

# Madrasa student killed, 5 hurt in JCD-BCL clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A madrasa student was shot dead and five persons were injured as Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists clashed at Amishapara Bazaar in Sonaimuri upazila of Noakhali yesterday.

The dead, Parvej, hailing from Palpara village, was a student of Amishapara Khalilur Rahman Kamil Madrasha, and also a JCD activist.

It all started as JCD activist Soheli, also a former student of Amishapara Degree College, went to the college to pay his relative's fees.

On information, another JCD activist and former student Tuhin went there with his group and started beating Soheli in front of the principal's room, said Najim Uddin, principal of the college.

Hearing the noise, principal and his colleagues came out of their rooms and saved Soheli.

Soheli came out of the college under the shelter of JCD college unit president Sabuj. Later, both Tuhin and Soheli were holding a meeting to settle the issue at Amishapara Bazaar.

All on a sudden, BCL activists led by Mamun attacked on JCD activists, and opened fire on them around 2:00pm, leaving Parvej, among others, injured.

Critically injured Parvej was taken to Chhatkhil Upazila Health Complex where on duty doctor declared him dead. His body was there till filing of this report.

Abdus Samad, officer-in-charge of Sonaimuri Police Station, confirmed the incident.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, inset, addresses a rally at the Bhawal Badre Alam Govt College ground in Gazipur yesterday.



PHOTO: BSS

## Graft grips RMG sector

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press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

The press conference was held to share the findings of its latest research on the sector, titled "RMG Sector: Problems of Good Governance and Way Forward".

The survey was done between June and October this year covering over 80 factories in Dhaka, Ashulia, Gazipur and Jatrabari -- the main garment industry belt.

The survey was based on interviews with owners, officials and workers of these factories, BGMEA representatives and government officials.

The Berlin-based corruption monitoring agency demanded that the government bring to justice those involved in irregularities and abuse of power, to ensure smooth growth of the vital sector.

"There's no alternative to bringing them to justice. If we don't show the courage to face the challenge, bigger disasters might take place in the readymade garment industry," said Iftekharuzzaman.

The industry lacks coordination with the government agencies, he said.

He also spoke of establishing a separate ministry for the industry to give a big

boost to the sector by addressing challenges of occupational, safety and compliance issues.

He said the government and industry stakeholders need to work together to ensure good governance in the sector.

Garment industry is a vital sector that employs around 40 lakh people, mostly women, and accounts for 14-15 percent of the GDP, said TIB Chairperson Sultana Kamal.

"It is our responsibility to save the industry. So, all related parties, including the BGMEA, should do away with the blame game after any incident [accident]," she said.

Some 10 percent parliament members are directly involved in the RMG sector, increasing the risk of making decisions in favour of certain individuals and groups, the report said.

In many cases, the BGMEA does not perform its duties properly and rather gets involved in matters that are beyond its scope of work. This creates scope for political interference in the sector.

Contacted, BGMEA President Atiqul Islam said: "We won't make any comment on it now, as we did not read the report."

## Give up politics of destruction

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their next agitation programme.

At the rally venue, she laid the foundation stones of bus rapid transit (BRT) and metro rail projects and inaugurated Sheikh Mujib Safari Park, a fire service and civil defence station at Mawna Chourasta, an upazila complex building in Sreepur, a 52-megawatt dual fuel power plant in Gazipur Sadar upazila, Shaheed Ahsanullah Master Stadium at Tongi and a 250-bed hospital.

She also opened the newly constructed 20-km four-lane Nabinagar-DEPZ-Chandra road for traffic and inaugurated the construction work on the 70-km Gazipur-Chandra-Elenga four-lane project.

About the 60-hour hartal (Oct 27-29) enforced by the BNP-led 18-party opposition alliance, Hasina said, "Had she [Khaleda] responded to my request and sat with me, these 20 people wouldn't have lost their lives. So, she's responsible for these killings."

The opposition leader has "gone crazy to save war criminals", who had killed innocent unarmed people, raped women, carried out arson attacks and collaborated

with the Pakistan occupation forces during the Liberation War, she complained.

Blasting Khaleda for enforcing hartals frequently, the prime minister said the opposition leader was "shattering country's economy" with her destructive agitation programmes. "She [Khaleda] had looted the country when she was in power. Now she is destroying the country by enforcing hartals and affecting the academic life of students."

Terming the young students the future leaders of the country, Hasina, also president of Awami League, said hartal is simply a mindless act to ruin the future of students.

In this connection, she said the opposition leader "hardly wants to allow the people to get educated" as she (Khaleda) is a "non-metric" person.

Giving a brief description about various elections held under the present government, Hasina said all the polls were free, fair and peaceful, and no one could raise any question about any of those.

She categorically said the next general election will be held as per constitutional provisions. She urged people to cast their votes for Awami League in the next election

to continue the ongoing development programmes.

About Khaleda Zia's demand for restoration of caretaker government system, the premier said the Supreme Court gave its verdict scrapping the system.

Organised by Gazipur Awami League, the rally was also addressed by AL advisory council members Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Communications Minister Obaidul Quader, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroz Chumki, Zahid Ahsan Russell, MP and Simin Hossain Rimi, MP, among others.

The prime minister phoned BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on Saturday evening and invited her to Gono Bhaban to talk about the next polls-time government. In reply, Khaleda said she could talk only after the opposition's hartal ends on October 29 evening.

Hasina requested Khaleda to call off the hartal. But the BNP chief said she could not withdraw the hartal as the programme was announced by the 18-party alliance.



PHOTO: STAR

The sinking vessel, Blue Pacific, near the Silo Jetty in Chittagong. The lighter vessel sunk after an oil tanker hit it yesterday in the Karnaphuli river.

## New law aims to destroy GB

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Tahsina.

She questioned how the government could bring new laws to control the bank when it only owned 25 percent share against the borrower-shareholders' 75 percent stake.

The director from Mymensingh zone said the government had resorted to trickery to grab the bank's power, which had so far been vested with the borrower-directors.

"Through this, the government not only seeks to deprive the borrower-directors, but also plotting to ruin the bank," she said while reading out a statement.

The nine directors also said the Grameen Bank Ordinance 1983 only gave power to the government to prepare rules for electing the directors from the borrower-shareholders.

"But the new Act has given the government the power to formulate any rules of the bank. The new law has also empowered

Bangladesh Bank to implement rules of the Act."

"We are the majority shareholders of the bank. We also have the majority stake in the board. Despite all this, the government is taking control of all the policy related issues of the bank by bypassing the majority board members."

"Doesn't it amount to snatching power from the 84 lakh borrower-shareholders?" Tahsina asked.

The directors also criticised the government for formulating the draft election rules, which is now also at the final stage, for the nine borrower-directors.

Tahsina said through the changes, the government was going to introduce an election process that would encourage politicisation and harm Grameen Bank.

The Grameen Bank Employees Association, which has more than 26,000 members, yesterday extended its support to the elected directors and condemned the new

Act and the draft election rules.

Shamsul Alam, president of the employees association, said if the government-appointed commissioner oversees the elections, politics would sneak into the poll process.

"As a result, the bank's strong foundation will fall apart. We don't want any intervention from outside in the election process," he said.

M Shahjahan, acting managing director of Grameen Bank who was also present at the association's rally, said: "If we are to hold elections at every centre with between 35,000 and 40,000 member-voters, there will be conflict during the elections."

"The bank might face disorder. It will not bring any good," he said, adding, "The bank should be allowed to run as it has been so far. Otherwise, it will be suicidal for the bank."

The employees association will hold protests against the Act at all its zonal and area offices on November 3.

## Dominant Tigers seal series

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cricket in hopes of witnessing a dominant show from the Tigers, and they were not disappointed. Mushfiqur's decision to bat first upon winning the toss left many confused, and fears seemed to be confirmed when Bangladesh fell to 173 for seven before rallying to reach the just-about-par total of 247, with opener Tamim Iqbal hitting a sedate but crucial 58. But the Tigers knew what they were doing all along.

Bangladesh have been showing since the Asia Cup in 2012 that their bowling attack in ODIs is a well-oiled machine and with Mashrafe Bin Mortaza back leading the charge, the Tigers put the Kiwis

under pressure from ball one. Mashrafe showed the way with the early wicket of Hamish Rutherford in a tight opening spell. Backed up by a fielding unit that ranged from good to spectacular -- Mushfiqur's diving effort to his left to dismiss Corey Anderson off Mashrafe and Naeem's diving effort at square leg to send back James Neesham off Shohag Gazi are cases in point -- the disciplined bowlers ensured that New Zealand were shut out from the chase long before the final ball was bowled.

Ross Taylor offered the sole voice of resistance for the visitors, but even the star batsman found the going difficult as he took 82 balls to score 45 before holing out to long on off Gazi. That

wicket, New Zealand's eighth in the 40th over with 91 still to get, settled the matter beyond all doubt. The last three batsmen then only laboured to reduce the margin of defeat before Mashrafe made it official by bowling Tim Southee and picking up his third wicket.

The series victory is the latest development of a fantastic home series for Bangladesh, as so far New Zealand have not been allowed to get on the scoreboard -- the Test series was drawn 0-0 and the ODI rubber currently stands at 2-0 in Bangladesh's favour. The Tigers will hope to continue the good work in the third and final ODI at Fatullah on Sunday.

Pervin, Shahidullah Kaiser, and physicians Fazle Rabbee, Alim Chaudhury and Mohammad Martuza.

The investigation agency, designated to probe the war crimes, started its enquiry into the alleged crimes of the duo on September 25, 2011. The agency submitted its report to the prosecution on October 9, 2012.

On April 25 this year, the prosecution pressed 16 charges of war crimes against the accused.

The tribunal on May 27 decided to hold the trial in absentia and appointed two defence counsels for them. On June 25, the court framed 11 charges against them.

The prosecution produced 25 witnesses, including two investigation officers in the case,

while the defence could not produce any as they "didn't get cooperation from the family members and relatives of the accused".

The prosecution and the defence placed their closing arguments between September 23 and September 30.

This is the second war crimes case in which the trial had been conducted in absentia, as the tribunal's attempts to have the accused in the courtroom failed.

The first war crimes case conducted in absentia was against expelled Jamaat-e-Islami member Abul Kalam Azad. He was awarded the capital punishment.

The two tribunals dealing with the war crimes cases have so far delivered eight verdicts.

## Syria destroys

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on Syria after deadly chemical weapons attacks outside Damascus in August, which the West blamed on President Bashar al-Assad's regime.

"The Joint Mission is now satisfied that it has verified -- and seen destroyed -- all of Syria's declared critical production and mixing/filling equipment," the OPCW said.

The organisation's head of field operations, Jerry Smith, told the BBC his team had "personally observed all the destruction activities".

"They are not now in a position to conduct any further production or mixing of chemical weapons."

The OPCW inspectors had visited all 23 chemical weapons sites but for two in areas considered "too dangerous," Smith said.

"But the contents (of those two) were moved to other sites that we did visit. Therefore we have visited and seen the destruction of all Syria's declared chemical weapons capability."

OPCW and UN inspectors have until mid-2014 to destroy Syria's entire chemical arsenal and production facilities under the terms of a US-Russian deal to head off military strikes on President Bashar al-Assad's regime.

"The weapons and agents remain at their respective sites, we're not yet at the stage of moving them," Chartier said.

The OPCW statements came as

Brahimi held meetings in Damascus with opposition members tolerated by the regime.

He has been travelling the Middle East since mid-October to garner support for proposed peace talks, dubbed Geneva II. He is due to travel back to Beirut today.

The Syrian leg of the tour is the most sensitive, as the veteran Algerian diplomat needs to persuade a wary regime and an increasingly divided opposition to attend.

Brahimi had on Wednesday held talks which lasted less than an hour with Assad, during which the Syrian president criticised foreign interference in his country and urged them to stop sending support to rebels for a peaceful solution to the crisis.

In an interview this month, Assad cast doubt on the possibility of his regime attending the Geneva talks, saying he would not negotiate with any group tied to the rebels or to foreign states.

The main opposition National Coalition has said it will refuse to take part in any talks unless Assad's resignation is on the table, and some rebel groups have warned participants will be considered traitors.

More than 115,000 people have been killed in the 31-month armed uprising against the Assad regime triggered by his forces' bloody crackdown on Arab Spring-inspired democracy protests.