

REPERCUSSION OF FRIDAY'S ATTACK ON JOURNALISTS

# Agitated locals set 50 houses of 'drug peddlers' on fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Hundreds of agitated locals vandalised and then set more than 50 houses of alleged drug peddlers on fire at Sawdagor Para in Hamidpur area of Ghatail upazila yesterday noon after a gang attacked three journalists on Friday evening.

The protesters at first blocked the Tangail-Mymensingh highway in the morning, demanding arrest of the culprits who swooped on the newsmen.

Later they went to Sawdagor Para, on the border of Ghatail and Kalihati upazilas, and vandalised the house of the local drug trader Faruque Miah. After that, they also set on fire at least 50 houses there terming those as dens of the drug traders.

Police from Ghatail and Kalihati police stations and members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) from Tangail rushed to the spot control the agitating people.

Police fired 58 rubber bullets to disperse the crowd, sources at two police



PHOTO: STAR

**Locals vandalise and set fire to dozens of houses allegedly belonging to drug traders at Sawdagorpara village in Hamidpur area of Ghatail upazila under Tangail district yesterday, apparently in retaliation for the drug traders' attack on three journalists of Ekattor TV Channel on Friday.**

stations said.

Two Fire Service and Civil Defence units from Tangail and Madhupur extinguished the fire at around 4:00pm.

Locals said around 50

drug peddlers attacked three journalists of private television - 'Channel' 71. Identified as the channel's staff reporter Faisal Alam, Tangail district reporter SM Razzak and videographer

Manzur Rashid Mamun, they were going to Sawdagor Para at 6:00pm on Friday for covering a report on drug peddling.

The gang hit them with sticks and sharp weapons

indiscriminately, leaving them injured.

The gang also took away all the valuables of the journalists including their camera, mobile telephone sets and cash money during the attack.

Locals later rescued the injured journalists and admitted them to the Kalihati upazila health complex.

After the incident, Faisal Alam, injured staff reporter of Ekattor television, filed a case with Ghatail police station yesterday in this regard.

Earlier, Ghatail police in a raid on Friday night rounded up 20 alleged drug peddlers at Sawdagor Para and recovered the snatched camera of the television journalists.

Fazlul Kabir, officer in-charge (OC) at Ghatail police station, told this correspondent that they were trying to nab all the culprits involved in the attack on journalists.

Zahirul Islam, officer in-charge (OC) of Kalihati police station, said they were assisting Ghatail police in this regard.

## Week-long Sultan Mela opens in Narail today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail

A seven-day Sultan Mela (fair) will begin on the premises of Government Victoria College in Narail today, marking the 88th birth anniversary of renowned artist SM Sultan.

SM Sultan Foundation and Narail district administration have jointly organised the fair with support from Grameenphone and the cultural affairs ministry.

State Minister for Labour and Employment Begum Monnujan Sufian will inaugurate the fair at 3:00pm. It (fair) has been taking place for almost a decade not only to celebrate the birth anniversary of the celebrated artist but also to patronise the indigenous art and culture.

Senior officials of the district administration and Grameenphone will attend the inaugural session. A number of activities such as art exhibition, art competition, bullfight, horse-cart race, ha-do do, wrestling, volleyball and women's kabadi will be the main features of the fair.

During the week-long



A file photo shows SM Sultan playing a tune on flute, his favourite musical instrument. A week-long fair on the 88th birth anniversary of the famous painter will open in Narail today.

fair, cultural and musical programmes and discussion on the life and work of the artist will also be held. The fair will conclude on January 19.

Organisers said, 'SM Sultan is our pride. His paintings have always inspired us to patronise the rich art and culture of Bangladesh.'

He was born at Masimdia village under Sadar upazila in Narail on August 10, 1923. A

children's art competition will also be held on the premises of SM Sultan Art Museum at Masimdia.

The birth anniversary of the pioneer artist of the country was being celebrated in December every year. But the district administration started celebrating his birth anniversary in January instead of December from 2012 due to unavoidable circumstances.

### SNAPS AND SNIPPETS



PHOTO: COURTESY

**Shahadat Hossain, director of Prime Bank Ltd, distributed blankets among the cold-hit people on the premises of Shahadat Hossain Primary School at Khordo Rangpur in Mahiganj of Rangpur district recently.**

### Ex-PCJSS man abducted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A former member of Santu Larma-led Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) was allegedly abducted from Khabangpudia area under Sadar upazila on Thursday. The victim was identified as Sunandu Bikash Chakma Ranan, 55, son of Bipin Chandra Chakma of the area in the district town. Assistant Press and Information Secretary of PCJSS Sajib Chakma alleged that a group of armed criminals abducted Sunandu around 07:00pm of Thursday on his way back home in Khabangpudia area. Contacted, Khagrachhari Sadar police said that nobody filed any complaint in this regard till yesterday evening.

### Bomb blast kills youth

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

A youth, who was injured while allegedly making a bomb at Baropota village in Benapole on Thursday, died on Friday night. The deceased was identified as Robiul Hossain Rabi 40, son of Sajjad Morol of the village under Benapole Port PS. Faruk Hossain, officer in-charge of Benapole police station, said injured Robi was a member of an outlawed party. Robi was first taken to Jessore General Hospital and then sent to Dhaka. But he succumbed to his injuries on the way at night.

### Patricide in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A man was killed allegedly by his son in Shalban area of the city on Friday. The deceased was identified as Abdur Rashid, 60, son of late Afcharul Islam of the area. He was an ex-army officer. Police and local sources said Rashid used to torture his wife over family matters for long. Rashid beat up his wife following an altercation over the matter on Friday night. Angered, Sayem, 23, hit Rashid with a brick chip to save his mother. Later, Rashid succumbed to his head injuries at Rangpur Medical College and Hospital. Police arrested Sayem and his mother in this connection.

### Jasim Mela in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A fair was inaugurated at Ambikapur village in the district yesterday marking the 110th birth anniversary of Polli Kobi Jasimuddin. The district administration and Jasim Foundation jointly organised the fortnight-long fair. A discussion was held at Jasim Mancha with Mainuddin Ahmed, deputy commissioner, in the chair on the first day yesterday. Among others, SM Nurunnabi, central presidium member of Awami League, Kazi Zainul Abedin, president of district unit and human rights activist Asma Akter Mukta, spoke. Over 200 stalls have been set up at the fair, said organisers.

## 50 injured in Sirajganj BCL-JCD clash

### 11 cops among the injured

UNB, Sirajganj

Over 50 people, including 11 policemen, were injured in a clash between the activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at Sirajganj Government University College yesterday.

Police said, the feuding groups hurled brickbats and attacked each other with sticks during the hour long

clash, which took place at about 2:00pm over establishing their supremacy on the campus.

Police fired 31 teargas shells and 39 rubber bullets to bring the situation under control.

Two people were arrested from the spot. Three shops and two houses were also ransacked and two other shops came under arson attack during the clash.

In Bogra, a young man

was killed in a clash following a dispute over a piece of land at Uttar Soratoli village in Gabtoli upazila on Friday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Amirul Islam, 30, son of Feka Ali of the village.

Police said there had been a longstanding dispute between Amirul and his rivals Zuhurul Islam and Sohel of Soratoli village over a piece of land.

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