

Hartal observed in Moulvibazar for train service

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A half-day hartal was observed in Kulaura, Juri and Baralekha upazilas in Moulvibazar district yesterday at the call of Sylhet Division Development Council to press reintroduction of Kulaura-Shahbajpur train service.

Vehicles including buses were off roads and educational institutions and markets remained closed during the hartal.

Earlier on Sunday, the Council organised a road march on the 43-kilometre Kulaura-Shahbajpur railway line. It also held rallies at Kulaura, Juri, Dakhsinbhag, Khataltali, Baralekha and Shahbajpur.

PSTU CORRUPTION Audit report submitted to UGC team

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A five-member audit team of Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) headed by its deputy controller Md Nizam Uddin on Monday handed over an internal audit report to the University Grants Commission (UGC) team.

The report detected anomaly in spending Tk 1 cr from the university funds. Of the amount, Tk 17.35 lakh were shown under revenue and Tk 84.94 under development heads but spent without any voucher.

On receipt of the report, the UGC chairman told journalists that proper action would be taken against the persons found guilty.

However, the action will follow following submission of his final report.

UGC chairman Dr Prof Asaduzzaman led a 4-member probe body to investigate alleged corrupt practices by former vice-chancellor (VC) of Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) Prof Dr Wahiduzzaman. Other team members are UGC members Tareq Shamsur Rahman and Dr Mahbub Ullah and UGC director of Accounts and Audit Ibrahim Kabir.

The team left here for Dhaka yesterday after investigation.

VC Dr Wahiduzzaman was removed from his post on August 27 in face of vigorous agitation by the 'University Save the Committee' led by Patuakhali BNP vice president MARab.

The UGC team also visited the proposed 'Fisheries Faculty' on 100 acres land at Kuakata sea beach.

Make position about Phulbari mine clear

Rally threatens tougher agitation if deal with 'national body' fails

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Leaders of five Left parties at a rally in Phulbari yesterday urged the government to implement the agreement signed with the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas and Mineral Resources on August 30 and to cancel the deal with Asia Energy and threatened of tougher agitation for non-compliance.

The deal with Asia Energy for coal extraction from Phulbari mine

is detrimental to national interest, they said at the rally organised by Gano Oikya Front, a newly formed local body.

A large number of local people and leaders and activists of National Democratic Party, Bangladesh Socialist Party, Biplobi Oikoya Jote, Gonotantrik Mojdur Andolon and Gano Sanghati Andolon attended the rally, held in front of a local cinema hall.

The speakers also demanded

probe into the August 26 incidents in which several people were killed when law enforcers opened fire on demonstrators protesting the proposed open-pit mining by the UK-based company. It was presided over by Amirul Islam Bablu, general secretary of the Gano Oikya Front.

Leaders of the Left parties criticised the government for not making its position clear as regards the agreement after violent protests by people that cost lives.

They said people and political parties are not against extraction of coal and foreign investment in the country but will oppose any deal that will go against national interest.

The Asia Energy will pay only 6 per cent royalty to the government and export the rest of the coal without utilising those for domestic purpose, they said. Such an agreement is contradictory to national energy policy, which suggests diversified use of energy resources, they said. Once the resources are exhausted, development work will stop for good in the country.

The speakers also advised the government not to allow export of Phulbari coal but to utilise it for power generation.

They said the deal with Asia Energy will have to be scrapped if the government wants to utilise the coal resources for energy generation and development of the country.

Asia Energy was allowed to work in Phulbari without any tender or evaluation by expert committees, they alleged.

The speakers also urged the people of Phulbari to remain alert so that vested quarters can not negate the achievement made by the people at the cost of blood.

The speakers included Tipu Biswas of National Democratic Party; Abdul Matin Talukdar, acting president of Bangladesh Socialist Party; Abdus Salam, President of National Democratic Labour Party; Mosreffa Mishu of Biplobi Oikya Front and Zunayed Saki and Mobarak Hossain Nannu, both leaders of Gano Oikya Front.



Gano Oikya Front, a newly formed body in Phulbari, held a rally in the upazila headquarters yesterday demanding implementation of the six-point agreement with a national committee.

12 to seek BNP ticket, back any party nominee but Nitai Roy

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Twelve BNP aspirants yesterday said all of them would seek nomination from Magura-1 but would work jointly for any party nominee but former minister Nitai Roy Chowdhury.

They will resist Nitai Roy if he is nominated again for Magura-1 because he is not a man from the constituency, the BNP leaders said at a joint press conference held at Magura press club.

A statement signed by the 12 BNP leaders was read out at the press conference held under the banner of 'Nationalist Force in Magura'. Munshi

MAGURA-1 CONSTITUENCY

Ali Tarek, youth affairs secretary of Magura BNP, convened the press conference as coordinator of the newly formed body.

Eleven of the 12 nomination seekers were present at the press conference. They are central chairman of Zia Parishad Kabir Murad, former central leader of Jatityotadadi Chhatra Dal Monwar Hossain Khan, former chairman of Magura municipality Iqbal Akhter Khan Kafur, Brig Gen (Rtd.) Masudur

ment was not present at the press conference moderated by Ali Tarek. All the 11 nomination seekers spoke. They also said they would not accept any candidate from outside the constituency.

Former minister in Ershad government now a central BNP leader, advocate Nitai Roy Chowdhury is a voter from Magura-2 constituency (comprising Mohammadpur and Shalikhap upazilas and four unions of Magura Sadar upazila).

He was nominated in 2001

voter from Magura-1 constituency' said Mohammad Ali.

"This time BNP leaders and activists will resist any party nominee outside the constituency" said Akhter Hossain.

Contacted over cell phone, Nitai Roy Chowdhury claimed himself the fittest man to get nomination from Magura-1.

"As the parliamentary board of the party (BNP) is the final authority to nominate a candidate, I think announcement of any body's candidature right now is violation of party discipline. I am always ready to obey the party decision".

He however said, "I will seek



Jute mill workers burn logs on a highway (top) and block a railway line in Khalishpur industrial area in Khulna yesterday, the first day of an indefinite rail-road barricade programme to press their eight-point demand.

Rangpur AL council today after 8 yrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Rangpur district Awami League will hold its council today.

The council was not held since 1997 due to intra-party feud, party sources said.

AL general secretary Abdul Jalil, Presidium member Abdur Razzak and central leader Mahmudur Rahman Manna are expected to attend the council, they said.

Due to internal feud, the earlier committee was dissolved about nine months ago and a convening committee was formed with Monsur Ahmed as its convener and Rezaul Karim Raju and Mosaddeque Hossen Bablu as joint conveners.

Front ranking district AL leader Dilshad Hossen Mukul told this correspondent that majority of the councilors may prefer new leaders in key posts of the district committee. He would suggest election to make a new committee, he said.

6 pirates held with arms in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Shivalya police arrested six pirates with two firearms from Alokdia area in the Jamuna Monday night.

The arrestees are Asraf Ali, 30, and Jahid, 22, of Alokdia, Anwar, 25, of Char Shivalya, Abdul Majid, 45, of Madhyannagar village under Shivalya Police Station, Mujibar, 20, of Kashidharpur village under Daulatpur Police Station in the district and Mojibar, 20, of Kalyanpur village under Bera Police Station in Pabna.



Eleven of the 12 BNP nomination seekers from Magura-1 constituency at the joint press conference yesterday.

Rahman Khan, retired engineer AN Kamaluddin Mustafa, former general secretary of district BNP Ahmed Hossain, former president of Sadar upazila BNP Kazi Abdul Aala, district BNP vice-president Nazimuddin Ahmed, convener of pourousava BNP Mokaddes Hossain, district BNP organising secretary Akhter Hossain and Mohammad Ali.

Another nomination seeker, MA Ahad Liton, who signed the state-

election as 4-party alliance candidate from Magura-1 constituency (comprising Magura sadar and Sreepur upazila).

His nomination frustrated the BNP rank and file in the area and the alliance nominee was defeated by Awami League (AL) candidate MS Akbar, said Mokaddes Hossain at the press conference.

Nitai Roy failed in the last election because party men were not happy with him as he was not a

nomination from both the constituencies (Magura-1 and Magura-2).

Magura-1 constituency comprise Magura Sadar and Sreepur upazilas. But both BNP units are now united against Nitai Roy, party sources said.

On March 5, rival party men in Sreepur upazila at a meeting declared Nitai Roy 'unwanted' in the upazila for his alleged anti-party activities and burnt his effigy.

Set up sessions judge's courts in CHT

Speakers demand at BLAST seminar in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Speakers at seminar here yesterday urged the government to take steps for creation of sessions judge's courts in the three hill districts as per the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regulation (Amendment) Act-2003, and Section 26 of Nari-O-Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain-2000 to facilitate judicial activities and help curb crimes.

Litigants and people now suffer a lot now in absence of judicial facilities, they said.

The seminar on 'Establishing Human Rights in CHT' was organ-

ised by the rangamati unit of Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust (BLAST). It was held at the conference room of CHT Regional Council here.

Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) central leader and CHT Regional Council member Rupayan Dewan, Jummo Refugee Welfare Association Secretary Ushatan Talukder, CHT Mohila Samity President Upendra Lal Chakma, PCJSS law affairs secretary Madhabi Lata Chakma, Rangamati BLAST Co-ordinator Shaktiman Chakma, advocate Jewel Dewan, civil society members, journalists and representa-

tives spoke at the seminar.

They said the CHT Regulation (amendment) Act-03 provides for constitution of three separate sessions divisions. As per the provision, district judges will act as sessions judge of the respective session division and joint district judge will act as assistant session judge.

The joint district judge try all civil cases as per existing laws and customs in the district concerned. Cases relating to family laws and other customary laws will be tried by the mouzas headmen and circle chief as per provision (Ga)4 of the Act.

They said thousands of cases are pending in the three hill districts

for long and many people are languishing in jails without trial as there is no session judge's court at the district headquarters. This is violation of human rights, they said.

The Rangamati unit of BLAST in a report said 62 female repression cases were filed in Rangamati during 2003-05. Trial of all the cases are pending due to lack of a Women and Child Repression Prevention Tribunal, it said.

Besides, indigenous people are helpless while their lands are being acquired or leased to outsiders. They can not avail legal protection now, they said.

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