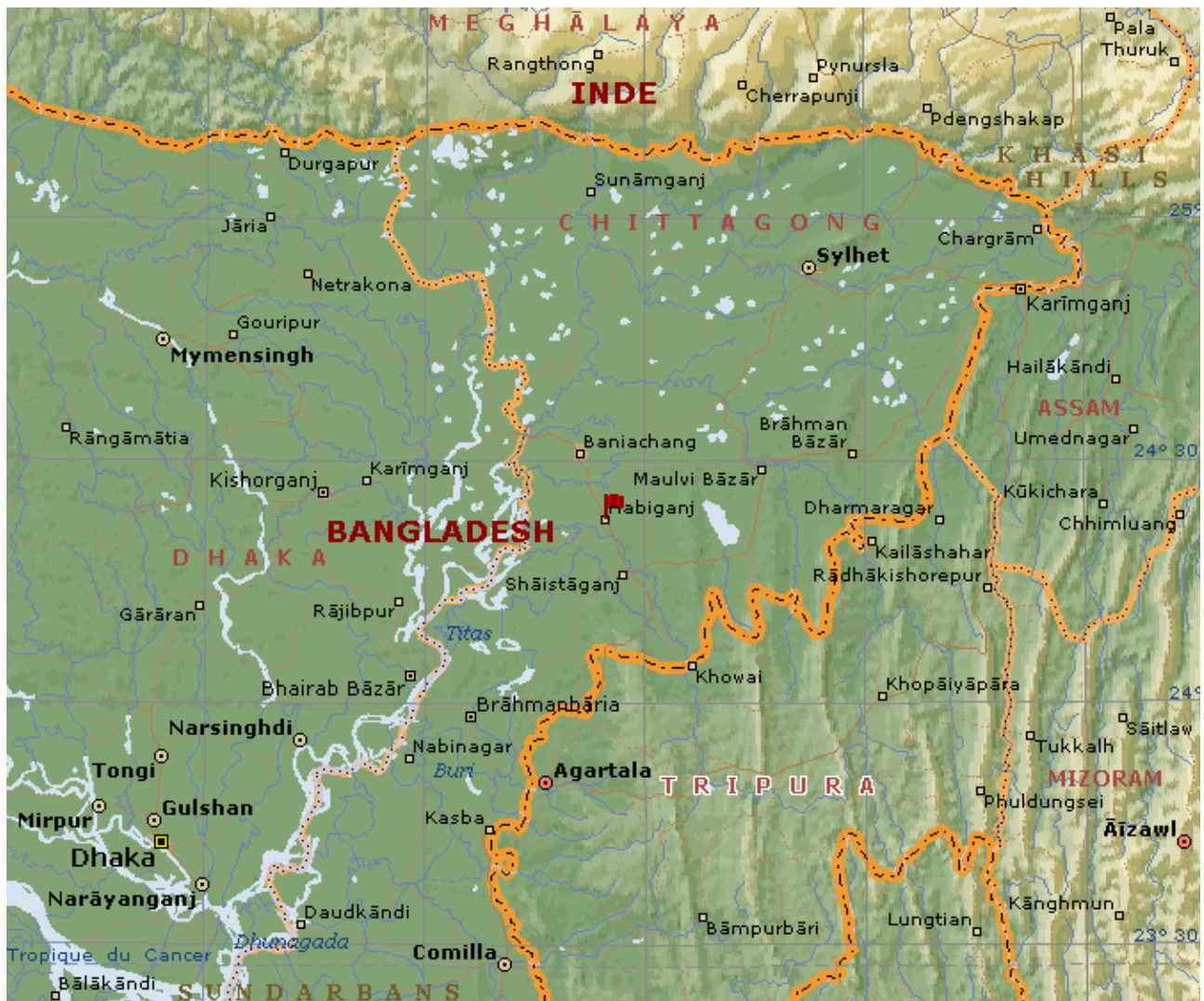


06 BAN 3 – 06-02-15 Umednagar

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Distance Dhaka - Habiganj ≈ 127 km à vol d'oiseau

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-briefs16.1feb16,0,1231660.story?coll=la-headlines-world>

2 People Slain as Fare Dispute Leads to Rioting

Los Angeles Times, CA - Feb 16, 2006

From Times Wire Reports

An argument over a rickshaw fare sparked a clash in Bangladesh that left two men dead and 250 people injured, police and witnesses said.

Riot police were deployed in Habiganj district, 75 miles northeast of the capital, Dhaka.

About 5,000 villagers attacked one another with sticks, machetes and fishing spears, said police, who used tear gas to disperse the crowd. Two elderly men died at the scene.

DISTRICT NEWS

Villagers clash in Habiganj : Two killed

By UNB, Habiganj

Wed, 15 Feb 2006, 10:30:00

Two people were killed and over 200 others injured when residents of two villages locked in a bloody clash over a trifling matter at Umednagar in Baniachang upazila Wednesday.

The deceased were identified as Lal Mia, 45, of Pataria village, and Abdus Shahid, 42, of Umednagar. Shahid died from bullet wounds.

Witnesses and hospital sources said that a number of policemen were also injured in the fighting that ensued following an altercation between a rickshaw-puller of Umednagar village and a passenger of Pataria village over rickshaw fare. Some villagers of Umednagar along with the rickshaw-puller beat up the passenger in the morning, causing strong resentment among the villagers of Pataria, they added.

Police said the angry villagers of Pataria came to Umednagar at about 10 am to take revenge and turned the area into a veritable "battlefield."

The rival villagers swooped on each other with lethal country-made weapons during the four-hour battle, killing two on the spot and injuring over 200 people.

The feuding groups also beat up and injured local union parishad (UP) chairman Sajib Ali.

On information, police rushed to the scene, fired 14 rounds from rifle and 83 rounds from shotgun, and also released 71 teargas shells to bring the situation under control.

The injured were rushed to hospitals and clinics.

As tension was prevailing in the two villages, riot police and paramilitary BDR have been deployed in the area to avert further violence.

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<http://72.14.207.104/search?q=cache:WHUMorOYNVIJ:www.independent-bangladesh.com/news/feb/16/16022006cr.htm+Habiganj+clash&hl=fr&gl=fr&ct=clnk&cd=4>

2 killed, 50 injured in Habiganj clash

BDNEWS, HABIGANJ

Feb 15: At least two people were killed and over 50 others, including 10 police and a UP chairman, were injured in a triangular clash among two groups of villagers and police in Sadar upazila of Habiganj Wednesday.

The deceased were identified as Sayed Miah (40), and Lal Miah (45).

Among the injured, local union parishad chairman Sajib Ali and officer-in-charge (OC) of the detective branch (DB) Helaluddin were hospitalised in critical condition.

Besides, 50 other injured people, including 10 policemen, were admitted to different hospitals and clinics.

According to witnesses, the clashes ensued at about 10.30 am following exchange of hot words between a rickshaw puller and a passenger over rickshaw fare.

Inhabitants of Umednagar and Patharia villages equipped with illegal firearms and homemade weapons locked in the clashes.

During the four-hour clashes, police fired over 100 gunshots and 30 rounds of tear shell to disperse clashing villagers.

Witnesses said thousands of people from the both villages thronged an open field situated between the two villages.

Having been informed, police rushed to the spot and tried to bring the situation under control by charging batons.

At one stage, police said, they were bound to open gunshots and tear gas canisters leading to the killing of Lal Miah.

Sayed Miah was killed by the rivals.

Following the clashes, a tense situation was prevailing in the area as well as among the villagers. Huge police were also deployed there.

<http://www.independent-bangladesh.com/news/feb/17/17022006mt.htm#A22>

Indefinite transport strike in Habiganj

BDNEWS, HABIGANJ

Feb 16: District Road Transport Workers Union enforced an indefinite hartal from today following Wednesday's brutal clash at the outskirts of Habiganj district.

Earlier, dwellers of the suburb Umednagar were locked into a grisly scuffle with the villagers of Patharia that left at least two killed and 200 others including local transports workers leader UP Chairman Sajib Ali injured.

Following the abuse on the leader District Road Transport Workers Union enforced a hartal from Thursday for indefinite period. Due to the hartal all sorts of vehicles remain stranded from Thursday morning.

A rally of agitated workers was held at 11 am at the Sheyestanagar Traffic point. The rally was presided over by the President of District Road Transport Workers Union and former municipality chairman Shahid Chowdhury.

Case filed against 4000 villagers of Habiganj

HABIGANJ, Feb 16:—A police assault case was filed today against about 4,000 unnamed people of Patharia and Umednagar where two villagers were killed and about 200 including policemen were injured in a bloody clash on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Twenty-four people including 4 police were admitted to the Habiganj Sadar Hospital. But all but two policemen have left the hospital for fear of police action.

Most of the able men of the two villages left home to avoid arrest. Police and paramilitary BDR were deployed in the troubled villages where a situation of uneasy calm prevailed.

All kinds of motorized vehicles kept away from the roads in the district as transport workers called for indefinite strike protesting attack on their leader Sajib Ali, also chairman of Subidpur union parishad, who was injured.

About 5,000 villagers of Patharia under Baniachang upazila and adjacent Umednagar under Habiganj sadar upazila engaged in the bloody clash on Wednesday following dispute over petty rickshaw fare. Lal Mia of Patharia and Shahid Mia of Umednagar died in the clash.