

33 level crossings in Lalmonirhat risky

They remain without gates, guards for years due to 'fund constraint'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

At least 33 of 50 level crossings in five upazilas in Lalmonirhat district have remained without gates nor gate men for a long time, keeping them exposed to accident.

The gates had been set up and the gate men were recruited at the level crossings during the British rule in the sub-continent, sources at Lalmonirhat Railway Office said.

The gate men used to open and close the level crossings for the pedestrians and vehicles whenever a train passed the way. After partition of the sub-continent into India and Pakistan, the gate men appointed there left at different times.

Now 33 level crossings in the district that are without gates or gate men remain vulnerable to accidents for vehicles and pedestrians.

Quite a few accidents occurred in the recent

time as a large number of vehicles and pedestrians go through the level crossings everyday.

Drivers of vehicles, especially heavy ones, are vulnerable to accidents as they often fail to hear the sound of a coming train due to the sound of their own vehicles.

Local people have urged setting up of gates and appointing gate men at the level crossings immediately to avert further accidents.

When contacted, Lalmonirhat Railway Divisional Manager DRM Kazi Rafiqul Islam said, "Due to fund constrain Bangladesh Railway cannot recruit gatemen. Besides, 13 of the 33 level crossings were made by the Roads and Highway Department after building their roads across the railway line. So all the expenditure for the 13 level crossings should be born by the RHD authorities, but they did not give any positive respond despite sending several letters from the railway department."



PHOTO: STAR

A post displays a warning message for vehicles and pedestrians at a level crossing on BDR Hat - Mollahat road, only a quarter kilometre from Lalmonirhat Railway Station.

Acid-burnt woman fighting for life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

With serious acid injuries inflicted by husband, a housewife of Sadferpur village in Kotchandpur Upazila is fighting for life at the local health complex.

Police quoted the victim, Josna Khatun, as saying that her husband Helal Khan beat up her before pouring acid on her face on Friday noon. Helal used to torture her for dowry since marriage in 2000, she said.

Hearing screams of Josna, neighbours rushed to the spot, rescued the victim and sent her to Kotchandpur Health Complex where she was undergoing treatment as of filing of the report yesterday afternoon.

When contacted, victim's father Amin Uddin said he had given Tk 10,000 to his son-in-law as dowry. But he wanted more money and tortured her daughter regularly.

The officer-in-charge (OC) of Kotchandpur Police Station said they are trying to arrest the culprit.

BDR seeks villagers' help to check fertiliser smuggling

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) officials at a meeting here yesterday sought all-out cooperation of border villagers to resist smuggling of fertiliser, diesel and drug into India.

Dinajpur sector of BDR organised the meeting to exchange opinion with journalists at its complex. Dinajpur sector commander Col Kudrat Elahi presided.

BDR officials stressed on creating mass awareness among border villagers against smuggling of fertiliser, fuel and drug.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKI

A number of passenger launches get anchored at Maoa ferry terminal as dense fog during the last two days disrupted water transport throughout the country. The photo was taken yesterday.

RU BCL wants VC, proctor to quit

Alleges their link to JCD, Shibir

RU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Rajshahi University unit yesterday staged a demonstration inside the university administrative building demanding immediate resignation of RU acting Vice Chancellor Prof Mammunul Keramat and Proctor Prof Enamul Haque.

Several hundred BCL leaders and activists went to RU proctor's office and chanted various slogans against the acting VC and the proctor, saying that they patronised cadres of JCD and Shibir on the campus.

However, the proctor and assistant proctors were not present at their office during the incident.

Later, BCL activists called the proctor over telephone and used abusive words, accusing him of patronising JCD and Shibir outsiders on the campus.

They also gave 24 hours' ultimatum for his resignation and warned of launching a tougher movement against him in case of failure.

Earlier in the morning, BCL activists chased Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) men as they prepared to bring out a procession on

the campus rejecting 22-point action policy.

Earlier, leaders of different political parties, heads of educational institutions and student organisations of Rajshahi at a meeting agreed to abide by a 22-point action policy to keep educational institutions in Rajshahi city free from student unrest and criminal activities.

Sources said, when the JCD RU unit made preparation for holding a rally the BCL activists chased them.

Police immediately rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

JCD RU unit joint convener Mousumi Nasrin told newsmen that BCL first violated the 22 point action policy and attacked JCD men and general students on the campus.

She urged the university authorities to take steps for ensuring peaceful coexistence of all student organisations on the campus.

When contacted, RU BCL President Ibrahim Hossain Moon said JCD violated the action policy and held procession and rally on the campus with huge outsiders.

When contacted, university Proctor Enamul Haque said BCL activists misbehaved with him over phone.

UZ POLLS 39 lose deposit in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Thirty-nine out of 87 candidates who contested for chairmanship and vice-chairmanship in seven upazilas have lost their security deposits for failure to secure required one-eighth of votes during upazila (UZ) elections, district election office sources said.

They contested as independents. Of them, 18 are chairman candidates, nine vice-chairman (male) candidates and 12 vice-chairman (female) candidates.

The chairman candidates who lost their deposits are Sheikh Shariful Islam in Sadar upazila, DM Azibar Rahman, Abdur Rashid, Nurul Haque, Mujibul Haque and Amela Rani Mondal in Shyamnagar, Firoz Ahmed Swapan and Monsur Ali in Kalaroa upazila.

Farooque Mahbubur Rahman and Rabiul Islam in Debbata, SM Entaz Ali and Mahbubur Rahman in Kaliganj and Uday Krishna Das, MM Fazlul Haque, Abdur Rahim, Sheikh Nurul Islam, Obaidus Sultan Bablu and Sheikh Sirajul Islam in Tala upazila.

Teacher, VDP leader among 8 abducted in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Eight people, including a primary school teacher and a VDP commander, were abducted allegedly by the members of Democratic Party of Arakan (DPA) from Waingranpara and Bangchhari areas in Roangchhari upazila of the district early yesterday.

The victims are U Cha Nue, headmaster of Aongyapara non-government primary school, Mong Koai Ching, commander of Village Diffence Party (VDP), Aong Kew Ching, U Hai Prue, Lorens Tripura, Shantilal Tripura, Karbari and Bulichan Tripura.

Of them, Lorens Tripura, Shantilal Tripura Karbari and Bulichan Tripura were abducted from Waingranpara while

the rest from Bangchhari.

Locals suspect that the abductors are the members of Democratic Party of Arakan (DPA).

Parbatya Chattagram Jano Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) claimed the abducted people are its party workers. In a press release yesterday, the PCJSS alleged that their rivals in the just concluded upazila elections abducted the eight with the help of the DPA activists.

On December 15 last year, the DPA activists abducted three people from Ranganmati and released them on ransom on January 19, locals said.

Army personnel and border security guards have already started operations to rescue the kidnapped people, sources in the security forces said.

5 get life for killing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A Barisal court yesterday awarded life term imprisonment to five people including three siblings and father and son for murdering the principal witness of a murder case.

The convicts are Hafizur Rahman, his brothers Khokan Khan and Majubur Rahman, Rafikul Islam Mintu and his son Tipu Howladar.

Each of them was also fined Tk 25 thousand or to serve more one year imprisonment in default.

Hafizur Rahman and Khokan Khan were present at the dock as Siddikul Arefin Chowdhury, first additional district and sessions judge of Barisal, announced the verdict.

According to the prosecution, the accused strangled to death madarsa student Baijid, 22, at Daharpara of uzirpur upazila under Barisal district on the morning of July 21, 2004.

His body was recovered from the pond in the afternoon that day.

Baijid's grandfather Ashraf Ali Bepari lodged a murder case Uzirpur Police Station on the same day and Sub Inspector Mamunur Rashid, the investigation officer, submitted charge sheet on March 19, 2005.

The victim was the witness of murdering his father Shahidul Islam who was shot dead in 2001.

UPDF wins 3 UZ chairman posts in Khagrachhari

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF) has proved their popularity in Thursday's upazila election as they have won posts of upazila chairman in three out of seven upazilas in hill district Khagrachhari.

UPDF leaders Sona Ratan Chakma, Sarbottom Chakma and Remrachai Marma have been elected as chairman in Mohalchhari, Panchhari and Laxmichhari upazila getting 12,100, 12,337 and 6,838 votes.

Another UPDF man Chhunchhu Moni Chakma bagged the second largest number of votes in Sadar upazila. He got 14,416 votes while Md Shanay Alam has been elected chairman getting 16,275 votes, sources said.

The statistics of December 29 national election also shows their popularity among indige-

nous people in Khagrachhari district. UPDF candidate Uzzal Smrity Chakma got 60,455 votes which was about 34 thousand in 2001 election, sources said.

UPDF has become popular as they are fighting to ensure the constitutional reorganization of indigenous people in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) where ill forces including Bangalee people grabbed their land in a number of places, Uzzal Smrity Chakma told The Daily Star correspondent.

"Many outsiders are trying to drive out indigenous people after capturing their lands and threatening their languages and tradition. It would stopped as UPDF become familiar among indigenous people and ready to represent in all local government levels," Sarbottom Chakma, upazila chairman elect in Panchhari, said.



PHOTO: FOCOS BANGLA

As if heralding the advent of spring, blooming palash adorns a tree in Jessore Pourasava Park. The photo was taken yesterday.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh Tender Notice. Office of the Chief Engineer, Head Quarter, Kurmitola, Dhaka. Sealed tenders are hereby invited for the undermentioned work as per following terms and conditions:-

বিজ্ঞপ্তি. এতদ্বারা সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল আইন ১৯৮০ এর ধারা ৩০(১) অনুযায়ী বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল নিবন্ধনকৃত (Registered) চিকিৎসক বা দস্ত চিকিৎসক ছাড়া অন্য কেউ এলোপ্যাথি চিকিৎসা করিতে বা চিকিৎসক বা ডেন্টাল চিকিৎসক হিসাবে পরিচয় দিতে পারিবেন না। ধারা ৩০(২) (The Medical & Dental Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008) "Whoever, after the date fixed by notification on the official Gazette by the council in this behalf, contravenes the provision of sub-section (1), shall be punishable with fine which may extend to Taka fifty thousand, or with imprisonment of a term which may extend to two year, or with both."