

Attack on Adivasi families protested

RU CORRESPONDENT

The indigenous people of Rajshahi staged demonstrations in the divisional city yesterday protesting an attack on Adivasi families in Godagari upazila by some influential locals a day before.

At a human chain, they demanded punishment to the attackers and said the influential people were also threatening some indigenous families with death to grab their lands.

The Adivasi people said a group of influential people led by Abdus Sattar of Kagthia village of Godagari upazila assaulted with sticks some members of an indigenous community who reside in a government-abandoned property of the village on Monday.

They alleged that law enforcers were yet to take any steps to arrest Sattar and his associates though a case was already filed with Godagari Police Station in this connection.

Some 200 indigenous people from different parts of Rajshahi brought out procession, staged demonstration and formed a human chain at Shaheb Bazar zero point intersection yesterday.

They staged the protest under the banner of Adivasi Cultural Development Organisation.

Leaders and activists of left leaning parties, and students, teachers from different educational institutions in the city also joined the demonstration expressing their solidarity.

Jatiya Adivasi Parishad president Anil Marandi, secretary Rabindranath Saren, Adivasi Cultural Development Organisation executive director Rajkumar Shao, National Awami Party Rajshahi district chapter secretary Mustafizur Rahman Khan Alam, Workers Party of Bangladesh leader Debashish Pramanik Debu, and Adivasi Chhatra Parishad general secretary Suvash Chandra Hembrom, among others, addressed the human chain.



Dhaka Wasa is still to finish the installation of sewers beneath Mohammadia Housing Society main road in the city's Mohammadpur though the digging started before the last monsoon. The scene was snapped recently.

PHOTO: PALASH RAHMAN

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Kamrun Khan (Tulu), wife of valiant freedom fighter Asifur Rahman Khan

(Sebok), passed away yesterday at her Brampton residence in Ontario, Canada.

Aged 63, she had been suffering from leukaemia.

Survived by her husband, two daughters, a granddaughter and a host of friends and relatives, she will be buried this afternoon (Canada time) at Meadowvale Cemetery on 7732 Mavis Road, Brampton.

Her warmth, compassion and good nature will be remembered by many for years to come.

AFM Shamsuzza

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



AFM Shamsuzza man, a software businessman and social

worker, passed away yesterday at Square Hospital in the city due to cardiac arrest at the age of 60.

He left behind his wife, a son, four daughters, a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death, said a press release.

He will be buried at Banani graveyard following namaz-e-janaza after Juma prayers on Friday.

His kulkhwani will be held at his residence on Saturday.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Today is the fourth death anniversary of **Fazlul Haque**, former

director of health and family welfare ministry.

On the occasion, feeding the destitute and orphans in Dhaka and a doa mahfil at Shaheb Bazar Boro Masjid in Rajshahi have been arranged.

The well-wishers of Fazlul Haque are requested to attend the doa mahfil.

PADMA BRIDGE

No new graft allegations

Says project integrity adviser Mashiur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

No new allegations have emerged about graft in the Padma Bridge project, asserted the project's Integrity Adviser Mashiur Rahman yesterday.

The adviser said this to newsmen after emerging from a meeting with the representatives of the three co-financiers of the \$2.9 billion project at the Economic Relations Division in the capital.

Mashiur said as the integrity adviser he is responsible to apprise the co-financiers -- World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank and Japan International Cooperation Agency -- periodically about whether any fresh graft allegation has been received or not.

Asked repeatedly about the outcome of

the meeting, Mashiur said, "I am like a duck. I can step into water, walk on the ground and even fly a little."

Meeting sources said the co-financiers were mainly apprised of the latest developments in the project.

WB Country Director Allen Goldstein and representatives of other co-financiers were present.

Making the graft allegation, the lead financier WB in September last year had suspended funding for the bridge.

The bank will inform the government by the end of this month whether it would rescind its suspension decision.

The Anti-corruption Commission has been investigating into the alleged corruption and it will send the adviser a copy of the probe report.

Work will start within this govt tenure

Says Quader

UNB, Dhaka

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said the government, by any means, will start the construction work of 6.15-kilometre-long Padma bridge within the tenure of the incumbent government.

"Various works under the Padma Bridge project have already begun. We'll also initiate the construction work of the bridge during the tenure of this government by any means", he told reporters at his secretariat office.

BID TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL GOVERNANCE

\$290m loan deal signed with World Bank

UNB, Dhaka

The World Bank (WB) will provide \$290 million to Bangladesh to finance the Second Local Governance Support Project to cover all 4,504 union parishads and benefit around 130 million population of the country.

Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Iqbal Mahmood and World Bank country director Ellen Goldstein signed a loan agreement to this effect at the ERD conference room in the city's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar yesterday. Local Government Division Secretary Abu Alam Md Shahid Khan was also present.

Local Government Division (LGD) will implement the project to be completed by November 2016.

The total amount of the project is \$ 545.39

million out of which the IDA of the World Bank will provide \$ 290 million, while the rest will be provided by the government.

The objective of the project is to strengthen Union Parishads to make them more accountable and responsive, supported by an efficient and transparent intergovernmental fiscal transfers system.

Under the credit, Bangladesh will receive an amount of \$290 million from the World Bank in concessionary term carrying 0.75 percent service charge on withdrawn amount and a repayment period of 40 years, including a 10-year grace period.

The project is built upon the success of the Local Governance Support Project, which was the first programme to strengthen the union parishads, the lowest tier of the local government.

Contribution of Samson Chy recalled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Law Kamrul Islam yesterday said businessmen of the country will have to move forward following the honesty and courage of late Samson H Chowdhury.

The state minister also said that Samson Chowdhury was a real Bengali who had significant role in liberation war of Bangladesh.

He said this at a memorial meeting jointly organised by Bangladesh Mukti Jodhha Ainjibi Parishad and Jatio Gonotantrik League at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Professor Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, vice chancellor of the World University of Bangladesh, Advocate Samsul Alam Duda and MA Jalil also spoke.



Outgoing Ambassador of China to Bangladesh Zhang Xianyi calls on President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Punish errant BCL men: RU students

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University (RU) students yesterday demanded exemplary punishment of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men who are repeatedly spoiling the academic environment in different educational institutions.

The students, under the banner "Progressive Students Alliance", submitted the memorandum with a five-point demand to RU Chancellor Zillur Rahman through its Vice-Chancellor (VC) Prof Abdus Sobhan around 1:00pm.

The demands included exemplary punishment of those BCL men who created recent chaos in different universities including Jahangirnagar University, Jagannath University, Begum Rokeya University and Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (Kuet), withdrawal of the cases against 300 students of Kuet, punishment of Satkhira district unit BCL leaders for harassing a female student and trial of the parliament member for attacking a female journalist.

In the memorandum, the students noted that BCL leaders and activists were linked with different irregularities and corruption on university campuses across the country like corruption in admission process, hall seat business, sexual harassment, student assault and extortion.

Bangladesh Students Union RU unit president Shipon Ahmed, Socialists Students' Front convener Sohrav Hossain, Bangladesh Students Federation president Sham Sagor and Biplobi Chhatra Moitree convener Sumon Agastin Saren signed the memorandum.

DHAKA TODAY

Rally
The National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Port will hold a protest rally. Venue: Before Jatiya Press Club, Time: 11:00am.

Seminar
WBB Trust will hold a seminar. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 11:00am.

Rally
Imarat Nirman Sramic Union Bangladesh will hold a rally. Venue: Before Jatiya Press Club, Time: 11:00am.

Conference
Nagorik Sanad and UNDP will hold a national conference. Venue: Biam

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