

Jubo League leader killed, 16 hurt in AL infighting in 2 dists

100 houses vandalised, Tk one crore valuables looted as the ruling party men clash in Jhenidah too

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Factional clashes among the men of ruling Awami League (AL) left one killed and 16 others injured in Lalmonirhat and Satkhira districts in last two days.

In Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah district, infighting between the activists of the same party left around a hundred houses vandalised yesterday.

A Jubo League leader was killed and six AL men were badly injured as two groups of the ruling party men locked in a clash over supplying sand to a construction site on Saptana Road in Lalmonirhat town Wednesday night, reports our Lalmonirhat correspondent.

Left injured in the incident, seven people were admitted to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital and later referred to Rangpur Medical College Hospital where Jubo League leader Kafidul Islam, 37, died yesterday morning, police and family members said.

Kafidul Islam, son of Ahad Ali, resident at New Colony para in the town, was organizing secretary of the municipality's 8 No ward unit of Jubo League.

The injured are Sadar upazila Chhatra League Secretary Shamim Hossain, Jubo League activists Rakib Hossain and Manu Miah, AL activist Rakidul Islam, Chhatra League activists Selim Hossain and Baloram Chandra Saha, all residents in the town.

Police and locals said a clash occurred between two groups -- one led by Sadar upazila AL General Secretary Zahurul Haque Mamun and the other led by

district AL Publicity Secretary Sumon Khan over supplying sand to the site for Nursing Institute Construction site beside the Sadar hospital in the town.

Sumon Khan's men first attacked Mamun's group, they said.

The incident left Jubo League leader Kafidul Islam, a supporter of Mamun group, killed and four others of the same group injured. Two injured people are the supporters of Sumon group, AL men said.

Following the bloody clash, the construction work of the nursing institute was kept suspended.

Confirming the incident, Lalmonirhat Sadar Police Station OC Mahfuzur Rahman said additional police were deployed at different points in the town to avert further clashes.

Our Jhenidah Correspondent reports: Around 100 houses were vandalised and valuables worth around Tk one crore looted as two groups of AL men locked in a factional clash over establishing supremacy at Gopalpur village under Kaliganj upazila of the district yesterday morning.

There had been a long standing conflict between 3 No Gopalpur ward AL president Shariful Islam and the same ward AL secretary Malek Mollah, locals and police said.

Equipped with axes and iron bars the supporters of Malek Mollah attacked the supporters of Shariful Islam and vandalised around 100 houses of 45 families. The attacked families left the house.

Malek Molla and Shariful



PHOTO: STAR

A woman shows all signs of despair as her house at Gopalpur village in Kaliganj upazila under Jhenidah district lies badly damaged after a serious clash between two local factions of ruling Awami League yesterday.

Islam are adherents of present AL lawmaker Anwarul Azim Anar and former AL lawmaker Abdul Mannan respectively.

"As the supporters of Malek Mollah started vandalising our houses, we left the place. They looted our valuables and damaged furniture," said Shamser Ali, an elderly person of the village.

Shahidul Islam, chairman of Jamal union parishad, also an AL leader, said, "Malek Mollah is the uncle of Shariful. Earlier on several occasions, we tried several times to solve the conflict but to no effect."

Anwar Hossain, officer in charge of Kaliganj police station, said, "A faction of local AL attacked the houses of another group and vandalised houses in the area.

Now the situation is under control."

UNB adds from Satkhira: At least 10 people were injured, two with bullets, in a clash between two rival groups of Awami League at Gadaipur in Ashashuni upazila under the district on Wednesday.

Shahnewaz Dalim, chairman of Khazra union parishad, and Ruhul Kuddus Molla, former chairman of the union, had been at loggerheads over establishing supremacy in the area, said Ahsan Habib, officer in charge of Ashashuni Police Station.

Supporters of Dalim beat Hossain Molla, a supporter of Ruhul Kuddus, when he was returning home on Tuesday evening, leaving him critically injured.

As the news spread, sup-

porters of Ruhul Kuddus confined Dalim and his supporters to his home in the night.

At one stage, the supporters of Dalim opened fire on the supporters of Ruhul Kuddus and hurled bombs, leaving 10 people injured.

A chase and counter-chase took place during the incident.

At least 15 bombs were exploded in the area at that time.

The injured were taken to Ashashuni Upazila Health Complex while the two people with bullet injuries were rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital.

Informed, police rushed in and brought the situation under control.

Additional police have been deployed to avert further trouble.

BGB detains 35 Bangladeshis, 5 Indians on border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) arrested 40 women and children, including 35 Bangladeshi and five Indian nationals, on Putkhali Border under Benapole Port police station on Wednesday night on charge of attempted illegal border crossing.

Of them, 37 are women. The Bangladeshis arrestees hailed from Narail, Bagerhat, Gopalganj and Khulna districts while the Indians from Uttar 24 Parganas district.

On secret information, the border guards raided the area around 8:00pm and arrested the 40, said Lt Col Mostafizur Rahman, commanding officer of BGB-23.

The Bangladeshis were going to India illegally in search of lucrative jobs and treatment, said the officer.

Abducted girl rescued after two and half months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Police rescued a teenage girl, who was abducted over two months ago, from Jalalabad village in Sadar upazila of the district early yesterday.

Aslam Uddin, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station said the 13-year-old girl, daughter of Nurshed Ali of Ibrahimpur village of the same upazila went missing on February 15.

Receiving secret information, Nurshed informed police that one Ripon, son of Abdul Aziz of the same upazila abducted his daughter.

After conducting a drive police rescued the girl around 8:00am yesterday, but the kidnapper managed to flee the spot, the OC said.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Two kids drown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Two kids drowned in the River Boral under Bhangura upazila yesterday afternoon. The deceased are Sabbir Hossain, 5, son of Mofizul Islam and his cousin Rima Khatun, 4, daughter of Dulal Hossain of Chowbaria village in the upazila. Family sources said the duo went to take a dip in the river and drowned. Later, locals recovered the bodies from the river.

Youth found murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

Police recovered the bullet-hit body of a youth from a coconut orchard at Dattonagar Agricultural Farm in Dattonagar village under Jibannagar upazila yesterday morning. The deceased is Akhter Hossain, 28, son of Abdur Rahman of Jalilpur village under Moheshpur upazila of Jhenidah district. Locals found his body in the area and informed the police who sent it to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately, said SM Iqbal Ahammed, officer in-charge of Jibannagar Police Station.

Six grenades seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized six grenades from the behind of a house at Naldubi village in Shibganj upazila yesterday morning. Workers found the grenades in the area when they were digging earth for construction of a new house. The grenades were too old and might be of the time of country's Liberation War, said Lt Col Anwar Latif Khan, commanding officer of Rab-5.



PHOTO: STAR

Seized grenades.

Indian held with gold bars

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) arrested an alleged Indian smuggler along with five gold bars worth Tk 40 lakh on Ghiba border under Benapole Port Police Station yesterday morning. The arrestee is Putul Rani, 35, son of Tarun Mandol of Choruigachi village under Bongaon police station of Uttar 24 Parganas district. On secret information, the BGB men raided the border area and arrested Putul along with the gold bars. She was later handed over to Benapole Port PS, said Lt Col Motiur Rahman, commanding officer of BGB-26.

5 Jamaat men held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Police in separate drives arrested five members of Jamaat-e-Islami in Moheshpur upazila early yesterday. The arrestees are Nur Islam, Sabbir ahmed, Azizul Islam, Shukur Ali and Tofazzel Hossain. They were accused in several cases, said Superintendent of Police Altaf Hossain.

UZ chairman sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A court in Meherpur district yesterday sent a upazila parishad chairman to jail in a case for sabotage after he appeared before it. Senior Judicial Magistrate Mahibul Islam of the court passed the order against Murad Ali, chairman of Gangni upazila parishad and president of the upazila unit BNP. According to the case, Murad and his party men attacked different government establishments, including Gangni fire station and BADC office during a hartal on December 17 last year. Earlier, a division bench of the High Court granted anticipatory bail to Murad for six weeks and directed to surrender him before lower court after expiry of the time.

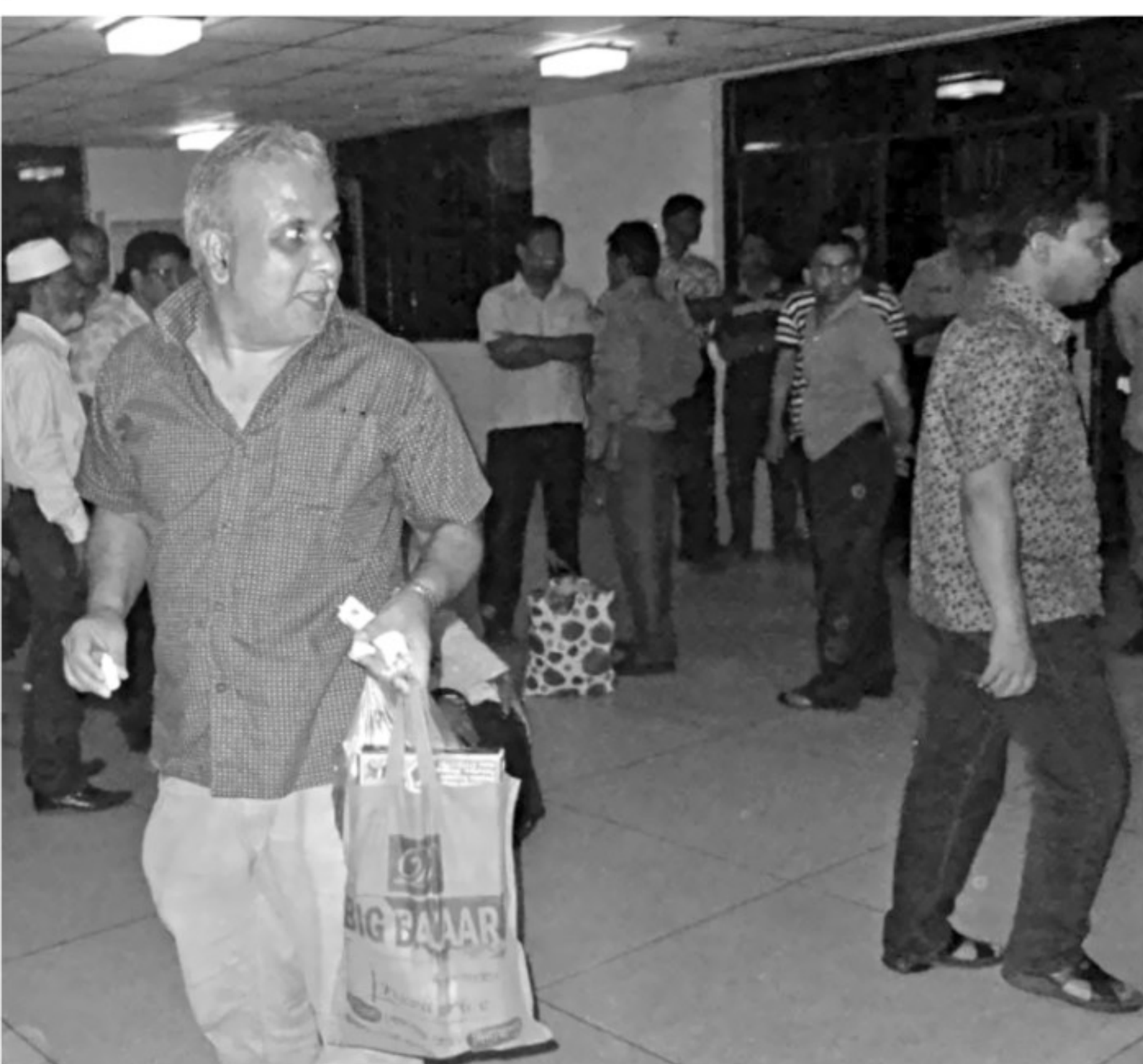


PHOTO: STAR

Officials of Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd come out of the office building in a happy mood on Wednesday night as the miners and workers withdrew their agitation programme that included confining the officials since Tuesday morning.

Barapukuria officials freed as company cancels new manpower structure

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Miners and workers of Barapukuria Coal Mining Company (BCMCL) Ltd on Wednesday night set free its 65 officials, 36 hours after their confinement as the company cancelled its recent amendment move to the manpower structure.

According to the miners, the BCMCL authorities on January 23 this year amended its manpower structure, reducing the existing manpower strength from 2,674 to 738. The struc-

ture was formulated in 2000.

As the miners and workers came to know of the move on April 15, they launched an agitation on Sunday and gave the BCMCL authorities a 48-hour ultimatum to cancel the new structure. But the ultimatum went in vain.

On Tuesday morning, the workers confined the 65 officials to the administrative building to realise their demand.

On hearing the news, Md Aminuzzaman, managing director of the coal mining company in the

district's Parbatipur upazila, rushed to the spot on Wednesday noon from Dhaka to find a solution to the problem.

The managing director held a meeting with the confined officials at night.

After the meeting, Aminuzzaman announced that the newly amended manpower structure had been postponed on instructions from the government's highest policy-making body.

After the announcement, the workers released the confined officials.

Youth killed over land dispute, brother injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A youth was killed and his younger brother critically injured by one of his relatives over a land-related dispute at Boro Rauta village in Domar upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased Mohammad Sumon, 26, died on his way to Rangpur Medical College and Hospital (RMCH).

Police and family sources said there had been a longstanding dispute between Nazmul Haque, 60, and his nephew Shamsuddoha alias Chan Mia, 35 over the ownership of a bamboo-cluster on 15 decimals land.

Yesterday morning, Chan Mia along with some of his cohorts equipped with sharp weapons went to the bamboo-cluster to take possession of the land forcibly.

Informed by locals, two siblings Md Sumon and Md Sujon, 25, also grandsons of Nazmul obstruct them and were engaged in an altercation over the issue with the gang around 8:00am.

At one stage, Chan Mia and his men stabbed the siblings with a sharp weapon, leaving the duo critically injured.

Critically injured Sumon died on his way to RMCH, while Sujon is undergoing

treatment at the same hospital.

On information, a police team led by Shahinul Islam, Sub-inspector of Domar Police Station rushed to the spot but failed to arrest any of the culprits involved with the incident.

Later, police took the body and sent it to Nilphamari hospital morgue for autopsy and filling up of a case was under process, police said.

Razzakul Islam, a word commissioner of the municipality said local and municipality officials made several attempts to settle the long standing dispute but failed.

BSF detains Bangladeshi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

India's Border Security Force (BSF) detained a Bangladeshi national in Baliadangi upazila, while he was returning to Bangladesh on Wednesday night.

The 28-year old detainee, Khalil Uddin son of Ulfu Mia is a resident of Kashibari village of the upazila, went there without the necessary documents.

He was detained around 9:00pm when he was crossing the Indian border near Mondumala border outpost, said Maj Tawhid-bin-Ishaq, intelligence officer of Mondumala border outpost of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

Khalil is now in the custody of Goalpukur police in the Indian state of West Bengal, the BGB officials said, quoting BSF personnel.

The BGB has also sent a letter to the BSF to enable Khalil to return.

Later, the the two forces held a flag meeting around 11:00am yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Unscrupulous people have continued construction of a high-rise building, occupying portion of a canal and government-owned khas land in Kuakata municipality area under Patuakhali district. The photo was taken yesterday.