

Ruling party men clash in Bogura town

GTV cameraperson, cop among 10 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

At least 10 people, including a plainclothes policeman and a TV cameraperson, were injured in a clash between two rival groups of Bogura Awami League and Jubo League in the town's Charmatha bus terminal area yesterday.

Police said leaders of the rival groups -- Monjurul Alam Mohon, joint secretary of Bogura district AL, and Aminul Islam, acting president of Bogura Sadar upazila Jubo League -- were present during the clash over establishing supremacy in the Bogura District Motor Malik Group, a transport owners' body.

Witnesses said Monjurul, along with about 600 people, attacked the office of Bogura District Motor Malik Group in the bus terminal area around 11:30am.

Ramjan Ali, 55, constable at the Special Branch of Bogura police, sustained stab injuries during the clash while discharging duties in plainclothes. Besides, GTV cameraperson Raju Ahmed was also wounded.

Seven of the injured, including the constable and the cameraperson, were admitted to Bogura Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital. Two of the wounded had bullet injuries, said Abdul Wadud, deputy director at the hospital.

According to witnesses and police, 10 motorcycles, three buses and a filling station were vandalised during the clash. Three of the motorbikes were torched.

Movement of traffic on Dhaka-Rangpur highway remained halted for about two hours from 11:30am.

Ali Ashraf Bhuiyan, superintendent of Bogura police, said there was a long-standing rivalry between the two groups over establishing supremacy in the transport owners' group.

"About 500-600 people from one of the groups went to Charmatha area today [yesterday] to capture the office of Motor Malik Group. At one stage, the clash broke out," he added.

The SP said police fired at least 20 rubber bullets to bring the situation under control.

"We have detained 12 people from the spot. A case will be filed over the attack on the constable," said Ali Ashraf.

An election to the Motor Malik Group was held three years ago in which Akhtaruzaman Duke and Aminul Islam were elected president and secretary of the organisation.

However, Monjurul had raised an allegation that the election was not held in a free and fair manner.

Contacted, Monjurul, also a former convener of Motor Malik Group, said he went near the bus terminal, but Aminul and his supporters announced via loudspeakers that they would not allow him in.

"After sometime, I along with my people started returning from Charmatha area. But police suddenly opened fire on my people, leaving at least 20 of them hit with bullets. They are now receiving treatment at different local hospitals," he told The Daily Star.

He alleged that Aminul's men vandalised three of his buses in the terminal area.

Despite repeated attempts, this newspaper could not reach Aminul over the phone for comments.



Demonstrators riot against police as they protest against the military coup and demand the release of elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi, in Mandalay, Myanmar yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Police fire to disperse crowd

FROM PAGE 12 Neither police nor the hospital responded to a request for comment.

A man had a chest wound but was not in critical condition. It was not clear if he was hit with a bullet or rubber bullet, the doctor said.

The United Nations yesterday condemned the use of force against anti-coup protesters, reports AFP.

"The use of disproportionate force against demonstrators is unacceptable," Ola Almgren, the UN resident coordinator and humanitarian coordinator in Myanmar, said in a statement.

Myanmar's state television reported injuries to police during attempts to disperse protesters it said were acting aggressively, in its first acknowledgement of demonstrations taking place in the country.

Protesters have taken to the streets in cities and towns in the largest demonstrations in Myanmar for more than a decade against a February 1 military coup that ousted the elected government of veteran democracy campaigner, Aung San Suu Kyi.

The unrest has revived memories of almost half a century of direct army rule, and spasms of bloody protests against it, until the military began a process of withdrawing from civilian politics in 2011.

Suu Kyi's party won a 2015 election but the transition to democracy was brought to a halt by the February 1 coup that ousted her government as it was preparing to begin its second term after her National League for

Democracy (NLD) swept a November 8 election.

The military cited election fraud as justification for its takeover. The electoral commission dismissed accusations of fraud.

Earlier, witnesses said police fired guns into the air in Naypyitaw as a crowd refused to disperse. Police then fired water cannon at the protesters, who responded with stones, the witness said.

Video footage posted on social media apparently of the woman who was killed, showed her with some other protesters by what appeared to be a bus-stop shelter some distance from a row of riot police as a water cannon sprayed and several shots could be heard.

The woman, wearing a motorbike helmet, suddenly collapsed. Pictures on social media of her helmet showed what appeared to be a bullet hole.

Reuters was not able to verify the video footage or photographs.

PROMISE OF DEMOCRACY Earlier, video from the central town of Bago showed police confronting a crowd and blasting them with jets from water cannon.

Police arrested at least 27 demonstrators in the second-biggest city of Mandalay, domestic media reported.

Promises on Monday from junta leader General Min Aung Hlaing to eventually hold a new election in his first address since seizing power drew scorn. He repeated unproven accusations of fraud in the election.

Min Aung Hlaing said the junta would form a "true and disciplined democracy", different to previous eras of military rule, which brought years of isolation and poverty.

Orders banning gatherings of more than four people and a curfew from 8:00 pm to 4:00 am have been imposed on Yangon and Mandalay. A growing civil disobedience movement affecting hospitals, schools and government offices shows no sign of ending but the crowds in Yangon appeared smaller yesterday than the previous day.

"The main thing is we don't want a coup," said a 24-year-old woman protester in Yangon. "If we young people don't come out who will?"

Western governments have widely condemned the coup, although there has been little concrete action to press the generals.

The Philippines yesterday issued a second statement on Myanmar, calling for "complete restoration of the status quo" - one of the few among Myanmar's Southeast Asian neighbours to comment on the military intervention.

New Zealand has suspended all high-level political and military contact and will ensure aid does not benefit the military and impose a travel ban on its leaders.

The UN Security Council has called for the release of Suu Kyi and others. The UN Human Rights Council will hold a special session on Friday to discuss the crisis.

Maldives to recruit

FROM PAGE 12

for the acts of genocide committed against the Rohingya people," he said.

RECOGNITION

Abdulla also recognised with gratitude Bangladesh's significant contributions to a variety of fields, including training and scholarship, health and medicine, defence and other technical areas.

The president of the Maldives has already declared that all the workers, including foreigners, will get free vaccination in his country. "We'll send some nurses to help carry out vaccination in the Maldives, particularly for the large Bangladeshi community staying there," he said.

Some 80,000 Bangladeshi expatriates are currently working in the Maldives.

PRESIDENT'S VISIT

Momen said Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih will visit Dhaka to attend Mujib Borsho functions and Bangladesh's Independence Day.

He said during the meeting, they discussed several issues, including extension of trade and business, enhancing connectivity, particularly shipping and climate.

He added that they also talked about national, regional and international matters.

"We had good discussions in cordial atmosphere. We've agreed on many issues. Hope, we'll have better days," said Momen.

The foreign minister of the Maldives arrived here on Monday on an official visit to Bangladesh at the invitation of his Bangladeshi counterpart Momen.

Facebook ramps up effort to curb vaccine hoaxes

AFP, SAN FRANCISCO

Facebook on Monday said it is ramping up efforts to stem the spread of misinformation about Covid-19 vaccines, spread facts, and figure out who might be wary of getting the jab.

The move includes banning groups which repeatedly spread misinformation and debunked claims about the virus and vaccines in general.

The leading social network has been highlighting health advice from reliable agencies and removing Covid-19 misinformation for months and on Monday expanded that initiative.

A list of debunked claims about the virus or vaccines that are not welcomed at Facebook was updated with the help of the World Health Organization.

Covid source not found

FROM PAGE 12

quarantine.

Liang said studies showed the virus could be "carried long-distance on cold chain products", appearing to nudge towards the theory the virus was imported -- an idea that has abounded in China in recent months.

Ben Embarek said "the virus can persist and survive in conditions that are found in these cold and frozen environments".

"But we don't really understand if the virus can then transmit to humans and under which conditions this could happen," he said.

Beijing is desperate to defang criticism of its handling of the chaotic early stages of the outbreak.

It has tried to refocus attention on its handling and recovery while floating the theory that the virus emerged abroad and was brought into China possibly via frozen foods.

Koopmans said the next steps could include searching for "earlier circulation" of the virus.

Reporters were largely kept at arms' length from the experts during their closely-monitored visit, but snippets of their findings crept out via Twitter and interviews.

Questions have been asked

about the relevance of some of their activities to their stated aim of finding the virus source -- including a visit to a propaganda exhibition celebrating China's recovery from the pandemic.

The group spent just an hour at the seafood market where many of the first reported clusters of infections emerged over a year ago, reports AFP.

They also appeared to spend several days inside their hotel, receiving visits from various Chinese officials without venturing out into the city.

Research was carried out at the Wuhan virology institute where they spent nearly four hours. They met with Chinese scientists there including Shi Zhengli, one of China's leading experts on bat coronaviruses and a deputy director of the Wuhan lab.

ASTRAZENECA SHOT Iran began its vaccination campaign against Covid-19 yesterday to fight the Middle East's deadliest outbreak of the illness.

It will initially use Russia's Sputnik V shots, with 4.2 million doses of the AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccines also expected under the Covax mechanism, which intends to ensure procurement and equitable international distribution of jabs.

India should probe abuses

FROM PAGE 1

"The government's failure to hold security personnel accountable has led to further abuses and the harassment of very poor and vulnerable populations," she said.

The Indian government has issued public orders to exercise restraint and end unlawful killings, and made assurances to Bangladesh, including during talks in December 2020.

However, the Bangladeshi group Odhikar alleged that the border forces have killed at least 334 Bangladeshis since 2011 and committed other instances of severe abuse, including 51 killings in 2020, said the release.

Indian border guards, deployed to prevent cattle rustling, smuggling, and illegal crossings, say they use force only when they come under attack, it added.

The Indian government should comply with the United Nations Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, said the HRW.

Given the failure of the BSF's internal justice system to prosecute its members for human rights abuses, civilian

authorities should investigate personnel of all ranks implicated in serious rights abuses and try them in civilian courts, said the rights body.

"The Indian government should demonstrate its promised zero tolerance for abuses at the Bangladesh border by ending the culture of impunity for its border soldiers," Ganguly said.

Bangladesh has repeatedly protested abuses at the border.

HRW knows of no cases in which Indian authorities have held BSF soldiers accountable for abuses committed along the India-Bangladesh border.

Some border guards are reportedly also involved in facilitating cattle smuggling or human trafficking, and target people who resist extortion attempts, the rights body added.

The HRW release further said Banglar Manabdhikar Suraksha Mancha, an Indian organisation that has investigated at least 105 alleged killings by BSF in the border areas in West Bengal state since 2011, mentioned that the actual number of killings is most likely higher.

Ornaments looted

FROM PAGE 12

children --, who were brought to the hospital morgue on Sunday.

A school teacher and her two children were killed, while another person was injured, when a speeding bus hit an CNG-run auto-rickshaw, carrying the victims, at Mirpur Kalachand More point in the district's Sadar upazila on Sunday noon.

The victims were identified as Ifrat Sultana Rumi, 38, her son Mashbubur Rahman Wadi, 12, and daughter Soyaiba Rahman, 6.

OC Faruki added that the bus was seized from the spot of the accidents, but the family of the victims have not yet filed any case.

Mushfekus Salehin, brother of Rumi, said, "When we brought the bodies back home, we realised all the valuables on them were missing. We were too occupied with the burial process but once that was done, we informed the police."

Speaking to The Daily Star, Dr

Faridul Islam, residential medical officer (RMO) of the hospital, said autopsy workers operate on the bodies in the morgue.

"After this incident, we have taken steps to strengthen security in the morgue," he said, adding that departmental action will be taken against the accused hospital staff.

Meanwhile, the death of the school teacher and her children due to a road accident sparked protests in Sirajganj.

People from all walks of life formed a human chain yesterday at the Bazaar Station area in the district headquarters, demanding exemplary punishment of the bus driver and helper. They also made a five-point demand for the sake of safe roads also putting five points demands for the sake of safe roads.

Agitated teachers put the demand before the roads and highways ministry through the Pabna deputy commissioner.

Customs finds

FROM PAGE 12

being smuggled through the US-Bangla aircraft. The official carried out their drive before the staff could transfer the gold bars out of the airport.

The gold bars are worth around Tk 4.75 crore.

Two separate cases have been filed with the Airport Police Station against the staffers, while handing them over.

Talking to The Daily Star, Kamrul Islam, general manager, Public Relations of US-Bangla Airlines, said the law will take its own course regarding those arrested in this connection.

"US-Bangla Airlines will provide all kinds of assistance to the law enforcement agencies," he said.

Don't collect

FROM PAGE 12

the country. Of those, 84 having 4.5 lakh students are now running academic activities.

Contacted, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin said the government is not currently demanding any income tax from the private universities.

Senior counsels M Amir-Ul Islam, AF Hasan Arif, Rokanuddin Mahmud, Fida M Kamal and Prabir Neogi argued in favour of the private universities at the virtual hearing on the leave-to-appeal petitions.

Following 44 separate writ petitions filed by nearly two dozen private universities, the HC on September 5, 2016, declared illegal the government orders that imposed 15 percent income tax on the private educational institutions and asked the NBR to refund the money collected from the institutions from 2007.

The HC also scrapped the three statutory regulatory orders for tax imposition issued by the government in 2007 and 2010 which imposed 15 percent income tax on private universities and private medical, dental and engineering colleges.

Following a government petition, the chamber judge of the SC on September 7, 2016, stayed part of the HC verdict that scrapped the government orders imposing 15 percent income tax on private institutions.

The chamber judge also stayed the HC directive asking the NBR to refund the money collected as income tax from the institutions from 2007.

Drug trader

FROM PAGE 12

Seeing the BGB members, the duo opened fire, forcing the border troops to fire back. One of the criminals fell in the river as he was hit by bullets, but the other managed to flee, the official said.

Inspector (investigation) Abdul Alim of Teknaf Model Police Station said they recovered the body in the morning. The body was sent to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital, he added.

Local Government Division
National Institute of Local Government (NILG)
Institutionalization of Horizontal Learning Program in Bangladesh
29 Agargaon, Sher e Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.hlp.gov.bd

Date: 09/02/2021

Tender Notice

01.	Ministry/ Division	:	Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives; Local Government Division.		
02.	Agency	:	National Institute of Local Government (NILG).		
03.	Procuring Entity Name	:	Md. Borhan Uddin Bhuiyan; Project Director.		
04.	Procuring Entity District	:	Dhaka		
05.	Invitation for	:	Tender for Goods procurement under Single Lot.		
06.	Invitation Ref no	:	46.018.0000.003.04.04.19.173		
07.	Date	:	09 th February, 2021		
08.	Procurement Method	:	NCT, Open Tender		
09.	Budget and Source of Funds	:	Development Budget; Aid Grant.		
10.	Development Partner	:	Swiss Agency for Development & Cooperation (SDC)		
11.	Project Code	:	009436		
12.	Project Name	:	Institutionalization of Horizontal Learning Program (HLP) in Bangladesh		
13.	Tender Package No	:	GD-1		
14.	Tender Package Name	:	Computer & Accessories Procurement		
15.	Tender Publication Date	:	10/02/2021		
16.	Tender Last Selling Date	:	02/03/2021 up to 17.00 hrs. (during office hours)		
17.	Tender Closing Date & Time:	:	03/03/2021 at 12.00 pm		
18.	Tender Opening Date & Time	:	03/03/2021 at 12.30 pm		
19.	Selling Tender Document	:	HLP Project Office, 1 st Floor, 29 Agargaon, Sher e Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207		
20.	Receiving Tender Document:	:	HLP Project Office, 1 st Floor, 29 Agargaon, Sher e Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207		
21.	Opening Tender Document	:	HLP Meeting Room, 1 st Floor, 29 Agargaon, Sher e Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207		
22.	Eligibility of Tenderer	:	As per Tender Documents (TDS)		
23.	Brief Description of Goods	:	Supply of any international reputed brand Desktop Computers -09, Laptop Computer-05, Digital Media Storage-05, Printer-03, Scanner-05. (as per technical specification)		
24.	Tender document Price	:	500/- (Five Hundred only)		
25.	Lot No.	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount in Taka	Completion Time in months
	01	46.018.0000.003.04.04.19.173	HLP Project Office, 1 st Floor, 29 Agargaon, Sher e Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207	40,000/- (Forty Thousand only)	01 month
26.	Name of Official Inviting Tender	:	Md. Borhan Uddin Bhuiyan		
27.	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	:	Project Director		
28.	Address of Official Inviting Tender	:	Institutionalization of Horizontal Learning Program (HLP) in Bangladesh", NILG, 29 Agargaon, Sher e Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207		
29.	Contact Details of Official Inviting Tender:	:	01711578796, 55006978 (Office)		
30.	The Procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.				

09.02.21
 Md. Borhan Uddin Bhuiyan
 Project Director
 Institutionalization of Horizontal Learning Program (HLP) in Bangladesh

GD-276