

RIVAL VILLAGERS CLASH IN C'NAWABGANJ

# Man killed, 20 hurt, 50 houses set on fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Chapainawabganj

A man was killed and 20 others were injured in fierce clashes between the local supporters of ruling Awami League and BNP at four villages in Shibganj and Sadar upazilas yesterday.

Both groups vandalised, looted and set more than 50 houses on fire. They also admitted handmade bombs during the clashes.

The deceased was identified as Nairul Islam, 45, son of late Khoka Biswas of

Miratuli village under Nayalavanga union in Shibganj upazila.

Three seriously injured are Sakib, 35, son of Shish Mohammad, Mohammad Manik, 30, and his father Mohammad Faku, 60, of Miratuli village. They were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

Police and Rab were deployed at the villages to bring the situation under control.

Police and villagers said, there had been a long-standing conflict between the

supporters Ashraf Haque, Chairman of Nayalavanga Union Parishad, also a local BNP leader and Moshtaqul Alam Pintu, local AL leader over establishing supremacy in the area.

Yesterday's clashes were a sequel to Friday's skirmish between the two rival groups following an altercation over a trivial issue at Nayalabanga village in Shibganj upazila.

Supporters of Ashraf yesterday attacked the houses of Pintu supporters of Babupur in Shibganj

upazila and adjacent Sonapur village in Sadar upazila with handmade bombs, sharp weapons and sticks at around 9:00am.

They also vandalised a few houses and injured Nairul seriously.

Nairul succumbed to his injuries on the way to Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital at around 1:00pm. Police recovered the body and sent it to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

Hearing the news, agitated supporters of Pintu rushed to Sundarpur, Miratuli, Birhampur and Sonapur villages and attacked the houses of Ashraf supporters with sharp weapons, sticks and handmade bombs.

They also vandalised, looted and then set at least 50 houses on fire.

During the clash, at least 20 people were injured.

Villagers said, both the groups are supporters of two influential men who have strong backing from the two major political parties.

On information, police and Rab rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Contacted, AZM Sharif Hasan, upazila nirbahi officer of Shibganj and Shakiluzzaman, ASP of Sadar Circle, said that additional forces were deployed in the area to tackle the situation.



PHOTO: STAR

Over 50 houses at four villages under two upazilas of Chapainawabganj district were damaged, looted and set on fire during clashes between the supporters of Awami League and BNP yesterday. Photo shows a torched house at Birampur village in Shibpur upazila.



PHOTO: STAR

Fertiliser-laden cargo vessels get anchored on the Jamuna River only a few kilometres from Baghabari as they cannot reach the river port due to lack of adequate navigability during the ongoing dry season.

## POOR NAVIGABILITY ON ROUTE TO BAGHABARI PORT

# 22 fertiliser-laden vessels stuck in Jamuna River

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Pabna

Ramkrishnapur points of the river for over a week.

"Twenty-two fertiliser laden vessels, each carrying more than 10 feet draft load, have remained stranded at Andharmankhan and Dholchhari points for the last three days. The fertilisers are being taken to Baghabari port under Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC), port sources said.

The

navigability problem hampers movement of vessels at Char Shibaloy, Char Safuria, Char Rafsha, New-Bhatiapara, Koitala, Awalbandh, Nakalia, Panchakola, Char Panchakola, Maladapara, Mohonganj, Andharmanik, Dholchar, Mollar Char and

Haque said, "We started dredging at Mollar Char and Ramkrishnapur on Saturday as the two points are vulnerable for movement of vessels due to poor navigability. The problem will be gone within one or two days."

"We asked the vessel operators to carry 6.5 to 7 feet draft load during this time of poor navigability. But most of the vessels carried 10 to 11 feet draft load and so, they could not reach Baghabari port," he said.

Meanwhile,

a BIWTC official seeking anonymity said, "BIWTC sent a letter to BIWTA in June last year, urging steps to conduct dredging in the most vulnerable areas before the crisis

period begins. But the BIWTA has taken step only after several vessels stuck on the riverbed due to the navigability problem during the last one week."

Port lease-holder Abdus Salam said, "Each stranded cargo vessel has to count additional Tk 30 to 40 thousand to carry fertiliser to Baghabari port with the help of lighters. There is no alternative to ensure navigability through proper dredging for solving the problem."

If continues for long, the navigability problem will eventually affect supply of fertilisers during the Irrigation season, adding to the production cost of the crops, said stakeholders.



## Farmers at 8 villages opt for chemical free veg

S DILIP ROY, LALMONIRHAT

compost in June this year.

"I produced 56 kgs of compost fertiliser with the help of the earthworm and cultivated bottle gourd, cucumber and coriander on 16 decimals of land beside our homestead."

"Although I didn't use any chemical fertiliser and insecticides in the vegetable field, I am getting expected production," she said.

Basonti said she sells vegetables in the local market after meeting her family demand.

Bijo Rani, 45, wife of Krishna Kanto Roy at the same village said that with the help of 430 pieces of earthworms in August she produced 32 kgs compost.

"I cultivated bean, spinach and other vegetables on 10 decimals and got a good output. Many local people now purchase vegetables from me," she said.

Babul Chandra Roy of Panchagram village, who cultivated several items on his 22 decimals, said chemical free vegetables are in

## 2 housewives murdered

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two housewives were murdered allegedly by their husbands in Manikganj and Pabna districts yesterday and on Friday.

A woman was killed allegedly by her husband at Bairab village under Singair upazila in Manikganj yesterday, reports our correspondent.

Family sources said Mukul Hossain, 40, son of Ferdous Master of the village hacked his wife Nargis Akter, 30, to death as she refused to give money to buy drugs.

Mukul also injured the victim's cousin Sathi Akter with a billhook when she tried to rescue Nargis. Sathi had come to the house to visit her cousin.

Nargis died on the spot while Sathi was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital after her condition deteriorated at Singair upazila health complex.

Mukul and Nargis had a 4-year-old son. Mukul had to return home from Italy recently for his alleged drug addiction.

Officer in-charge (OC) at Singair police station Md. Liaqat Ali said they arrested Mukul on charge of the killing.

In Pabna, a housewife was killed allegedly by her husband in Kashipur area in the town on Friday morning, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Alpana Khatun, 19, wife of Abdul Kader and daughter of Afaz Uddin -- both residents of Kashipur area.

Being informed, police visited the spot and recovered the body and arrested Abdul Kader.

Police said, an altercation ensued between Alpana and Abdul Kader over a family feud in the early hours of Friday and at one stage Kader killed his wife using a scarf.

After murder, Kader dumped the body beside a pond near his residence.

Police sent the body to Pabna Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

## 'FRUITFUL' TALKS WITH OFFICIALS Benapole land port users call off strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Benapole, Jessore

Five port user organisations called off their indefinite strike at Benapole land port yesterday, a day after enforcing the shutdown.

Leaders of the organisations said they called off the strike at noon following a 'fruitful' meeting with local officials at Jessore DC Office.

Earlier C&F Agent Association, Transport Owners' Association, Benapole Land Port Importers and Exporters Association, C&F Agent Employees' Union and Jhikorgacha-Navaran-Benapole Truck Owners' Association called the strike on Saturday, demanding an end to what they said harassment by the members of Border Guard Bangladesh by the exporter.

Export and import activities between Bangladesh and India through the port came to a halt since Saturday morning due to the strike.



PHOTO: STAR

A woman harvests chemical free vegetables from her farmland for sale at Horidev village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila. Over 100 farmer families at eight villages of the upazila have grown such vegetables by using earthworm compost fertiliser in their lands.

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