

1 killed, 10 hurt in clash over sand lifting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

At least one person was killed and 10 others were injured in a clash between two groups of local sand lifters in Nilakhya union under Raipura upazila of Narsingdi.

About 12-14 houses were vandalised, torched and looted while over 300 crude bombs were exploded during the clash that took place on Tuesday morning.

The deceased was identified as Sagor Mia, 26, confirmed Ralfsan Al-Alam, assistant superintendent of Narsingdi police.

No case has been filed in this connection yet, he added.

The clash ensued following a dispute between Hannan Mia, a follower of Narsingdi District Council member Rajib Ahmed, and Anwar Hossain, a supporter of Nilakhya union unit Chhatra League president Toukir Ahmed.

Rajib and Toukir could not be reached for comments despite repeated attempts.

Once outlaws, now flower growers

AZIBOR RAHMAN

After spending years in hiding and then in jail, Abdur Rahim of Ganna union, Jhenidah Sadar upazila, came back to normal life in 2000. He was a member of the outlawed Biplabi Communist Party (Haque Group). After rehabilitating himself into normal society, he built a life as a flower grower.

"During his involvement, he went into hiding quite often. He could not stay home due to the fear of police arrest. Our family was in big trouble," said Aktarul Islam, one of Abdur Rahim's five sons.

When the government gave amnesty to many outlawed groups in 1999, most of the banned outfit surrendered to the administration. Some of them joined Ansar and various NGOs.

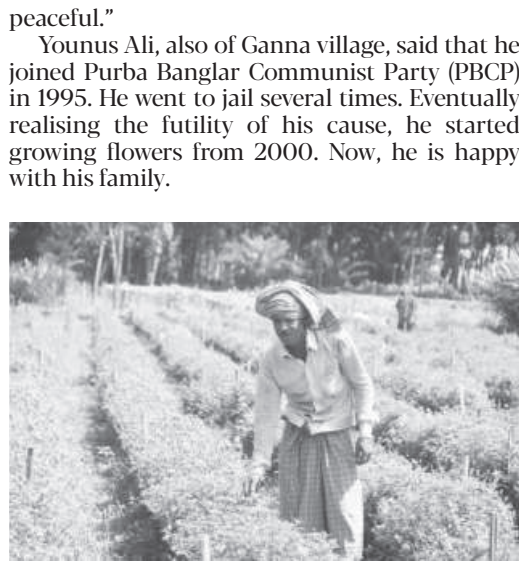
"My father surrendered to the authorities and started farming in 2000. He got the inspiration from a farmer named Baki Billah," said Aktarul. "My father died in 2010. Since then, five of us brothers have continued with the flower growing profession, and are leading a peaceful life."

His elder brother Nazrul Islam recounts the way he witnessed the area during his youth.

"Our Ganna area was infested with outlaws at that time," he said. "My father got involved when he was inspired by others. It was a massacre at that time. Every other day, outlaws would die in crossfires. Fearing death, my father surrendered and came back to normal life. Now, our lives are peaceful."

Abdul Kuddus, of Betai village in the same union, told this correspondent that in 1995, around two to three hundred people joined outlawed groups like Purba Banglar Communist Party and Haque Group. Of them, 15-20 were killed in crossfires.

"Later, when the government gave them the chance to surrender, they joined in different professions. Some of them came back to farming,



and now they are living normal lives," he said. Former Ganna Union Parishad Chairman Nasir Uddin Malita told The Daily Star, "At that time, around 1995, locals were in a panic due to the free movement of armed and banned outlaws. Now, these outlaws are farming flowers and leading a happy life."

Ganna UP chairman Atikul Islam said, "We often found dead bodies lying around. Now the outlaws have started growing flowers and become regular citizens."

According to Jhenidah Department of Agriculture Extension sources, 224 hectares of flowers had been cultivated in six upazilas of the district in 2022-23 and 235 hectares in 2023-24. Ganna union accounted for 60 hectares out of this. The farmers mainly cultivate marigold, rose, gerbera and rajanigandha (tuberose).

Nazrul Islam, who is also the General Secretary of Ganna Bazar Flower Growers and Traders Cooperative Society, said, "The district administration has built a flower market where flowers worth Tk 20-25 lakh are sold every day."

Asgar Ali, Deputy Director of Jhenidah DAE said, "Flower farming is increasing at Ganna union at present due to better infrastructures and agricultural marketing. The agricultural marketing department has built a big shade for selling flowers. The farmers are getting good profit. We are always there for them whenever they need our advice."

A family wiped out in road accident

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

To share the happiness of Eid with his loved ones, Rakib Mollah, a 55-year-old employee based in Dhaka, returned to his home in Shottorkandi village of Faridpur two days before the festival.

Although his mere presence brought joy to his family, Rakib, despite his modest income, went an extra mile to make the occasion even more special for his wife, two sons and parents—by purchasing them new clothes.

Before returning to his usual life in Dhaka, Rakib wanted to take his wife Sumi Begum, 30, and mother Hiru Begum for medical check-ups in Faridpur town. So he, alongside his wife, mother, and two sons, started to travel towards Faridpur town in a pick-up van.

The reason to take his sons Ruhan, 8, and Abu Sinan, 3—along with to have one last family outing before they part ways again, until the next Eid.

However, tragedy struck mid road. Their pick-up collided head-on with a

bus in the Kanaipur area of the district, killing Rakib, his wife, and their two sons instantly.

Rakib's mother was injured and is currently receiving treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Meanwhile, another family also fell victim to the same accident. Popi Akhter, 21, and her husband, Iqbal Sheikh, 25, along with their one-year-old son, were traveling to Dhaka; tragically, both Popi and Iqbal died, leaving their baby orphaned.

Visiting their village, this correspondent found their family members in despair. The air was heavy with grief.

"They went to celebrate and came back in coffins. The whole family has been wiped out in one accident," said Habibur, Rakib's brother.

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One killed in Gazipur road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The driver of a CNG-run auto-rickshaw was killed when the vehicle collided head-on with a bus on Toke Bypass in Gazipur yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Abu Bakkar, confirmed Ranjan Talukder, a sub-inspector of Toke Nayan Bazar Police Investigation Centre.

A Gazipur-bound bus collided head-on with an oncoming CNG-run auto-rickshaw around 6:00am on Toke Bypass of Dhaka-Kishoreganj Highway, the police official said.

The auto-rickshaw driver died on the spot, he said.

Mohammad Azad, a senior officer of Kapasia Fire Service Station, told The Daily Star that members of the fire service removed the vehicles from the highway.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Forest Department, Establishment of Sheikh Russell Advisory and Eco-Pack, Rangunia, Chattogram (2nd Phase) (1st Revision) Project, Chattogram South Forest Division, Chattogram. Memo No: 22.01.0000.731.29.001.24. Date: 17/04/2024. Re-Tender Notice. Re-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal for the procurement of the following goods: Tender ID No., Package No., Description, Online Notice Publication date & time, Online Tender last selling Date and Time, Online Tender Closing Date, Remarks.

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