



(Clockwise from left) Supporters of Barisal city unit Awami League President and ex-mayor Shawkat Hossain Hiron pelt bricks at supporters of the party's district unit President Abul Hasanat Abdullah and police at Kakoli Mor in Barisal city yesterday. The clash started from this scuffle inside the AL office in Bibir Pukur Par area. Law enforcers charge baton before the office to disperse the warring factions.

PHOTO: STAR

ENGLISH IN SCHOOLS 2ND PHASE The Daily Star, Robi sign deal for launching

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star entered into a contract with telecommunications giant Robi yesterday to launch next month the second phase of the "English in Schools", a programme aiming at enhancing English language skills of the secondary school students.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, and Michael Kuehner, chief executive officer of Robi, signed the deal at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

The two organisations under their corporate social responsibility (CSR) programme will jointly provide three copies of the newspaper to each of a thousand secondary schools all over the country five days a week (except Friday, Saturday), initially for six months.

Mahfuz Anam said this was to promote the practice of English among secondary school students. "Newspapers can be used as an instrument for learning English," he said.

In the second phase, English teachers from 100 schools in Rajshahi, Khulna, Chittagong, and Sylhet will be trained in the language skills for six months, said Michael Kuehner.

Mohiuddin Babar, vice president of the Corporate Regulatory and Legal Division of Robi, also spoke at the event.

The English in Schools programme supported by the education ministry first began in 2009 as a partnership between The Daily Star and Robi, then known as Aktel.

Tk 474CR MISAPPROPRIATION

ACC sues six BPC high-ups

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday sued six high officials of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) on charge of misappropriating Tk 474 crore.

ACC filed three cases with Bandar Police Station in Chittagong city.

The accused are deputy general managers (finance) Monilal Das and Jahangir Hossain, Upper Division Assistant (finance) Nurul Islam, General Manager (accounts) Giasuddin Ansari, and deputy general managers (accounts) Kazi Sahidur Rahman and Zakir Hossain.

According to the case statements, the accused imported crude oil and refined oil from abroad between 2008 and 2012 misusing their power to make personal profits.

Hiron, Hasanat loyalists clash in Barisal

10 injured; party office vandalised in feud over assaulting Hiron's follower

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A nearly hour-long clash between the followers of two local Awami League leaders injured 10 activists and left the party office ravaged in Barisal city yesterday.

Police blasted two sound grenades, fired 11 teargas shells and nine rubber bullets, and used batons to stop around 200 people from the two sides from clashing.

The supporters of Barisal city AL President and ex-mayor Shawkat Hossain Hiron and district AL President Abul Hasanat Abdullah got engaged in the fighting following a feud that sparked after some Hasanat loyalists assaulted Mohiuddin Babul, a city AL member and follower of Hiron, in a hotel in the capital Sunday night.

Hiron alleged that Ashim Dewan, president of the district

unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and follower of Hasanat, led around 20 activists in the attack, as Babul, a brother-in-law and former follower of Hasanat, had started supporting the ex-mayor recently.

Dewan denied involvement but said the attack took place.

A team of around 100 AL leaders and activists from Barisal came to Dhaka and attended a meeting with AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday. They were staying in Hotel Metropolitan in the capital.

Some Hiron loyalists told The Daily Star that Babul was attacked as he talked in favour of Hiron in the meeting where both the feuding leaders were present.

In protest of the assault, Hiron loyalists were preparing at the AL office in Bibir Pukur Par area of

Barisal city to bring out a procession when the supporters of Hasanat approached and tried to stop them, leading to a scuffle and later a clash around 11:10am.

The two groups attacked each other with sticks and bricks, leaving 10 activists and a policeman wounded but not seriously.

Witnesses said city BCL President Md Jasimuddin, loyal to Hiron, and district BCL General secretary Abdur Razzak, a follower of Hasanat, led the sides in the clash.

During the violence, which spread panic in the surrounding areas, vehicular movement was halted and shops and main city thoroughfares shut for about an hour.

Tension was prevailing among the locals for the fear of further clashes. The AL office was

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Ex-ambassador CM Murshed passes away

CITY DESK

Former ambassador CM Murshed died of cardiac arrest at a city hospital yesterday evening. He was 85.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Gulshan Azad Mosque after Zohr prayers today, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, a son, a daughter and a host of admirers and well wishers to mourn the death.

CM Murshed served as Bangladesh ambassador to China, Afghanistan and Romania. He had been the managing director of Pakistan Oxygen Limited till 1971, when it was renamed Bangladesh Oxygen Limited. Later, he served as the chairman of Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation.



Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, right, shakes hands with Chief Executive Officer of Robi Michael Kuehner at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday after signing and exchanging documents of a deal to jointly launch the second phase of the English in Schools programme next month. Officials from the two sides were present on the occasion.

PHOTO: STAR

ATTACK ON CPB-BSD RALLY

58, including 5 BCL men, sued in Sylhet

Hartal observed; ASK condemns attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet Kotwali police Sunday night filed a case accusing 58 persons, including five Bangladesh Chhatra League activists, on charge of attacking police in a clash during a rally jointly staged by the Communist Party of Bangladesh and Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal in the city.

BCL activists attacked the rally in court point area Sunday afternoon, injuring at least 35, including CPB chief Mujahidul Islam Selim and 10 policemen.

Kotwali police Officer-in-Charge Md Akhtar Hossain, injured in the clash, was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Of the accused, five are Hiron Mahmud Nipu, acting president of Sylhet district BCL unit; Md Mohiuddin, Zubayer

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AL now occupies Sylhet billboards

Prime minister visits today

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Over 200 billboards of different commercial companies and individuals in Sylhet city were grabbed overnight on Saturday by the ruling Awami League ahead of the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, its president, today.

The AL occupied the billboards in the same way it had done in Dhaka and elsewhere in the country in August and the way BNP had done in Bogra town a day ago.

The digital banners, bearing portraits of Hasina, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Finance Minister AMA Muhith and AL Central Organising Secretary Misbah Uddin Siraj, describe successes of the government in the last four and a half years.

These were most prominent on Rekabi Bazar, Humayun Rashid Square, Bandar Bazar, Chouhatta, Ambarkhana, Sobhani Ghat and along the Sylhet-Golapganj road.

The advertisement agencies and advertisers, in fear of reprisal, refused to comment on the matter although they were suffering huge losses. Billboards in Sylhet cost Tk 60,000 to 1.25 lakh a year depending on the location.

Seeking anonymity, one advertiser said local AL leaders and activists had not sought permission to replace the advertisements on the billboards.

Owner of a firm in Taltola said, "I would ask the city corporation to look into the matter and ensure that those are removed after the prime minister's visit."

Sylhet City Corporation Chief Engineer Nur Azizur Rahman told The Daily Star that none sought permission to replace or put up the digital canvasses on the hoardings.

However, one district AL leader had called to inform that the billboards were "needed", he said.

Asked whether the permission was taken, Misbah said,

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