

4 cops among 13 hurt in BCL infighting

Our Correspondent, Faridpur

At least 13 people, including four policemen, were injured in a clash between two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) over celebrating BCL's 72nd founding anniversary in Sadarpur upazila headquarters yesterday.

The injured took primary treatment at the upazila health complex.

Locals said there was a longstanding conflict between the men of Sadarpur upazila unit of BCL, led by Fakir Abdur Chatter and Abu Alam Reza, vice president and organisational secretary of upazila AL respectively, and Sadarpur Government College BCL, led by Kazi Shafiqur Rahman, upazila parishad chairman and also the general secretary of upazila AL, over establishing supremacy in the area.

Yesterday morning, both factions held separate rallies marking the anniversary, gathered at the Stadium area and started hurling brickbats at each other, which left at least 13 people from both sides injured.



Remains of a ruined rest house lie scattered on Kuakata sea beach. Right, large chunks, mainly from the collapsed boundary wall of the building,



PHOTO: SOHRABHOSSAIN

Concrete debris a trouble for Kuakata tourists

Remains of a cyclone-ravaged rest house not fully removed in 12 years

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Remains of a damaged building are lying scattered over a large area on Kuakata sea beach for years, much to the trouble for tourists visiting the picturesque spot.

A large number of tourists from home and abroad come to the beach from where both the sunrise and the sunset can be seen.

A bio-gas plant cum rest house owned

by Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) in the beach area got badly damaged during the onslaught of super cyclone Sidr in 2007, said locals.

Later LGED sold the damaged building in auction. But chunks of concrete and bricks remained scattered while the collapsed boundary wall of the building went under sand.

Remains of the wall emerged several years ago due to removal of sand in the

area regularly affected by the tide.

The chunks of concrete cause problems for tourists walking or taking bath there as they cannot move freely.

Sometimes people taking bath get injuries as these materials go under water during the high tide.

"I was injured as I stumbled on a chunk of concrete while taking bath in the beach during the high tide. The spot should be kept safe and clean considering

the interest of a large number of tourists from home and abroad," said Md Fariduzzaman, a tourist from Dhaka.

These debris go under water during high tide and emerge during low tide, said Md Shahjahan Akon, a resident of west Kuakata area.

"Sometimes tourists taking bath in the beach during high tide get injured. The authorities should take immediate step to remove these things from the

beach as it causes trouble to tourists," he said.

Contacted, Kuakata municipality Mayor Abdul Bareq Mollah admitted that tourists face problem while taking bath and walking in the beach area as debris of the ruined building is lying scattered.

"We are taking steps to remove the concrete chunks from the beach as soon as possible," he said.

Ex-Kaliganj OC faces probe as multiple charges filed

Bribery, false cases among the allegations

Our Correspondent, Jhenaidah

Former officer in charge (OC) of Kaliganj Police Station is facing multiple charges including those for bribery and fabricating false cases in Jhenaidah.

The officer in question, Md Yunus Ali Mollah, was in office from September 2018 until October last his year when he was closed to Khulna Range Reserve Force (RRF) following numerous complaints from sub-inspectors and locals of Kaliganj.

Khulna RRF Commandant Mst Taslima Khatun recorded statement of 32 police men and three locals against Yunus on December 14.

One of the accusers, Rabiul Islam, a vegetable vendor of Komorhati village under Kaliganj upazila, told this correspondent that Yunus asked for bribe when he went to his station this year to collect a clearance certificate for his son.

"Officer-in-Charge Yunus Ali said he would not give it until I paid him Tk 7000. When I said that it was impossible for me to pay such an amount, he said that I was free to leave if I could not pay at least Tk 5,000. He said his usual rate for such tasks was Tk 7000," Rabiul told this paper.

Similar complaint came from Arab Ali of Tailakup village. "He [Yunus Ali] lacks humane qualities. He took Tk 5,000 from me before providing me a police clearance certificate."

Abdul Khalek, a suspected drug peddler of Rakhalgachhi village, was arrested on April 30. He told this correspondent that the former OC had let him walk out of the jail in exchange of Tk 12,000 bribe.

Sub-inspectors of the station have also levelled grave allegations against the former OC.

One assistant sub-inspector (ASI) said, "The OC assigned me to work on a case

where the accused was a relative of mine. Later I found out that he took bribe from the accused and dismissed the case.

"If any SI, ASI or constable raised voice against these ill-practices, he threatened them. He misbehaved and said that he would transfer that staffer from his station," said the ASI wishing not to be named.

Another ASI stated similar experience. "Former OC Yunus Ali treated his staff with utmost disrespect and threatened them over trivial issues. I was among the 32 officers who gave testimonies against him on December 14."

Shahriar Alam Sohag, Kaliganj of Bangla daily Jugantor, said he was framed in a case before the December 30 elections last year.

"I talked to the accuser who said he did not know me and therefore, there was no question of prosecuting me. He said OC Yunus and four or five officers in plainclothes had taken his signature on some documents. I have this conversation recorded in my phone. I have submitted it at the Discipline and Professional Standard wing of the police headquarters.

"Yunus Ali told me that he would omit my name from the charge sheet but he did not do so as I did not pay him any bribe. I have filed formal complaints to the Khulna Range DIG seeking punishment for Yunus," Shahriar told this paper.

When contacted over phone, Yunus said he did not know anything about the allegations and snapped the call.

Milu Mia Biswas, additional superintendent of police in Jhenaidah, said that investigation was on against Yunus but only high-ranking officials were handling the matter.

"I will not disclose anything now as that will hamper the investigation process," he added.



The water from the untimely rain gets stagnant in a paddy field at Sarshi village in Barishal Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Untimely rain damages Aman, vegetable plants in Barishal

Our Correspondent, Barishal

Rain with gusty wind for the last 24 hours caused damage to Aman paddy and vegetable plants in different areas of Barishal.

The rainwater submerged paddy fields in the areas of the district.

The water from the untimely rain also got stagnant in the vegetable fields, much to the worry of growers.

"I planted Aman seedlings on three bighas of land and harvested fifty percent but the

heavy shower with gusty wind caused the rest of the plants to get loosened at the bottom and lie flat on the ground," said Mosharaf Hossain, a farmer of Sarshi village in Barishal Sadar upazila.

Ripon Molla, a vegetable grower of the same village, said the plants may die if the accumulated rainwater cannot be fully drained out from the fields quickly.

Locals said this untimely rainfall affected paddy and vegetables on vast lands, especially

in low-lying areas.

Md Toufiqul Alam, deputy director of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Barishal, said almost 85 percent harvest of Aman paddy has so far been completed and the rest can be affected preliminary by rain.

Farmers have been asked to drain out the standing water from croplands, he said.

If the growers can collect paddy quickly from their affected fields, losses will be reduced, said the DAE official.



Left, the bridge over a canal at Mamudnagar in Shalla upazila of Sunamganj has been constructed without any approach road, leaving the structure virtually useless for locals. This bridge over a canal at Natun Bazar in Kadamtala union in Pirojpur Sadar upazila has remained without repair since its partial collapse five years ago, much to the sufferings of locals.

PHOTO: STAR



Missing boy hacked dead

Our Correspondent, Natore

A missing minor boy was hacked to death at Paikerdol in Puration Para area of Natore Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Hasan, 10, son of farmer Mozaffar Hossain of the area.

The boy went out of home on December 29 and since then he remained missing, said police and family members.

Yesterday, one Ripon of the village spotted the body while working in a bamboo cluster and informed the law enforcers, said Meer Asaduzzaman, additional superintendent of police.

Being informed, police rushed to the spot and recovered the body and sent it to a hospital for autopsy, said Asaduzzaman.