

15 Sylhet BCL men hurt in MC College infighting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moultribazar

At least 15 activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were injured, two by bullets, in a factional clash at MC College in Sylhet city yesterday, said police.

The two bullet-hit activists, Khairul Alam Shaheen and Ratan Gupta, were sent to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital. Shaheen was later taken to Dhaka.

Police said the fighting was between the factions of Raihan Chowdhury, general secretary of Sylhet district BCL unit, and Kamrul Islam, joint secretary of the unit.

Witnesses said they used machetes, sticks, iron rods, and shotguns.

A witness and student of the college said the clash was linked to Sunday's incident of an activist of Raihan's faction slapping a senior activist loyal to Kamrul.

It was about establishing supremacy on the campus, said Nizam Uddin, officer-in-charge of Shahporan Police Station.

He said the situation was under their control and reinforcements were sent to prevent further violence.

Abdus Samad, president of Sylhet district BCL, told The Daily Star that the fighting was centred on an altercation over a senior-junior issue.



Armed activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of Sylhet district unit chase their factional rivals at MC College yesterday. Police said the fighting was a result of the factions' attempt to undermine each other's influence on the campus.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Dhaka opens mission in Addis Ababa

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has opened its resident Mission in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, on March 1 to usher newer avenues for trade and commerce, and social development.

Hanif Khan, the chargé d'affaires will be conducting the day-to-day business while Ambassador-Designate to Ethiopia M. Monirul Islam is expected to join by March 15, said a foreign ministry press release.

Ethiopia is one of the first African countries to recognise Bangladesh soon after its independence. Since then the two countries have supported each other on common and mutual interests and different international forums.

Ethiopia also hosts the headquarters of the African Union, which is of importance from UN peacekeeping perspective.

SC clears way for probing 'graft' by AL MP Bahauddin Nasim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday cleared the way for the Anti Corruption

Commission to investigate a corruption case filed against Awami League lawmaker

AFM Bahauddin Nasim. The apex court cancelled a High Court verdict of March 4, 2012 that had scrapped the ACC's move to probe the case, ACC lawyer Syed Mamun Mahub told The Daily Star.

The SC passed the order after hearing an appeal filed by the ACC challenging the HC verdict, he added.

The ACC filed the case on November 21, 2007, accusing Nasim of amassing wealth worth Tk 1.83 crore without any known source of income and concealing information of wealth worth Tk 17.58 lakh.

PIR MURDER CASE IN CTG 'JMB' man indicted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Detective Branch (DB) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police yesterday pressed charge against an alleged activist of banned militant outfit Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in a case filed over killing of a "Pir" (spiritual mentor) and his aide in a shrine in the port city last year.

DB Sub-inspector Santosh Kumar Chakma, also investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted two charge sheets--one for the killing and another for using explosives--against "JMB activist" Md Sujan alias Babu to the Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate court, said Assistant Commissioner (Prosecution) Nirmalendu Bikash Chakraborty of Chittagong Metropolitan Police.

"Pir" Rahamat Ullah, popularly known as Lyangta Fakir, 60, for being in the nude most of the time and "Khadem" Abdul Kader, 30, were killed in Lyangta Fakir Mazar at Bangla Bazar on September 4 last year.

After the killing, police quoting locals said a young man entering the shrine around 1:45pm, and later they found the "Pir" and his attendant dead with their throats slit. The criminal exploded a homemade bomb to escape the scene that injured three people, added police. He first slit the throat of Rahamat when people had gone to offer their the Juma prayers, said police. The man killed Kader when he had arrived at the scene with food for Rahamat, locals said.

Detectives arrested five JMB men, including Sujan alias Babu, along with some hand-made grenades and explosives on the ground floor of Hazi Nur Ahmed Tower in Khowajagar of Azimpur in the city on October 5 last year. Sujan later confessed to the killing before the court.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL Another man implicates Shakhawat in boy killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday testified that former Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP lawmaker Shakhawat Hossain shot a boy dead in Jessore's Keshabpur upazila during the Liberation War in 1971.

Kamal Sardar said he learnt about the killing from his uncle Kazi Abdul Aziz.

Kamal, of Chingra village in the upazila, is the ninth prosecution witness in a case against nine Jessore men including Shakhawat and second witness to implicate Shakhawat in the killing of the boy.

Earlier, his uncle Aziz himself testified about the murder as fifth prosecution witness. He said the boy was an informer of freedom fighters.

Aziz also told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that he himself was tortured by Shakhawat's aides at the time of the killing.

Meanwhile, the eighth prosecution witness, Hasan Ali Sheikh, also gave his testimony yesterday, linking four of the accused to the abduction of Miran Sheikh, who had joined the war and used to supply information to the freedom fighters.

Hasan, 91, said he had seen accused Abdul Khaleq, Ibrahim Hossain, Abdul Aziz, and Abdul Aziz (2) taking away Miran from near his home in Bangla month of Ashwin to Chingra Razakar camp.

Earlier, Miran Sheikh, also the sixth prosecution witness, said Shakhawat himself and his accomplices confined and tortured him at a Razakar camp in Jessore during the war.

The four other accused are Mujibur Rahman, Lutfar Morol, Billal Hossain and

Kazi Ohidul Islam.

The nine face five charges. Of them, Shakhawat, Billal and Lutfar are now in jail and have pleaded not guilty. The rest are on the run.

Sixty-three-year-old witness Kamal said a Razakar camp was set up at Chingra Bazar on the 15th of Bangla month of Jaistha and Shakhawat was the commander of the camp.

On the 28th of Ashwin, when he had gone to Chingra Bazar to buy something, he heard gunshots, he said.

Kamal said when he went towards the western side of the bazar, he saw accused Shakhawat, Abdul Aziz (son of Ful Sardar), Abdul Aziz (son of Ahmed Sardar), and Lutfar and others were marching towards the eastern side of the bazar and found the body of a child near the ferryghat besides the bazar.

Three days later, when he went to Chingra Bazar again, his uncle Aziz said Shakhawat killed the boy and Razakars beat him when he refused to hold the boy's hands before Shakhawat shot him. Later his uncle left the body near the ferryghat, Kamal said.

Kamal's uncle also said the name of the victim was Malek and he was from Hijaldanga village.

Accused Shakhawat and Lutfar were produced before the court yesterday. Another accused, Billal, was not produced as he fell sick. Kamal identified Shakhawat but not the other accused.

The two-member tribunal led by Justice Md Shahinur Islam adjourned the proceeding until March 15 after defence counsels completed cross-examinations of the two witnesses.



Ambassadors, heads of missions, and high commissioners of seven Latin American and Caribbean countries pay homage to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by placing a wreath at his portrait in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at the capital's Dhanmondi yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

EC finds no flaws in walkovers

FROM PAGE 3 submitting their respective nomination papers in many areas.

When attention was drawn to these allegations, Shah Nawaz said, "We have taken necessary steps where we have found specific allegations, but we cannot take action on the basis of rumours."

The EC on March 2 suspended polls to six UPs in Phulgazi upzila of Feni, and urged

the LGRD ministry to suspend the upazila chairman for influencing the polls there. The ministry later suspended him.

The EC the same day extended the deadline for submitting nominations for one day, in three UPs under the district's Pashuram upazila as some candidates alleged that they faced obstruction in submitting their nominations.

UK will continue supporting women's

FROM PAGE 3 to Bangladesh at the time to see the changes," she said.

Terming Bangladesh a 'development success story' the DFID chief said Bangladesh has really given girls and women more choices in their lives, allowing them to complete education and getting employment.

Talking about the International Women's Day, Sarah said it is always a big day on calendar here in Bangladesh.

Sarah, who has been country representative for DFID Bangladesh since October 2012, highly appreciated the confidence she has seen among girls and women in Bangladesh.

"I had wonderful experience of meeting so many people. I feel incredibly lucky," she said.

Responding to a question on sustainable development goals (SDGs), she said it needs to make sure that marginalised and vulnerable groups get the support they are

entitled to. "We need to make sure that we don't leave anybody behind. The leadership by the government is really important," she added.

On climate change issue, she said they have a strong commitment to managing the impacts of climate change and help vulnerable countries.

She said the British government has a very close partnership with Bangladesh, a key part of that is their development programmes.

The UK government's programmes have helped to lift 1.5 million people out of extreme poverty by providing training or assets to help people set up businesses by the end of 2015. The programmes also helped 1.4 million farmers and small businesses resulting in a net increase in income of £100 million.

27pc girls unaware of tech education benefit

FROM PAGE 3 by 10 percent of women.

Six percent of young and eight percent adult women regard technical education "stressful" and perceive it as suitable only for men. About four percent of young girls and two percent of adult females said the

quality of technical education is low.

"A careful review of these barriers and appropriate programmatic actions might help in bringing more females to technical education," said the survey.

UCEP is planning to conduct a similar survey at a broader scale in eight districts.

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International Women's Day
8 March


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