



A road in South Surma in Sylhet city during the half-day hartal yesterday, called by local traders association.

PHOTO: STAR

Half-day hartal observed in South Surma

Shutdown in Sylhet city today to protest Jubo League leader murder by JCD men for toll

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A half-day hartal was observed in South Surma area in Sylhet city yesterday at the call of local readers' association protesting the death of Jubo League leader Ayub Ali following an attack by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists on Wednesday. Ayub Ali owned a workshop in the area.

Traders kept their shutters down and transport owners stopped plying their vehicles during the hartal hours. Inter-district buses service including those on Dhaka-Sylhet route also remained suspended.

At least 10 vehicles including trucks, minibuses and autorickshaws were damaged by pickets during the hartal.

The agitated traders held protest rallies at Babna, Railgate, Chandipul and at Bangabir points.

Bangabir Road Bayboshayee Samity called the hartal demanding arrest of the JCD cadres, who attacked the traders Wednesday night.

Protesting the incident, Sylhet district and city units of Awami Juba League, youth front of opposition Awami League, also announced a three-day agitated programme, which will end today (Sunday) with a half-day hartal in Sylhet city. They also held rallies and brought out processions in the city yesterday and the day before demanding immediate arrest of the killers and to drum up support for today's hartal.

Locals said, Ayub along with nine traders were injured in the attack Wednesday night that ensued after

a hot exchange of words between the JCD men and traders.

The JCD cadres vandalised several shops at Bangabir Road during the attack. The JCD men had allegedly been engaged in collecting illegal toll from traders in Bangabir area for long.

The locals claimed that a JCD group allegedly led by Abdul Mannan, JCD general secretary in Ward No. 26 had demanded toll from some traders on Tuesday, but they declined and informed the matter to the business community.

When leading traders were discussing the matter Wednesday night, JCD cadres swooped on them all of a sudden.

Ayub and nine others were injured. He was immediately taken to a private clinic, where he died at about 9 pm Thursday.

In an instant protest, agitated traders and locals brought out a procession and put up a road barricade at Chandipul on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway Wednesday night.

It was withdrawn after three hours as the administration and police officials assured the readers of arresting the accused people.

A case was filed accusing 10 JCD activists including Abdul Mannan after the death of Ayub.

Traders alleged that they went to Sylhet Kotwali thana Wednesday night to lodge a case against extortion by JCD cadres but police did not record it.

Police said two persons including an FIR-named accused were arrested on Friday.

Mother hands over drug addict daughter to police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Unbelievable though, a mother has handed over her drug addict teenage daughter to police in the district town.

Masura Khatun, wife of Abdus Sobhan of Itagaachha area, handed over her 16 year-old drug addict daughter Rupsa Khatun to Sadar thana police as the family failed to free her from the curse.

The girl became involved in anti-social activities failing to collect money for buying drugs, said her mother.

"We had no alternative to handing her over to police for safe custody", she added.

On contact, Sadar thana Officer-in-Charge Shajahan confirmed the incident.

Four killed by lightning Storm in Gaibandha

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Lightning killed four persons and injured 10 others in Cox's Bazar and Gaibandha districts Friday night, our correspondents reported.

Those killed in Cox's Bazar are Sharek, 9, son of Nurul Hoque of Rohullahr Deba village in Ukiya upazila and Rashed Ahamed, 18, son of Mir Kashem of Harin Mara village in same upazila.

Of the injured, three were admitted to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital.

Locals said Nurul Hoque died on the spot when struck by lightning while he was returning home at about midnight.

In Gaibandha two persons including a child were killed and seven others sustained burn injuries in lightning during a storm that hit four upazilas. Over 300 houses were razed to the ground.

The affected unions are Dahabandh, Ramjibon, Dhopadanga and Sonaroy under Sunderganj Upazila; Laxmimpur, Kuptola, Kholahati, Ballamjhar, Boali under Gaibandha Sadar; Kanchiparaa and Uria unions in Fulchari upazila and Mohimanganj under Gobindaganj upazila.

Power supply remained suspended for five hours in different areas after the storm.

Those killed are Ful Mia, 28, of Gopalpur village in Sunderganj upazila and Hakimuddin, 10, of Ghuga village in Gobindaganj upazila. Of the injured, condition of two are critical. They are Bazlu Mia and Naheed.

Buddhist Research Centre Tension mounts in Mohalchhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Tension mounted among indigenous people and Bengali settlers over construction of Babna Kendra, a Buddhism research centre, on a disputed land at Maischhari in Mohalchhari upazila.

The security forces have been alerted to avert any untoward incident.

The situation arose when a group of indigenous people started building the centre on the disputed land, claimed by Banglee, Joynal Abedin.

Indigenous people in the area also claimed ownership of the 300 acres of land on which they started construction of the centre. But, they could not show any legal document in favour of their claim whereas Bengalee settlers showed their legal documents to this correspondent.

Joynal Abedin complain to the local Union Parishad (UP) chairman and Headman (Village Chief) Sajai Marma.

Later, Joynal lodged a complaint with the Mohalchhari upazila administration. The administration officials told this correspondent that they are trying to resolve the problem.

Earlier, a meeting was held on the issue but it could not be resolved.

Houses demolished for protesting drug trade

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

About 70 landless people living on Tenguria embankment in Kalihati upazila are facing an eviction threat by a group of criminals for protesting drug trade on the embankment.

The landless people had been living there since long.

Most of them built tin-shed houses on the embankment taking loan from different NGOs like Brac and Grameen Bank.

As the landless protested to drug trading on the embankment, about 15 criminals attacked and demolished 11 houses and looted

their valuables on May 1. The criminals also beat up the dwellers of the houses.

After the incident, the landless people filed several cases against them.

Most of the landless are now living under open sky in great misery for last few weeks while some others have gone into hiding fearing attack of the criminals.

The victims said that the criminals are allegedly threatening them to withdraw the cases.

The landless people lost their houses in river erosion and took

shelter on the embankment a few years ago. Earlier, Kalihati police allegedly refused to take cases when the landless went to the police station to file cases. Later, the victims filed seven separate cases with a first class magistrate court in Tangail on May 5. Kalihati Upazila Jute Development Officer was asked to investigate the matter and submit the report immediately.

This has infuriated the criminals who threatened the victims of dire consequences.



One of the 11 houses demolished by miscreants on Tenguri embankment in Tangail for protesting drug trade.

PHOTO: STAR

100 families evicted for Ashrayan project

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Over 100 families have been evicted from a shoal in Jalisha village in Dumki upazila for setting up an Ashrayan project on about four acres of land.

The families, after being homeless by erosion, had taken shelter on the newly emerged shoal few years back, the victims and sources in the upazila administration said.

They were paying land revenue. Dumki upazila administration last year decided to set up an Ashrayan project on the land and stopped receiving the land revenue from the villagers.

Abdul Maleq Khan, one of the

people who took shelter on the shoal, then filed a case on February 27 with a court in Patuakhali accusing six persons including the Patuakhali Deputy Commissioner, Dumki Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and Angaria Union Parishad chairman.

The case is pending disposal by the court.

On Wednesday, the UNO with the help of police evicted them from the land.

When contacted UNO Ranajit Kumar said, "We have taken up a plan to set up an Ashrayan project on the government land. Some local people are trying to occupy the lands".

Jubo League protests case against Nanak

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Manikganj district unit of Awami Juba League brought out a procession in the district town and held a rally in front of Manikganj Press Club demanding withdrawal of the 'false' cases against its central president Zahangir Kabir Nanak, secretary Mirza Azam MP and some other leaders of Juba Sangram Parisad.

Hundreds of leaders and activists of the party joined the programmes. The rally, with district Juba League president Sudev Saha in the chair, was addressed by, among others, its secretary Tamjid Ullah Prodhan Liltu and party men Manjurul Alam Khan Kolloi and Fazlul Haque.



PHOTO: STAR

Netrakona Mohila Awami League (AL) formed a human chain in the town yesterday protesting the May 10 attack on AL activists and demanding withdrawal of false cases.

4X3

No clue to murder of Kushtia AL leader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Chudanga police could neither find any clue to the murder of Awami League (AL) leader Zamir Uddin or arrest any of the killers six months after the incident.

The victim's family alleged that police are rather trying to save the killers as they are influential people involved with ruling BNP.

AL leader Zamir Uddin of Purondarpur village in Jibonnagr upazila in the district was killed in October 26 last year allegedly by a gang led by Rezaul of the village in a sequel to a land dispute.

Zamir's elder son Mantu filed a case accusing 15 people including Rezaul.

Police on the night arrested Rezaul and his accomplices Joynal and Sawapan.

Police produced them before a magistrate court next day but did not seek their demand for interrogation. The three were sent to jail.

The alleged killers later got bail from

High Court on November 16 last year.

Aback home, they threatened Zamir's family and press for withdrawal of the case, sources said.

The family complained to police, but to no effect, the said.

Sources said Zamir had bought a land at Purondarpur field several years ago and planted trees.

Rezaul, a local BNP leader having alleged links with outlaws claimed ownership of the land by producing fake documents.

Zamir went to court, which ordered Jibonnagr police to submit report after investigation. Police in its report said the land belonged to Zamir.

But Rezaul ignored all legal procedures. On October 3, Rezaul and his accomplices felled the trees on Zamir's land.

Asked, a duty officer at Jibonnagr police station said he does not know anything about the case.

8X3