

30 injured in AL factional clash

Mobile court penalises 7 in connection with it

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

At least 30 people were injured in a clash between two factions of the ruling Awami League over establishing supremacy in Saltha upazila of Faridpur yesterday.

The clash ensued after the followers of the upazila unit AL cultural affairs secretary Ashrafur Islam allegedly attacked a relative of his rival Md Rafik Matubbor, also vice-president of the upazila unit Sramik League, a pro-AL organisation, in Gotti Bus Stand area around 8:00am.

"They also damaged several houses of my supporters, triggering a counter attack around 10:00am," said Rafik Matubbor.

On information, law enforcers rushed to the spot and fired around 90 rounds of bullets and four pellets to bring the situation under control, said Md Aminul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Saltha Police Station.

At least 30 people were injured and 20 houses were damaged during the clash, he added.

The injured were admitted to Faridpur General Hospital and other local hospitals and clinics.

Denying his involvement in the incident, Ashrafur said the clash erupted following a trifle matter.

However, police arrested seven people and produced them before a mobile court.

Six of them were fined Tk 50,000 each and another was jailed for three months in connection with the clash, said Mohammad Mobasher Hasan, Saltha upazila nirbahi officer.



Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) forms a human chain in the capital's Sadarghat area yesterday demanding the Buriganga be saved from encroachers and pollution.

Dhaka-London first strategic dialogue this month

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and the UK will hold the first Strategic Dialogue this month to widen the bilateral relationship.

This was agreed between visiting UK Minister for Asia and the Pacific Alok Sharma and Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali during a meeting held at the state guesthouse Padmayesterday evening.

Minister Sharma expressed optimism that the Strategic Dialogue between the foreign secretary of Bangladesh and permanent undersecretary of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office will play an important role in further strengthening Bangladesh-UK ties.

They discussed issues of mutual interests, particularly focusing on enhanced bilateral trade and investment.

Foreign Minister Ali reiterated that British trade delegation should visit Bangladesh to develop business partnerships.

PHOTO: STAR

Locals vandalise man's house for 'molesting' three children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three children were allegedly molested after being lured with food in the capital's Pallabi area on Thursday.

The twin girls and their cousin -- aged around four years -- were molested by a grocery vendor, Eqbal Hossain, 44, in Bihari camp at East Kurmitola, said OC Dadon Fakir of Pallabi Police Station.

When the trio was returning from school, Eqbal lured them with "chotpoti" (a street food) and took them inside his room and molested them, alleged the father of the twins, a day labourer.

Afterwards, one of the twins fell sick and complained to her mother, he added.

When their parents informed about the matter to the locals, around a hundred of them vandalised Eqbal's house and store in the slum. Eqbal, however, managed to flee.

Locals said Eqbal has been residing in the slum for over 18 years.

They alleged that he was married four times and all of his wives



The damaged house of Eqbal Hossain. PHOTO: SHAHEEN MOLLAH

left him for his "bad character".

Around two years ago, his fourth wife left him within a week into the marriage, and since then he has been living in his five-room house alone, added locals.

And, the rooms were being used for taking drugs and gambling, alleged locals, adding, at times, he also brought girls to his place.

Claiming that he was a "political man", Eqbal also sold govern-

ment land to people, alleged locals.

The mother of the twins filed a case with Pallabi Police Station accusing Eqbal Hossain around 10:00pm on Thursday, the OC said.

Police detained Eqbal's brother-in-law for interrogation, he added.

The victims were taken to One-stop Crisis Centre at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Ashuganj plant fire disrupts power generation for 6hrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Power generation at three affected units out of 14 ones of Ashuganj plant in Brahmanbaria resumed last evening, six hours into disruption following a fire earlier in the day.

Power generation at 400 KW combined cycle (south), 225 MW combined cycle and 150 MW combined cycle units resumed around 5:00pm, said officials.

The fire broke out at the power plant around 10:00am, shutting down generation at the three units and causing a disruption of 725 MW to the national grid.

The fire originated at the switch yard of the 130 KV grid line, Engineer ASM Sajjadur Rahman, managing director of Ashuganj Power Plant, told The Daily Star.

Due to the fire, electricity supply to Kishoreganj, Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Sherpur and Netrakona had been disrupted, he said.

However, an alternative grid line was used to supply electricity, he added.

First Bangla newspaper in UK revived

Satya-vani was published in 1916, but went out of print in 1918

ANSAR AHMED ULLAH, London

On November 1, 1916, history was made as the first Bangla language newspaper "Satya-vani" (true sayings) in Britain was published. Copies were printed by publishers on Milford Lane in London's Strand. The multilingual newspaper, a much needed beacon of hope during tumultuous wartimes, covered news in several languages, prioritising Bangla.

Ownership of the publication remains unknown as there were no names mentioned in any editions of the paper. Contact details that were provided for readers directed them to the publisher's office.

The paper's positive coverage of Britain has led many to assume that the publication may have been government backed or supported by a British organisation. The publication was one of a kind as it targeted Indians, which at the time included Bangalees, living in Britain. Thus, a new business strategy emerged from this, one that focused on prioritising minorities in the UK.

Released once every fortnight, the paper's dimensions were 590mm x 420mm and consisted of eight pages. The publication also had the price of 1 Indian ana displayed on its front page, a currency unit used in former India, equal to 1/16th of a rupee. This has led historians to speculate the publication was also sold across what is today India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh as well as in Britain, where it was distributed for free.

Sadly, the publication, a pioneer of multilingual and Bangla news, both in Britain and abroad, came to an end on February 22, 1918. Reason for the closure remains unknown. For 24 long years after its closure, no Bangla media existed in Britain. The paper is now displayed in the British Library's catalogue of Bengali journals.

The paper was not only a successful innovation but it also marked the beginning of a long partnership between two nations. It has now been a century since the creation of Bangla media in Britain. Within this timeframe, Britain has witnessed several Bangla publications, some of which have unfortunately fallen over the years while others still stand strong today.

A hundred years on, commemorating this historic feat, an online version of "Satya-vani", now spelt phonetically "Shottobani", was symbolically re-launched on February 21 at Mayfair venue in Essex, East London. The gala event was attended by a number of media celebrities including Managing Editor of The Independent and London's Press Club's Chairman Doug Wills, Bangladesh's Deputy High Commissioner Khondker Mohammad Talha, journalism professor Martin Bright, Huffington Post's writer Shahena Ali, London Bangla Press Club's President Syed Nahas Pasha, Brent Mayor Parvez Ahmed, and Tower Hamlets Speaker Khales Uddin Ahmed among other guests.

Shottobani's Editor Syed Anas Pasha said, "Online Shottobani, the name of the first Bengali publication in Britain, will be a new and dynamic Bengali and English online news portal that will prioritise news relating to the Bengali diaspora."

As it has now been a hundred years since the first Bangla publication in Britain was released, the event celebrated the contributions of Bangla media in Britain and acknowledged the well-established link between the two nations. British-Bangladeshi ties have strengthened in a number of fields, and the media is no exception.



With a demand for cancellation of the provision in the Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017 that allows a boy or a girl to get married before reaching the minimum age limit, a group of women under the banner of Samajtantrik Mohila Forum forms a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Two-yr-old girl's body found in CMCH shoe rack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police recovered the body of a two-year-old girl from a shoe rack of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) yesterday.

After being informed that a child's body, wrapped in a towel, was found inside the shoe rack in front of the ward-21 of CMCH, police recovered the body, Sub-Inspector Jahurul Islam of CMCH police camp told The Daily Star.

The body was sent to the hospital morgue, he said.

The police official said they were trying to trace the persons who left the body.

Man 'kills' brother over family feud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man was killed allegedly by his elder brother following a family feud in Boilchhari area of Banshkhali upazila in Chittagong yesterday.

The deceased was Md Shahjahan, 40, of the area. Shahjahan's brother Bodi Alam shot him in the right thigh in the afternoon, said Sub-inspector of Banshkhali Police Station Nasir Uddin.

Shahjahan was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where he died from excessive bleeding in the afternoon, the SI said, adding, Bodi went into hiding soon after the incident.

Woman 'killed' by ex-husband

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A woman was killed allegedly by her former husband in Boilor area of Trishal upazila in Mymensingh.

Quoting her family members, Md Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Trishal Police Station, said Fatema Khatun, 24, of Boilor village and Sumon Miah, a rickshaw van-puller, got married two years ago.

Since their marriage they used to quarrel over family feuds. Two months ago Fatema divorced her husband over a family feud which made Sumon furious.

Yesterday, when Fatema with a friend was going to visit her relatives, Sumon waylaid her and started quarreling. At one stage, Sumon stabbed Fatema indiscriminately and fled, said the OC.

Hearing screams, locals rushed to the spot and took Fatema to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared her dead, the OC added.

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