

## THURSDAY'S INCIDENT

# Atwary UNO sues 150 including UZ chairman

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Thakurgaon

Atwary upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) Rashedul Hasan on Friday night sued 150 people identifying 21 of them, including the upazila (UZ) chairman, for Thursday's untoward incident in his office.

In the case filed with Panchagarh police station, the UNO accused them of ransacking his office, assaulting him and confining him to his office room on Thursday.

Besides, Atwary UZ chairman Touhidul Islam, he brought charges against his two brothers, three union parishad (UP) chairmen of the upazila and a few Awami League (AL), Jubo League and Chhatra League (BCL) leaders.

The 21 accused include the elder brother of the upazila chairman who is also headmaster of Atwary Pilot High School Khademul Islam, another brother and headmaster of Torea High School, organising secretary of upazila unit Awami League Fazlul Karim, chairman of Balarampur UP and also acting president of upazila unit AL Saidur Rahaman, Radhanagar UP chairman and also general secretary of upazila Krishak League Rashidul Islam, convener of upazila BCL Mokhesur Rahaman, joint secretary of upazila AL, also headmaster of Atwary Pilot Girls' High School Mizanur Rahman, joint secretary of upazila AL Sajjat Selim, headmaster of Radhanagar Girls' High School Md Wazed Ali, general secretary of upazila Jubo League Nahid Pervez Zahid,

general secretary of upazila Sramik League Md Alamgir, organising secretary of upazila AL Abdul Quddus, Mokbul, Fahim, Shahidul of Jubo League, Biplob, Manik, Selim, Taher and Nasir of BCL and driver of upazila chairman Abul.

In the case, the UNO complained that with the backing of the 21 identified accused, about 150 people vandalised his office and assaulted him.

"I filed case against those who created obstacles to carrying out government work and damaged government property. They also attacked me and attempted on my life," he told this correspondent yesterday.

He alleged that the supporters of the upazila chairman also harassed upazila livestock officer, education officer and other upazila officials who were at work on the day.

On Thursday, several hundred supporters of upazila chairman Touhidul Islam besieged the UNO's office as the UNO locked the upazila chairman's office and motor garage on Wednesday night. The agitators also confined the UNO to his office room for about four and a half hours.

Later local lawmaker Mozaharul Haque Proddhan, additional deputy commissioner Zaharul Haque, Nazrul Islam and other district administration officials rushed to the spot and arranged a meeting between upazila chairman and the UNO.

After an hour-long meeting, the UNO was freed and allowed to go home.

## HARROWING TALES OF LAST SIX WEEKS

# 10 Patuakhali journalists intimidated, harassed

Series of protests go unheeded

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

At least 10 journalists of Patuakhali district have faced intimidation and harassment including false cases by the ruling party men during the last one and a half months.

Demanding arrest and punishment of the perpetrators, local journalists have continued their programmes including submission of memorandum, human chain, protest procession and breaking pen but no action has been taken against the offenders.

Following filing of 'false' cases against Israt Hossain Lipton, Galachipa upazila correspondent of the daily Prothom Alo, and his brother Saimoon Rahman Alit, upazila correspondent of the daily Amar Desh, they are on the run as with Galachipa police is looking for them to arrest.

The cases were filed to avenge their reports on grabbing river and land by local lawmaker Golam Maula Roni in the name of building markets, said the journalists' family members, adding that police and ruling party cadres are threatening them too.

On September 8, Moslem Bayati, a caretaker in Galachipa, filed an extortion case against Lipton and Alit with Galachipa Police Station.

On September 10 night, Nilufa Begum, wife of Selim of Chotoshiba village under Charkazal union in the upazila, filed a case against Lipton claiming that he raped her on the day in a local hotel.

Laizu Begum, another woman of the same area, filed an extortion case against Lipton and Alit.

Hamidullah of Galachipa municipality area on September 13 filed a case claiming that Lipton and Alit received Tk 30,000 from him by giving false assurance of allotment of a house under Sidr recovery programme implemented by the Prothom Alo.

A defamation case was filed against Abu Zafar Khan, Patuakhali district correspondent for the daily Manab



Bangladesh Grameen Sangbadik Sangathan forms a human chain in front of Patuakhali Press Club yesterday protesting harassment of journalists in the district.

Zamin, its Editor Motiur Rahman Chowdhury and its Publisher Mahbuba Chowdhury with Galachipa Upazila Judicial Magistrate's Court on October 1.

Following pressure by the ruling party men, Liza Akhter, who was allegedly raped by a gang, filed the defamation case as a report on the matter was published in the daily on its September 30 issue.

Attackers gave life threat to Gofran Biswas Polash, Kalapara upazila correspondent of the daily Shatee, published from Patuakhali town, also district correspondent of the Bangladesh Observer, on October 1 night when he was returning to his Orphanage Road residence in the upazila town.

Polash also lost his job on October 3 as local ruling party leaders allegedly forced the editor of the daily to discharge him.

The editor, Anwar Hossain, however denied any such pressure.

On the other hand, Mufti

Salahuddin, Patuakhali district correspondent of RTV, on September 9 filed a case with Galachipa Police Station accusing 20/25 people including Israt Hossain Abbas, president of Galachipa upazila unit of BCL, on charge of attacking Mufti Salahuddin and Abu Taher Bappa, Patuakhali correspondent of Bangla Vision, but police recorded it as an FIR on October 5.

The accused, known as associates of the local lawmaker, are yet to be arrested.

On September 9, the gang attacked Salahuddin and Bappa when they were going to Galachipa from Patuakhali for their professional duties.

Threatened by the gang, Abu Zafar Khan of the daily Manab Zamin, Sankar Lal Das of the Daily Prothom Alo and ABC Radio, Khondokar Delwar Jalali of Channel One and Hanjala Shihab of Digonta TV -- Patuakhali district correspondents of the respective media, had to

remain inside Galachipa Police Station for two hours on the day.

On September 21, the Prothom Alo published news on grabbing rivers and land at launch ghat area of Galachipa town. Another news was also published in the daily Amar Desh on the same issue on September 27.

Patuakhali journalists submitted separate memorandum to the prime minister, home minister and information minister through Patuakhali deputy commissioner on October 7 demanding removal of the officer-in-charge of Galachipa Police Station and arrest of all the culprits involved in September 9 attack on journalists in Galachipa under Patuakhali district.

Bangladesh Grameen Sangbadik Sangathan yesterday formed a human chain in front of Patuakhali Press Club demanding immediate arrest of all culprits who attacked journalists on September 9 in Galachipa.

## SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

## Woman, daughter electrocuted

UNB, Dinajpur

A woman and her daughter were electrocuted in Ramnagar area of the district town Friday night. The victims were identified as Mariam Begum and Tania. Locals said, 7-year-old Tania came in contact with the iron grills of their house which were electrified from short circuit at about 8:30pm. Mariam was also electrocuted as she tried to save her daughter.

## Fugitive convict arrested

UNB, Nilphamari

Police arrested a fugitive convict from Gosaiganj Kawa village in Domar upazila early Friday. Arrestee Zahidul Islam alias Zahid, 45, is son of late Zahiruddin of the village. Acting on a tip-off, a team of Domar police station raided the house of Zahid and arrested him late at night. Police said, Zahid was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment in an arms case and two years in a theft case in absentia a few years ago.

## Kidnapped girl rescued

UNB, Jhalakati

Police on Wednesday night rescued an abducted schoolgirl and arrested the kidnapper from Krishnakathi bypass crossing in Sadar upazila. Lima, 13, is a class VII student and daughter of one Kamal Hossain of the district town. Acting on a tip-off, a team of police raided a Mathbaria-bound bus at about 11pm and rescued Lima. They also arrested kidnapper Mojibur Rahman, 25, a resident of Kalabagan area of the town. Police said Mojibur abducted Lima from her school on Monday morning.

## Tribal youth held

UNB, Sherpur

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in a drive on Thursday arrested a tribal youth along with 27 bottles of Indian liquor and cosmetics from Baromari border area of Nalitabari upazila. Arrestee Bakul Koach, 22, is son of Surendra Koach of Khachanda village in the same upazila. Acting on a tip-off, the patrol team of 45 Rifles Battalion raided the area and arrested Bakul along with the liquor and cosmetics at about 8pm. He was handed over to local police. A case was also filed.

## 8 injured in N'ganj

UNB, Narayanganj

At least eight people, including a woman, were injured in separate incidents in Araiha upazila on Friday. In Baliapara village, a young man, Reaz, 30, was injured during a clash between two groups of villagers over gambling in the morning. In Bishnandi village, six people were injured as the members of two families clashed over a disputed land. Meanwhile, a woman, Shefali Rani Ghosh, was injured when a wall of local Safar Bhuiyan College collapsed on her. The injured were admitted to the upazila health complex.

## Charge framing date deferred

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A Chapainawabganj court on Thursday deferred the date for charge framing against 30 BDR men. The court also rejected their bail prayers and sent them to jail. Additional District and Sessions Judge Arup Kumar Goswami deferred the date when the prosecution lawyer prayed for extension of time. After hearing the prosecution, the court deferred the time and fixed the next date for charge hearing on November 11. The court rejected the bail prayers of 30 BDR men when defence lawyers sought bail. Officer-in-charge of Sadar police station Ahsanul Haque on May 17 filed a sedition case against the jawans for their alleged involvement in the February 25-26 mutiny at Chapainawabganj battalion headquarters.

## Hartal called in Bagaichhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Leaders of Parbatya Bangali Chhatra Parishad (PBCP) has called a dawn-to-dusk hartal and threatened to paralyse river and land route in Bagaichhari upazila on October 27. The leaders of the Parishad announced the programme from a meeting held on Thursday at Marisya Bazar to protest killing of Moteleb Mia. The speakers alleged that Moteleb was killed by a group of criminals on September 2. But police are not arresting the culprits although Moteleb's wife filed a case accusing five people. They called upon police to arrest the killers before October 26, otherwise they would impose more hartal in CHT.

## 11 hurt in Madaripur clash

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Chhatra League and Jubo League workers yesterday attacked the leaders and workers of Chhatra Dal injuring 11 people in the municipality area under Shibchar upazila. The ruling party men allegedly swooped on an orientation meeting of upazila Chhatra Dal being held at the BNP office and beat up the rival party activists. The injured include Shahid Khan, 32, Mohin Bepari, 22, Shahin Madbar, 21, Enamul, 21, Shaon Chowdhury, 20, Rasu, 28, Amir Morol, 26, Azad, 34, Dulal Mina, 32, Rubel Madbar, 34 and William, 32. They were first admitted to Shibchar hospital. Later, four of them were shifted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) in a critical condition. Additional police have been deployed to avoid further clash.



Dr Murad Hasan, lawmaker from Jamalpur-4 constituency, recently inaugurated a programme announcing Kawamara village of Sarishabari upazila in Jamalpur district as hundred percent free from illiteracy. Dhaka Ahsania Mission had undertaken a project to make the noble task possible.

# 'Collaborators' of occupation forces threaten plaintiff

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Gaibandha

Ten alleged collaborators of Pakistani occupation forces have given death threat to a person who filed a case accusing them of killing his father and two brothers in 1971.

The plaintiff, Mohiuddin, of Katabari village under Gobindganj upazila filed the case with Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court, Gaibandha, on September 6 against the ten for killing his father Ziauddin Mondol and brothers Omesh Mondol and Mona Mondol on May 10, 1971.

The accused are Mofazzal

alias Mofa, Abdul Karim Khan, Abdul Majid Khan, Sharafuddin Khan, Shamsul Islam Khan, Sekender Ali, Abdur Rashid, shaheed Ali and Ismail Hossain and Shamim Khan.

Following a death threat given by the accused on October 10, Mohiuddin filed a general diary (GD) with Gobindganj Police Station on Thursday.

Mohiuddin alleged that the accused intercepted him while he was returning home from a local market in the evening of October 10 and asked him to withdraw the case. Otherwise, he said, they threatened him with death.

# 8 workers hurt in factional clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Barisal

At least eight people were injured in a clash between two factions of the ruling party backed Matsya Sramik Union in front of Barisal Kotwali Police Station yesterday.

Five of the injured--Khan Md Habibur Rahman, Kamal Hossain Kalu, Haji Md Delwar Hossain, Rafiqul Islam, Moteleb Hossain and Amjad--were admitted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital and Barisal General Hospital while the rest given first aid.

The two factions--one is led by Sramik League leader and President of Matsya Sramik Union Khan Md Habibur Rahman and the other by Swachhasebok Sebok League leader Kamal Hossain Kalu.

Khan Md Habibur Rahman faction brought out a procession in the city at

noon protesting extortion. They came under attack by Kamal Hossain Kalu led faction in front of Barisal Kotwali Model Police Station.

The processionists first took shelter at the police station and then engaged in a clash with their rivals, leaving eight people from both sides injured.

They used lethal weapons and chased each other during the clash that continued for 15 minutes. Police dispersed the clashing groups and brought the situation under control.

Khan Md Habibur Rahman alleged that Kalu and his people are involved in collecting toll from local fish market and attacked his men for protesting their illegal acts.

Denying the allegation, Kalu said Habibur Rahman and his supporters clashed with transport workers over carrying fish from Barisal to other areas of the district.



People look on bleakly as the Padma continues to devour areas in Chandranarayanpur village in Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila. Serious erosion by the river has recently forced many people at different villages in the upazila to move to safer places.

# Erosion in C'nawabganj makes 100 families homeless

Over 250 acres of farmland devoured in a month

RABIUL HASAN, C'nawabganj

Over 100 families have become homeless in different villages of Sadar upazila due to erosion by the Padma.

Locals said the erosion affected the families of Chandranarayanpur, Alimnagar, Monnapara, Delpara, Chhuchkipara, Bakhorali, Maharajnagar villages under Charbagdanga, Sundarpur and Narayanpur unions in last one month.

They said over 250 acres of farmland and a huge number of mango orchards and bamboo clusters went into the gorge of river Padma. People are trying to shift their houses from these areas as the river is

devouring fresh areas every day, locals said.

Several hundred structures and establishments including school, madrasa, mosque, a union health sub-centre, a flood centre, a BDR border outpost and mango orchards are facing the threat of erosion by the river.

While visiting different affected areas including Chandranarayanpur, Alimnagar, Bakhorali and Monnapara villages, this correspondent found many families moving to safer places with their belongings.

Suyob Ali, 60, of Alimnagar, and Alfajuddin, 45, Shahjahan Ali, 60 of Chandranarayanpur, were among those who have

shifted their houses recently.

"We have shifted our houses several times in last 5/7 years," said Ertaj Ali, 51, of Suryanarayanpur village.

Locals said the erosion could have been averted if the authorities concerned started work of the embankment in time.

"Due to the erosion, we lost our homes. We are now living under the open sky but no one comes to help us," said a victim of river erosion.

Sadruzzaman, chairman of Sundarpur UP, urged the authorities concerned to take steps immediately to protect thousands of people and huge properties including vast cropland, a good number of

establishment and flood protection embankment from erosion.

Nazrul Islam, a resident of Maharajnagar village and also a former member of Sundarpur UP, said the Water Development Board (WDB) has started work by putting some sand bags and blocks in the river when erosion took a serious turn in their locality.

When contacted, Khalilur Rahman, executive engineer of Chapainawabganj Water and Development Board, told The Daily Star that they have submitted a project proposal to protect the area from erosion but the higher authorities are yet to approve it.