

10 hurt as villagers attack REB office for power

All power supply offices in Khulna under tight security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

All offices of rural electrification board (REB) in Khulna district have been brought under tight security following attack on a REB office in Batiaghata upazila on Thursday for smooth power supply.

Ten people were injured in clashes with Ansars when over 100 people including women attacked the Thikrabad REB office in Batiaghata. Five of the injured were admitted to Batiaghata Health Complex.

Witnesses and police said stick-wielding angry people attacked the office and pelted brickbats in demand for smooth power supply. The clashes ensued when Ansars on duty at the REB office charged

batons on the demonstrators.

The people from Fatemabad, Krishnanagar and Shachibunnie villages in the area attacked the office as they were without electricity since April 14 as a transformer went out of order due to technical fault.

People in the area became angry when an REB official allegedly demanded Tk 40,000 from the villagers to replace the transformer, local people claimed.

No REB official was available at Thikrabad for comment after the clash. Locals said they escaped fearing further attack as the alleged demand for money went public.

Meanwhile severe power crisis

has also created acute scarcity of pipeline water in Khulna city. Load shedding at short intervals and voltage fluctuation are responsible for the scarcity of water.

In many city areas, residents said they were buying water at high prices. Businessman Latifur Rahman of Khanjahan Ali road said he bought water at Tk 4 per pitcher. Like him, many others are buying water in the area, he said.

Residents in most areas of Khulna city said they are facing acute shortage of water for two weeks.

Executive Engineer Abdul Hannan of Water Works Department of Khulna City Corporation (KCC) said three crore gallons of water are needed in the

city every day. But KCC can not supply more than one crore gallons because of erratic power supply and low voltage, he said.

There are 3,442 deep and 6,250 shallow tubewells in Khulna city. Most of these tube wells are not functioning properly due to power crisis, Hannan said.

It was gathered that the number of deep tubewells is higher than officially sanctioned and maintained by KCC. KCC sources said the number of deep tubewells is over 5,000 though 3442 were sanctioned officially. These extra deep tubewells were allowed in last five years by violating rules due to alleged political influence, KCC sources said.

Sramik Dal secretary among 10 held in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Joint forces yesterday arrested Khagrachhari district Sramik Dal organising secretary Mohammad Nurul Amin and nine leaders and activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra League, student fronts of BNP and Awami League.

Police said Nurul Amin was wanted in connection with some cases for alleged corruption.

Nurul Amin was a close aide to former BNP lawmaker Wadud Bhuiya, now in jail. Wadud was arrested on February 4 on charges of corruption, misappropriation of government funds and sheltering criminals.

Acting on a tip-off, joint forces raided Nurul Amin's Islampur residence early morning and arrested him, police said.

In separate drives launched simultaneously, joint forces also arrested five BCL and four JCD activists.

The arrested JCD activists are Mohammad Omar Faruq, Zakir Hossain, Akter Hossain and Yeakub Ali. The BCL men are Abdul Mannan, Rahul Dey, Rubel Dey, Debanath and Shibli Shikder.

Police said they were involving in various crimes. They were produced before a court, which sent them to jail.

2 journalists hurt in attack by criminals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Two journalists were injured in an attack by criminals in Kalapara upazila Thursday midnight.

Police said, Patuakhali district correspondent of Dainik Sangbad, Nikhil Chatterjee and Kalapara upazila correspondent of Dainik Janata, Meghnad Chandra Saha came under attack while returning home from local press club at about 12 pm. When they reached in front of MB College, some unidentified youths numbering about 10 equipped with sticks and lethal weapons attacked them.

Local people admitted them to upazila health complex after their rescue.

Earlier, a news story on burning of wood in brick fields was published in Dainik Sangbad on January 30 this year. This might be the reason of attackers' wrath, victims said.



Illegal lifting of sand by dredgers from Padma in Talaimari near Rajshahi city continues unabated, increasing the risk of erosion of the bank.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

ACC sues Manikganj municipal chairman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has sued Manikganj Pourasabha chairman Ramjan Ali and its contractor Amirul Islam, also proprietor of Messrs Mahua Construction, on charge of misappropriating Tk 7,48,110 from the municipality fund.

ACC assistant director (AD) and Manikganj district officer Md Abdul Mazed filed two cases with Sadar Police Station on Thursday.

ACC sources said the two misappropriated the municipality fund showing earth filling work in Manikganj Bazaar without due approval of the ministry concerned.

Earlier, joint forces arrested Ramjan Ali from his residence in Manikganj town at night on February 25. Later, he was produced in a court from where he was sent to jail custody on February 26.

ACC filed three cases against Ramjan Ali.



Illegal current nets worth Tk 3.92 lakh recovered by Navy were burnt on the bank of Kirtankhola yesterday. Barisal Deputy Commissioner and Navy officials were present on the occasion.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

BSF abducts 5 cattle traders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) abducted five Bangladeshi cattle traders in Kalupota border under Hasnabad Police Station of 24, Parganas in West Bengal, India opposite Shibnagar border in Debhata upazila.

The victims are Sakim Gazi, 30, Salahuddin, 35, and Alauddin, 30 of Srepur town and Mazed Ali, 40, and Gour Das, 38, of village Shushilgati in Debhata upazila.

BDR sources said, a group of Bangladeshi cattle traders went to India to buy cattle on Wednesday. On way back home with cattle, they were abducted by BSF at Zero point near Shibnagar in Debhata upazila at about 7-30 pm on Wednesday.

BDR protested the incident by sending a letter to BSF authorities on Thursday. They asked BSF to release the Bangladeshi citizens after a flag meeting.

On contact, 41, Rifles Battalion Operation Officer Major Kamrul Hasan confirmed the incident.

Freedom fighter buried with state honour

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Abdul Latif Chowdhury, a freedom fighter and a retired police official, was laid to rest with full state honour at a graveyard attached to the shrine of Hajrat Shahjalal (RA) after Zohar prayers yesterday.

Earlier, his namaj e janaja was held on the shrine premises.

Hailing from village Bithongal of Baniachang upazila under Habiganj, Abdul Latif Chowdhury went on retirement in 1979. He also served as advertisement manager of two local daily newspapers here in the period of eighties and nineties.

A former player of First Division Football League in Dhaka in earstwhile East Pakistan, Chowdhury had been suffering from different old age ailments for long. He died at his house in Munshipara here on May 1. He was 87. He left behind one son, three daughters and a host of admirers to mourn the death.

ATTACK ON KUSHTIA JOURNOS' CONVENTION

2 JCD leaders confess to involvement

Next hearing tomorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A magistrate court in Kushtia on Thursday rejected a police prayer for remand of the two Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders arrested for their alleged involvement in the attack on a journalists' convention in the town on Many 29 last year.

The court fixed Sunday for hearing on remand.

Kushtia district JCD joint-organising secretary Hasan Zaman and Sadar upazila JCD secretary Arifur Rahman alias Sumon were arrested Wednesday night.

Police said they raided houses of the JCD leaders in Barkhada and arrested them.

Sources said the JCD leaders during interrogation at Sadar police station admitted their involvement in the attack and gave some important information about the incident. They are now in Kushtia jail.

At least 25 journalists including Bangladesh Observer Editor Iqbal Sobhan Choudhury were injured when a group of about 200 JCD activists attacked the journalists' convention.

The convention was called to protest filing of 'false cases' by

the then BNP lawmaker from Kushtia-2 and district BNP president Sahidul Islam against three local journalists. The attack was made about 20 minutes into the convention.

After the attack, Iqbal Sobhan Choudhury tried to file a case with Kushtia Sadar police station but police did not take the case allegedly due to pressure from local BNP leaders.

After 10 months, local journalists filed a case with the Sadar police station accusing two former BNP lawmakers and 10 others. The accused former lawmakers are Sahidul Islam and Syed Mehedi Ahmed Rumi of Kushtia-4 constituency. Mehedi Rumi is general secretary of Kushtia district BNP.

Others accused in the case are BNP leaders Sazedur Rahman Bablu, Nurul Islam Chad, Mizanur Rahman Diuk, Al-Amin Kanay, Golam Hafiz Pipul, Atiar, Mirazul Islam Rintu and Abdur Razzak Bachchu, district Jubo Dal president Sahidullah Sahid and secretary Mohsin Ali.

According to police, the arrested JCD leaders were not included in the list of accused. They were detected from a video footage of the incident.

ILLEGAL VOIP BNP leader among 10 charge-sheeted in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Police framed charges against 10 persons including a BNP leader, a ward commissioner and a brother of Barisal City Corporation (BCC) Mayor for carrying on illegal VoIP business and depriving the government of Tk 1 crore revenue.

The charge sheeted accused are BNP leader Mosharraf Hossain Badsha, BCC Mayor Majibor Rahman Sarwar's younger brother Mizanur Rahman Wahid, ward commissioner Apu Islam, Mizanur Rahman Talukdar Manir Hossain Talukdar, three brothers and owners of Romance Business Centre, their sister Sanjida Rahman, Liton Malakar, Anwar Hossain Jewel, and Mahub Molla.

The charge sheet was submitted against the accused on Wednesday for depriving government of revenue by taking 12 telephone connections in fake names and addresses in different parts of the city.

Following publication of the corruption stories in newspapers, joint forces arrested Mizan and Mamun after conducting two raids on Romance Business Centre on March 2 and 3, 2007. On interrogation, the arrestees revealed names of their accomplices to police.

T&T divisional engineer Suvash Chandra Roy lodged the case with Kotwali Police Station on March 13.

3x4

10x3

5x4