

AL activists clash over appointment of schoolteacher 30 hurt in Shoilkupa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Thirty people were injured as two groups of Awami League (AL) activists locked in a clash over appointment of a teacher at Umedpur High School in Shoilkupa upazila under Jhenidah district yesterday morning.

A conflict had been going on between two groups of AL men -- one led by 13 No union parishad unit of AL General Secretary Dr Abdul Latif and the other by AL leader Ramjan Ali -- over appointment of a teacher at the high school, sources said.

Dr Latif is the president of school managing committee (ad hoc).

Earlier on Saturday, a managing committee meeting related to the appointment of teacher had to be postponed as loyalists of Ramjan Ali interrupted, said Atiar Rahman, acting headmaster of the school.

Activists of the two fac-

tions locked in minor clashes that day and Sunday.

Yesterday morning, hundreds of rival activists equipped with spears, billhooks, iron rods and batons assembled at Roira and Bahadurpur villages and got locked in a fierce clash.

Thirty people including Tozam, Nayem, Mintu, Anwar, Alauddin, Babu, Ramel and Atahar were injured during the four hour-long clash.

Of them, Tozam, Nayem and Mintu were sent to a Khulna hospital in a critical condition.

Others were admitted to Shoilkupa Upazila Health Complex.

On information, Rab and police reached the spot and brought the situation under control, Shoilkupa Police Station Officer-in-Charge Anwar Hossain said.

Ten people were arrested and additional police have been deployed to avert further clash, he said.

Ruling party men meddle in school-college affairs

Formation of committees in Dinajpur non-govt institutions stalled for inclusion of 'controversial figures'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Formation of full-fledged managing committees and governing bodies of non-government schools and colleges in the district have remained stalled while inclusion of 'controversial' ruling party men in the committees is affecting academic atmosphere.

Resenting selection of 'controversial' persons as chairman, a number of teachers said such appointment often results in unwanted interference in the academic and administrative activities of an institution and study is hampered due to lack of coordination between authorities and teachers.

Of the 562 schools and 87 colleges in 13 upazilas of Dinajpur, 200 institutions have completed formation of ad hoc committee after expiry of two-year term of the managing committees/governing bodies of the institutions in recent months, said sources at

Dinajpur Education Board.

Most other schools and colleges are also heading towards forming ad hoc committees with six months' tenure, suspending the process of full-fledged committee formation that requires specific procedure and election.

The four member ad-hoc committee includes a president, secretary (headmaster/principal of the institution), teachers' representative, and a member.

According to provision, the head of the institution has to make a list of at least three persons for the post of chairman of the ad hoc committee.

The local lawmaker selects one of them for the post and sends a recommendation to the respective education board and university for approval of the ad hoc committee.

But the provision is being ignored as lawmakers concerned are issuing letters asking selection of his/her chosen persons.

Md Raihanul Islam Ranu, a peon of Raniganj Dimukhi High School of Ghoraghat, has been selected as chairman of Bogolari Dimukhi High School managing committee as lawmaker Azizul Haque Chowdhury issued a letter in this regard.

Dinajpur Education Board sources said a few lawmakers of the district verbally instructed the board authorities not to approve any committee without letters from them.

The teachers, staff and students of Nawabganj Women Degree College of Dinajpur have openly objected to selecting Aatur Rahman, general secretary of Nawabganj upazila Awami League, as chairman of the governing body.

His selection as chairman followed issuance of a letter by lawmaker Azizul Haque Chowdhury.

Terming Aatur a 'controversial political man' in the upazila, the teachers alleged harassment to the persons

who do not agree with him.

Interference by the governing body men in the daily activities of the college hampers smooth functioning of the institution, they said.

On Thursday, the ruling party cadres attacked a peaceful procession of the students, teachers and staff of Nawabganj Women Degree College when they were going to submit a memorandum to upazila Chairman Shibli Sadique demanding cancellation of Aatur Rahman's appointment as chairman.

A number of teachers of different schools and colleges seeking anonymity said autocratic functioning of the managing committee/governing body is greatly hampering smooth functioning of the educational institutions.

When contacted, District Education Officer Md Shamsul Alam said he can select only a teachers' representative of the school managing committee.

SNIPPETS

Bandarban BNP council

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

The council of Bandarban district BNP will be held on November 20 after long 13 years. The date was announced at a press conference at a local restaurant on Sunday evening. Saw Ching Prue Jeri, convener of Bandarban district BNP, joint conveners Prof Osman Goni, advocate Kazi Mohotul Hossain Zaino and chairman of the election commission Azizur Rahman were present. Saw Ching Prue Jeri informed that the new district committee will be formed through direct election. A total of 182 councilors would participate in the council, he said.

Six sued in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A businessman of the district town yesterday lodged a case against six people including nephew of Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdul Latif Biswas Moniruzzaman Labu. According to complaint, Labu and his five associates demanded Tk 5 lakh as extortion from renowned businessman Israil Hossain Talukder, owner of Eco Enterprise, on Saturday night. The extortionists also snatched Tk 5,000 from Israil and threatened him with dire consequences if the rest of the amount is not paid or police informed. Israil lodged the case with Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court against Labu and his five other accomplices for recovery of the snatched money and security of his life. The court asked the OC concerned to investigate the incident and submit report.

Two chamber leaders arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Two former leaders of Sirajganj Chamber of Commerce and Industries (SCCI) were arrested in a misappropriation case on Sunday. The arrestees are former SCCI president Anisur Rahman and former vice president Abdul Quader Sheikh who is also former chairman of Kalijahoripur Union Parishad. Police arrested them immediately after they appeared before the court with bail petition. The court denied them bail and directed police to send them to jail custody in connection with the case lodged by Mosharraf Hossain Munna, present director of Sirajganj Chamber of Commerce and Industries alleging misappropriation of Tk 52,000 from office fund.

Smuggled wheat seized

UNB, Chandpur

Coastguards seized 250 sacks of smuggled wheat from two cargo vessels and held four people at Dulachar in the Meghna River under Model police station on Sunday. The arrestees are Akhter, Saiful Islam, Swapan and Ripon. Acting on a tip-off, a coastguard team raided the two vessels and recovered the wheat weighing 600 maunds in the morning. In another operation, 35 maunds of 'jatka' (hilsa fry) were seized and nine people held from an engine-driven boat in the same river early Sunday.

Two hurt in bomb blast

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Two people were injured in a bomb explosion. The incident occurred at Gopinathpur village under Harinakundo upazila on Sunday night. Police said, on Sunday Idris sold a cow at Tk 30 thousand and at around Sunday night at around 3:30 am a gang of 10/12 robbers attacked his house. They tied up Idris Ali and his nephew Robul Islam and beat them up mercilessly and demanded the money. Hearing the hue and cry, neighbours rushed to the spot to rescue them. While fleeing, the robbers hurled a bomb in which Idris and Robul were injured. They were later admitted to Harinakundo health complex.

Two arrested for murder

UNB, Munshiganj

Police arrested two people from Balai Battala area of Tongibari upazila on Sunday for murdering a young man. Victim Selim, 25, a driver of Mitford area in Dhaka, hailed from Feni district. Police said Abdul Gaffar, 25, of Srinagar upazila of the district and Humayun, 26, of Kamrangir Char area of Dhaka hacked Selim to death elsewhere due to previous enmity and brought the body to Battala by a pick-up van at night. The patrol police held the two while they were dumping the body at a nearby ditch. Officer-in-charge (OC) of Tongibari police station Md Abdullah said, the arrestees are also the drivers of Mitford area.

FFs demand govt allowance

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

At least 15 freedom fighters (FFs) on Saturday demanded government allowances at Laxmichhari upazila town. Local Muktiyuddho commander Khandaker Abdul Wahab at a press briefing claimed only one FF (Dharmacharon Chakma) was selected for government allowance from the upazila. But there are 15 more FFs in Laxmichhari upazila, who fought against Pakistan occupation forces during the liberation war. They are in distress and unable to maintain their families now. Wahab said urging the government to grant allowance for and save their families. Freedom fighters Sahidul Islam, Milon Mia, Fazul Haque, Nurul Islam, Hashem Mollah, Zahur Howlader, Fazul Rahman, Nur Muhammad, Abdul Khaleq, Dharmacharon Chakma, Anil Mohajan, Subash Das, Haider Ali and Mokbul Alam were present.

INTERNAL FEUD RIFE IN BNP Assault on rival, revolt against committees

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Internal feud has surfaced anew in BNP Magura, Kushtia and Pabna units over formation of upazila, municipality and union committees.

In Magura, district BNP Joint Convener advocate Rokonzaman Khan, who belongs to the faction led by Convener Kabir Murad, was assaulted by his rivals at Mohammadpur upazila headquarters Sunday evening, according to our correspondent.

Rokon came under attack when he along with three other joint conveners of the district unit went there as part of organisational tour ahead of the upcoming upazila council.

Leader of the other faction Joint Convener Mokaddes Hossain termed the incident 'unexpected' and 'unfortunate'.

When contacted, District Convener Kabir Murad said the incident occurred following an altercation between Rokon and a union level leader over organisational activities.

He, however, claimed that those who were involved in tender manipulation and toll collection during party's rule are now creating chaos with connivance of with some ruling party men to foil the upcoming council of the party.

Intra-party feud in Magura BNP surfaced after formation of the district unit with Kabir Murad as convener in June this year.

In Kushtia, a faction of the district unit led by Joint Convener Minhazur Rahman

Alo and former joint secretary AK Samim Arzoo has demanded removal of Sohrab Uddin from the post of district convener.

They also declared Sohrab Uddin 'unwanted' in the district for his 'anti-party activities'. The declaration came from a rally held in the district town on Sunday.

The aggrieved leaders alleged that Sohrab formed convening committees in all six upazilas, four municipalities and in town unit on August 4. They said most of the leaders included in the committees were reformists, they said.

District BNP sources said the rival group has started forming counter committees in upazila, municipality and town units. They have already formed five counter convening committees in Daulatpur, Khoksa, Kumarkhali and Kushtia Sadar upazilas and in Kushtia town unit, sources added.

Our Pabna correspondent reports: A rival faction of Faridpur upazila BNP at a press conference here yesterday announced that it would hold a council of the upazila unit tomorrow (Wednesday).

The leaders of the faction alleged the district convening committee is trying to form a "pocket committee" without holding council.

"We are going to hold the council to elect the leaders of the upazila unit through democratic process," the leaders said.



'General' rock lifting workers put up barricades at Buraburi and a few other places on Tentulia-Panchagarh road yesterday demanding an end to rock lifting with dredgers from Dahuk River.

Rock lifters block road for end to use of dredgers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Vehicular movement on Panchagarh-Tentulia road have remained suspended since yesterday morning as 'general' rock lifters put up barricade at different places under Sadar and Tetulia upazilas to press for their demands.

The demands include stopping rock lifting from Dahuk River with dredger machine, withdrawal of all false cases against the rock lifters, removal of a local judge and arrest of the killer of rock lifting worker Amirul Islam.

Amirul was killed and 15 others were injured in a clash with their rival group on September 1 when general rock lifters

went to Dahuk River with a procession to stop rock lifting with dredger machine.

The agitators, who have continued movement to stop rock lifting with dredger machine for several months, said they would become unemployed if rock lifting with dredger machine is allowed to continue.

They criticised the administration for not taking any effective step to stop rock lifting with dredger machine.

On Sunday evening, general rock lifters' leader Muktarul Haque, also the chairman of Tetulia upazila parishad, declared programmes including indefinite roadblock at Bhajanpur Bazar.

Contacted yesterday afternoon,

Panchagarh superintendent of police said, "We are contacting with the rock lifters to resolve the matter. We are hopeful that the barricade will be removed within a short time."

"We cannot seize the dredger machines from there due to a court order. We requested the dredger owner to hand over the machines to upazila nirbahi officer to avert any untoward incident," he said replying to a query.

Earlier on several occasions, general rock lifters observed agitation programmes including road block demanding an end to rock lifting with dredger machines from Dahuk River.

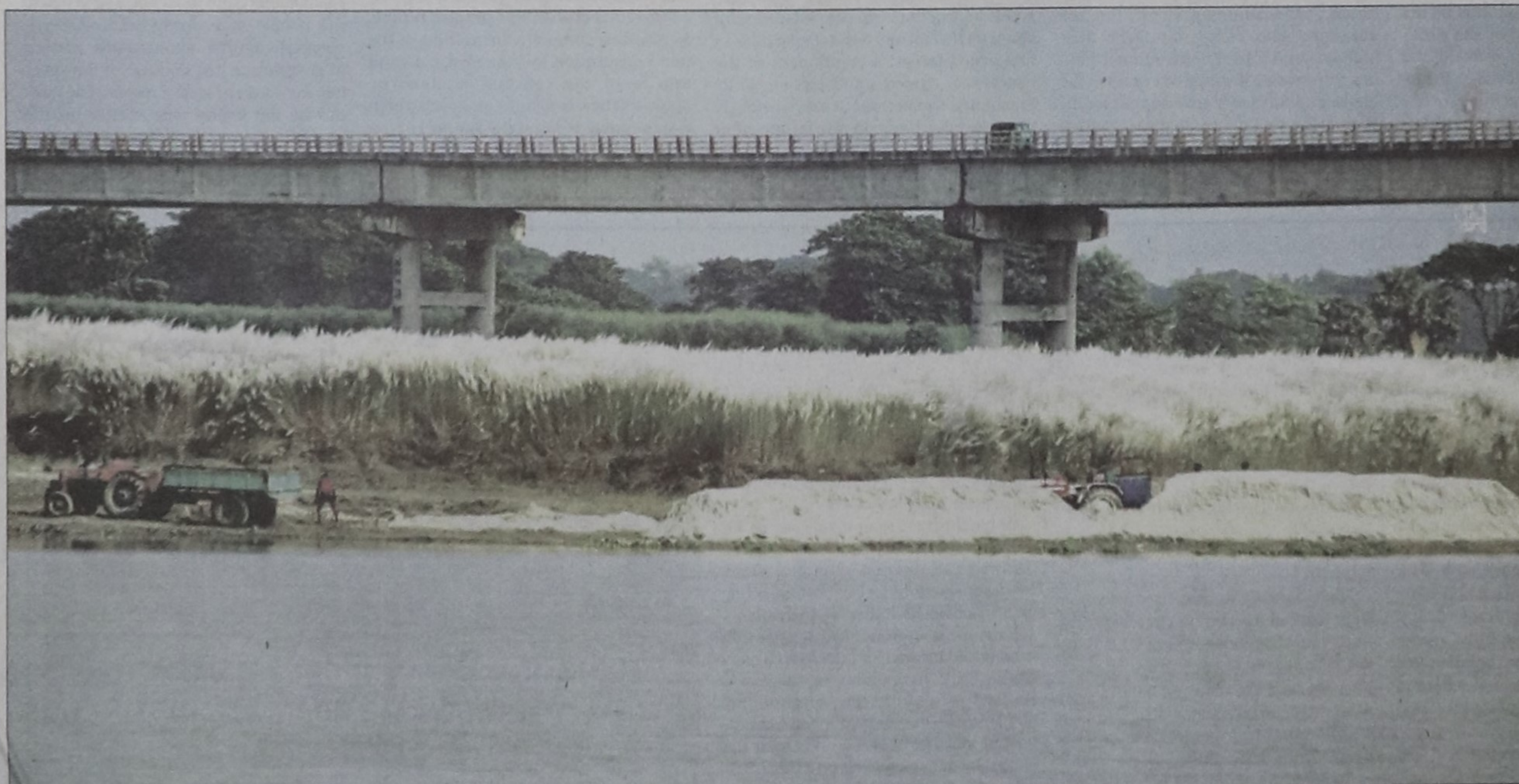


PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

A section of unscrupulous traders have continued sand lifting from Old Brahmaputra River at Khurshidmahal under Gafargaon upazila in Mymensingh district, making the nearby bridge highly vulnerable.

ILLEGAL SAND EXTRACTION

Villagers seize 7 dredging trawlers from Feni river

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Villagers seized seven dredging trawlers while extracting sand illegally from the Feni River in Nangolmora area in Ghopal union under Chhagalnaiya upazila on Sunday.

They handed over the trawlers to Chhagalnaiya police. Police later kept the dredger-fitted trawlers under custody of Ghopal Union Parishad chairman Azizul Haque.

Locals and administration sources said, the sand quarry in the Feni River adjacent to Nangolmora village has not yet been leased out for new year. But an influential quarter was illegally extracting thousands of cubic feet of sand everyday from the river using several dredgers in engine driven trawlers for long and depositing the sand in Mirersarai area in

Chittagong on the other side of the river and was selling the sand from there.

The villagers were opposing extraction of sand from the river in Nangolmora area as they were being affected by river erosion.

Sources said, 10 engine trawlers fitted with dredgers led by Jasim Member of Mirersarai area started extracting sand from the river Sunday morning. Protesting it, local people gathered at the spot and chased the trawlers.

Three trawlers managed to flee but people seized seven trawlers along with dredgers. They informed Chhagalnaiya police and when police reached Nangolmora they handed over those to police.

Feni additional deputy commissioner (revenue) Nazrul Islam said, necessary legal action would be taken after getting detailed information about the incident.