

Noakhali Jubo Dal activist shot dead

JCD leader hurt in 'gunfight' with police in Satkhira

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alleged criminals shot dead a Jubo Dal activist at Begumganj in Noakhali on Thursday night, while in Satkhira, a local leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal received bullet injuries in a "gunfight" between his cohorts and police early yesterday.

The dead is Md Sohel (Pichchi Sohel), 32, son of Habib Ullah of Laxminarayanpur village in Begumganj.

Victim's sister Fatema Begum claimed that her brother went out with Rana and Rubel, two local goons, when the duo came to their house around 9:00pm and asked him to go out with them. She heard gunshots a few minutes later.

Locals said they found Sohel's body lying beside a road near Dokanghar area around 10:00pm. The body bore bullet marks in the chest and back.

Sohel was rushed to a local private clinic where doctors pronounced him dead.

Ainul Hoque, officer-in-charge of Begumganj Model Police Station, said Sohel was accused in several cases. He got bail in an arms case recently.

The OC also claimed that the murder had taken place centring a row over the distribution of ammunition.

In Satkhira, Abdul Majid, president

of Kalaroa municipality unit JCD, received bullet injuries in a "gunfight" between his accomplices and police in Kalaroa upazila early yesterday.

He was an accused in a case filed for the attack on the convoy of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (then opposition leader) in Kalaroa on August 30, 2002.

Kamal Hossain, information officer at Satkhira police superintendent office, said after receiving information that a group of "criminals" were gathering to carry out criminal activities at Thakurbari on the Satkhira-Jessore road, police launched a drive there around 1:00am.

As soon as police reached the area, the criminals hurled crude bombs and opened fire at them, prompting the law enforcers to retaliate, he added.

Majid sustained bullet injuries on his knee in the gunfight. Police arrested him while others managed to flee. He was admitted to Satkhira Sadar Hospital. Doctors said he is out of danger now.

Police recovered a homemade gun and two bullets from the spot.

Majid's mother Rahima Khatun, however, said police arrested her son from Goga area in Sharsha upazila of Jessore on Wednesday and shot in his leg sometime on Thursday night.

Eyes that can't see the world

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family, the 35-year-old has two sons -- one studying in class six and the other in playgroup. His elderly mother lives with him at a rented house in Shailakupa.

He received Tk 5 lakh from the government for his treatment in India where he intends to fly in a few days. But his wife Sweeny Akter is not sure if the money would be enough.

"Those who took treatment in India told us they spent Tk 10 to 15 lakh," she said and demanded that the government arrange a job for her husband once he recovers.

Just as bleak is the future of Shahriar Hridoy. The teen boy was to take the SSC exam that began yesterday. But as his peers took to the exam halls, he lay at the hospital and cried all morning.

He suffered injuries in his right eye with which he can see nothing but a dot of light.

A student of Feni Govt Pilot High School, he and his classmate Minhzul Islam Anik were wounded in a crude bomb blast in Feni town on January 5, the day the BNP chief called the non-stop blockade.

"If I were well, I would take the test," he told this newspaper on Thursday.

He too got Tk 5 lakh from the government for treatment. He and his parents got their visas yesterday and would fly to India soon, said his

mother Rosy Roushan Akter.

"We appeal that the prime minister makes some special arrangements so my son and Anik can take the exam once they return," she added.

Anik has already left for India with government assistance.

Like Liton and Hridoy, three other victims are undergoing eye treatments at the hospital after being attacked by suspected blockaders.

Shyamal Kumar Sarkar, resident

Uttara, he wants to be a cricketer. An all-rounder, he got himself admitted to the Indoor Cricket Academy of Abahani Club in Dhaka six months ago when he came to the capital for higher education.

The 18-year-old suffered injuries in his left eye as pickets threw a brick chunk at the bus by which he was going to his Madaripur home. The attack happened at Bhanga of Faridpur on January 31.

Ziaur Rahman, another victim, was injured in a similar attack on a bus on February 2 when he was coming from his Rajshahi home to Manikganj where he works.

In the attack, a piece of broken glass struck his left eye.

"I can't express the situation I'm in. I don't know what will happen," said Zia, 29.

Father of a minor son, he provides for his seven-member family that includes his three brothers who are still studying.

"If I lose an eye at this stage of my life..." he said, and then abruptly fell silent with a sigh.

At 60, Akter Hossain is more in fury than in pain. With his left eye injured and operated, he seemed to care less about himself and more about the country and its future.

"Why do you write? Can you solve the crisis by writing? No. So what's the point of writing?" he fired at these correspondents.

He suffered the wounds in a crude bomb attack at Malibagh in the capital on February 3.

"No one from Khaleda and Hasina's families has been burned. How will they realise our pain?"

When he calmed down, he started talking about his daughter who is taking the SSC exam. "But would these kids be able to take the test? I'm not sure."

A shard of glass pierced through his left eye, making him unconscious. He underwent an operation the next day and is expecting another today.

"I seek everyone's blessings so that I can play cricket again; that I can see well again," he said.

His father Kawsar Sardar, a farmer, said, "I spend most of my incomes for him so that he can fulfil his dream. But you see he now lies in the hospital."

Surgeon at the hospital, said six other injured had been released or referred to other hospitals after treatment in the last one month. They all are victims of the ongoing violence that has killed at least 60 so far, including the victims of last night's arson attack on a bus in Gaibandha.

Imran Sardar is one of those still being treated there.

A student of a private university in

Gaibandha.

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