

## 5 bullet hit in Ctg over land dispute

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Five people, including two policemen, sustained bullet injuries in a gun fight between the law enforcers and miscreants at Mariam Nagar in Rangunia upazila of Chittagong yesterday.

The injured were Rangunia Police Station Officer-in-Charge (Investigation) Chandan Chakraborty and its constable Jahidul Hasan Rizvi, and locals Ali Hossain, Md Rahim and Kalu Miyan.

A gang, led by Altaf alias Kana Altaf, Azad and Isaak, opened fire on police when the law enforcers were trying to disperse two clashing groups loyal to local Awami League leaders Ismail Sawdagor and Mujibur Rahman, police said.

Rangunia Police Station OC Manzurul Morshed said Ismail and Mujibur had a feud for long over taking lease of a piece of land of Roads and Highway Department.

Quoting locals, he said the clash ensued when a gang of 20-25 armed men loyal to Mujibur demanded money from Ismail's men as extortion over the land's usage around 11:00am.

Claiming that the land was in his possession for 15 years, Mujibur said, "When I came to know that Ismail's son Khokon went to the land yesterday, I sent Altaf, Azad and Isaak to the place to stop him."

Police arrested one of the miscreants, Md Korshed, in this connection.

The gang was involved in robbery and extortion in the area for long, they said.



## SECOND DAY OF 18-PARTY HARTAL

1) A man runs for safety away from the scene of a cocktail blast on the Basabo Buddhist Temple road in the capital's Sabujbagh yesterday. Pro-BNP student body Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists hurled the handmade bomb during the second day of the opposition alliance's 36-hour hartal. 2) Five cocktails recovered by police from the street in front of Jamaat-e-Islami's office in Munshinganj district headquarters. 3) Pickets vandalise a bus on Dhaka-Chittagong highway. 4) Pro-hartal activists, including some females, damage a rickshaw in Sylhet city. 5) A pickup van set alight by pickets in the capital's Shantinagar.

PHOTO: STAR, FOCUS BANGLA, AND BANGLAR CHOKH



## Election dialogue only with BNP minus Jamaat

Says Qamrul Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League is ready to talk with the BNP over holding the next election in a free, fair and credible manner only if the main opposition severs relations with the war criminals and Jamaat-e-Islami, State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam said yesterday.

He said no solution would come through hartal or violence. "Everything can be resolved through talks," he said and urged the opposition to join the parliament and sit in dialogue. "Dialogue is not possible in any circumstances if the BNP does not sever relations with the war criminals and Jamaat-Shibir."

He made the comments at a rally in front of the AL Central Office on the capital's Bangabandhu Avenue, organised to protest the opposition alliance's 36-hour countrywide hartal, which ended yesterday.

The junior minister said actions would be taken against those news media, which had instigated religious sentiment of the

people, resulting in countrywide violence.

Qamrul said a probe was going on against those who resorted to mayhem recently and instigated religious sentiment. "Action is being delayed as the investigation is under way," he added.

At a Jubo League rally in Pallabi, AL Joint General Secretary Mahbul Alam Hanif said action would be taken against the Bangla daily Amar Desh and its editor Mahmudur Rahman for what he said conspiring against the country.

Referring to threats by Rahman that he would sue Hanif for his comments on the distribution of Tk 85 crore for Hefajat-e-Islam's April 6 long march and rally involving his name, the AL leader said, "See, what action the state takes against you [Mahmudur]."

Hanif said the BNP and its key ally Jamaat had plotted to overthrow the government through Hefajat's April 6 long march and rally in Dhaka. "As intelligence agencies had this information, they [Jamaat and BNP] could not succeed."

## Schoolboy killed in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A schoolboy was killed in a road accident at Pirganj upazila in Thakurgaon yesterday afternoon.

The victim is Sagar, 7, son of Samu of the upazila. He was a student of Class-I at Poyenda Government Primary School.

Pirganj police said a pick-up van hit the boy while he was crossing Pirganj-Katiyar road in Poyenda village.

Locals rushed him to Pirganj Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared him dead.

Locals intercepted the driver along with the vehicle and handed him over to police. A case was filed with Pirganj Police Station.

## HEFAJAT'S DEMANDS Implementation will lead to Talibani state Say eminent citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 13-point demand of Hefajat-e-Islam goes against the constitution of Bangladesh and fundamental principles of the country's Liberation War, said speakers at a press conference yesterday.

If the demands are implemented, the democracy of Bangladesh will be destroyed and the country will be turned into a Talibani state, they said.

Bangabandhu Parishad, a social organisation, organised the programme at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital protesting the demands of Hefajat.

Jahangirnagar University Vice Chancellor Prof Anwar Hossain demanded that the government take steps to arrest some top leaders of Hefajat, claiming that they were hatching anti-state conspiracy by joining hands with Jamaat-e-Islam.

He also stressed the need for expanding the movement of Gonojagaron Mancha across the country, and urged all the pro-liberation forces to extend their support for continuing the movement.

Journalist Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury strongly criticised Hefajat for assaulting female journalists in their rally on April 6.

Freedom fighter Mahbubuddin Ahmad emphasised on greater unity of all the democratic and pro-liberation forces to resist the "fundamentalists" and "religious fanatics".

## Bangladesh, US to boost security ties

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and the United States have agreed to broaden and strengthen bilateral cooperation on a wide range of political-military issues to promote peace and prosperity in the region.

The two countries at the second US-Bangladesh Dialogue on Security Issues held in Washington DC on Tuesday also agreed to enhance partnerships in peacekeeping, counter-terrorism, and security cooperation, as well as joint military exercises and exchanges.

Additional Foreign Secretary Mustafa Kamal and US Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs Andrew J Shapiro chaired the event. The dialogue built on the success of the meeting held on April 19, 2012, in Dhaka.

A press note, issued by the Office of the Spokesperson of US State Department, said the exchanges during the dialogue and the breadth of issues covered not only reflected the strength of the bilateral defence relationship, but also the shared commitment to promoting peace and prosperity in the region.

It said the dialogue reaffirmed the robust engagement between the US and Bangladesh and highlighted the growing defence relationship between the two countries.

"The US-Bangladesh Dialogue on Security Issues will broaden and strengthen bilateral cooperation on a wide range of political-military issues. It will also enhance partnerships in peacekeeping, counterterrorism, and security cooperation, as well as joint military exercises and exchanges," it said.

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