

DEMAND FOR GAS

# Rallies, processions, hunger strike in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Movement for gas supply to Rajshahi has gained momentum with the city dwellers from all walks of life taking to streets to realise the demand.

Demonstrations are held off and on by different political, social-cultural and other citizen's bodies.

On Friday, several organisations jointly held a big meeting and brought out a procession in the city, chanting various slogans and carrying banners.

Several hundred workers of the city Awami League brought out procession in the evening and held a meeting at its office with its president Mahub Zaman Bhulu in the chair.

Central AL member AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, rajshahi AL Joint Secretary Mir Ekbal and party leaders Nawsher Ali, Ward Commissioner Rezaunnabi Al Mamoon addressed the meeting.

The speakers said they will go for tougher movement and called upon

the people to join the agitation to realise the demand.

They said there are good prospects for setting up industries in greater Rajshahi, but this can not be utilised only for want of gas.

Shachetan (conscious), an NGO, under banner of Rajshahi Citizens brought out a big procession in the afternoon. Ward commissioners Shariful Islam Babu, Abdul Hamid Sarkar Tekon, Niazul Azim were among others who led the procession.

Speakers at a rally prior to the procession said gas supply is a demand of all classes of people irrespective of their political opinions but the government is ignoring it.

In the morning, over 100 youths brought out a motorcycle procession in the city.

On Thursday, Rajshahi Rakkha Sangram Parishad held a two-hour token hunger strike at Shaheb Bazar for gas supply.



The Rajshahi Rakkha Sangram Parishad organised a token hunger strike in the city on Thursday demanding gas supply in Rajshahi.

PHOTO: STAR

## Netrakona UNO faces murder charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Convener of Netrakona Nagorik Committee Humayun Kabir Salim has filed a murder case against Netrakona Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Office Proshanta Kumar Das with the court of First Class Magistrate Aminul Islam.

As per the case (CR case No 487/2004) filed by the victim's wife Rozina Akter on Wednesday, the UNO had called office peon Giasuddin, 55, to his residence on the night of March 3 and abused him.

At one stage the UNO kicked Giasuddin in the abdomen. As he fell on the ground, the UNO beat and injured him, she alleged in the case.

He was taken to Netrakona Sadar Hospital in a critical condition and later sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, where he died on July 7.

The complainant claimed that her husband's body was handed over to her without autopsy, allegedly due to officials' intervention.

When contacted, Proshanta Kumar said he had abused Giasuddin but did not beat him.

Talking to this correspondent, Rozina Akter demanded trial of her husband's murder.

The court sources said the case documents have been sent to Netrakona thana Office-in-Charge for necessary action.

## Disciplinary action against 168 students of Barisal Medical College

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College (SBMC) authorities took a disciplinary action against 168 students of first year class.

The students were fined Tk 2,000 each and signed a bond for going to a self-declared vacation for a month. Dr Aziz Rahim, Principal-in-Charge of the college told the academic council took the decision to punish the students as they violated the academic discipline ignoring the 5-year academic calendar of the Education Directorate.

## 11 BDR men hurt in Satkhira road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Eleven members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) were injured, seven of them seriously, in a road accident on the Satkhira-Kaligonj Road at Sekendra village in Debhata upazila on Friday.

The injured are Nazim, Rahman, Mahfuz, Pradyut Kumar, Rafiqul, Mahub, Abbas, Rashed, Khalid, Sarwar and Zakir. They were admitted to Satkhira hospital. Later, Nazim and Rahman were shifted to Khulna 250-bed Hospital as their condition deteriorated.

BDR sources said the injured members of 12 Rifles Battalion were going to Sreepur and Padma Shakhra Border Outposts (BOPs). Their vehicle skidded off the road at the spot of accident sustaining their injuries.

## 'Fake Rakhaine bodies doing anti-state activities'

RBWA demands ban on RDE, RWU, SPD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Rakhone Buddhist Welfare Association (RBWA) here on Friday alleged that some expelled members of the organisation has floated some new bodies in the name of Rakhaine people and doing anti-state activities in and outside the country.

They are doing "immoral" activities and realising money from different quarters including donors, RBWA leaders told a press conference, held at Chittagong Press Club. RBWA is a Cox's Bazar-based non-political organization of Rakhaine community living in Bangladesh.

The leaders called upon the government to ban all activities of the "fake" organizations named Rakhaine Development Foundation

(RDF), Rakhaine Women Union (RWU) and Society for Peace and Development (SPD).

They also demanded legal steps against those involved with the organizations for the sake of image of Rakhaine community as well as of Bangladesh.

The leaders alleged that "a handful of dishonest ex-members of RBWA formed RDF and are collecting money from the government, NGOs, foreign embassies and donor agencies in the name of social and economic development of Rakhaine people.

They further alleged that RDF recently brought a representative of Australia based donor agency Austcare to the Rakhaine refugee camp in Teknaf for a visit.

The RDF realised money from Austcare through fraudulence by showing the "fake project" in the name of rehabilitation of Rakhaine children, they alleged.

The leaders said RBWA on May 14 this year had cancelled primary membership of RDF Chairman Usit Mong, his brother-in-law Kau Thin Aung, who is RDF Director (Finance) and also Chairman of SPD. RBWA General Secretary Mang Haula Ching read out a written statement at the press conference where RBWA President Ung Mong Kau Maan, Advisor Uh Mong Then Hen and its other leaders Uh Mong Chhen Haula, Uh U Ba Chong, Uh Chha Jen, Uh Bow Mong and Uh U Thuing Yei were also present.

## A good start for transparency

Budget session at a bordering Union Parishad

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

It was a different day for the people of a remote bordering village in the district. Over 1500 people took part in a day-long 'open budget session' on Friday.

They discussed the budget of Banshadah Union Parishad for the current financial year. UP Chairman Shaiduzzaman Helal replied to various questions at the 'budget session', held at Banshadah village.

The unique programme, first of its kind in the area, was organised by two NGOs. Manusher Janney and Agragati Sangsthan to ensure transparency and accountability of the local government body. The local attended the session with great enthusiasm.

Shahiduzzaman Helal presented a budget of over Tk 6 lakh and urged the people to co-operate with local government leaders to implement development programmes. The local people asked how the money would be spent and also gave suggestions.

The session was presided over by the UP Chairman and attended also by local elite.

Besides representatives from villagers in the union, the speakers included Agragati Sangstha Director Abdus Sabur, headmaster Ezaz Ahmed, mardasasah teacher Manlana Jalaluddin, journalist Abdul Jalil, Nasima Khatun, Abu Abdullah and Shahidul Islam.

Project Co-ordinator of Agragati Sangstha Asit Kumar Banerjee narrated various aspects of

programme. They said transparency and accountability is vital for good governance for implementing development programmes at the grassroots level.

Besides, such programmes will make the people aware of their rights, they said.

Addressing the session, the local people also urged the government to allocate more funds for local governments from the national budget so that Union Parishads can undertake more development projects independently.

The UP Chairman told the meeting that he would try his best to make his union a "model" for the country.



An enthusiastic woman asking a question to Banshadah Union Parishad chairman about activities of the local body.

PHOTO: STAR

## SNAPS

### 10 hurt in BNP-AL clash in Jessore

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

A BNP-Awami League (AL) clash at Jhapa village in Moniram Pur upazila here on Friday has left 10 persons injured.

The clash ensued when AL activists stabbed Jhapa Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader Akramuzzaman, 22, according to police and local people. BNP activists retaliated instantly.

Seriously injured Akramuzzaman and another AL leader have been shifted to Jessore 250-bed Hospital for treatment.

A tense situation had been prevailing in the area till filing of this report at 7:30 pm on Friday.

## Ruling party men reopen Putakhali smuggling route?

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Large scale cross-border smuggling and trafficking is going on through Putakhali border point allegedly at the behest of two local ruling party men.

Efforts by BRD and police to stop the illegal activities bear no fruit because of them.

Smuggling through the border point remained closed since the change over of power after the October 2001 parliament election. But two influential persons of Putkhali village reopened it recently by exercising their political influence, local people and sources in BDR claimed.

Because of the illegal trade, the government is being deprived of huge revenue.

The goods smuggled in include automobile parts, motorbikes, by-

cycle, sugar, saree, salt, heroin, wine, opium, VCD, phensidyl, cows, fruits, sanitary materials, stainless steel materials, electronic goods, firearms, explosives. The goods smuggled out include gold bar, copper, brass, zinc, gas cylinder, palm oil, soyabean oil, diesel, toilet soap, cigarette and mosquito curtain cloth.

The sources also claimed that illegal cross-border movement of people including women and children and trafficking to India is continuing through the Putakhali border point adjacent to Benapole.

Taking the advantage of their political influence, the leaders of the smugglers' gangs also ensure safe passage of smuggled goods to different areas of the country by hiring trucks, it is alleged.

BDR at times conducts raids and recovers smuggled goods, but these are a very small fraction of the total smuggled goods, the sources said.

## 10 hurt in dacoits' fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least 10 villagers were injured, three of them bullet-hit, in a clash with dacoits at North Muradia village in Dumki upazila in the district in the early hours of Saturday.

Bullet-hit Giasuddin, 60, Kamal Khan, 22 and Hannan Sikder 25, have been admitted to Dumki Upazila Health Complex, where they are fighting for life, doctors and police said.

Local people and police said, a gang of 10 to 15 dacoits swooped on four houses at about 1 pm. They entered the houses by breaking doors and looted cash and valuables worth about Tk four lakh.

As the inmates raised a hue and cry, several hundred villagers came and chased the dacoits, who fled away firing shots and injuring the people.

Patuakhali Police Superintendent Awrangzeb Mahub visited the spot yesterday morning and assured the people that all efforts will be made to nab the dacoits.

## Relief by NGOs in dists

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Muslim Aid Bangladesh, an NGO, distributed relief to 2500 families in three upazilas in Sirajgonj and Nilphamari on June 20, said a press release of the organisation here yesterday.

They distributed a total of 10.5 tonnes of rice, 4.2 tonnes of potato, 2.5 tonnes salt and 10500 packets of oral saline.

The families included 1600 in Sirajgonj and 900 in Nilphamari district.

Moulana Abdus Sobhan MP, Chairman of the NGO, its Country Director S M Rasheduzzaman, Sirajgonj Deputy Commissioner Ebadat Ali and social worker Ali Alam were present during the distribution in Belkuchi and Sadar upazilas in Sirajgonj.

Samata, another NGO has chalked out a programme to distribute relief goods among the flood affected peo-

ple in Pabna, Rajbari and Faridpur district, says a press release.

The NGO already distributed 6,000 kg of flattened rice, 1,500 kg of sugar, 18,000 packets of oral saline (ORS) among 6,000 families in Pabna and 2,200 kg of flattened rice, 550 kg of sugar and 6,600 packets of ORS among 2,200 flood affected families in Rajbari from its own resources.

Anybody or any organisation willing to donate money or relief materials to flood victims, may contact the following offices of the NGO.

Pabna office at Radanagar, Rothkhol, Pabna, Mobile No 0171-856494, 0171-868754, Faridpur office at Khoda Box Road in Goalchamot, Faridpur, Mobile No 0171-892159, Rajbari office at Barapal in Rajbari, Mobile No 0171-428690, Rajshahi office at Kajhata in Rajshahi, Mobile No 0171-435288 and Dhaka office at 9/5 Iqbal Road in Mohammadpur, Dhaka, Phone-8121914, 9131058.

## 7 of a family drown, 3 killed in road mishaps

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Three persons including a couple were killed in separate road accidents in Mymensingh and Nandail on Friday.

In another tragic incident, seven of a family drowned in a boat capsized in Daleshwary river in Tangail Tuesday night.

The couple was killed when their motorcycle was knocked down by a Sherpur-bound bus near Patgoda Bridge in Mymensingh town Friday morning, Mymensingh police said.

The husband died on the spot and the wife was taken to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, where she died.

Police said the victims were a couple but could not give their identity.

In the other road mishap, banker Habibur Rahman, 63, died on the spot when a Kishoreganj bound bus knocked down his motorbike in front of Samatta Jahan College at Nandail upazila headquarter on the same day, Nandail police said.

The seven victims of the boat tragedy are Karafuli Begum, 52, Nurjahan, 45, Rahela Begum, 25, Rasheda Begum, 30, Rani, 8, Rakib, 5, and Selim, 4 of village Salpataru in Delduar upazila in Tangail district.

They were among 13 on the boat, all going to Salpataru village. As the boat capsized, all except the six swam shore. Bodies of four of the victims were recovered on Wednesday, police said.



Retired police superintendent Habibur Rahman Habib distributing relief among flood affected people on Friday. So far he has distributed rice and clothes to about 1000 families in Dhunat, Goshaibari Bazar, Shimul Bari and Chuniapara villages in Bogra. Each family got 3-5 kgs.

PHOTO: STAR

**BANGLADESH PARJATAN CORPORATION**  
NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANIZATION  
233 AIRPORT ROAD, TEJGAON, DHAKA-1215.

**RE-INVITATION OF BIDS FOR OPERATION OF BPC RESTAURANT ON LEASE CONTRACT**

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) invites sealed bids in two-envelope system (technical and financial bids separately) for LEASE CONTRACT of Parjatan Restaurant at Madhabkunda, Barolekha, Moulavibazar. The Restaurant is hereinafter mentioned as unit. We invite the interested bonafide business establishment/ firms including foreign firms/establishment and joint venture companies (in which case the lead firm or company has to be mentioned) having experience in the Management & Operation of Hotels/ Motels/Restaurants etc.

2. Technical and financial proposal for the unit should be made separately. 07 (seven) copies of technical bid should be submitted (Original 01 and duplicate 06). In the technical bid, the financial offer should not be mentioned.
3. The Bid Document may be obtained on cash payment of Tk. 5,000.00 ( five thousand ) only (non refundable) from the Cash Section of the Accounts Division of BPC at the above-mentioned address during office hours on all working days up to 31-8-2004. While submitting bid, the bidder shall submit an earnest money of 10% of the amount quoted as annual lease premium in the form of Pay-order or Bank draft issued by any Scheduled Bank in Bangladesh in favour of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation.
4. The intending bidders (who will buy bid documents) may attend a Pre-bid Meeting in the Conference Room of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation at 11:00 AM on 01-9-2004. The Pre-bid Meeting is to apprise the intending bidders about the requirements of the submission of technical and financial bids.
5. The Bidder shall send or mail their bid(s) under sealed and registered cover so as to reach Director, Commercial, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation, 233 Airport Road Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215 positively on or before 12.00 noon of 30-9-2004 or shall drop their bids in the Tender Box kept in his office within the above specified date and time. The Technical bids will be opened on the same day at 12:30 P.M. in presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives, if any. The technical bids will be evaluated on the basis of the Evaluation Criteria mentioned in the Bid Document.
6. Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation reserves the right to accept any or reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.

*Abdul Bari Khan*  
(Abdul Bari Khan)  
Director (Commercial)

GD-441

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
National Board of Revenue  
Segunbagicha, Dhaka  
**Notice**

**Sub: Attention commercial importers for paying VAT as trader while commercially selling imported products.**

- As per provision of VAT Act 1991 all commercial importers realise VAT at the rate 1.5% on sale price as imposed from customers while selling imported products. This VAT is applicable since 1<sup>st</sup> July 2000. The undermentioned matters regarding duty of commercial importers are notified for general information.
- If you are a commercial importer, then the duties are --
  - Obtain or get amended VAT registration certificate as "commercial importer" from the office of VAT department officer in charge of your area.
  - Provide VAT-11 challan to custom on whole or retail sale or transfer of all your imported products except exempted products, monthly return (VAT-19) to local circle office & realise current applicable VAT at the rate 1.5% from customer or receiver and deposit in govt treasury.
  - Demand notice has already been issued in your name & as the case may be Rule 56 of VAT Act has been applied for paying VAT (those who have not paid yet) on VAT applicable or payable products imported by you (even if imported at non-existent address) and later on sold at wholesale or retail level or transferred otherwise since July 2000. You are requested to pay this demanded revenue as soon as possible.
  - You have to "renew every one year from proper authority" the VAT registration certificate issued to you as commercial importer. For renewal, application in prescribed form with documents of VAT clearance for the period prior to renewal and on compliance of VAT rules & regulations should be submitted to the proper authority. It may be noted that without renewal import cannot be done with the earlier registration.
  - If the abovementioned provisions are not complied with as commercial importer, then in that case --
    - Punitive action can be taken against you as per Rules 37(1), 37(2), 37(4) & 38 of VAT Act;
    - Demand notice can be issued to you as per Rule 55 of VAT Act;
    - Validity of your registration certificate can be held up;
    - Your import challan can be seized bank account frozen, property attached etc.
    - It is requested to contact respective Commissioner, Divisional & Circle authority for obtaining all kinds of information, explanation.

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G-461  
National Board of Revenue authority