

SNAPS

IU teachers protest AL MP murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

About 100 teachers of the Islamic University held a rally in front of the administrative building and brought out a procession on the campus demanding punishment of the killers of Awami League lawmaker Ahsanullah Master.

The IU unit president of Bangabandhu Parishad Prof Malauddin led the procession.

The speakers at the rally demanded impartial investigation into the murder.

IU teachers also issued a statement condemning the killing. Signatories to the statement included IU Teachers Association President Prof. Ashraf Ali and Sapla Forum President Prof Kamaluddin.

IU unit of Chhatra League also brought out a separate procession and held a rally on the campus protesting the killing.

One killed in road mishap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Netrakona*

One person was killed and 23 people were injured when a bus carrying a bridal party fell into a roadside ditch at Sujanathpur in Sadar upazila Monday night.

The dead was identified as Sarju Rabidas. He died on the spot. Sixteen critically injured people were admitted to Jamalpur Sadar Hospital.

Hemp recovered: One arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *B. baria*

Brahmanbaria police recovered four kilograms of hemp from a bus and arrested one person from Champaknagar in Sadar upazila on Tuesday.

According to police, the bus was heading towards Dhaka from the bordering Akhaura upazila. When it reached Champaknagar, a police team, acting on a secret information, raided the bus and recovered the hemp. Police also arrested the owner.

The recovered hemp was deposited at the 'Malkhana' of the thana, police said.

50 hurt as villagers clash with police

Krishak League leader held 'on order from higher authorities', released

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

At least 50 people including some women and children were injured in clashes with police at Gotria village in Kumarkahli upazila on Monday. Police damaged about 45 houses

during the clash, villagers alleged.

The incident centred around the arrest of Kumarkahli upazila Krishak League (KL) General Secretary Ibrahim Hossain. KL is peasant front of opposition Awami League. Police however released Ibrahim

Hossain and five others including two women taken into custody during the clashes.

Ibrahim was treated at Kushtia General Hospital for injuries he suffered from police beating, his family said.

Most of the male persons are

now fleeing homes fearing arrest, local people told this correspondent during a visit yesterday.

According to villagers, a police team from Kumarkahli thana led by OC Selim Ahmed went to the village and arrested Ibrahim Hossain, allegedly without any charge, on Sunday at about 2 pm. Police released him about two hours later but took him into custody again at about 6 pm.

The villagers alleged that police took him to the Bangabandhu Club premises at Kaya and beat him in presence of people. At one stage, some villagers came forward and asked police why they were beating him.

As police asked the people to leave, they resisted the men in uniform and forced them to release Ibrahim.

Next day (Monday), police again went to the village and caught Ibrahim allegedly without any charge.

As villagers resisted police, a clash ensued.

Seven of the injured have been admitted to the local upazila health

complex. They are Ibrahim's 80 year-old mother Sabejan Necha, Monir 10, Sabbir 11, Akkas 10, Noorjahan 25, Hasina Khatun, Samim, 32, Rahman, 45 and Ziarul, 29.

The five held by police but released later are Abu Bakar, Matiur Rahman, Saidul Islam, Rubi Khatun and Nazma Khatun.

The villagers also alleged that police ransacked the Bangabandhu Club and tore down the photo of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Quoting police, Ibrahim's family told this correspondent that he was held on orders from higher authorities.

When contacted yesterday, OC Selim told this correspondent that Ibrahim was arrested on orders from higher authorities. He said the clash ensued when the villagers resist the police action.

Police have filed a case accusing 100 people of the village. Local Awami League condemned the police action on innocent villagers.



The damaged house of Krishak League leader Ibrahim Hossain, one of many at Gotria village (left), and Jasim Uddin injured in alleged police action.



PHOTO: STAR

Reopening of sugar mill demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gaibandha*

The local unit of the 11-Party Alliance in a meeting here on Wednesday demanded reopening of the Rangpur Sugar Mills, Gaibandha immediately.

The meeting also demanded withdrawal of false cases filed against the party leaders and activists.

The demands came at a rally held at the local 'Shaheed Miner' where the speakers condemned police action on a peaceful procession during hartal hours here on April 20. The hartal was called in demand of reopening of the mills.

Police also filed false cases against Aminul Islam Golap, general secretary of local unit of the Workers' Party, Ashsanul Habib Sayed, convenor of local unit of the

BSD, Mihir Ghosh, general secretary of local unit of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Mosaddek Ahmed Bulbul, coordinator of the local unit of the 11-Party Alliance, Nawasaduzzaman, central member of the Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Jahid Hossain Biplob, executive president of the local unit of the motor-truck workers' union.

The meeting was presided over by Mosaddek Ahmed Bulbul, convenor of the local unit of the 11-Party Alliance.

The speakers called upon local people to intensify their movement for reopening of the mills.

Later, they brought out a procession which paraded the main streets of the town and handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commi-sioner (DC) of Gaibandha.

A govt health centre with a difference

OUR CORESPONDENT, *Bhola*

The small health centre at Ilisha Ghat set up by the religious affairs ministry is different from such other government facilities.

"It is a blessing from God", said Rashida, 35, who came to the centre from a far away village. Sitting beside her at the congested waiting room, Mamala, 40, Monwara, 25 and Rabeya, 15 were all praise for the doctors and other staff.

The waiting room was crammed with women and children. Long queues stretched beyond the corridor.

Mariam, 15, cradling her six-month daughter, was preparing to leave. She came for treatment of her frail daughter. The doctor said her daughter will be alright if she is fed enough breast milk.

"This is a good advice I did not know. They (doctor) also advised

me to take vegetables. If I take enough good food, my daughter will get enough milk", the smiling teen-aged mother said.

Many women like her were happy after getting free medicine or advice.

The health centre caters to the needs of about one lakh poor people in the remote area, about 20 kilometres from the Upazila Health Complex.

Dr. Humayun Kabir, in-charge of the centre, said a large number of poor women and child came here for treatment every day.

About 30,000 patients have been treated since it was set up in July last year.

"Those who went to quacks earlier now come here for free advice and medicine".

But supply of medicine is inadequate. The government gives Tk 20,000 a month for buying medi-

cine, which too inadequate to the need. He said he has appealed to the authorities to raise the amount.

"If necessary, we refer patients to the Sadar Hospital at the district town", he said.

The health centre comprises only two rooms and has 11 staff.

Dr. Humayun Kabir said creating awareness about diseases is the main problem. Most of the people are illiterate fishermen or farmers.

Sources at the centre said one Khorshed Hazari of the area has donated three acres of land for turning the centre into a hospital. The LGED (Local Government and Engineering Department) has prepared a plan to construct a two-storied building for the proposed hospital but funds are yet to be sanctioned.

Osmai Airport expansion work begins in July

'Wide-bodied aircraft to land before next Hajj season'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

Work on Sylhet Osmani International Airport development project will start soon.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Nasir Uddin during a visit to the airport on Tuesday ordered officials to begin the work "as soon as possible" so that wide bodied aircraft can land in the airport before the next Hajj season.

He reviewed preparations and asked the officials to take up the runway expansion work first. The runway will be extended from 9000 feet now to 10,250 feet and widened, Civil Aviation Authority sources said.

The project includes construction of a new terminal building, a

boarding bridge, a new taxiway, a fire-fighting station and boundary wall; land development and other miscellaneous civil, electrical and mechanical work.

Work orders will be issued by June this year and work will be started by July, to be completed in 14 months, the officials said.

Though the project cost was earlier fixed at Tk 111 crore, it may increase by 10 percent because of slight modification in the plan, they said.

Later, the minister inaugurated a duty-free shop of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) at the international departure lounge.

Mir Nasir Uddin also visited the Sylhet Shishu Park being built by a private company on a land near the

airport road leased from Parjatan Corporation.

While inaugurating the duty free shop, the minister said the number of tourists from abroad doubled last year over that of the previous year because of government's reformative measures. The trend will continue.

He said the government is patronising development of tourism facilities in the private sector and urged investors to avail the opportunity.

Historical places in the country will be developed to attract tourists. Facilities will be created at Madhabkunda in Moulvibazar, the lone natural water fall in the country, to attract tourists, he said.



Patients crowd the health centre (left) opened by the religious affairs ministry at Ilisha Ghat and a doctor examines a patient. The photos were taken recently.

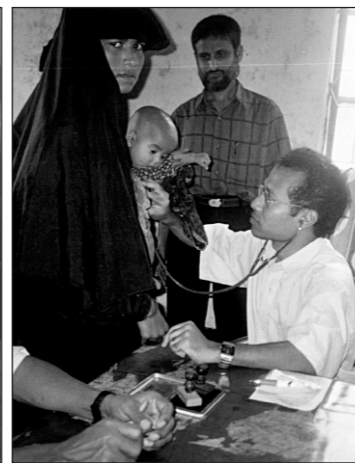


PHOTO: STAR

Kushtia Bidi factory workers agitate for salary hike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

About 3000 workers of Nasir Bidi factory at Allahdarga in Daulatpur upazila in the district brought a procession at the upazila headquarter yesterday to press their five-point demand including pay hike and payment of arrears.

The workers gathered on the premises of Taragonia Dak Banglo (circuit house) at about 10 am to hold a scheduled rally.

But some musclemen allegedly hired by factory manager Khorsed Alam swooped on them and dispersed them.

The workers then gathered at Hosanabad Vocational Institute ground, held a rally there and brought out a procession.

The rally was addressed by, among others, local Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal leader Ashraf Siddique Rekat, Mohsin Ali of CPB (Communist Party of Bangladesh), Majibur Rahman, Samsuzzoha Montu and Fazlul Haq Milon.

The speakers urged the factory owner to fulfill the legitimate demand of the workers.

The five-point demand includes removal of the factory manager and proper treatment of workers' leaders injured in the May 7 attack on them

at the factory and punishment of the hired attackers.

The workers claimed that they have unpaid dues amounting to Tk 20 lakh.

They said 30 workers were injured when some hired goons attacked them when they were at a meeting with the manager on May 7.

Police have been deployed in the factory area to avert any untoward situation.

Killer gets life in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

A killer was awarded life term imprisonment by a court in Chuadanga on Monday.

The convict is Rabiul Islam, son of Monhor of Khaskara in Alamdanga, Chuadanga.

He slaughtered his neighbour Sanwar Ali, 42, during sleep over a land dispute on November 26, 2001.

Chuadanga district and sessions judge AFM Mostafa pronounced the verdict.

Workshop on AIDS held at RU

RU CORRESPONDENT

The Centre for Communication and Development (CCD) in collaboration with CARE Bangladesh organised a day long workshop on "Orientation of Journalists on AIDS/AIDS issue" on the Rajshahi University (RU) campus on Tuesday.

Terming students of the university as our golden sons, the speakers underscored the need for their protection from the deadly disease AIDS/HIV. They urged them to lead a disciplined life instead of following blindly the western style of living where AIDS/HIV has turned into a monster taking lives of many bright youths. They said 'Islam is a complete code of life.' So, they pleaded for following the teachings of Islam in daily life.

CCD coordinator Shahana Parvin read out the keynote paper and presented his inaugural address.

CCD chairman and RU Mass Communication Department chairman Dulal Chandra Biswas and CARE Bangladesh programme officer Ashis Chatterjee were the main discussants.

CCD executive director Golam Mourtouza conducted the workshop.

A total of 25 university correspondents of various dailies took part.



PHOTO: STAR

Supported by local administration, hundreds of landless people harvest Boro paddy from government Khas land at Dikshit Beel in Chatmohar, Pabna. Landless farmers established their rights for the first time in 30 years as no influential land grabbers dared resist them this year. Samata, an NGO assisted them in cultivation of the paddy on 2,100 bighas of lands. Earlier, land grabbers possessed the lands illegally for years by preparing fake documents.