

# 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.



### FUNNY pics

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



**GANGSTA GOAT ...** A goat in a flash shirt stares as if it was saying, "Whatcha lookin at?" The shirt has shiny rivets for buttons even. It may be tied to a poll but made up for it with attitude. The photo was taken on Dhaka Medical College Hospital premises.



### READER'S eye

Life has its own bloopers and oops. They all make our life colourful and fun-filled. Now pick up your mobile phone and click. Capture the funny side of life and send those to [starreaderseye@gmail.com](mailto:starreaderseye@gmail.com). We will share your lighter moments with others.

## Eyes that can't see the world

FROM PAGE 1

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 Sweetey 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 Minhazul 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.



Liton



Akhter



Ziaur

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

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."

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."

across the country to ensure security of the examinees, according to a press release of the paramilitary force.

A total of 7,277 candidates were absent on the first day while 19 students and three invigilators were expelled for resorting to unfair means.

Frustration and fear of violence were written all over the faces of the candidates and the guardians who showed up at the exam centres.

"She is passing her days in uncertainty over exam routine. And we had to remain cautious all the way from our home to here," said Abdul Aziz, whose daughter Afsana Sultana took the exam at Siddheswari Girls' High School yesterday.

MM Nurul Alam, father of GM Hassan of Bangladesh Bank High School, said the repeated rescheduling of the exams is putting a huge pressure on the students.

"The government should follow the exam routine and ensure proper security for all of us. Otherwise, the entire education system will collapse," he told this correspondent while waiting outside Gendaria High School where his son was taking the test.

He also requested the BNP and its allies to refrain from calling programmes on exam dates.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid visited Azimpur Girls' School and College around 9:00am.

"I hope no new [political] programmes will be announced, at least not on examination dates," he told the press at the exam centre.

However, all the appeals and expectations came to no avail as the 20-party combine chose to enforce fresh hartal on exam days and stick to their political objectives, rather than caring about the fate of the younger generation.

## Savagery goes on

FROM PAGE 1

The deceased was Md Mongol Pramanik alias Mongol, 26, son of Abdul Malek. The injured Rashidul Islam, 25, is undergoing treatment in critical condition at Pabna Medical College Hospital, police said.

Residents of Dharmagram village, they were allegedly involved in the politics of an outlawed party before being active in the politics of the BNP-led alliance, claimed Monir Hossain, sub-inspector of Ataikula Police Station under the Sadar upazila.

Police seized 400 grams of gun powder from the spot and detained three suspects in this connection, he added.

Denying their involvement with the BNP-led alliance, Johurul Islam, office secretary of Pabna district unit BNP, said they were members of an outlawed party.

With yesterday's incidents, the death toll has risen to 60 in the ongoing blockade violence. Of the dead, 35 were victims of mindless arson attacks.

In Feni, the covered van helper Bacchu Hawlader, 28, was injured when his vehicle came under an arson attack carried out allegedly by pro-blockaders.

He sustained burns in the face and hands. He was admitted to Feni Sadar Hospital but later was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He was heading for Chittagong from Dhaka.

Meanwhile, Feni police arrested a school student and an upazila level Jubo Dal leader. The school student,

Abdullah Al Miaji, is a student of class nine and was arrested with bomb-making materials from the town's Shaheed Shahidullah Kaiser Sarak. The Jubo Dal leader was Hasanuzzaman Shahadat, Dagonbhuiyan upazila unit general secretary of the youth wing.

Police claimed they arrested Abdullah after a raid on a flat and seized 35 crackers, 30 fireworks, three empty Fanta bottles and two tobacco tin cans from there.

In the capital police arrested another youth from a private clinic, who too was injured while allegedly making a bomb. Rahmat Ullah, 22, is from Rupganj in Naraynganj, Rupganj police said.

In Bogra, police conducted several special drives and arrested 39 BNP-Jamaat men including Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal district unit president Abdul Wadud and Jamaat Nandigram unit assistant secretary Ruhul Amin. Of them, eight were suspects in Thursday's attack on a betel-leaf-laden truck that left two people killed.

Bogra Sadar Police filed a case against 48 Jamaat-BNP men in connection with the attack.

The accused are Jamaat district unit ameer Md Shahabuddin, town unit ameer Abdur Razzak, BNP district unit joint-secretary Tahauddin Nahin, town unit BNP president Mahabubur Rahman Bakul and BNP leader Delwar Hossain Hiru Poshari, among others.

## What's the difference?

FROM PAGE 1

violence unleashed by the BNP-Jamaat men across the country.

Also the AL chief, Hasina sought cooperation from the countrymen to build strong resistance against the "terrorism of the BNP and Jamaat".

The ALCWC, highest decision-making body of the ruling party, discussed the overall situation of the country, especially the ongoing blockade, petrol bomb attacks, SSC exams and the world community's position on the political crisis.

Addressing the meet, AL General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam urged his party colleagues to have confidence in the government, saying the international community is in favour of the AL government.

"The international community is not with the BNP-Jamaat and it doesn't support violence and killings unleashed by the BNP-Jamaat men," a party leader, talking to The Daily Star, quoted Ashraf as saying.

**'ACTS OF TERRORISM'**

About the ongoing violence, Hasina in her speech said, "What I see is acts of terrorism."

She added, "Khaleda Zia along with Jamaat has declared war against the people of Bangladesh.... Why such a situation has been created? What does she [Khaleda] want?"

At the working committee meeting, the AL president directed her party leaders to strengthen the organisation at the grassroots and build public opinion to resist BNP-Jamaat's "acts of terrorism," insiders said.

Contacted, AL Organising Secretary AFM Bahauddin Nasim said the PM

asked them to drum up public opinion against violence and unite the pro-liberation forces by engaging the AL-led 14-party components.

"She [AL chief] asked us to form committees at all levels with people and party men so that SSC examinees can sit for their exams without any trouble," he told The Daily Star.

Hasina, in her address, urged the BNP chief not to enforce hartal during the SSC exams for the sake of 15 lakh examinees.

She said she was tense when the examination started yesterday and relieved when it ended peacefully. "I was praying to Allah so that students and guardians can return home safely."

Hasina questioned how the BNP chief was observing blockade when she herself has been staying at a luxury house in Gulshan.

"Khaleda Zia is spending money for killing people through arson," the prime minister said and questioned the source of the money.

She criticised Khaleda for keeping the doors locked when she went to console the BNP chief following the death of the latter's younger son.

At the meeting, the AL chief asked the party's Law Affairs Secretary Abdul Matin Khasru to review the cases being filed against the BNP-Jamaat leaders across the country.

She directed her party colleagues to prepare for the Dhaka city corporation (North and South) election to be held soon, meetings sources said.

Hasina also advised them to hold party councils of all units across the country immediately to strengthen the party.



Guardians wait outside Siddheswari Girls High School in the capital while their children are taking the SSC exams inside. Inset, a car with a sticker reading "SSC examinee."

## SSC exams suffer setback again

FROM PAGE 1

The test was supposed to be held on Monday but had to be deferred due to the 20-party's 5-day hartal. The Bangla 2nd Paper exam, originally scheduled for Wednesday last, will take place

today.

To ward off widespread fears of attacks among the candidates and their guardians, the government beefed up security at and around the examination centres.

While policemen stood guard at the centres, members of the elite Rapid Action Battalion were seen patrolling the lanes, roads and streets around.

Besides, 326 platoons of the Border Guard Bangladesh were deployed