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POLICE-PROTESTERS CLASH IN BHOLA OVER HATE SPREAD THRU' FB ID

4 KILLED, 100 INJURED

Borhanuddin turns into battlefield during rally organised by 'Tawhidi Muslim Janata'

STAR REPORT

At least four people were killed and more than a hundred others injured yesterday as religious zealots clashed with police in Bhola's Borhanuddin upazila over a hate conversation spread through Facebook and its messenger.

At one stage of the clash that broke out around 10:30am, law enforcers had to fire shots to disperse the mob, who since Friday had been demanding punishment of a Hindu youth they claimed was responsible for the hate conversation from his Facebook account, said police.

The zealots torched a house and vandalised 12 more belonging to the Hindu community in Borhanuddin municipality around noon.

Seemingly designed to hurt religious sentiment, screenshots of the conversation went viral among social media users in the locality on Friday, and the person at the centre of the storm went to Borhanuddin Police Station that night and filed a general diary saying his Facebook account had been hacked.

Sarkar Md Kaiser, superintendent of police in Bhola, told The Daily Star that they already detained two persons involved in hacking the Facebook account.

"We have got all information relating to the Facebook hacking," he said.

The dead are Mahfuzur Rahman, 45, a resident of ward-3 of Borhanuddin municipality; Mahbub Patwari, 14, and Abu Raihan of Borhanuddin upazila; and Mizanur Rahman, 40, of Hazirhat of Monpura upazila.

Of the injured, 42 were admitted to Bhola Sadar Hospital. Thirty others were receiving treatment at Barishal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital and 10 more at Borhanuddin Upazila Health Complex, said sources at the three hospitals.

Police Constable Md Arif, who was seriously injured in the clash, was air-lifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh were deployed in the upazila of the island district to maintain law and order.

HOW IT STARTED

Tension grew in Borhanuddin upazila on Friday



Anti-clockwise, 'Tawhidi Muslim Janata' activists, closely watched by riot police, gather for a rally in Bhola's Borhanuddin upazila yesterday; a video grab shows a protester wielding a stick; an activist with his back covered in shotgun-pellet wounds lying on a hospital bed following the clash with police.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Youth went to file general diary over hacking of his Facebook ID on Friday

Police arrested 2 on Friday after primary investigation

Police opened fire after the protesters attack them

Situation brought under control 3 hours after the clash

BGB deployed in the area to avert escalation of violence



Don't try to cash in on Bhola incident

Warns Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged all to have patience and warned that those trying to take advantage of the Bhola incident will be punished.

"I urge the people to be patient. Those who want to fish in troubled waters capitalising on this incident will be tracked down and appropriate measures will be taken against them," she said, while addressing a meeting with Jubo League leaders at Gono Bhaban.

At least four people were killed and a hundred others injured in a clash between police and a mob in Bhola over a hate conversation spread through the Facebook messenger.

Hasina said some people are deliberately doing such heinous acts to create instability. "Whenever the country runs properly, a section of people try to create chaos."

She sought cooperation of all in stopping these people.

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Omar Faruk ousted from Jubo League

Chayan to lead the outfit till its congress; age limit for membership set at 55

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jubo League Chairman Omar Faruk Chowdhury has been relieved of his post amid allegations of corruption.

The decision came at a meeting between top Jubo League leaders and AL President Sheikh Hasina at the Gono Bhaban last night.

The meeting also decided that the age limit for Jubo League membership would be 55 years.

Omar Faruk became Jubo League chairman in 2012 at the age of 64. He has been the oldest chairman in the organisation's 47-year history.

He became the talk of the town after a section of Jubo League leaders started bringing different allegations against him amid a crackdown on illegal gambling and casinos by law enforcers last month.

The allegations against Faruk include running the organisation at



Omar Faruk



Chayan Islam

whim, patronising the corrupt, and awarding key posts of the organisation in exchange for money.

The youth front of the ruling AL is just a month away from its 7th National Congress scheduled for November 23.

It was decided at last night's meeting that Jubo League presidium member Chayan Islam would be the convener of its congress preparatory committee. Chayan is 57 and a former AL lawmaker from Sirajganj-6, according to the website of Bangladesh

Parliament.

Jubo League General Secretary Harun-Or-Rashid was made the member secretary of the committee.

The organisation's current charter does not mention any age limit and says that any person eligible to work can be a member.

Earlier on September 14, Rezwanul Haque Chowdhury Shovon and Golam Rabbani were removed from the posts of Chhatra League president and general secretary amid allegations of extortion.

Although Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina held last night's meeting with Jubo League leaders, Faruk and presidium member Nurunabi Chowdhury Shawon were asked not to join.

AL leaders Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed and Obaidul Quader were present at the meeting.

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Drugs, arms cases filed against Rajib

Another councillor, Mizan, sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion yesterday filed two cases against DNCC ward councillor Tarequzzaman Rajib under the arms and narcotics acts yesterday.

The cases were filed after Rajib was handed over to Vantara Police Station by Rab last night, hours after he was detained from his friend's home in the capital's Bashundhara Residential Area in a drive against corruption.

Rab seized seven bottles of foreign liquor, an illegal pistol, three bullets and Tk 33,000 in cash from the Bashundhara house.

The councillor was produced before the Metropolitan Magistrate's Court around 11:15pm yesterday where police

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JS body blasts Wasa boss for utility's failure

RASHIDUL HASAN

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (DWASA) Managing Director Taqsem A Khan yesterday came under fire by a parliamentary body for his failure in providing safe drinking water to citizens, dealing with the waterlogging problem and allegations of widespread corruption against DWASA officials.

The parliamentary standing committee on public undertakings in its meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban asked the Dhaka Wasa boss to take immediate measures to free the public organisation of corruption and ensure that people get proper service from it.

"The Dhaka Wasa MD faced a volley of questions from members of the parliamentary watchdog. The MPs also expressed their dissatisfaction," ruling Awami League MP Muhibur Rahman Manik, a member of the parliamentary committee, told this correspondent.

Manik, a lawmaker from Sunamganj-5, also said as public representatives they had to constantly face people who were displeased with Dhaka Wasa's failures.

"We feel embarrassed when people raise such allegations against Dhaka Wasa," he said.

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