

BDR-BSF stand-off in Dinajpur

India builds embankment on Atrai violating border rules

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

Tension mounted in Mohonpur border in Dinajpur as BDR and BSF are in a stand-off position after the Indian authorities started construction of an embankment on Atrai river 50 yards inside the zero line on Friday.

The embankment is being constructed near main pillar No. 302 and river pillar No. 1 and 2 under cover of BSF protection.

BDR protested the construction and declared a red alert in the area as BSF reinforced its strength. BDR sources said yesterday.

A flag meeting was held yesterday,

yielding no result. Another flag meeting would be held on May 30, BDR sources said.

On the other hand, river erosion in border areas of Dinajpur continues as Atrai embankment renovation work inside Bangladesh territory by Water Development Board (WDB) remained suspended for few years in the face of resistance by BSF.

BDR said BSF yesterday increased its strength and mobilised heavy weapons in Gangarampur village across the border. BDR also increased its strength.

Lt. Col Nurul Islam of 15 Rifle Battalion told The Daily Star that the

Indian authorities are constructing the embankment in violation of border rules.

WDB sources said Bangladesh stopped construction of spars in Karatoa river in Panchagarh, Atrai in Dinajpur and Nagar and Kulik in Thakurgaon to stop erosion following Indian objection.

Former water resources minister Hafiz Uddin and his Indian counterpart Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi at a meeting decided for a joint survey of border rivers to demarcate the boundary but it is yet to be implemented.

TRANSPORT STRIKE

Road link with Sylhet still snapped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

Road communication between Sylhet and the rest of the country remained snapped for the second day yesterday due to an indefinite transport strike.

No buses, minibuses and trucks plied on Sylhet-Dhaka, Sylhet-Chittagong, Sylhet-Comilla and Sylhet-Habiganj routes, causing immense sufferings to people.

Habiganj Zila Paribahan Malik Samity and Habiganj Zila Paribahan Sramik Samity jointly enforced the strike since Friday.

They were demanding action against Moulvibazar District Minibus Malik Samity for preventing Habiganj-bound buses for carrying passengers from Srimangal, Moulvibazar and Sherpur stands.

Meanwhile, the administration is yet to take steps to end the strike.

The strikers also condemned recent attack on passenger coaches on Sylhet-Habiganj route by the transport workers of Moulvibazar district.

Workers put up barricades at Aushkandi and Shaistaganj points to stop Dhaka, Chittagong and Comilla-bound buses, minibuses and trucks on Friday.

Meanwhile, Habiganj Zila Sarak Paribahan Malik Samity president Fazlur Rahman told The Daily Star that Habiganj Deputy Commissioner (DC), Superintendent of Police (SP) as well as lawmaker Enamul Haque Mostafa Shahid requested them to withdraw the strike. In response, the transport owners asked them to ensure security of vehicles at Sherpur, Moulvibazar and at Srimangal, saying they would not withdraw the strike unless a peaceful atmosphere is restored, Rahman said.

However, Sylhet Zila Motor Malik Samity, at a meeting held on Friday, termed the strike illegal.

They called upon the administration to take legal steps against the striking transport owners and workers.

Arrest 'real' killers of Satyaban Hajong

School students agitate in Durgapur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Netrakona*

Students of different schools yesterday brought out a procession in Durgapur town demanding arrest of the real killers of local indigenous leader Satayaban Hajong and an end to harassment of others by falsely implicating them in the murder case.

Satyaban Hajong, general secretary of Bangladesh Hajong Unnayan Parishad and also a schoolteacher, was murdered on April 23 evening.

Satyaban's father Tusil Hajong filed a case with Durgapur police station accusing 10 people including Rahimuddin, Kazimuddin and Suruj Mia.

The murder triggered demonstrations by indigenous and local people, particularly students. The agitation was fuelled when police arrested seven Hajong community people including Sawpon Hajong, allegedly due to a conspiracy by some local influentials.

Since the murder, several demonstrations were held in the area for arrest of the real killers and release of the 'innocent people', arrested allegedly at the behest of influentials. Satyaban Hajong hailed from Manikpur village in Kalmakanda upazila in the district.

Earlier, the local people also submitted a memorandum to State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babor to arrest the real killers. The memorandum claimed that Rahimuddin, Kazimuddin and Suruj Mia were the real killers. But they are yet to be arrested.

It was stated in the memorandum that the three, hailing from Manikpur village killed Satyaban at the house of one Abdus Salam of Lakmipur village in Durgapur.

It said the seven Hajong people

have been implicated in the murder case to evict them from the area.

When contacted, Bhaja Gobinda, Officer-in-Charge of Durgapur police station, said that their primary investigation also proved that the three accused persons could be involved in the murder. They are absconding since the murder.

But the arrested persons could not be released till the investigation is complete.



School students brought out a procession in Durgapur town yesterday demanding arrest of killers of indigenous leader Satyaban Hajong.

Milk powder seized at Benapole

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jessore*

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Friday evening seized 300 bags of milk powder worth about Tk one crore from Benapole check post allegedly imported on false declaration.

Sources at Benapole land port said a trader in Dhaka imported 2040 bags of maize powder from India. The importer brought 300 bags of non-importable milk powder along with the maize powder. The consignment was brought in five trucks.

After delivery from Benapole land port, when the trucks reached the joint check post of BDR and customs at 9pm, BDR Naik Razzakul Haider seized the trucks and took those to the customs house.

30 hurt in bus accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

At least 30 people were injured in a bus accident in Chandipur area in Kamalganj yesterday morning.

The bus carrying a bridal party to Sylhet from Adampur skidded off the road and fell into a ditch as the driver lost control over steering.

The injured are Jitendra Singha, 35, Babaton Singha, 60, Aruna Singha, 25, Shaymoli Singha, 25, Sabita Singha, 20, Projapoti Singha, 20, Amar Ranjan Singha, 21, Rajesh Singha, 28, Rahul Singha, 65, Ripon Singha, 20, Ripa Singha, 14, Alankar Singha, 25, Khuki Singha, 30, Biben Singha, 20, and Mona Singha, 20.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Yesterday's downpour swamped most areas of Comilla town. The photo was taken from in front of Town Hall where a playground turned into a sheet of water, providing for fun for many children.

Students confine Satkhira principal for water

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Over 300 students of Satkhira Government College yesterday today laid a siege to the office of the principal and confined him for about an hour for supply of drinking water at dormitories.

Earlier, the students under the banner of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) also brought out a procession and held a rally in front of the principal's office, on the campus to press the demand.

Students at dormitories have been agitating for about three months as they are facing acute crisis of water. In front of the principal's office which was addressed by among others JCD leaders Mamun and Munna and ICS leaders Alamgir Hossain Lipu and Aminul Islam.

The agitated students threatened to launch tougher agitation programs if the authorities failed to solve the problem.

The siege was withdrawn after Principal Sukumar Sarkar assured them to solve the water crisis.

Mystery shrouds death of young domestic help

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

Mystery shrouded the death of a domestic help at Bhanugachh in Kamalganj upazila.

Selina Akter, 14, was working at the house of Kamalganj upazila BNP vice-president Fazlur Rahman and Mohila Dal leader Chhanda Begum.

Police recovered her body from a pond behind their house on Friday. Locals said, they saw blood on the body during its recovery by police.

But her master said Selina was drowned while taking a dip as she did not know how to swim.

'Stop illegal dredging of Monu'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

Bangladesher Communist Party (CPB) held a protest rally to stop illegal dredging of the Monu, attack on garments industries, construction of Shayetaganj-Mirpur-Srimangal-Moulvibazar-Sherpur-Sylhet regional highway and ensuring smooth supply of power.

CPB central leaders Syed Abu Zafar Ahmed, Saleh Elahi Kuti and Khondakar Lutfur Rahman addressed the meeting.

Later, a big procession paraded the streets in the town.

5X3

13X4

6X3