

SNAPS

4 more expelled from Bogra BNP

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Four more leaders and activists of BNP and front organisations were expelled on Friday for disobeying the party decision during the municipality polls here.

They are ward commissioner candidate and president of BNP Ward No 5 Kazi Nur Rahman, district Olama Dal president Hafez Mohammed Zakaria, district Krishok Dal vice-president Mofiz Uddin Sheikh and the Bogra bureau chief of state-owned Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), also a member of the Ward No 9 unit of BNP Mir Sazzad Ali Sontosh.

3 Hundi traders nabbed in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Three Hundi traders were arrested here on Wednesday morning.

Kotwali police arrested them after intercepting an auto-rickshaw at Kazir Dewul intersection in the city.

The arrested are: Mohammad Mortuza, Mohammad Mamun and Mohammad Ilias, all hailed from Sundarpur village in Fatikchhari upazila.

Police, quoting statement of the arrested, said to this correspondent the three had been running the illegal Hundi business at Masua Jharna Lane in Dewan Bazaar area for a long period. They were returning to Dewan Bazaar from Agrabad Commercial Area withdrawing 10,04,582 taka from the Dutch-Bangla Bank.

Police lodged a case against them with Kotwali Police under the Money Laundering Act.

A great job done voluntarily

Villagers rebuild 1.5 km road in Brahmanbaria

SHEIKH SHAHIDUL ISLAM, B'baria

The villagers joined hands and did it voluntarily after repeated appeals for reconstruction of a road fell on the deaf ears of the authorities.

The 1.5 kilometre road from Moind Purbapara to Rishi Para under Mazlishpur union in Sarail upazila is nearing completion.

It was a different scene when this correspondent visited the village last week. People of all classes, from students and teachers to farmers and poor day labourers, were cutting earth with spades. The atmosphere was enthusiastic. Jubilant people were working as microphones blared music and patriotic songs.

The villagers said as repeated appeals failed, they sat in a meeting and decided to reconstruct the road themselves before onset of the monsoon.

The only road linking Moinda and Fothepur villages with the upazila Sadar and the district headquarter remains under one metre water during wet season, they said. It also connects Barura Bazar with Titas Ghat, a launch terminal in Titas river.

Life of about 5000 people of the villages depends on the road. Boat is the only means for children to go to school during wet season when the low lying area goes under water and the villages



PHOTO: STAR

Together they do a great work... Rich and poor cutting earth to reconstruct a 1.5 kilometre road in Sarail upazila in Brahmanbaria district. They took the initiative as repeated appeals fell on the deaf ears to authorities and local political leaders. The photo was taken from Moinda village last week.

remain isolated.

Over the years, the road was virtually washed away, creating enormous problem.

Several prayers were submitted to the Union Parishad and the local parliament member for its repair. But none came forward.

"As all efforts failed, I drew the attention of Sarail Upazila PIO (Project Implementation Officer) and managed allocation of six tonnes of rice under Food for Works Programme but the local

Union Parishad Chairman diverted it for other projects", Fazilatunnesa, an elected local body member, told this correspondent.

Naru Mia, Hanif Mia and Nasir Mia of Moinda village said politics from UP chairman to parliament members came before election to seek vote. They promised to reconstruct the road. Once the election was over, they were never seen.

They said all the villagers sat in

a meeting in March and decided to do the job voluntarily.

"The meeting divided all the villagers into several groups", Naru Mia said.

"The groups are working alternately. The work will be completed well ahead of the monsoon", he said.

"No one can change our condition if we do not help ourselves", said farmer Hanif Mia.

Patients suffer as BSMCH interns continue strike

Doctors place 6-point demand including security: Health Directorate informed, efforts on to restore normalcy, authorities say

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least 50 patients left Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital till yesterday as treatment facilities collapsed since the interns went on strike Tuesday evening.

Hospital sources said nine patients died during the period. Relatives of the victims claimed that the deaths were due to lack of treatment.

The interns began the wildcat strike protesting ransacking of an office at the surgery ward and assault of some doctors by relatives of a patient for alleged negligence in treatment.

On Wednesday, the striking patients placed a six-point demand including assurance of safety and security of doctors and other staff and punishment of the attackers.

At about 8 am on Thursday, to the peril of hundreds of patients and

their attendants, interns locked the hospital campus including the emergency wing. The locks were removed at about 12:30 pm at the initiatives of the local leaders of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) and hospital authorities.

On Thursday, they vowed to go for harder programme if their demands are not fulfilled within 72 hours.

Dr Md Abdul Jalil Sheikh, director of the hospital, said higher authorities in the Health Directorate have been informed of the situation and efforts are on to restore normalcy. But there was no progress till yesterday.

Treatment facilities have collapsed as the 500-bed hospital with a handful of senior doctors is mainly dependent on interns. The hospital accommodates over 700 patients.

On Tuesday at about 1.30 pm,

eight year-old Mohiuddin Sheikh, son of businessman Abdur Rahman Skeikh of Hathkholia Chawak Bazar area of the city, was brought to the hospital with critical burn injuries he suffered from contact with a live electric wire.

Doctors advised the boy's relatives to take him to Dhaka immediately as the hospital lacked facilities for treatment of such critical injuries.

The relatives requested the hospital authorities to allow a doctor to accompany the boy on way to Dhaka. The authorities declined, saying there was no such provision. They then ransacked the office at the surgery ward and assaulted some of the doctors.

The relatives later alleged that the doctors gave the advice without giving emergency treatment and proper nursing, a charge denied by the authorities.

'RU mass appointment violates University Act, UGC embargo'

Most recruits are BNP men, Save Rajshahi University Movement leaders tell press conference

RU CORRESPONDENT

The 'Save Rajshahi University Movement', a newly formed body comprising leaders of political parties and socio-cultural organisations, have demanded cancellation of the recent controversial appointment of 544 Class 111 and Class 1V employees of the university.

The RU authorities violated the University Act, 1973 and the university's tradition by this "mass appointment", made without any advertisement and interview, its leaders alleged at a press conference held at the Muktiyudha Parthagar in the city on Tuesday.

Most of those recruited are activists of ruling BNP, they claimed.

Rajshahi unit president of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote Dr Shafiqul Islam read out a written statement at the press conference.

The leaders also alleged that the RU authorities violated the University Grant Commission (UGC) embargo on fresh appointment.

They said meetings will be held with all professional groups to gather support for their demand. Such "mass appointment" is unprecedented in RU, they said.

The Movement leaders also condemned the incident in which some BNP activists swooped on the office of Vice-chancellor Prof Faisal Islam Faruki on May 2 during submission of a memorandum to the VC

for cancellation of the appointments. Some Movement leaders were attacked and threatened, they claimed at the press conference.

They urged the RU authorities to scrap the appointments for maintaining an academic atmosphere on the campus in the interest of 22 000 students.

Those present at the press conference included the Movement's convener Language Movement veteran Abul Hossain, Rajshahi Bar Association General Secretary Yahya, advocate Ibrahim Hossain, Workers Party Politburo member Fazle Hossain Badsha and Rajshahi Union of Journalists President Mostafizur Rahman.



PHOTO: STAR

The Bogra unit of Bangladesh Anti-AIDS Students Alliance (BASA), brought out a procession in Bogra town yesterday to create awareness about deadly AIDS. BASA was formed at the behest of Centre for Communication and Development (CCD).

Abducted child rescued after paying Tk 1.5 lakh

OUR CORRESPONDENT Barisal

Two year-old Abdullah al Hassan Prince, abducted from Rajapur upazila in Jhalakati district Thursday morning, was rescued in Barisal in the afternoon after payment of Tk 1.5 lakh ransom.

Md Shamim, 17, maternal uncle of the child, who claimed to have negotiated with the abductors, was arrested as the prime suspect.

The child's father, Md Giasuddin alias Chan Mia, who worked in Saudi Arabia, returned home eight months ago. Shamim, who appeared at the last SSC examination, came to his house two days ago.

On Thursday morning, Shamim took Prince out of the house for breakfast.

At about 2 pm, Chand Mia got a mobile phone call that his son was abducted. The caller asked him to come to Nathullab bus stand in Barisal city with Tk 1.5 lakhs to free his son.

The caller threatened him not to inform police.

Chan Mia came to Barisal and informed police. Plainclothes police followed Chand Mia.

As directed by the abductors over phone, Chand Mia reached over a krishnachura tree at Nathullab bus. He was then directed to go to Jail Gate Crossing on the Sadar Road.

There, Shamim told Chand Mia that he was negotiating with the abductors. Chand Mia handed over the ransom to Shamim. He went away asking Chand Mia to wait.

After some time Shamim returned with the abducted child. Waiting plainclothes police arrested him.

Police said Shamim planned the abduction. But the money realised from the child's father could not be recovered.

Shamim told police that one Sabuj and his accomplices abducted him along with Prince from Rajapur and forced them on gunpoint to contact Chan Mia for ransom.

Talking to newsmen later in the evening, Chand Mia alleged that others involved in the abduction and the money could be recovered had police been more vigilant since he complained to them.



PHOTO: STAR

Two year-old Prince on his father's lap after rescue (left) and Shamim (cross-marked) held by plainclothes police.

SATKHIRA BNP LEADER MURDER PBCP claims responsibility

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The Janajuddha faction of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML) has claimed responsibility for the murder of Satkhira district BNP vice-president and Tala thana BNP president ABM Altaf Hossain.

Hossain, 55, a former chairman of Tala Upazila Parishad, died while being taken to hospital when three bombs were hurled on him on Tuesday night at Panchrata intersection near his party office while he was returning home from Patkelghata

bazaar in a motorcycle.

"Our cadres eliminated him (Hossain) as he was a class enemy", a fax message sent to local newspaper offices by Apu Rojario, self-styled Khulna divisional secretary of PBCP, said.

Police arrested five persons after the murders.

Satkhira Police Superintendent Muhammad Abdur Rahim told newsmen that the arrested "terrorists" gave important clues to the murder. We are trying to arrest the killers, he said.

50 hurt in Kushtia clashes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

At least 50 persons were injured in two separate clashes in Sadar and Daulatpur upazilas on Thursday.

Police said at least 30 workers were injured, 10 of them by bullet, in a clash between two groups of workers at Akij Bidi Factory in Daulatpur.

The clash ensued when the factory owner's men and hired

hoodlums attacked the general workers.

The attack came when the workers were bargaining with factory manager Khorshed Alam at his room for their right to trade unionism in the factory including realisation of their long standing dues and enhanced salary.

As the news spread, more workers joined feuding fellow workers. The clash lasted for about two hours.

After the clash the aggrieved workers blocked the Kusthia-Mahiskundi road for about an hour.

In another clash at Ailchara village in Sadar upazila 20 persons were injured.

According to police, a clash erupted between Joarder group and Mollah group at about 1 pm when Saidul of Joarder group and Chantu of Mollah group were engaged in an altercation over a trifle matter. Finally both were locked in a fight.

Police-workers clash in Khulna jute mill : 10 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Ten workers were injured in a clash with police in the state-owned People's Jute Mills at Khalishpur on Wednesday.

According to eyewitnesses, police swung into action when they came under attack by agitating workers. The clash continued for over an hour.

Workers caused extensive damage to the office room of the mill's administrative building by pelting stones. Two police vans were also damaged.

Earlier on the day, workers confined three senior officers of the mills demanding their four-week arrears wages and protesting death of two workers due to starvation at Khalishpur.

The officers are deputy general manager (DGM) Ibrahim Khalil, manager (finance) Tozammel Hossain and security officer Hafizur Rahman. Later, police rescued the officers.

After the incident Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) deployed six platoons of special armed forces in the mill.