

Zakiganj border tense again

BDR, BSF ask each other's nationals not to go to their croplands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Fresh tension gripped Zakiganj yesterday as BDR and BSF warned nationals of each other's countries not to go to their croplands near the borderline.

BDR sources said BSF at Laberpota camp yesterday morning warned Bangladeshi farmers not to go to their lands near the border. They gave the warning over loud speakers, creating panic and anger among border people.

On the other hand, BDR at Uttarkul camp also warned Indian nationals not to enter 'Bangladeshi' croplands across the Surma river.

The Indian border guards took a fresh attempt on Friday to erect barbed wire fence on the border near Zakiganj upazila headquarters within 150 yards of the zero line.

They however abandoned the

move following protest by BDR.

BDR has been alerted and its strength in the area increased, Sector Commander Col Abul Hossain told the Daily Star yesterday.

He said Indian construction workers under BSF protection tried to erect barbed-wire fence along the border Friday afternoon.

BDR protested the move and sent a letter requesting a flag meeting. But BSF returned the letter unopened the next day and again tried to erect barbed wire.

BDR then threatened to open fire with firing if the work goes ahead. The Indians removed construction materials and abandoned the plan yesterday, BDR sources said.

Meanwhile, BSF yesterday gave reply to BDR's protest note. A flag meeting will be held in a day or two to discuss the matter, BDR sources said.

People in border villages in Zakiganj are passing days amid fear

after two persons were killed by BSF in Dimai in Barlekha upazila of Moulvibazar district Thursday afternoon.

Abdus Samand, 25 and Moyub Ali, 20 of the village were shot dead as they went to collect firewood in border area near their village. BSF took away the bodies and returned those on Saturday after a flag meeting.

On Saturday, BSF fired three shots as some Bangladeshi nationals went for fishing in Surma river near Uttarkul border, injuring one Mir Uddin of Digholi village, BDR sources said. BDR also replied with 10 shots.

Mir was admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Several skirmishes took place between BDR and BSF in Zakiganj border in last several weeks over killing and abduction of Bangladeshi nationals.

VC skips Sust as teachers stage sit-in

Students form human chain in Dhaka today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Vice Chancellor of Sylhet University of Science and Technology (Sust) could not attend office yesterday due to day-long agitation by a section of teachers in front of the registrar building demanding his withdrawal for alleged corruption and irregularities.

The teachers aligned with opposition political parties staged the sit-in from 8 am. They also held a rally demanding immediate steps by the government for appointment of another VC from among them to restore normal academic atmosphere on the campus.

The rally was presided over by Dr Akhtarul Islam, former president of Sust Teachers Association.

Speakers at the rally said they will not work under VC Mosleh Uddin Ahmed any more because of his alleged misdeeds. His misdeeds have isolated him from all

quarters, they said.

They said they will continue the agitation till a new VC is appointed. A fresh agitation programme will be announced today, they said.

Meanwhile, students of the university will form a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka today and hold a press conference there. The students left for the capital by train last night.

The programme was announced during a token hunger strike at a rally at Sylhet Central Shahid Minar on September 9 to press resumption of classes and trial of killers of fellow student Mosharrif Hossain Shamim, who died in police firing on the campus on May 14.

Sources said the students may announce a fresh agitation programme at the press conference.

AL LEADER MURDER Hartal observed in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A dawn-to-dusk hartal was observed here yesterday amid sporadic clashes between BNP and Awami League (AL) activists leaving 15 people of both the parties injured.

AL enforced the hartal protesting killing of its leader Nurul Islam Pici by BNP activists on Sunday.

The clash ensued at about 10-30 am when anti-hartal BNP processionists led by Matiranga upazila BNP president Abu Yusuf Chowdhury chased AL activists near Ali Akbar Chowdhury Building who were picketing in support of hartal.

AL claimed 10 of their men were injured while BNP claimed five of their activists were injured.

Educational institutions, offices and business establishments remained closed during hartal hours.

In the morning, hartal supporters vandalised shops in front of Nawab Building and prevented buses and other vehicles from plying.

AL brought out a mourning procession in the town. Later, a meeting was held at Mukhtamancha at 11:30am. Party president Jotindra Lal Tripura chaired the meeting.

Speakers announced a 48-hour ultimatum for fulfilling their demand for arrest and exemplary punishment to the criminals.



A discussion meeting, organised by a citizens' committee, was held at Central Shaheed Minar in Cox's Bazar on Sunday in memory of late Poet Shamsur Rahman.

KHULNA-JESSORE INDUSTRIAL BELT Jute workers start rail, road barricade today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Striking jute mill workers will enforce an indefinite rail-road barricade programme in Khulna-Jessore industrial belt from today as part of an agitation programme to press their eight-point demand including payment of arrears.

The programme will be observed in response to a call given by Patkal Sangram Pariah (PSP), an apex body of workers unions in eight jute mills in Khulna-Jessore industrial belt.

Workers of all the eight jute millsseven in Khulna and one in Jessoreare on strike since Thursday in protest against the police action on agitating workers in which one person was killed in firing.

Workers and employees bought out a massive procession in Khalishpur and held a rally yesterday. The rally was presided over by PSP

UGC team reaches PSTU

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A four-member delegation of the University Grants Commission (UGC) led by its chairman Prof Dr Asaduzzaman arrived here yesterday.

The team will stay here for two days to investigate alleged misappropriation of Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) funds amounting to around Tk 15 crore by former vice-chancellor (VC) Prof Dr Wahiduzzaman who was removed on August 27.

The other UGC members are Dr Mahbub Ullah and Tareq Shamsur Rahman and UGC director of Accounts and Audit Ibrahim Kabir.

Convenor Sarder Motaharuddin. At least 20,000 workers and employees joined the procession and the rally, PSP leaders said.

Speakers at the rally reiterated their rail-road barricade programme and said tougher agitation will be announced to realise their demands.

They said it is shocking that police opened fire on workers for demanding arrear wages and government steps to keep jute mills running.

Most jute mills in the country are facing raw material crisis during the peak jute season now but the authorities did not take any step. They warned the government not to deprive workers of their rights.

They demanded judicial inquiry into the death of jute mill worker Noor Mohammad Jashim in police firing at Khalishpur on Thursday.

PSP leaders alleged that Jashim was shot dead from point blank range by a constable of security armed force (SAF) in presence of a probationer assistant police commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP).

They demanded withdrawal of all three cases filed with Daulatpur and Khalishpur police stations on Thursday, Friday and Sunday against workers on charge of attacking security forces, looting and damaging public property during demonstrations. All the accusations are false, they claimed.

Sub Inspector Hafizur Rahman of Khalishpur police station lodged FIR on Sunday, accusing 8000 workers for Thursday's violence.

In Jessore, workers and employees of Jessore Jute Industries also brought out a procession and held a rally to press the demands, reports from there said.

A large number of security forces

will be deployed at vulnerable points in Khulna city and Khalishpur tonight (Monday night) to maintain law and order in view of the road-rail barricade programme, said KMP commissioner Khan Saeed Hasan.

AKBAR VS AKBAR IN MAGURA Deadline to AL lawmaker to quit party post

Protest programme postponed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Rival party men in Sreepur upazila Awami League (AL) yesterday postponed their broom procession against lawmaker Prof MS Akbar following intervention by district AL leaders and the administration, party sources said.

They however gave a 15-day deadline for removal of the lawmaker from his post of general secretary of Magura district AL, alleging that he lost confidence of party men.

Earlier, on September 5, factions of Sreepur upazila AL and its front organisations at a meeting with upazila AL president Akbar Hossain Mian in the chair declared MS Akbar 'unwanted' in Sreepur upazila and decided to bring out a broom procession at the district town on Monday (yesterday) protesting his alleged anti-organisational activities.

Fearing clash between followers of Akbar and rival party men, the district administration arranged a meeting between leaders of rival groups on Sunday on the premises of Sreepur police station.

Besides leaders of the rival factions, the meeting was attended by Sreepur Upazila Nirbahi Office (UNO) Sheikh Abdur Sattar, Additional Police Superintendent Abdur Razzak, Sreepur thana OC

Khalequzzaman, district AL president Md Altaf Hossain, senior vice-president Tanzel Hossain Khan, Mohammadpur upazila AL secretary Abdul Mannan, Sreepur upazila AL president Akbar Hossain Mian and is former president Mollah Nabuyet Hossain. Ms Akbar was not present at the meeting as he was out of the country, party sources said.

After discussion for over five hours, MS Akbar's rivals Akbar Hossain Mian and Molla Nabuyet Hossain agreed to withdraw their broom procession programme and gave the lawmaker a 15-day deadline for resignation from his party post. They also urged MS Akbar not to seek nomination from Magura-1 constituency to contest in the coming election.

"After discussion we postponed our programme and gave him an ultimatum to relinquish his party post", Akbar Hossain Mian told this correspondent yesterday.

Agitation against the lawmaker will begin again if the demand is not met, he said.

When contacted over cell phone, OC Khalequzzaman said "We took the initiative in the interest of maintaining law and order".

District AL president Md Altaf Hossain said he took the initiative in the interest of the party.

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