



Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma, chief of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) and chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Regional Council, address a rally on the premises of Rajbari Gymnasium in Rangamati town on the 12th anniversary of CHT Peace Accord yesterday, right, PCJSS brings out a large procession in the town marking the occasion.



PHOTO: STAR

MMCH interns on indefinite strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The interns at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) went on an indefinite strike yesterday demanding withdrawal of a senior doctor for her 'rough behaviour' with the interns on November 30.

Seriously injured in a road accident, Rifat, 20, was admitted to MMCH on November 30 and Rifat's mother Rawshan Ara, a doctor working at the Model Clinic of MMCH, demanded 'extra care' from the on-duty interns, sources said.

Although there was huge rush of accident victims at MMCH, the interns did their best to give proper medical service to Rifat.

However, the allegations could not be independently confirmed. Dr Rawshan was also not available for her comment.

But Dr Rawshan, who

could not be satisfied, allegedly scolded and misbehaved with the interns, hospital sources said.

The aggrieved interns went for indefinite strike yesterday morning without any prior announcement.

In a memorandum submitted to the MMCH authorities yesterday, the interns said they would not join their work if Dr Rawshan Ara is not withdrawn from MMCH within 24 hours, hospital sources said.

They also demanded deployment of additional police at MMCH for their security.

"We are trying to come to a solution through discussion. A meeting with the interns will be held at 9:00pm this [Wednesday] night," said Dr Matiur Rahman Bhuiyan, secretary of Bangladesh Medical Association Mymensingh unit.

MMCH Deputy Director Dr Siddique Rahman, however, claimed that the situation calmed down yesterday.

Kachua UP chairman injured in attack

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

A gang of criminals seriously injured a union parishad (UP) chairman in Kachua upazila of Chandpur district on Tuesday.

The gang hit Mostafa Sharif Titu, 35, chairman of Pathaor Union Parishad, with sharp weapons while he was having tea at a pharmacy in Baro Dal area at around 5:15 pm.

Witnesses said the criminals, including Chan Miah, Zakir and Khorshed, entered the pharmacy and hacked Titu's left hand and leg with machete and Chinese axe and fled the scene.

Titu was admitted to Gouripur Hospital at Daudkandi in Comilla and then shifted to Pongu (orthopaedic) Hospital in Dhaka as his condition deteriorated.

The reason behind the attack on the BNP-backed UP chairman could not be known.

No case was filed with the police station concerned as of filing of this report as 6:00pm yesterday.

25 teak trees of Lawachhara forest looted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Trees worth about Tk 20 lakh have been plundered from Lawachhara Reserve Forest under Kamalganj upazila of Moulvibazar district during Eid holidays.

But the forest department officials claimed no trees were plundered during the period as forest guards were on high alert.

During visit to Lawachhara Reserved Forest on Monday, this correspondent found that about 15 segun (teak) trees were felled and taken away from different places of the forest.

He also found that about 10 segun trees were plundered from a hillock located only 10 yards from the entrance to Lawachhara Reserved Forest.

It is alleged that an influential quarter was involved in plundering trees of the reserve forest. According to forest experts, market

price of all the stolen trees would be about Tk 20 lakh.

When contacted, Mahbubur Rahman, divisional forest officer, said a gang of plunderers tried to enter the forest, but forest guards foiled the attempt. He however said the allegation of plundering trees will be investigated.

Rafiqur Rahman, president of Lawachhara National Park Co-Management Committee at Kamalganj, said necessary measures have been taken to protect trees from plunderers.

Kamalganj Upazila Law and Order Committee in its monthly meeting on Monday discussed the issue. Chief Whip Abdus Shahid, who attended the meeting as chief guest, asked the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) and other officials concerned to properly investigate the matter and take action against the persons involved in plundering trees from the reserved forest.



PHOTO: STAR

TESTIMONY TO LOOTING: One of the trunks of 25 trees that were illegally felled and removed from Lawachhara Reserve Forest during the Eid holidays.

GAIBANDHA MUKTIJODDHA SANGSAD Rival group captures office defying status quo order

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A faction of Gaibandha district command of Muktiyoddha Sangsad yesterday captured its office, despite a status quo issued by the High Court in connection with a case over the district committee.

Nazmul Arefin Tarek, leader of a faction of the organisation, formed a fresh district unit committee as convener with the approval of central command of Muktiyoddha Sangsad a few days ago, sources said.

Urged by Tarek, the deputy commissioner of Gaibandha asked Wahidunnabi Mintu, former convener of the district unit command, to hand over the charge of Sangsad office to Tarek, the new convener.

As Mintu pointed out that the status quo

on Gaibandha Muktiyoddha Sangsad unit committee, ordered by the High Court, is still in force, the deputy commissioner referred the matter to solicitor, law and parliamentary affairs ministry, for opinion over the issue.

The deputy commissioner is yet to receive any reply in this regard.

Nazmul Arefin Tarek and his group yesterday entered district Muktiyoddha Sangsad office after breaking the lock and took possession of it.

As the matter is under trial of the High Court, breaking open and capturing Muktiyoddha Sangsad office is illegal and unexpected, said Wahidunnabi Mintu.

Despite several attempts over cell phone, Nazmul Arefin Tarek could not be contacted for his comment.

Mobile court fines launch overloaded with passengers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A mobile court yesterday fined a double-decker launch Tk 48,000 on Charfashon-Dhaka route at Najirpur launch ghat under Lalmohon upazila in Bhola on charge of taking passengers beyond its capacity.

Babar Ali Mir, UNO of Lalmohon who conducted the court said, the capacity of the launch was 405 as per the survey certificate. But when it reached launch ghat at about 7pm, the court found 705 passengers inside the vessel.

Meanwhile, a correspondent from Madaripur reports: Even after the tragic Bhola launch accident, scores of river vessels are still plying on different routes passengers several times more than their capacity.

BIWTA sources said, people who went home to celebrate Eid have been returning

to their work places in Dhaka and adjoining areas.

Eighty-two launches, more than 300 speed boats and about 50 engine driven trawlers are crossing 16 kilometre on the Padma on Mawa-Kawrakandi route mostly carrying passengers beyond their capacity, they said.

Except for the launches, most other river vehicles even do not have valid permission for plying, the sources pointed out.

Several launch owners and workers said, river vessels including trawlers are plying with excess passengers due to massive irregularities by the port officials.

Port official Babu Lal Baidya however denied the allegation.

"I cannot take effective steps due to manpower crisis and for fear of attack by the locals. I have asked the administration to check overloading but did not get any response," he said.

SNIPPETS

20 injured in Pabna clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least 20 people were injured as the two rival groups clashed in village Singharia in Atghoria upazila on Tuesday. The clash was occurred between the supporters of Tajim Uddin and Eakub Ali over staging of drama in the village. The clashing groups used sticks, bamboos and other weapons turning the village into a battlefield. Among the injured Javed Ali, Yasin, Khairul, Saidul, Mithun, Rafiz, Sumon, Panjab, Rahim, Nazim were admitted to Atghoria health complex. Officer-in-charge of Atghoria police station Enamul Karim confirming the incident said no case was filed as the local leaders were trying to solve the dispute.

RU reopens Dec 7

ARU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University (RU) will resume classes on December 7 after a 16-day vacation on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha. However the dormitories of the university will reopen today. RU Registrar Prof MA Bari said, the classes of regular courses of several department of the university will start on December 7. The authorities closed the university on November 21 for Eid celebration.

6 Brac staff suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Six staff of Brac Patkelghata branch were suspended yesterday for allegedly misappropriating Tk 67 lakhs of the NGO. The amount was collected from local people. The authorities concerned of Brac, in a letter yesterday suspended manager Jibon Das, project officer Mritunjyoti, project officer Debidas, former manager Mamun, area manager AM Mostafizur Rahman and field officer Ujjal Mia. According to Patkelghata Brac branch manager Uttam Goswami, the suspended staffs had collected the money under different projects. Brac Khulna area manager Hafizur Rahman earlier filed a case with Patkelghata police accusing Ujjal Mia. Police arrested Ujjal soon after filing the case. Police also detained grocer Ramakanto of Mirzapur Bazar and a mobile phone trader Shimul of Patkelghata bazar in connection with the case. But Patkelghata Bazar traders association chief Obaidus Sultan Bablu resented their arrests.

Muggers take away Tk 4 lakh

UNB, Joypurhat

Muggers stabbed a man and took away Tk 4 lakh from him in front of Bangladesh Islami Bank, Joypurhat branch in the town's Sadar road area on Tuesday afternoon. Victim Abdul Alim, 41, came under attack by the gang while he was carrying the money of M/s Karim Ganji Store owned by his brother-in-law Rezaul Karim. Alim said while going to the bank to deposit the money a gang of four intercepted him near the bank gate and took away the amount stabbing him indiscriminately.

Man gets life for killing wife

UNB, Gopalganj

A court here on Tuesday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment for killing his wife at Tungipara village in Tungipara upazila in 2006. Lifer Zakaria Sheikh was also fined Tk 5,000, in default, to suffer six months more RI. According to the prosecution, Zakaria picked up a quarrel with his wife Kalpana Begum over a trifling matter on November 16, 2006 and at one stage murdered her. Later, the victim's family filed a case with the police. After examining the records and witnesses, District and Sessions Judge Khandaker M Kamal-uz-Zamman handed down the verdict in the crowded courtroom.

Madrassa student murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A madrasa student was hacked to death at Joydevpur village under Sapahar upazila early yesterday. Victim Shahadat Hossain, 17, was son of Emajuddin of Joydevpur village and a student of class nine of Joydevpur Islamia Dakhil Madrasa under Sapahar upazila. Duty Officer of Sapahar police station, SI Abdur Rafique said, some students of Islamia Dakhil Madrasa went to neighbouring Shimuldanga village for joining a religious function. After returning to their madrasa's boarding at around 12:30am they saw Shahadat's slaughtered body lying on a floor of his room. Police rushed to the spot and sent the body to Naogaon sadar hospital morgue for autopsy. Later they arrested Zahangir Hossain, 20, son of Abdul Latif of the same village and a student of Alim class of Shitoldanga Madrasa in this connection. Victim's father Emajuddin yesterday filed a murder case with Sapahar police station.

Month-long Bijoy Mela

BSS, Rajshahi

A month-long 'Bijoy Mela' (victory fair) began at Dewlia crossing under Bagmara upazila on Tuesday. Bagmara upazila Muktiyoddha Sangsad organised the fair. Mayor of Rajshahi AHM Khairuzzaman Liton opened the fair as the chief guest with upazila Awami League President Mokbul Hossain Mridha in the chair. Speaking on the occasion Mayor Liton said Bangladesh had gained the victory in this month of 1971. For which, he said, at least 30 lakh people had sacrificed their lives. Paying rich tribute to the great sons of the soil, he said the present government has taken steps for welfare of the freedom fighters. He said this kind of fair would uphold the liberation war and generate interest about it among the young and future generations.



PHOTO: STAR

People of the Hindu community form a human chain in front of Chapainawabganj Collectorate Building yesterday demanding steps to protect Tartipur Mahashoshan (cremation ground) in Shibganj upazila of the district.