

Rival AL men beat up MP-aspirant Halim

20 hurt, cars set afire in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

At least 20 people, including three local journalists, were injured as the alleged supporters of Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, deputy leader of the parliament and the ruling Awami League presidential member attacked Awami League MP-aspirant Major (ret'd) ATM Halim and his men in Madrasa Gotti area under Saltha upazila of the district yesterday.

They also vandalised at least 10-12 cars and set fire to two microbuses of Halim's motorcade.

Halim, Nazrul Islam Pintu, nephew of Halim, his bodyguard Jahangir Hossain, Faridpur correspondent of the daily Ittefaq Tarikul Islam Himel, Quamruzzaman Shohel and Hasanuzzaman, district correspondents of ATN News and Samakal are among the injured.

Injured Halim and his nephew Pintu, who received bullet injury, were rushed to CMH in Dhaka. Bodyguard Jahangir was admitted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital while the rest took first aid.

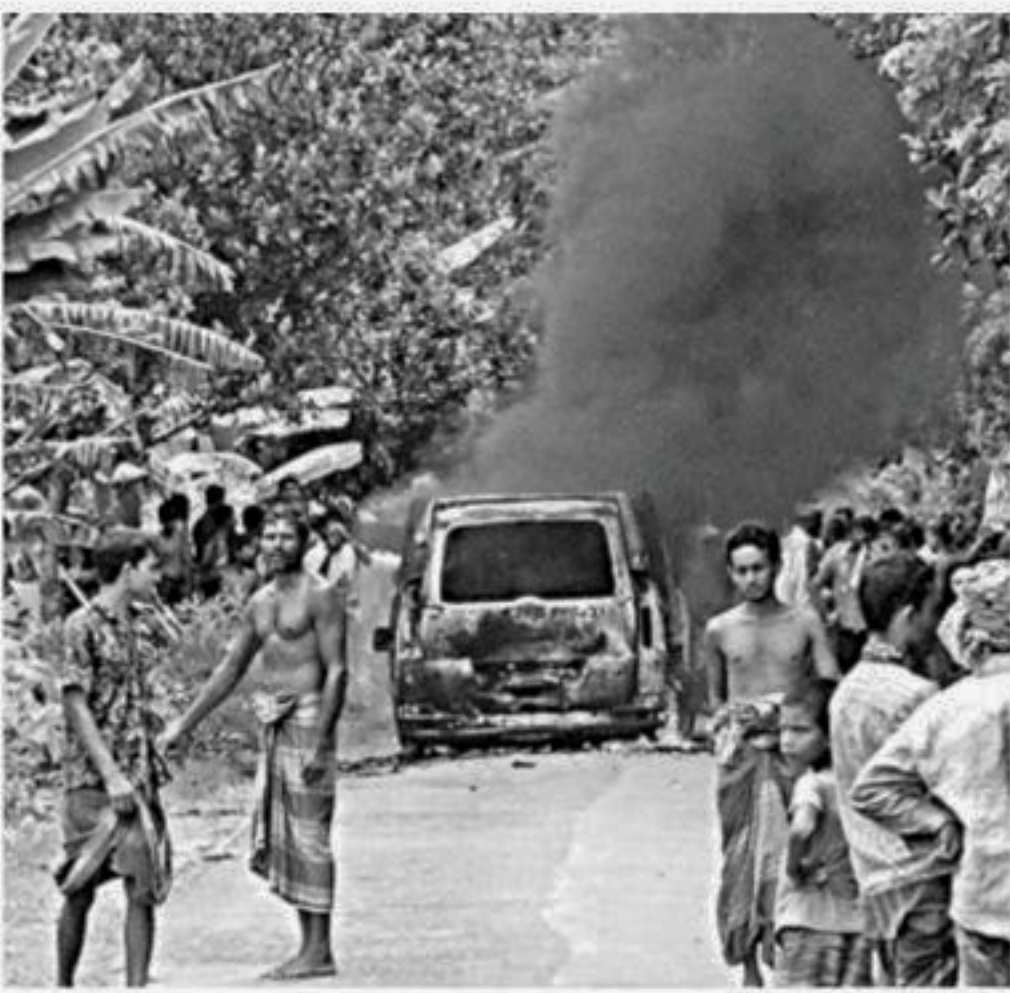
Witness and locals said the incident took place when the supporters Sajeda Chowdhury attacked the motorcade of Halim, an MP aspirant from Faridpur-2 constituency (Saltha-Nagarkanda) on his way to home at Bhollovdi under Nagarkanda upazila around 11:00am to attend a programme on his father's death anniversary.

Mohammad Limon, younger brother of Halim, told The Daily Star that Delwar Hossain and Rezaur Rahman Choyon, president and organising secretary of Saltha upazila unit of Awami League, and Jubo



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

1) Major (ret'd) ATM Halim, an MP-aspirant from Awami League (AL) in Faridpur-2 (Saltha-Nagarkanda) constituency, gets admitted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital following serious injuries caused by criminals who attacked his motorcade at Madrasa Gotti in Saltha upazila. 2) AL activists, also alleged adherents of AL Presidium Member and Deputy Leader of the House Sajeda Chowdhury, set fire to the vehicle carrying Halim. 3) Stick wielding activists block the road to intercept Halim's motorcade in Saltha.



League leader Anwar Hossain led the attack.

"They all are men of Sajeda Chowdhury," said Limon.

Delwar Hossain, how-

ever, denied their involvement with the incident. Local people might have attacked Halim and his men, he added.

Absar Uddin, officer-in-

charge of Saltha police station said, on information, they rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Youth's body found in border river

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Police recovered the body of a Bangladeshi youth from a river near Pandithpara border under Sadar upazila in Panchagarh on Friday.

The deceased was identified as Md. Jahangir alias Rambilash, 31, son of Md. Samiul Haque of Natunbandar village under the same upazila.

Commanding Officer of 18, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Lt. Colonel Abu Basir told this correspondent over cell phone that local people saw a floating body in the river and informed BGB men at Joydharbhanga camp.

Informed by BGB, police went to the spot and recovered the body and sent it to Panchagarh Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

The CO also informed that the youth was absent from his house for three days and he allegedly was involved with cattle smuggling. He might have drowned in the river while crossing the border during a chase by BSF.

An injury mark was found on his face and BGB sent a protest note to BSF immediately, he said.

A company commander level flag meeting was held in the afternoon where the BSF denied torturing or killing the youth.

Man killed, 28 injured in two clashes

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A young man was killed and 28 others were injured in clashes in Thakurgaon and Chuadanga districts yesterday and the day before.

A youth was killed and 13 others were injured in a clash over a piece of disputed land at Velajan Thakthakia village in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila yesterday over a disputed land.

The deceased was identified as Bijoy Ram, 22, son of Dinaram of the area, reports our correspondent.

Police and locals said Dinaram and his cousin Boijjoram was a longstanding conflict over the land.

The clash took place at 8:30am when Boijjoram and his followers resisted Dinaram and his brothers who started to plant aman saplings on the land.

At least 14 from both sides were injured during the clash. Of them, Bijoy Ram died on way to the Rangpur Medical College and Hospital.

In Chuadanga, at least 15 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Kolabari village in Damurhuda upazila on Friday, reports a correspondent.

Police said there was a longstanding feud between one Nur Box and Piru Mondal over the land.

As a sequel to the conflict, the supporters of the rivals attacked each other with lethal weapons, leaving 15 from both sides injured on Friday morning.

Two cases were filed with Damurhuda police station in this connection.

8 sued on charge of killing JCD man in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

Eight people have been sued on charge of killing Jatiyatbadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activist Mamunur Rashid in Barura upazila of the district on Thursday.

Anwar Hossain, brother-in-law of the victim, filed the case with the police station concerned on Friday, accusing local BCL activist Babul Hossain Bappi and his seven associates.

In the case statement, the complainant said Mamunur Rashid, 22, son of Sekandar Ali of East Padua village, was stabbed to death by Babul Hossain Bappi and his associates following a conflict over a motorcycle sale on Thursday night.

NO TRACE YET OF ABDUCTED FOUR

Roadblock in 2 hill districts today

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Parbatya Bangalee Chhatra Parishad, a student body of settlers in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), will enforce a daylong roads and waterways blockade in Rangamati and Khagrachhari districts today as their deadline to rescue four abducted people ended inconclusively yesterday, report our correspondents.

Five employees of Bi Technology, who were inspecting equipment in a mobile phone tower for state-run carrier TeleTalk, were abducted by unidentified criminals at Baribindughat of Baghaichhari upazila of Rangamati on July 8.

The abducted employees are Akhter Hossain, Hemayet Uddin, Imrul, Montu and Suja Miah. Montu was later released by the abductors.

The army, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and the police were jointly conducting raids in Baghaichhari since the kidnapping incident 13 days ago.

On Thursday, the members of the joint forces held two suspects at Balukhali village. Rafique Ullah Khan, officer-in-charge of Baghaichhari Police Station, said, "We are yet to identify the kidnapers and know the whereabouts of the four. "I have no information about any ransom demand and we could not make

contact with the abductors," the OC said.

In Khagrachhari, PBCP district unite General Secretary Masum Rana in a press release yesterday said they would enforce a daylong roads and waterways blockade in the district today as the authorities concerned failed to rescue the four staff of Bi Technology within the deadline.

The chhatra parishad demanded that the authorities concerned take necessary steps to rescue the abducted Bangalees. The student body also threatened to launch a tougher agitation in the hills if their demand was not met immediately.

RANA PLAZA TRAGEDY

Aklima improving at Jessore CMH after surgery

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Rana Plaza tragedy victim Mosammat Aklima, who was admitted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Jessore following an order by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on July 17, is now improving after a successful operation there.

"Aklima's condition was very bad when she was brought here. Following a successful operation done on her here, she is improving. She is still in the intensive care unit and will take time to recover fully," said Lt Col Dr Abdur Rakib, senior surgeon of Jessore CMH.

Aklima, 26, was a worker of a garment factory on the seventh floor of Rana Plaza at Savar in Dhaka. Collapse of the building on April 24 left 1127 people killed and around 2500 others injured.

Seriously injured, Aklima was rescued from the debris two days after the accident.

She was given treatment at two private hospitals in Savar for eight days. Then she went to her home at Haritana village under Pathorghata upazila in Barguna.

As her condition deteriorated she was brought to Barisal Medical College Hospital on June 17.

Doctors conducted surgery twice on her but her condition did not improve.

Upon an order by the prime minister, Aklima was brought to Jessore CMH on July 17.

"I am now dreaming of



PHOTO: STAR

Garment worker Aklima at the Combined Military Hospital in Jessore.

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"I am now dreaming of

a new life after getting the opportunity of treatment here. I had no money to continue treatment as my husband went into hiding after taking Tk 30 thousand given from the emergency fund of the prime minister," Aklima told journalists at Jessore CMH on Friday.

CHEATING CASES

Jail guard lands in jail, another held

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A jail guard was sentenced to prison in Manikganj while another was arrested in Jessore in cheating cases on Friday and the day before.

Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court-1 in Manikganj on Thursday sentenced jail guard Md Rafiqul Islam of Dhaka Central Jail to one year's rigorous imprisonment in a cheating case.

The court also fined him Tk 5000, in default he is to suffer two months more in jail, reports our correspondent.

According to the prosecution, Md Rafiqul Islam of Pencharkanda village under Chior upazila of the district took Tk 3 lakh from Md Meher Ali of the village in 2012, promising a job for his son.

As Rafiqul deceived Meher Ali, he filed a case with Manikganj Judicial Court-1. The court found the jail guard guilty and punished him.

In Jessore, a guard of Jessore Central Jail was arrested on Friday on charge of swindling a man out of Tk 2.5 lakh, promising a job.

The arrestee, Saiful Islam, hails from Vimorolla village in Chuadnga Sadar upazila, reports UNB.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Kotwali Police Station Sheikh Emdad Hossain said Saiful, a resident of Jail Road area of the town, took Tk 2.5 lakh from his neighbour Shariful Islam Mondol, a retired jailer, on December 11, 2011, promising a job for his son.

As Saiful failed to keep his word and was giving repeated dates for return of the amount,

Shariful's family members caught Saiful and handed him over to Jessore Kotwali police on Friday. They also filed a case against Saiful with the police station concerned.

Abducted fisherman found dead

A CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

Body of an abducted fisherman was found at Samraj Ghat, a bordering area between Charfession and Lalmoan upazilas on Friday noon.

The deceased was identified as Nurnabi, 38, son of Hasan Ali of Dholigurah Nagar union under Lalmoan upazila.

Police and locals said, Nurnabi and 10 other fishermen were fishing in Batir Khal area of Meghna River on 14 July. A gang of 20/25 armed robbers led by notorious Eusuf of Tazumuddin upazila swooped on them and took the trawler to an isolated char.

Jaasim and Lokman, two fishermen, jumped into the river while the others were abducted.

On Monday, the robbers freed the fishermen.

All returned home but body of Nurnabi was found at Samraj Ghat on July 19.

Lalmonirhat trader buys freedom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A local trader was freed on payment of Tk one lakh as ransom on Friday, three days after his abduction at Mogholhat border point in Sadar upazila.

The victim is Sudhir Chandra, 45, son of late Sudhen Chandra of Chaparhat village in Kaliganj upazila.

BGB sources said an Indian gang picked up Sudhir from the border area with the help of a Bangladeshi citizen and took him to Doribas village under Dinhatra Police

Station in Coochbehar district of Pashchim Banga on Wednesday.

Later, several flag meetings between Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) were held over the release of the victim, but it went in vein.

An Indian gang, led by Babul Islam alias Babu with the help of his Bangladeshi counterpart Jahangir Alam picked up Sudhir from the border while he was entering the neighbouring country illegally on Thursday.

The kidnapers then demanded Tk 2 lakh from Sudhir's family for his release, said locals.

SNIPPETS

Extortionists injure 3

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munsiganj

Family members of a shop owner at tea stall were injured in an attack by extortionists as he refused to pay them extortion at Paikpara intersection in Tongibari upazila yesterday. Shop owner Shamsul Haque said three local extortionists demanded Tk 50,000 from him a few days ago. On refusal, the gang swooped on his stall and injured the family members. A case was filed in this connection, said Anisur Rahman, sub-inspector of Tongibari police station.

Man found dead

A CORRESPONDENT, Copalganj

Police recovered the body of a young man at Bhutpasa village in Kasiani upazila yesterday morning. The deceased was identified as Abdullah, 22, of the area. He might have been strangled, police said. Victim's wife Nasima Akter said her former husband Ashiqul Islam of Lahuria village in Narail district often threatened her for wedding Abdullah. Ashiqul might have killed Abdullah, she said.

Youth held for rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police arrested a youth on charge of violating a college girl in Dhunat upazila on Friday evening. The arrestee is Naim Mahmud Rabbi, 20, of Nashratpur village. Police said Naim raped the girl at her house in Bhubongati village. Hearing the hue and cry, neighbours rushed to the spot and caught the youth red handed, but he was freed at the local arbitration. Later, a case was filed under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act accusing Rabbi and three of his family members, said sub-inspector Saidul Islam, investigation officer of the case.

128 drug peddlers held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police in separate drives arrested 128 drug peddlers at Shara and Chanmari villages in Ishwardi upazila on Friday and the day before. They also seized 825 bottles of phensidyl, 146 yaba tablets, 15 kg hemp, 317 packets of heroin and 600 liters of wine from their possession. The arrestees were produced before two mobile courts, which awarded them imprisonment in different terms, said Biman Kumar Das, officer in-charge of Ishwardi Police Station.

Kid drowns in pond

UNB, Moulvibazar

A kid drowned in a pond at Ubahata village in Kamalganj upazila on Friday. The deceased was identified as Ihan Chowdhury, 3, son of Shafiqur Rahman of the village. Family sources said Ihan fell into the pond beside their house and drowned. Later locals recovered the body after a frantic search.

JSD leader murdered in Barisal, two held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Syed Humaun Kabir, Banaripara upazila organising secretary of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), was beaten to death by a gang led by local Awami League leader Abdus Salam near Chakhar bus stand on Friday.

Locals said there was a longstanding dispute between Kabir and Salam over control of Solia-Bakpur union in the upazila and both had an altercation over the issue in front of Chakhar Palli Bidyut office in the morning.

As a sequel to the incident, Salam, vice president of AL Solia-Bakpur union unit, and his men swooped on Salam in front of Chowkidar Bari on Guachitra-Chakhar Road at noon.

The attackers took Kabir to an abandoned house near Agrani Bank Chakhar branch and beat him up mercilessly, leaving him critically injured.

Jubo League leader beaten to death

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

A Jubo League Leader was beaten to death at Bandarjola village in Chouddagram upazila early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Motaleb, 28, vice-president of Alkora union Jubo League and son of Ayub Ali of the village.

Officer-in-charge (OC) at Chouddagram PS Akukol Chandra Biswas said, a gang of masked criminals beat him up in front of his house about 12.30am and left the scene immediately.

Hearing the news, a police team led by Sub Inspector Sanjib Chandra Shil and Assistant Sub Inspector Abdul Hye of Banaripara Police Station rushed to the spot, rescued Kabir and took him to the upazila health complex.

As Kabir's condition deteriorated at night, doctors referred him to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) where he died soon after admission.

Syed Tarikul Islam, brother of Kabir, lodged a case with Banaripara Police station the same night, accusing Abdus Salam and 12 others. Police arrested Salam and his associate Md Jasim soon after filing of the case.

In the case statement Tarikul alleged that Salam and his men killed Kabir as he protested his (Salam) criminal activities like grabbing of land near Chakhar Government College, illegal collection from transports and felling of roadside trees.

Locals took him to Feni Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. As his condition deteriorated, he was shifted to Comilla Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries in the morning.

Police recovered the body and sent it to morgue for post mortem examination.

Police suspected that Motaleb might have been killed due to previous enmity. However local Jubo League activists said that the killing was a sequel to longstanding internal rivalry in Alkora union Jubo League.