More than 100 hurt in B'baria clash

A CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

At least 100 people, including seven police personnel, were injured as inhabitants of two villages in Sarail upazila clashed for nearly six hours yesterday.

Five houses were torched and police detained 23 villagers during the clash that broke out around 7:30am, said Ali Ashraf, officer-incharge of Sarail Police Station.

He said a scuffle between Mujibur Rahman of Surjakandi village and Parvez Mia of Noagaon village that took place over a trivial matter on Saturday noon led to the clash yesterday.

Following the brawl, the people of the two villages were locked in a clash around 8:00pm that day in which 20 people were injured. The villagers swooped on each

other with sticks and sharp weapons again on yesterday morning, leaving over 100 injured, said the OC. Later, Sarail police went to the spot

and tried to calm the villages but failed. Seven of the law enforcers were hurt at that time, reports our correspondent. The situation was brought under control around 1:30pm after a team

of Rab and Detective Branch of police went to the spot and fired tear shells, said the OC. The injured were being treated at

Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital and Sarail Upazila Health Complex.

Additional law enforcers have been deployed in the area to avert further trouble.

Robbers loot jewellery shop in Natore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Robbers looted gold ornaments and cash worth around Tk 65 lakh from a jewellery shop at Biharkol Bazaar in Bagatipara upazila early yesterday.

Aminur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Bagatipara Police Station, said a gang of armed robbers tied two night guards to a pole of the shop. They then entered the shop by breaking its lock around 3:00am and took away the gold ornaments and around Tk 1.5 lakh in cash.

Dhrubo Kumar Kundu, owner of the shop, estimated the loss at Tk 65

Police detained the two night guards for interrogation. A case has been filed.

India to hand

"So far we have learnt that India may take a few more days to complete the necessary legal process to send Nur Hossain back as the matter is still under the court's jurisdiction there [India]," the secretary

It may take less than a week to bring him back if everything works smoothly, he added. "We have been in continuous communication with India regarding the matter."

Bangladesh urged India to return Nur at a joint working group meeting in Dhaka in September. India at the time said it would return him and all other Bangladeshi suspected criminals who were in its captivity.

Nur fled to India after the abduction and killing of seven people, including Narayanganj city panel mayor Nazrul Islam, in April.

Eight months after the murders, the police failed to submit any chargesheet. So far, 17 people, including 15 Rapid Action Battalion members, have given confessional statements in court under section

TIB worried

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are not only a barrier to ensuring recruitment on the basis of merit but also an example of abuse of power," TIB said in a statement.

It demanded Prime Minister's intervention to stop such unconstitutional,

unethical and political influence. "From this example of illegal

intervention and exertion of political influence on a constitutional institution, it is clear that partisan and political considerations are now dominant instead of recruitment of deserving candidates," TIB Executive

Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman said. "This goes against the government's declaration and roadmap of

establishing good governance," he

The ministers and others have not only violated the oath they have taken as peoples' representatives, they have also engaged in actions that are against the constitution, he pointed out.

TIB called on the ministers, state ministers, peoples' representatives and the political class to refrain from applying unethical influence

on recruitment in any public office.

11 face arrest order

FROM PAGE 1 deployed in key points of the Habiganj town to avert further untoward incidents, tension was high in the area, said Officer-in-Charge Nazimuddin of Habiganj Sadar Police Station.

SAMS Kibria, then an opposition lawmaker, was assassinated in a grenade attack while addressing a rally in Habiganj on January 27, 2005. The blast also killed Kibria's nephew Shah Manzur Huda, local AL leader Abdur Rahim and two others.

Apart from Ariful and former premier Khaleda Zia's political secretary Harris, the other nine facing the arrest warrant are Habiganj municipality mayor and district BNP general secretary Golam Kibria Gaus, Moulana Md Tajuddin, Mufti Shafiqur Rahman, Mufti Abdul Hye, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Badrul, Md Muhibur Rahman, Md Kajal Mia and Hafez Moulana Yahya.

All of them were shown absconding in the supplementary charge sheet submitted to court by the CID on November 13.

Ariful, also a member of the convening committee for BNP's Sylhet metropolitan unit, and Gaus had been absent from their offices since the submission of the supplementary charge sheet.

Contacted over the phone, Ariful said he had heard of the warrant and would appear before the court after getting a copy of the order. Gaus could not be reached over the

phone and none from the municipality office could say where he was. Harris Chowdhury is accused in

nade attack, and Zia Charitable Trust and Zia Orphanage Trust graft cases. Senior Judicial Magistrate Rashid Ahmed Milon fixed January 8 for the

several cases including August 21 gre-

next hearing in the case. CASE HISTORY

The day after the grenade attack, Abdul Mazid Khan, organising secretary of Habiganj district AL, filed two cases -one for murder and the other under the Explosive Substances Act -- with Habiganj Sadar Police Station.

Munshi Atiqur Rahman of the CID,

the investigation officer, submitted the first charge sheet on March 20, 2005, against 10 local BNP men.

The family of Kibria outright rejected it saying the investigation failed to detect the masterminds.

Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal Judge Biplab Goswami accepted the charge sheet but couldn't start the trial as the complainant filed a no-confidence petition.

As the tribunal rejected the petition, the complainant sought time for lodging a petition with the High Court for a stay on the proceedings. And the tribunal granted the petitioner 10 days. Upon an appeal by the complain-

ant, the HC on May 5, 2006 stayed the proceedings. Following another appeal, the Sylhet tribunal on May 14, 2006 ordered further probe into the cases. Reinvestigation began after the AL

assumed power in 2009. Investigation Officer Rafiqul Islam, submitted the second charge sheet before a Habiganj magistrate's court on June 20, 2011. This time Lutfozzaman Babar, former BNP state minister for home, and

Mufti Abdul Hannan, chief of banned

militant outfit Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-

Islami (Huji), and 14 others were named. Babar and Hannan are now behind bars and facing trials in some other criminal cases. A week after the second charge sheet submission, Kibria's wife Asma Kibria filed a petition with a Habiganj court expressing no confidence in the investigation. The court then forwarded the

Tribunal Following two petitions by Asma and the tribunal prosecutor, the court on January 5, 2012 ordered the CID to carry out further probe by a senior officer.

case documents and the petition to the

Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial

ASP Parul on November 13 submitted the supplementary charge sheet including the names of eleven people that the court yesterday asked police to

Our correspondents from Sylhet and Moulvibazar contributed to the report.

Movement soon

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yesterday.

"One year has already passed, and the condition of people as well as the country is getting worse. We have been pushed to the wall. We will take to the streets taking people with us to face the government," said the BNP chairperson.

Khaleda was speaking at a programme organised by Jatiyatabadi Muktijoddha Dal, a pro-BNP platform of freedom fighters, at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capi-

"People want a movement ... they want a change to get back their voting rights. They want to establish people's government by casting ballots.

"This autocratic and illegal government will be blown away like a house of cards, Inshallah ... Our victory is certain," she said. At the beginning of her hour-long

speech, Khaleda expressed her gratitude to India and other countries that helped and supported Bangladesh in its struggle for independence.

Without naming any political party, Khaleda said a particular party has been publicising "concocted history" of the Liberation War.

The BNP chief apparently supported her elder son Tarique Rahman's scathing attack on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Last week, Tarique, senior vicechairman of the BNP, termed Bangabandhu a "big Razakar" who, according to him, wanted to be the prime minister of undivided Pakistan, and didn't want Bangladesh's inde-

pendence. At yesterday's programme, Khaleda said, "If anyone makes comments based on documents or takes the initiative to correct those partial and distorted versions of the country's history, that particular party uses abusive language and issues threats

instead of giving reply." The reason is that the party's role in the Liberation War is now in question.

It had failed to discharge its responsibilities when the nation was in crisis, she claimed. They [the party] didn't fight risking

their lives in the battlefield during the war. Instead, they took shelter in India, said Khaleda. "They were concerned more about

themselves and their families than the country's liberation and the people. "That is why they want to hide their

weakness and failure taking advantage of people's emotions." The party always claims that it had

organised and led the Liberation War. But the speeches and writings of the party's followers have proved how unrealistic those claims are. "They don't hesitate to label war

Pakistan if anyone says anything different from their versions of history," said the BNP chief. "I want to say that it will not be

heroes as Razakars or agents of

possible to change the facts of history by hurling abusive words or making threats. History will take its own course.

Everyone knows that the then biggest political party [Awami League] tried to reach an agreement with Pakistani military ruler Yahya Khan till March 23, 1971 over handover of

They were busy resolving the stalemate over the framing of Pakistan's

constitution, said Khaleda. "They [that party] didn't make any move towards achieving independence though they knew that soldiers and ammunition were being brought

under the guise of talks." They turned down a proposal from Bangalee army officers for proclaiming the country's independence, claimed

Khaleda. "So, they couldn't announce any programme other than calling hartals in protest against the killing of

unarmed people." They had no alternative but to flee or surrender [to the Pakistani forces] in the face of attacks, she said.

War on ISIS Kurd chief hails advances

AFP, Mount Sinjar

Iraqi Kurdish leader Massud Barzani hailed advances by peshmerga fighters against the Islamic State group yesterdayas they battled the jihadists for a northern town with the backing of US-led strikes.

Thousands of the autonomous Kurdish region's peshmerga launched a major operation on Wednesday which broke the second IS siege this year of Mount Sinjar.

The Kurdish offensive threatens the links between the city of Mosul, the main IS stronghold in Iraq, and

territory the militants control in neighbouring Syria.

peshmerga opened two main routes to Mount Sinjar," Barzani said during a visit to Mount Sinjar, adding: "We did not expect to achieve all these victories." In addition to breaking through

to the mountain, "a large part of the centre of the town of Sinjar was also liberated," he said of the district's main settlement to the south.

The Kurdish regional president said the peshmerga might join an operation to retake Mosul itself.

"We will take part if the Iraqi government asks us, and of course we will have our conditions," he said, without specifying what these "During the past 48 hours, the might be.

Maqsudul passes away

biodegradable natural fibre.

2008 and 2009.

He earlier decoded the genome of papaya in the US and rubber plant in Malaysia, through which he came into spotlight in the scientific fraternity and made headlines in the world's leading scientific journals in

Born in Faridpur, Maqsudul, whose father was martyred in the Liberation War of the nation, pursued higher studies and advanced research in Russia, Germany and USA, and had a knack for studying the growth and development of various plants even in his childhood days. US papaya trade got a boost,

thanks to him and his team's endeavour in sequencing its gene mapping helping papaya growers fight diseases that used to play havoc with papaya production. His success in rubber plant genome sequencing was also appreciated in Malaysia and the world at large.

began in February 2008 when the scientist started exploring the possibilities with several other Bangladeshi scientists and academics.

The whole process was kicked off with many long conference calls between Maqsudul and plant molecular biologists Prof Haseena Khan and Prof Zeba Seraj of the departments of biochemistry and molecular biology of Dhaka University. Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury then took special interests in bringing Maqsudul home and the government sanctioned a good budget to facilitate the jute genome sequenc-

genome sequencing of Tossa jute, Bangladeshi scientists under the leadership of Maqsudul unravelled the genome sequence of deshi (white) jute last year. With liver problems, he was

Three years into the successful

admitted to Queen's Medical Center in Hawaii on December 2, and was Jute genome sequencing initiative undergoing treatment there since, his

brother Mahbubul Alam Babu told The Daily Star.

He breathed his last yesterday around 2:18am (Bangladesh time) He left behind his wife, two daughters, a host of relatives, followers and

Hawaii Memorial Park Cemetery near his laboratory, Alam's Laboratory, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed deep shock at the death of

Maqsudul, reports news agency UNB quoting the PM's press secretary Abul Kalam Azad.

sister's house in the capital's Lalmatia on Wednesday after the Maghrib BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Leader of the Opposition in

Parliament Rowshan Ershad and Dhaka University Vice-chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique also expressed their condolences to the bereaved family.

Outlaw

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dakat, 40, was a son of Adhar Ali in Ektarpur village of the upazila. He was very close to Akdil Hossain alias Buro, one of the founders of the party.

Akdil, who was also the acting chief of the banned outfit, was killed in a "shootout" with police in 2008. Around 4:30am, a patrol team

of Khoksa police found the bullethit body of Bhadu on a road in Bashoa village. Police then identified the deceased as Bhadu, said Motiar Rahman, officer-in-charge of Khoksa Police Station.

Bhadu's wife Eti Khatun alleged that Pangsha police in Rajbari picked her husband up from Pangsha bus stand area on Saturday night.

However, Abul Bashar, officerin-charge of Pangsha Police Station, denied the allegation.

According to police, Bhadu had been running criminal activities, including abduction and robbery, in different areas of Kushtia, Rajbari and Jhenidah for the last 10 years.

He stood accused in at least 40 criminal cases, four of them for murder, filed with different police stations in the three districts.

Bhadu was also the prime accused in Jhenidah Sadar Police Station sub-inspector Bashar mur der case. Basher was killed in 2010. Bhadu had also been accused in officer-in-charge of Pangsha Police Station Mizanur Rahman killing case Mizanur was murdered in 2005.

OC Motiar said Bhadu led a drive when NBCP leader Akdil grabbed 300 acres of land at Mukshitpur, Komorbhog and Raipur Chars in 1997 and distributed those among his followers. Bhadu used to extort money from them.

The police official said they were yet to identify the killers of Bhadu. An investigation was going

Cops arrest 16

FROM PAGE 3

Contacted, Prof Arefin said "If anyone creates disturbances to the academic activities on the campus, the law enforcers will take necessary actions."

Later, some left-leaning student organisations under the banner of "Progotishil Chhatra Jote" brought out a procession on the campus protesting the arrest and some of its leaders met the VC at his office.

On October 14, Dhaka University decided to allow only freshly passed HSC graduates to sit for admission tests, closing shutters on any second timers.

Khaleda

who were among five served show

FROM PAGE 3

cause notices on November 10, sought pardon on Saturday. BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia

directed the cancellation, says a press release.

Stop maligning FROM PAGE 2 "... In all my speeches, I said if any of

my remarks was proved wrong or documents were provided against them, I would not hesitate to correct my statement," he added. Tarique, who is accused in around

a dozen corruption cases and faces several arrest warrants, went to the United Kingdom for treatment in 2008 during the tenure of armybacked caretaker government, and has been living there with his family ever since.

Stop movement

persuade the probe body to recommend allowing operation of cargo vessels through the river until the original route, Mongla- on Saturday, said, earlier he used to Ghoshiakhali channel, is completely

With the navigability of Mongla-Ghasiakhali channel lost, vessels had been using the Shela river route for over a decade ignoring objections from the forest department. The Bangladesh Inland Water

restore the navigability only after Southern Star-7 sank with around 3.58 lakh litres of furnace oil. Anticipating a disaster like this, environmentalists had been express-

Sundarbans since the beginning. the authorities have banned movement of all vessels through the Shela

ing concerns about operating com-

mercial vessels inside the

Vessel Owners' Association demanded the government reopens the Shela river route as there is no alternative route right now. tion through the Shela river route.

route. We won't use the Shela River

route if there is another route,"

Mahbub Uddin Ahmed, president of the association, at a press conference vesterday. He claimed over 200 water vessels are waiting at both sides of the Shela

vessels on the route does not resume. Meanwhile, Dr Manirul H Khan, a Zoology professor of Jahangirnagar University and wildlife expert, said he noticed significant changes in the

spill. "I have noticed birds, like kingfisher, that depend on fish have reduced significantly while other birds, like kite, that live on carcasses

have increased in that area." It indicates the number of fish has

dredged up.

dredging the original route to

Transport Authority (BIWTA) started

However, following the accident, until further notice.

"The government stopped opera-But it didn't open any alternative

river and said workers might call nationwide strike if plying of water

wildlife in that area following the oil

spillage, he added. Manirul, who spotted a dead otter

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is supposed to head for the Sundarbans in the morn-

In coordination with the government, the team is going to visit the Sundarbans to assess the situation and to find out next course of

A parliamentary body at a meeting

actions in the affected area.

yesterday recommended that the government realise compensation from the importer concerned for the damage caused by the tanker acci-The parliamentary standing committee on the power, energy and

mineral resources ministry asked Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation to realise compensation from the company that imported furnace oil and carried it on a faulty tanker through the sensitive area of the

Gopalganj from the Padma Oil depot in Khulna.

Hawlader, a member of the commit-

loss and realise the compensation

accordingly, added Hawlader, an MP State Minister for Power and Energy Nasrul Hamid Bipu and committee members Abu Jahir and

Tragic death of a student

FROM PAGE 1 He was a third year student of Bangla Literature at Dinajpur Government College. When he failed to collect a fee of Tk 1,500 for an exam to be held in January, he travelled all the way to

could save money to pay his exam fee. Short of time, he hastily took an odd job at an under-construction building in the capital's

the fifth floor of the building and died yesterday morning. Belal Hossain, who helped him manage the job, said: "He arrived in

that he read in the evening. It all happened around 8:30am. A co-worker saw him pouring water on a fifth floor wall. He was also seen to talk

while. Returning downstairs, he did not see Jahangir there. Later, Jahangir was found on the third floor with severe injuries to his waist.

rushed to the nearby Suhrawardy

suspect he might fall through the empty spaces between the staircases. His body was taken to the DMCH morgue for an autopsy.

well-wishers to mourn his death. The scientist will be buried at

A qulkhwani will be held at his

gone down while animals of the forest might have died due to oil

see a good number of monkeys in the forest along the Shela. But this time he didn't find any. Today, an 18-member team of the

JS BODY RECOMMENDATION

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Cargo

Sundarbans. The tanker was taking the oil to

"The oil importer concerned cannot deny their responsibility for the incident. The tanker which was carrying the huge amount of oil was a faulty one and had no necessary papers from the authorities concerned for plying the river," ABM Ruhul Amin

tee, told The Daily Star after the meet-The committee asked the power and energy ministry to assess the

of Jatiya Party. Nasima Ferdaus, among others, were

present at the meeting.

Dhaka to find himself a job so that he

Mohammadpur about 10 days ago. While at work, Jahangir fell from

Dhaka on December 11 to work for a month to save up the money for his

over his cell phone at that time. The co-worker went to upstairs for a Mahmud said he was attending fewer

Critically injured Jahangir was

Medical College and Hospital. Later, he was shifted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he died around 10:00am, said DMCH sources. Both police and his co-workers

Jahangir was born into a poor fam-

two sons and two daughters learned to chip in from an early age. Nevertheless, all the siblings have pursued education, working side by side with their studies. Ansura Begum, Jahangir's elder sister, recently completed her BSC degree from a college in Thakurgaon.

ily in Pirganj upazila of Thakurgaon

His father Anarul Haque is a rickshaw-

van puller who could hardly run the

family with his meagre income. So his

His younger brother Alamgir Hossain is pursuing his SSC from a local school. "My father always wanted us to be educated and tried his best to educate

us," said a crying Ansura.

Belal said Jahangir used to work half exam fee. He brought along his books a day for Tk 320. After that he would return to Belal's mess in Shankar. He had a target to save up to Tk 6,000 in one month to meet the exam fee and other expenses.

> remained secluded from friends and classmates. "We guess he was doing something else but he never shared it with us,

leave he would need during the

in Thakurgaon," they added.

upcoming exam, family sources said. "He enrolled in a college in Dinajpur as there was no commendable institution for honours students

Jahangir's classmate Russell classes lately at college and also

Russell told our Dinajpur correspondent. He used to be a poorly paid tutor in Dinajpur. He also worked for a private firm in the town but quit the job as the authority did not allow him a month's