which the authorities have already paid Tk 50 lakh.

But the bank authorities revived the case as the management of the mill did not pay the rest Tk 1.58 lakh due by 2011.

Mahmud Ali Mridha, a trader of Dhaka, filed a writ petition with the High Court, demanding Tk one crore share of the mill in 2010.

Abdul Majid, an ex-employee of the mill, and his associates filed a case in 2011 claiming the ownership of 46 decimals of land of the mill.

All the three cases are under trial, sources said.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH/ STAR

TIME FOR DRIED FISH: As winter is considered to be the peak season for drying fish, workers busy processing them at Nazirtek, one of the largest dried fish processing areas of the country, in Cox's Bazar, right, the same activities are on at Kuakata sea beach in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali.