



As the BNP-led 18-party alliance is set to enforce a countywide non-stop road-rail-waterway blockade from 6:00am today, a large number of passengers crowd Barisal river terminal yesterday evening to catch launches to travel to the capital.

'Robber' killed in 'gunfight' with police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinalpur

A 'notorious robber' was killed in a 'gunfight' with police in Akkelpur upazila of Joypurhat yesterday afternoon.

Two policemen were injured during the gunfight, police said.

The dead was identified as Arman Ali, 40, son of late Akkas Ali of Purno-Gopinathpur village under the upazila.

The injured policemen are Ismail Hossain, a sub Inspector (SI) and Abdul Khaleque, a constable of Akkelpur police station.

Police at the PS said the sub inspector sustained bullet injury while the constable was stabbed.

Both were taken to Joypurhat Modern Hospital.

Akkelpur police said, on information that a gang of robbers, numbering 10 to 12, led by ringleader notorious robber Arman Ali were planning to commit robbery at a house at Purno

Gopinathpur village, a police team rushed to the spot.

When the cops reached the spot at around 2.30pm, the robbers suddenly opened gunshots at police.

In defense, police fired several gunshots, leaving Arman Ali dead on the spot. Other members of the gang, however, managed to flee the scene.

BCL man murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

A Chhatra League (BCL) activist was killed allegedly by another activist of the party at Jalam Bazaar in Barura upazila yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Saddam Hossain, 22, son of Anwar Hossain of Kanaail village in the upazila.

Officer in-charge of Barura PS AKM Kawsar Hossain, quoting locals, said one Masum Nasar of Jalam union BCL had an altercation with Saddam at a tea stall in the area. At a stage, Masum fired points blank at Saddam at around 3.00pm, leaving him critically injured.

Saddam was rushed to Barura upazila health complex where doctors declared him dead.

Police said that the killing was a sequel to previous enmity between the two partymen.

Contacted, joint convener of Barura upazila BCL Omor Farooque said, Saddam joined the party only three months ago.

According to UNB, Saddam was a Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists.

Kawsar Alam Selim, general secretary of upazila unit BNP, said that Saddam recently joined the politics of JCD, resigning from BCL.

He was killed by Jubo League man Masum following an altercation over the issue, he said.

VIOLENCE DURING ROAD BLOCKADE 600 Jamaat-Shibir, BNP men sued in Hajiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

As many as 600 Jamaat-Shibir and BNP activists have been sued in Hajiganj upazila of Chandpur on charges of blocking Chandpur-Comilla Road in Toragarh area in the upazila, vandalising vehicles and attack on law enforcers on Monday afternoon.

The cases were filed with Hajiganj Police Station following clashes between police and opposition activists in Toragarh area.

Officer in-charge Shah Alam said sub-inspectors Ershad, Mizan and Delwar of the police station filed the cases, accusing 150 identified and 450 unnamed Jamaat-Shibir and BNP men.

Rab and police personnel conducted a joint drive early yesterday and arrested 15 of the accused, including BNP

Hajiganj municipality unit leader Monir Hossain, the OC said, adding that joint forces will launch drives in the upazila to arrest the rest of the accused.

BNP and Jamaat-Shibir activists blocked Chandpur-Comilla Road at around 3:00pm on Monday, protesting what they said was 'obstruction to opposition's Dhaka march. They put up barricades at different points on the road from Toragarh to Palli Bidyut office by felling electric poles and 20 to 25 trees.

Being informed, police from Hajiganj and the district headquarters rushed to the spot to bring the situation under control, but they were surrounded by the activists of the BNP-led 18-party alliance. At one stage, police had to open rubber bullets and tear gas shell.

When Hajiganj Upazila

Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Hosna Afroz reached there in the evening, the BNP and Jamaat-Shibir men kept her confined to Palli Bidyut office. Police again opened fire to bring the situation under control, leaving at least 20 opposition activists injured.

Rab and riot police from Comilla and Chandpur went to Toragarh area at midnight and removed the trees and electric poles from the road.

Meanwhile, law enforcers arrested over 100 BNP and Jamaat-Shibir activists in five districts on Monday night on charge of their alleged involvement in destructive activities, reports our correspondents.

Of them, 75 were arrested in Chittagong, 15 in Lalmonirhat, 10 in Jhenidah, six in Joypurhat and the rest in Satkhira districts.



People belonging to low and fixed income groups through a footpath in Mymensingh town to buy warm clothes. This photo was taken on Monday.

Brief respite brings relief

Warm clothes sellers, buyers crowd footpaths

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

With a brief respite from political unrest, sale of winter clothes has increased at roadside makeshift shops in the town in the last few days.

People belonging to low and fixed income groups are crowding the makeshift shops to buy warm clothes such as sweaters, jackets, cardigans, woolen caps and mufflers as a mild cold wave is sweeping the district.

With early onset of winter in the region, traders expected sales in large volume, but hartals and blockades hampered their trade as buyers did not come to the makeshift shops in fear of being victims of attacks.

Second-hand warm

clothes sellers said they have suffered a huge loss during the last one month due to opposition enforced hartals and blockades.

"Sale of warm clothes has gone up in the last few days. We want a peaceful situation for the next 15 to 20 days to recover the losses," said Harun Sikder, a seller of Trunkpatti area.

Traders are now doing brisk business and each of them is selling warm clothes worth about Tk. 3000 to Tk. 4000 per day, he added.

Buyers, mostly from low-income groups, are flocking to footpaths in Trunkpatti, Station Road and Basabari Market areas.

Sahana Akhtar, a housewife, said prices of warm clothes are comparatively

less than other shopping malls in the town and so we rush to footpaths.

Habibur Rahman, a rickshaw puller, who lives in a slum in the town, said he bought three second-hand warm clothes for his children at Tk. 100.

Ali Jabber, owner of a makeshift shop in Basabari area, said sales volume has increased as wholesalers from Jamalpur, Sherpur, Netrakona and Kishoreganj are coming to their shops daily. "We want the political parties will refrain from enforcing hartal and blockade for at least one month for our survival as we have to depend on daily income," Jabber said.

JS candidate, AL offices come under arson attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Vehicle carrying a parliamentary election candidate from Laxmipur-1 constituency and two local Awami League offices came under arson attack in separate incidents in the district on Monday night.

Independent candidate from Ramganj Shafiqul Islam was going to Dhaka on Monday night. As his jeep reached Ghosherhat area on Chandpur-Comilla road, a gang waylaid him at around 10:00pm.

At one stage, the attackers forced him out of the jeep and set the vehicle on fire. Shafiqul Islam and his driver, who were injured in attack, fled the scene for safety.

Police said, they were yet to ascertain the identity of the attackers.

Meanwhile, two local offices of Awami League came under attack in two unions of Hajiganj upazila in the district the same night.

Furniture and other valuables were gutted in the fire at AL office at Jagannathpur Bazar, said Gantabyapur Union AL chief Kaji Belal Hossain.

In another incident, criminals set fire to the AL office at Purbo Hatila union and vandalised furniture at the office.

Police could not identify the attackers but the local AL leaders blamed the BNP-Jamaat men in the area.

Awami League held a meeting in the upazila yesterday, protesting the attacks.

Hartal in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

The 18-party alliance has called a 36-hr hartal in the district from 6 am today to 6 pm on Thursday, protesting the 'encircling' of the house of opposition leader Khaleda Zia in the capital by the law-enforcers.

Contacted, president of district unit BNP and convener of 18-party Bogra district unit VP Saiful Islam said they announced the hartal at the party office yesterday.

We will declare a tougher programme if the opposition leader is not 'freed'

ENAMUL MURDER IN C'NAWABGANJ

Local shop owners keep mum for fear of reprisal by culprits

Police arrest 6 BNP activists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Police have arrested six BNP activists for their alleged involvement in the killing of businessman Enamul Haque in the town on Monday night.

Locally known as an Awami League supporter, Enamul, 60, was burnt to death when opposition activists set fire to his shop Sharmin Hardware at Shibganj Bazar of Shibganj municipal area in Chapainawabganj on Monday night.

Enamul, son of late Reazuddin Mondal of Chaturpur Moholla in Shibganj municipal area, was also president of Shibganj upazila Shilpa O Banik Samity.

Over 20 men attacked Enamul Haque's shop, torched his motorcycle, poured petrol inside and set the shop afire at around 6:00pm on Monday, shop employees Mohammad Shayan and Selim Reza told this correspondent during a visit yesterday morning.

The two employees managed to rush out while their employer took shelter in the store room behind the

Follow-up

shop.

After fire fighters extinguished the blaze in the two-storied building at around 11:00pm, they went inside with fire fighters and law enforcers and found the



Enamul Haque

burnt body of Enamul.

The criminals who set fire to the shop are known faces in the area, said witnesses and local shop owners.

They, however, declined to say details in fear of reprisal from the perpetrators.

Enamul's family members said Enamul Haque became victim of BNP men's wrath although he had no enmity with anyone.

Goods worth around Tk one crore was damaged in the incident, they added.

Md Al Mamun, additional superintendent of police, said the BNP men infuriated by the arrest of Salauddin, an activist of Jatityabadi Jubo Dal, the youth front of BNP, set fire to Enamul Haque's shop at Shibganj Bazar at around 6:00pm.

Enamul's body was sent to Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital for autopsy yesterday, said Mizanur Rahman, officer in charge (OC) of Shibganj police station.

Police arrested six BNP activists from different areas in Shibganj on Monday night for their alleged involvement in the incident, he said.

"Earlier at around 5:30pm on Monday, Rapid Action Battalion arrested Jubo Dal activist Salauddin for his alleged involvement in several criminal activities after February 28 this year. He is accused in six cases filed with Shibganj police station," the OC added.

But it was not clear from the statements of the family members or police whether Enamul had any



Fire-ravaged shop and motorbike of Awami League supporter Enamul Haque in Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj. Enamul, president of Shibganj Traders Association, was burnt to death inside the shop after BNP activists set it afire at 6:00pm on Monday.

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