



Cases criminal, pleas political

On bail or in hiding, ruling party leaders lobbying hard with home ministry to withdraw cases filed in AL tenure

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Her morning started like many other housemaids on that January day in 2011. But she accidentally broke a water glass. That would prove to be a fatal event. Her employer beat her and denied any treatment to the severely injured girl.

The eighteen-year-old Zesmeen Akter (as spelt in police report) was taken by her brother to the Barisal Medical College hospital eight days later on January 28, where she died the next day.

The autopsy report said there were several bruises on her body and that she died of torture.

The girl was working at the home of Dhaka City unit Jubo Mahila League Organising Secretary Israt Jahan Nasrin.

Her father, Iskander Ali, filed an unnatu-

ral death case the same day and then a murder case on April 3 against Israt Jahan Nasrin and Barisal Jubo Mahila League leader Nazma Akhter with Barisal Kotwali Police Station.

Later, the CID took over the case and pressed charges against the two leaders on October 24, 2014.

The charge sheet said Nasrin and Nazma, brutally tortured Zesmeen after she had broken a water glass. Nazma used to live in the same home with Nasrin in Dhaka.

A Barisal court issued arrest warrants against the duo who are on the run, at least on paper.

It appeared to be an open-and-shut case and justice for Zesmeen's family seemed certain. But things are not so simple if the accused are close to the ruling party.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Visiting Bangladeshis in Kolkata through the Sonali Bank branch there to exchange dollars for Indian currency yesterday. The shortage of new Indian bank notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 leaves a long queue, causing people to suffer. PHOTO: SUBRATA ACHARJEE

Going blind doesn't worry him, losing his land does

Injured, arrested Santal man of Gaibandha panicking over how to support his family

AKRAM HOSEN

With his left eye completely gone and reddish liquid oozing out all the time from the right, Dwijen can hardly make out the faces of people around him.

But whenever he realises a visitor is here, the landless Santal of Gaibandha asks one question repeatedly.

"Will we be able to go back to our land? Will they [the government] take any

RELATED STORY ON PAGE 3 SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



Cash crunch turns grave

Bangladeshis visiting Kolkata in trouble after withdrawal of Rs 1,000 and 500 notes

SUBRATA ACHARJEE, Kolkata

Bangladeshis visiting India continue to face cash crunch although new bills are available and a week has passed since New Delhi, in a shock move, withdrew Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 banknotes from circulation.

Things have turned so serious for Bangladeshi tourists that the Kolkata branch of state-run Sonali Bank is now urging Bangladeshis not to visit the country before December.

"We urge Bangladeshis not to visit India until December unless they have some emergency purposes," said Ali Mortuza, deputy general manager of Sonali Bank there.

He said the branch got a supply of Rs 40 lakh from the

Reserve Bank of India yesterday against the demand of Rs 1.5 crore to help ease sufferings for the Bangladeshi nationals confronting the currency exchange crisis.

Tourists who are already in the country, particularly in Kolkata, are facing serious inconveniences because of the cash crunch.

Two of them are Muntasir Maruf and his wife. The physician couple of a government hospital in Dhaka landed in Kolkata on November 12. They could change the US dollar they were carrying but could not get change for Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes which they took in exchange of dollar at the airport.

AKM Kamaruzzaman Parvez, a marketing official of a

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



"We urge Bangladeshis not to visit India until December unless they have some emergency purposes."

ALI MURTAZA, KOLKATA BRANCH DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER OF SONALI BANK.

A DAY AFTER DEADLY CLASH IN NARSINGDI Tension still runs high

HASAN JAHID TUSHER from Narsingdi

There was the smell of something burnt even a kilometre from Narsingdi's Amirabad. It became stronger with every step towards the village. Along the way, four unexploded crude bombs were stuck on a tree branch.

This correspondent found an unusual calmness after he entered the village yesterday. At least 20 houses were burnt down there.

Armed with sticks, spears and other weapons, a few locals, however, were patrolling parts of the village to resist any further attack.

Amirabad is one of the villages in Raipura upazila's Nilokkha union where at least four people were killed and 50 others injured in a string of fierce clashes on Monday.

The clashes took place between the

supporters of current and former union parishad chairmen over establishing supremacy.

Over 30 houses were completely destroyed.

The scene in Sonakandi, Haripur, Darigao and Gopinathpur villages in Nilokkha was quite similar to that of Amirabad.

Police were deployed nearby as tension was still high in the villages.

Some people were seen vandalising houses even when a group of journalists, including this correspondent, was visiting the areas yesterday.

Some of them asked the reporters to leave and "let them handle the situation themselves".

Males were hardly seen in the villages.

The bodies of Mamun and Khokon, two of those killed in Monday's clashes, were handed over to their female family members who

buried them later.

All the four slain, known as supporters of former UP chairman Abdul Haque, were buried in Amirabad and Sonakandi villages after Namaz-e-Janaza.

Talking to The Daily Star, their family members alleged that the local administration took the side of the current chairman during the clashes.

They demanded exemplary punishment for the attackers.

Khalil Ahmed of Amirabad village said criminals opened fire on the victims in presence of the police.

Contacted, Basir Uddin, assistant superintendent of police (Sadar Circle), rejected the allegation. He said several policemen were injured and that he himself narrowly escaped injuries.

"Supporters of Haque attacked the current chairman [Tajul Islam] and

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



A home in Amirabad village of Narsingdi destroyed during the clash between two groups of people supporting local political rivals. Inset, a contingent of police deployed in the village after Monday's mayhem. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Protect minorities or face action

Cabinet committee on law and order warns law enforcers

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The cabinet committee on law and order yesterday warned of taking tough action against law enforcement agencies if they fail to contain attacks on religious minorities.

The committee observed that attacks on religious minorities and vandalism of Hindu temples across the country put the government in an embarrassing situation, said meeting sources.

"The attacks on the minorities had put

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

AL wounding AL

52 killed since last year over money, power

POLITICAL VIOLENCE	PARTY	INCIDENTS	DEAD	INJURED
JAN 2015-OCT 2016 SOURCE: ASK	AL VS AL (INCLUDING FRONT ORGANISATIONS)	334	52	3,466
	AL VS BNP, Jamaat, JP, JSD	45	11	429

SHAKHAWAT LITON and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

BNP men no longer seem to be major political rivals of leaders and activists of the Awami League. Members of main opposition Jatiya Party and even the Jamaat-e-Islami men do not pose any threat to the

ruling party either.

The ruling AL men now fight none but their own party colleagues.

At least 52 AL men were killed and nearly 3,500 injured in 334 incidents of internal clashes from January last year till October this year, according to Ain o Salish

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Notice

- ▶ bKash does not have any shop or booth outside of Bangladesh.
- ▶ Remit money legally in bKash Account through Western Union, BRAC Sajaan Exchange and listed and authorized Exchange houses of BRAC Bank.
- ▶ It has been noticed that several unscrupulous businessmen are making illegal monetary transaction from abroad to Bangladesh using bKash logo without authorization. Such activities are unlawful and punishable offence.



a BRAC BANK company