

CLASH IN BHOLA

Four sent to jail for ‘spreading rumour’

STAR REPORT

At least four persons have been sent to jail across the country in the last 24 hours for allegedly spreading rumour on social media over the police-protesters clash in Bhola on Sunday.

At least four people were killed and more than a hundred were injured as zealots clashed with police in 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, said police.

JOURNO SENT TO JAIL IN KHULNA

A Khulna court yesterday rejected the remand appeal against journalist Munir Uddin Ahmed after police sought a seven-day remand for interrogating him and sent him to jail, reports our correspondent.

Munir was arrested on Monday in a case filed against him under the digital security act for posting provocative status on social media. Judge Md Amirul Islam of Khulna Metropolitan Magistrate Court rejected the

appeal, said Akhter Jahan Ruku, a lawyer for Munir.

Munir is the former general secretary of Khulna Press Club and district correspondent of English daily The New Nation.

Law enforcers arrested him from his Dolkhola residence on charge of posting provocative status on Facebook over the police-protesters clash in Bhola, said Sk Moniruzzaman Mithue, additional deputy commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police.

He said police seized Munir’s phone and found evidence of posting messages claiming that the clash took place due to failure of the authorities concerned.

Sub-inspector Md Sariful Alam of Khulna Sadar Police Station filed the case against Munir with the police station under sections 25, 28, 29 and 31 of the digital security act.

CHATTOGRAM

A man was arrested in Chattogram on Monday night on charge of spreading

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



The median on this road in front of the capital’s Karwan Bazar wholesale fish market has been turned into a storage. Traders leave empty boxes there after unloading goods, causing hindrance to vehicular movement. The photo was taken near the rail crossing recently. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Murdered child specialist victim of mugging gang

Rab says after arrestee confesses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Saudi-returnee child specialist who was found murdered on Dhaka-Chattogram highway on Friday, was the victim of a mugging gang inside a moving human haulier, said Rapid Action Battalion yesterday.

Rab-7 officials said the mugging gang stabbed Dr Shah Alam, 61, to death after roughing him up, as he tried to resist them.

The elite force disclosed the information after arresting a human haulier driver from Chattogram city’s Railway Station area early yesterday in connection with the murder.

The arrestee was identified as Md Omar Faruk, 19, a resident of Barabkunda of Sitakunda upazila, said Rab.

“A gang of five muggers including Faruk took part in the killing while the physician was returning to Chattogram in the vehicle, which plies between the city and Sitakunda upazila,” said Kazi Tarek Aziz, assistant superintendent of police (ASP) of Rab-7.

The 61-year old paediatrician, who established Baby Care Private Limited at Sitakunda’s Chhoto

Kumira village after returning to the country two years back, was found dead with multiple injuries beside the Dhaka-Chattogram Highway. He previously served as the head of paediatric surgery department of Madina Maternity and Children’s Hospital in Saudi Arabia

ASP Tarek said, “Like other days, he boarded the human haulier of ‘Bin Mansur Paribahan’ from Choto Kumira for the city on October 17. At the time, Faruk was on the steering wheel and two of his associates were inside the transport in guise of passengers.”

“After a few minutes, two other members of the gang boarded the vehicle, and the four started beating Dr Shah Alam for his belongings,” said ASP Tarek.

The Rab official said, “The muggers at one point stabbed the physician as he tried to resist them. They even stabbed him in the face so he could not be identified.”

“After the murder, they dumped the body beside the highway, and later Faruk took the vehicle from Barabkunda to Sea Beach area for washing the blood inside,” he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

3 BCC officials suspended over corruption

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Three Barishal City Corporation (BCC) officials have been suspended over irregularities and corruption.

They are -- Mashiur Rahman, budget and accounts officer; Nurul Islam, market superintendent; and Azizur Rahaman, trade licence superintendent; according to the suspension letter signed by Chief Executive Officer of BCC Israil Hossain on October 20.

Public Relations Officer Belayet Hossain Bablu of Barishal City Corporation said a show-cause notice was also issued to them to reply within seven days.

BCC sources said they were involved in corruption during the term of previous mayor.

Anti-Corruption Commission has also launched an investigation into the matter, following graft allegations against them, they said.

None of the suspended officials could be reached for comments over phone, despite repeated attempts.

20 Shibir men arrested in Ctg

STAR REPORT

Police arrested 20 local leaders and activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir, a pro-Jamaat student front, from Bakolia area of Chattogram city yesterday, on charge of “planning subversive activities against government establishments and employees”.

Tipped off, a team from Bakolia Police Station launched a drive on several flats at Bogarbil in the area around 12:30am and detained the 20 men when they gathered there, Nejam Uddin, office-in-charge (OC) of Bakolia Police Station, told our staff correspondent in Chattogram.

“We had information that a group of Shibir men had gathered to plan subversive activities against several government establishments and employees in Chattogram,” said Nejam.

Several Shibir men managed to flee but police are conducting drives to arrest them, he added.

61 JAMAAT-SHIBIR MEN SENT TO JAIL

Meanwhile, a Joypurhat court sent 61 Jamaat-Shibir men to jail yesterday after rejecting their bail prayer in a case filed over an arson attack and attack on law enforcement in the district in 2013, our Dinajpur correspondent reports.

Iqbal Bahar of Additional Judicial Magistrate Court ordered to send them to jail after they surrendered before the court on Tuesday.

According to the prosecution, a large number of Jamaat-Shibir men had attacked a bank in Puranpoil area on December 15, 2013.

The attackers used bombs during the attack. Hearing of the incident, Rab and BGB members rushed there to bring the situation under control, but they attacked police with bows and arrows.

Loudspeakers of local mosques were used to call out to people to attack the law enforcers. As the situation was going beyond control, the BGB and Rab members fired bullets -- leaving two people dead and 20 injured.

Afterwards, police filed a case accusing 108 people. On June 20 this year, police filed the charge sheet against 99 people.

Of them, 61 surrendered before the court yesterday, which sent them to prison.

BRTA chairman released from post

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Road Transport and Highways Division (RTHD) yesterday released Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) chairman Moshiar Rahman from his post. Dr Kamrul Ahsan, a joint secretary of the division, was given the additional charge of BRTA chairman.

RHD issued two separate office orders in this regard.

The public administration ministry on December 17 transferred Moshiar to the same ministry as officer on special duty. RTHD yesterday released him after completion of a legal proceeding, an official said.

Meanwhile, Kamrul Ahsan last night said he will take charge today.

SCF condemns Bhola clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sector Commanders Forum (SCF) yesterday protested the violence in Bhola and urged the government to take necessary steps against radical fundamentalists.

It termed the October 20 incident “preplanned”.

Facebook was used to instigate communal violence so that minority communities suffer from

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Dengue patient dies in Khulna

STAR REPORT

A dengue patient died at Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) yesterday.

The deceased is Sajib Khan, 22, our Khulna correspondent reports.

He was admitted to KMCH around noon, said Residential Physician Sailendranath Biswas.

Sajib was shifted to ICU ward, and died at 6:30pm from shock syndrome.

According to Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), 104 dengue patients have died this year across the country.

A total of 184 patients were admitted to hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday. Including them, a total of 93,361 dengue patients have been admitted to hospitals in the country this year, DGHS data shows.



Patients and students of Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed hold up placards to raise awareness about road safety at a rally organised on the institute’s premises in Savar yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Schoolboy run over by truck in Jashore

5 killed, 11 injured in other accidents

STAR REPORT

A schoolboy was killed on the spot after a truck ran his bicycle over at Natun Khayertala area in Jashore Sadar upazila around 10:30am yesterday.

The deceased is Mohidul Islam Leon, 13, son of Mahabubur Rahman of the upazila. He was a seventh-grader at Jashore Dawood Public School and College.

The accident occurred while Leon was going to school, said Sub-inspector Moniruzzaman of Kotwali Police Station, quoting locals.

Police rushed to the spot and sent his body to Jashore General Hospital morgue for autopsy. The truck driver fled the scene with the vehicle.

Meanwhile, at least five people were killed and 11 injured in other accidents in three districts during the last two days, our correspondents and news agencies report.

In Pabna, a college teacher was killed and 10 were injured after a microbus collided with a CNG-run auto-rickshaw in Sabujpara area of Chatmohar upazila around 2pm yesterday.

The deceased is Chameli Rani (50), a lecturer at Chaikola Degree College.

Officer-in-Charge of Chatmohar Police Station Sheikh Nasir Uddin, quoting locals, said Chameli was returning home from her college by the auto-rickshaw.

When the auto-rickshaw reached Sabujpara bridge, a speeding microbus collided with the vehicle, he said.

After the collision, the auto-rickshaw fell into a roadside ditch, killing Chameli on the spot. The microbus then collided with a tree, he added.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

‘Will siege Shapla Chattar 100 times if needed’

Warns Hefajat at Ctg rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Hefajat-e-Islam Bangladesh has threatened to repeat the Shapla Chattar incident, if needed 100 times, if any defamatory remark is made against Islam or the Prophet (PBUH).

The Chattogram-based Islamist group’s General Secretary Junaid Babunagri made the remark at a rally in Chattogram.

He was addressing a rally on port city’s Jamiyatul Falah Mosque premises after Zohr prayers yesterday.

Earlier on Monday, the group announced a countrywide programme for yesterday to press home their 13-point demand, which include punishment of the police personnel involved in firing on “Towhidi Muslim Janata” during a rally in Bhola on Sunday.

At least four people were killed and more than a hundred injured as zealots clashed with police in Borhanuddin upazila over a hate conversation spread through Facebook.

At yesterday’s event, Babunagri alleged that police fired on innocents and they must be punished for that.

“We did not go to Shapla Chattar in 2013 to grab power... We had shed our blood to uphold dignity of the Prophet

(PBUH).”, he said, adding that those who were killed and injured in the incidents [Bhola and Shapla Chattar] did so for the Prophet (PBUH).

At one point, the Hefajat leader asked the crowd to raise their hands to repeat the Shapla Chattar incident at least 100 times, if needed. The activists also brought out a procession from Wasa intersection to realise their demands.

SHAPLA CHATTAR VIOLENCE

Hefajat men marched towards Dhaka and held a rally on April 6, 2013 at Shapla Chattar in Motijheel to press for their 13-point demand which included enactment of anti-blasphemy law and measures for stringent punishment of “atheist bloggers”.

They returned a month later and occupied Shapla Chattar on May 5, 2013. Paltan and Motijheel areas were plunged into mayhem as unruly Hefajat men burned down and vandalised public and private properties and clashed with law enforcers.

Its activists were driven out from there in the early hours of May 6 by the law enforcement agencies. At least 39 people were killed in the two days’ violence.