

30 injured as Jamaat, AL men clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Jhenidah

At least 30 people were injured during a clash between the activists of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh and the ruling Awami League in Moheshpur upazila town of the district on Wednesday night.

Police and locals said Jamaat activists blasted two bombs and set fire to some stalls at a book fair in the town during the clash that continued for an hour from 7:00pm.

According to witnesses, around 15 shops belonging to Jamaat men were also vandalised in the town allegedly by AL men. Police have been deployed at the upazila headquarters to avert any further clash.

Immediately after the clash, law enforcers arrested 11 Jamaat-Shibir men, raiding different areas of the upazila. They were shown arrested in the two cases filed by Sub-Inspector (SI) Ashikur Rahman with Moheshpur police station yesterday morning. The SI lodged the

case, accusing 100 Jamaat-Shibir activist of creating anarchy in the town.

Locals said Jamaat men shouted provocative slogans from a procession led by upazila Jamaat Ameer Abdul Hye, who was released from jail on the day. Awami League activists also chanted counter slogans and hurled brick chips at Jamaat activists, prompting them to retaliate, they added.

The clashing groups used lethal weapons during the clash, leaving at least 30 people from both sides injured. Of the injured, AL activists received first aid at the upazila health complex while Jamaat men at private clinics.

Local Awami League unit, led by State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdul Hye, brought out a procession in the upazila town yesterday morning demanding necessary actions against Jamaat activists, who created anarchy in the town on Wednesday night in the name of religion.

HOMAGE TO LANGUAGE MARTYRS



PHOTO: STAR
Observance of Amar Ekushey and International Mother Language Day yesterday: 1) Chandpur AL men proceed towards the Central Shaheed Minar in the town with a wreath, 2) members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) greet each other with flowers on no man's land at Benapole frontier where a temporary shaheed minar was erected to pay homage to the language martyrs, 3) a kid places a Rajanigandha stick at Munshiganj Central Shaheed Minar that gets covered with wreaths, 4) a student of Boro-Kasundi High School in Magura Sadar upazila pays tribute to the language martyrs at a temporary shaheed minar they built on the school premises the day before, 5) Kids initiate writing Bangla at a programme of Gonoshiphi Sangstha in Pabna town, 6) Two youths flip through books while the other looks on at a book fair in Manikganj, and 7) children take part in a painting contest at Dinajpur Shishu Academy.



Saline water in Khulna damages boro saplings

UNB, Khulna

Intrusion of saline water has damaged boro paddy saplings on 350 bighas of land in Dumuria upazila.

Locals said, a section of influential people brought saline water for shrimp farming by cutting a cross-dam of the Water Development Board (WDB) in Shovna union of the upazila.

Due to intrusion of the saline water, newly planted boro saplings on 350 bighas of land in Baro Beel (water body) started dying.

Locals said there are several thousand hectares of cultivable land in Baro Beel.

Farmers of the area mainly maintain their livelihood by cultivating paddy and sweet water fishes in the water body, they said.

Workers of the local influential group set up a large number of fish enclosures across the water body.

In these enclosures, they cultivate lobsters, ruhi, katol, mrigel and different other species of fishes.

Recently, farmers got a bumper output of aman paddy in the beel. Soon after harvesting it, they started planting boro there.

But the said local powerful

people, including Majid, Abdullah and Paritosh, started to bring saline water in the beel by cutting the WDB cross-dam at No. 26 polder for cultivating lobster.

They are also supplying the saline water to many others on a commercial basis and encouraging them to cultivate lobster.

Contacted, Majid, Abdullah and Paritosh admitted that they brought saline water but said they would stop it very soon.

Affected farmers Gaffar Bawali, Pir Ali Sheikh and Babar Ali Mandal alleged that boro saplings on each of their three to five bighas of land were damaged due to saline water.

More than 50 farmers were affected due to the mindless act, they said.

Local union parishad chairman Abdul Gani said, he was always against the unauthorised withdrawal of saline water.

If saline water is brought by cutting the cross-dam, it will be stopped, he added.

Local WDB engineer Syed Abul Hasan, however, expressed his ignorance about it.

He said he would ask the relevant section officer to take necessary measures after investigation.



Oil tankers call off strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

Owners and workers of oil tankers called off their indefinite strike yesterday morning following fruitful talks with Parbatipur upazila administration on Wednesday night.

They took the decision after the meeting where the upazila administration assured them of arresting the extortionists and taking steps to stop extortion in a short time.

Leaders of Dinajpur district Tank Lorry Malik Samity and Tank Lorry Sramik Union and upazila officials attended the meeting with Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Rahenul Islam in the chair.

Mamunur Rashid, General Secretary of

Dinajpur district Tank Lorry Malik Samity, said they withdrew the strike as the UNO led meeting assured them of arresting extortionists and taking measures to stop extortion in the upazila town.

Owners and workers of around 200 oil tankers went on the strike at 8:30am on Wednesday, demanding an end to extortion and arrest of the extortionists responsible for attack on two leaders of the workers' union in the upazila town on Sunday evening.

A gang of extortionists assaulted Fazlul Haque Bhuiyan, general secretary of Parbatipur unit of Oil Tankers Workers' Union, and Md Sarwar Hossain, joint secretary of the union, as they refused to give the criminals Tk10,000.

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