

Killing of jute mill worker fuels protest in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Sirajganj*

The striking workers and employees of Quami Jute Mill in Sirajganj yesterday brought out a militant procession wielding sticks and carrying black flags and held a rally in front of the mill condemning the killing of a fellow worker in Khulna on Thursday and demanding fair probe into the incident and trial of the killers.

Workers of government owned jute mills across the country are on strike and staging demonstration since Thursday to press their eight-point demand including payment of arrear dues and procurement of jute for running the mills properly.

In Sirajganj, the workers staged several demonstrations yesterday to protest the killing of a worker of Quami Jute Mill in Khulna.

The demonstrators paraded main roads of the town chanting slogans and held a rally in front of mill gate. Abdul Khalek, president of Quami Jute Mill Workers Union presided over the rally.

Among others, workers union leaders Sujabot Ali, Nobokumar Karmaker, Shahidul Islam, Gazi Shah Jamal, Esmail Hossain and Gazi Shahin addressed the rally.

The speakers bitterly condemned the police action on peaceful demonstration by jute mill workers in Khulna.

The government is killing workers as they demanded arrear salaries and steps to run the mills properly.

The government wants to close

all jute mills across the country like the Adamjee jute mill to hand over those to the private sector, they said and vowed to continue the agitation till the demands are met.

They said about 4000 workers of Quami Jute Mill are in hardship

without salary but the government is unconcerned.

Henceforth, any anti-worker step will be retaliated, they said.

On Thursday, a worker was killed and over 100 were injured, 14 of them critically, in clashes

between law enforcers and jute mill workers at Khalishpur in Khulna.

The dead, Noor Mohammad alias Jashim, was a casual worker at the spinning section at Crescent Jute Mill.



Quami Jute Mill workers and employees brought out a procession wielding sticks and carrying black flags in Sirajganj town yesterday protesting killing of a fellow worker in Khulna and demanding government steps to fulfil the 8-point demand of jute mill workers.

BANK SHIFTING It's a 14-party conspiracy: Jamaat MP

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Gaibandha

Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker from Gaibandha-1 constituency Abdul Aziz has refuted the allegation that he was behind shifting of the Janata Bank branch from Shovaganj to Mirganj Bazaar in Sunderganj upazila.

"It was beyond my knowledge when the bank branch was shifted. No body informed me about this earlier", he told a press conference held at Shovaganj Degree College ground on Thursday.

He termed shifting of the bank branch a 'conspiracy' by local 14-party alliance to malign him in the area.

Prior to the shifting, even high officials of the bank and the district and upazila administrations were not informed, he claimed.

"They did it at night to avoid public rage", the Jamaat leader said.

The bank was shifted at dead of night on August 17 without any prior information to its clients.

The unprecedented incident sparked off protests by all classes of people including traders in Shovaganj Bazaar, who brought out processions, barricaded the highway and held a series of rallies in the area for restoration of the bank to its original place.

"Seeing the public agitation, I held a meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's office on August 20 where it was decided that the bank would be restored to its original site", Abdul Aziz said.

But this will need a decision of its board, he said. The bank authorities have assured me in this regard, he said.

Jahangir Alam Jinnah, convener of local 4-party alliance and Harun-ur-Rashid, president of Shovaganj Sangram Parishad, also spoke at the press conference.

BSF returns bodies of 2 farmers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday returned bodies of two Bangladeshi farmers after a BDR-BSF flag meeting Friday afternoon.

Md Mujibur Rahman, 45, of Bazbari and Shaheb Ali, 30, of Zagiharh of Baliadangi upazila, were shot dead by BSF at Mandumala of Baliadangi upazila in Thakurgaon when they were irrigating their farmland Thursday morning.

When contacted, Lt Col Rafique of 20 BDR Battalion said the bodies were returned following a company commander level meeting at Mandumala.

BNP RIVALRY FOR KUSHTIA-1 TICKET Bachchu Molla sets stage for Nasir Uddin's expulsion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

The intra-party feud in Daulatpur BNP over nomination has taken a new turn with the upazila committee suggesting expulsion of party leader and industrialist Nasir Uddin Biswas, allegedly at the behest of Reza Ahmed Bachchu Mollah, a party lawmaker from the area.

Nasir Uddin is also a prospective nomination seeker from Daulatpur (Kushtia-1 constituency).

The upazila committee in a resolution sent to the district committee suggested 'immediate expulsion' of Nasir for his alleged anti-party activities, party sources said yesterday. The resolution was signed by 'majority members' of the executive committee of Daulatpur upazila unit of BNP.

The resolution was adopted at a party meeting held at Daulatpur Shilpakala Academy on Thursday. It was presided over its president Reza Ahmed Bachchu Mollah MP, the sources said.

The meeting was attended by,

Drug trader killed in 'crossfire'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

A top drug trader in Kushtia allegedly linked with an outlawed party was killed in a crossfire at Char Amlapara in the town in early hours of Thursday.

He was identified as Badsha alias Dail Badsha, 38, son of late Atiar Rahman alias Luta of Mazampur area of the town.

A team of Detective Branch (DB) police led by Sub-inspector (SI) Obaidur Rahman arrested Badsha, convicted for life, from Cheuria in Kumarkhali upazila Wednesday evening.

Police claimed that Badsha was caught in a crossfire and killed when he tried to flee from custody.

Badsha was also involved with outlawed Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF). A court in Kushtia sentenced him to life term in 2004 in an arm smuggling case.



Students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology staging a day-long hunger strike at Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar on Thursday for resumption of classes.

Teachers blame VC for Sust chaos

Students to demonstrate in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

Students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) will form a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka on September 12 for resumption of classes.

They will announce a fresh agitation programme at a press conference there on that day.

Sust students will start for the capital on the night of September 11 by train.

The programme was announced at a rally held at Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar yesterday.

Speakers at the rally called upon the authorities to take immediate steps for resumption of classes and academic activities and trial of the killers of fellow student Mosharraf Hossain Shamim, who was died in police firing on May 14.

The students have been agitating since closure of the university after the May 14 incident.

They took out processions, held rallies, observed token hunger strike and staged human chains in Sylhet city to press their demand.

Meanwhile, chairman of the University Grants Commission

(UGC) called leaders of Sust Teachers Association, Officers Association and Syndicate members to Dhaka Friday to discuss the campus situation.

Sources said those who attended the UGC meeting included Syndicate members Dr. Sajedul Karim and Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury, SUSTTA President Mostafa Hasan, Vice-president Dr. Mohammad Iqbal and General Secretary Rafiqul Islam, Assistant Proctor Ashrafuddin and Officers Association President Joyal Islam Chowdhury.

At the meeting with the UGC chairmen, most of them blamed the VC for the deteriorating campus situation, the sources said yesterday. They accused the VC of breaching commitments, maintaining double standard and financial irregularities.

Left leaning teachers of the university are also abstaining from taking classes, alleging misbehaviour by some activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir activists.

Student organisations aligned with opposition parties are also demanding withdrawal of the VC.

Academic life of about 65,00 students has become uncertain as the authority failed to end the stalemate created since after the killing of a student in police firing and closure of the university on May 14.

AUG 17 BLASTS Hearing on charge framing in Satkhira today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Khulna Divisional Speedy Tribunal (KDST) will start hearing on framing charges against 19 accused in five cases related to the August 17 serial blasts in Satkhira today, court sources said.

The accused include Jamaat'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) chief Shaikh Abdur Rahman, Siddiqui Islam Bangla Bhai and Ataur Rahman Sunny.

KDST Judge Md Abdus Samad has asked the authorities concerned to produce the JMB kingpins and other accused before court at the time of hearing.

Court sources said, five cases were filed with Sadar Police Station in connection with bomb blasts at five points in the district town on August 17 last year.

The cases were transferred to KDST on June 21. But the cases were returned to District and Sessions Judge Court, Satkhira on July 31. Citing flaw in trial procedure, the cases were again transferred to KDST after proper maintenance of trial procedure.

Earlier, the date for hearing was set for September 3.

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8X2