

Clashes kill 2, injure 80 in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Brahmanbaria

Two people were killed and at least 80 others injured in three separate incidents of clashes at Sadar and Sarail upazilas in Brahmanbaria yesterday.

The deceased are Md Ismail Hossain, 45, son of Subhan Mia, and Samsul Islam, 40, son of Muslim Mia of Kalikachcha in Sarail, said Md Jahidul Islam, additional SP of the district.

The clash at Sadekpur village under Sadar upazila happened following a long-standing dispute between Juyllabari and Mullabari groups, locals and police said.

On Thursday night, some men of Juyllabari group beat a man of Mullabari group following a row over establishing supremacy in the

area.

On the following day, both the marauding groups equipped with locally made sharp weapons locked in a two-hour-long clash that began around 10:30 am.

The clash continued after Juma prayers, leaving two people dead and 40 others injured. Around 20 houses in the village were burnt down during the clash, locals said.

Meanwhile, 10 people were injured in a clash between two boys of Nagarbari and Gazirbari groups in the village, locals and police said.

Talking to The Daily Star, several AL leaders said they preferred Hasina to be the head of the polls-time cabinet, but added talks could be held on the matter if the opposition wanted.

Replying to a query, a top AL leader said they would not send any letter to the opposition leader regarding the dialogue on formation of the interim cabinet.

According him and other leaders of the party, Hasina's call to the opposition leader is the formal invitation for talks.

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PM for all-party govt

FROM PAGE 1

"I am requesting the opposition leader to respond to my call. [I hope] She [Khaleda Zia] will honour my request and value our sincerity."

The prime minister's offer comes at a time when further political unrest centring on the general election seems almost unavoidable.

In its initial reaction, the BNP last night spoke critically of the proposal, however. The main opposition party, which demands restoration of the caretaker government, would come up with its formal reaction after Khaleda sits with her party leaders tonight to discuss the latest development.

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Cop watch on BNP office

FROM PAGE 1

Law enforcers have already started looking for Khoka and stepped up vigilance on BNP's central office in Naya Paltan, Dhaka.

The BNP is scheduled to hold a rally on October 25 to press home its key demand for holding the next general elections under a non-party caretaker government.

"We are watching the situation and will take measures to bring to book those we think can put the city dwellers in danger, disrupt public life and deteriorate law and order," said Joint Commissioner of Detective Branch of Police Monirul Islam.

A day after Khoka's call to his party men, a team of Detective Branch raided the Gopibagh house of Khoka, also BNP vice-chairman, but did not find him there.

"Our effort to arrest him is still on," Masudur

Rahman, deputy commissioner (public relations) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) told The Daily Star yesterday.

"The law enforcers did not let anyone enter or leave the building since the morning," alleged Abdul Latif Jony, assistant office secretary of BNP, on Thursday.

He also alleged that police had been directed to arrest anyone trying to enter or leave the party office.

Asadul Kabir Shaheen, BNP joint office secretary, on Thursday told The Daily Star that nearly 500 policemen had been deployed around the party office that day.

Meanwhile, Ashrafuzzaman, DMP deputy commissioner (Motijheel zone), denied the allegation of cordoning off the BNP central office. He said they had only beefed up the security in the wake of Khoka's direction to BNP leaders and activists.

Nixon branded envoy to India

FROM PAGE 16

"Nixon said, 'Keating's a traitor' and told [the then secretary of state Henry] Kissinger that they should fire the ambassador. The Indians, Nixon said, were awful but they are getting some assistance from Keating, of course.

"Kissinger agreed: 'A lot of assistance; he is practically their mouthpiece,'" says the book.

"He [Nixon] added, 'He has gone native. As I told you, I saw the Indians and listened to their complaints and Keating kept interrupting and saying but you forgot to mention this or that'. [This was false: in the meetings in Delhi, Keating only spoke once, to break an awkward silence in the conversation with Indira Gandhi]," the book said.

Ambassador who goes to India falls in love with India," the book quotes Nixon as saying.

According to the author, this direct presidential attack was so far out of bounds that Kissinger and Saunders censored it out of their official record of the conversation for the State Department.

"Nixon told the senior state department officials that they 'have to cool off the pro-Indians in the state department and out in South Asia'. He added that fewer Americans swooned for Pakistan, 'because the Pakistanis are a different breed. The Pakistanis are straightforward -- and sometimes extremely stupid. The Indians are more devious, sometimes so smart that we fall for their line,'" the book said.

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time you go to the relief camps, you are going to be asked to give us a lot of damage now' -- the inevitable congressional outrage if their old colleague was pushed out. 'We should wait until things quiet down'. Nixon said, 'Two or 3 months and then I think we ought to do it', according to the book.

In another meeting at the Oval Office, Nixon wondered why every Ambassador who goes to India falls in love with it.

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