



PHOTO: STAR

Defying a ban by the ministries of land and shipping, earth-filling continues on the bank of Ramnabad River near Galachipa town in Patuakhali district, right, illegal construction continues on Ranagopaldi River near Ulania port in the same upazila.

## Bring to book culprits who attacked Larma: PCJSS

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Leaders of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) have demanded punishment to the criminals responsible for Wednesday's attack on indigenous leaders in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

The motor convoys of CHT Regional Council Chairman Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, popularly known as Santu Larma, Chakma Circle chief Devasish Roy and Rangamati Hill District Council Chairman Nikhil Kumar Chakma came under attack at different places on their way to Khagrachhari Circuit House where they were scheduled to attend a meeting of CHT Land Commission.

Santu Larma, also the president of PCJSS, and four of his companions sustained minor injuries as shards of glass from a car windowpane hit them during the attack. PCJSS yesterday brought out a procession in Rangamati town and held a rally on the premises of deputy commissioner's office in protest against the attack, reports our Rangamati correspondent.

The armed cadres of United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF), an anti-peace treaty organisation, made the pre-planned attacks on PCJSS leaders on Wednesday, speakers said at the rally.

They said the administra-

tion failed to provide foolproof security to their leaders although police and civil administrations concerned were informed of the meeting schedule of CHT Land Commission quite a few days earlier.

They demanded immediate arrest of the culprits and ensuring punishment to them.

Terming the UPDF as a 'terrorist organisation', they demanded that the government ban it immediately,

arrest UPDF chief Prasit Bikash Khisa and bring him to book.

They urged the government for full implementation of CHT peace deal without further delay.

Presided over by PCJSS Vice President Laxmi Prasad Chakma, the rally was also addressed, among others, by PCJSS General Secretary Pranati Bikash Chakma.

Our Khagrachhari correspondent adds: PCJSS yesterday held a meeting in the

Bazar area of Laxmichhari upazila under Khagrachhari district protesting Wednesday's attacks on Santu Larma and other indigenous leaders.

Blaming UPDF for the attacks as well as several other incidents of terrorism and killing in CHT, speakers at the meeting said the government should ban UPDF activities in the region.

PCJSS upazila unit Secretary Uchhakha Larma presided over the meeting.



PHOTO: STAR

Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) brings out a procession in Rangamati town yesterday condemning Wednesday's attack on indigenous leaders including PCJSS President Santu Larma and Chakma Circle chief Raja Devashish Roy.

## 5 commit 'suicide' in Satkhira in 2 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Five people including two schoolgirls allegedly committed suicide in the district on Thursday and Friday.

They are SSC candidate Tumpa Rani Mondal, 14, daughter of Shastibar Mondal of Ghona village and Sarada Rani Sarkar, 76, of Mesherdanga village in Tala upazila, Zakia Khatun, 11, a student of Fatepur High School and daughter of Zahangir Moral of Mukunda Madhusudanpur village and Paresh Chandra Sarkar, 46, son of Bishnu Pada Sarkar of Kazla village in Kaliganj upazila and Shaiful Islam, 24, son of Bashir Ahmed of Madarbaria village in Assassuni upazila.

Quoting locals police said, Tumpa Rani committed suicide by taking poison as her father did not meet her demand for a mobile set while Zakia Khatun took poison as her father failed to give a school uniform on Thursday afternoon.

Sarada Rani Sarkar and Shaiful Islam took poison and died on the spot on January 28 and January 29 respectively while Paresh Chandra Sarkar committed suicide by hanging himself from a tree near his house on Friday afternoon. Police cited family feud as the reason behind the incident.

Contacted, Sadar police station officer-in-charge (OC) Abdul Kader Beg confirmed all the incidents.

## Textile students on indefinite class boycott

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Students of Tangail Textile Institute yesterday started boycotting classes and examinations for an indefinite period to press home their five-point demand.

The demands include immediate removal of the institute's principal, legal steps against him after investigating 'irregularities' in the admission test, actions against two teachers and one office assistant for their involvement in 'irregularities' in the admission test and overall development of the institute.

Around 800 students boycotted their mid-term examinations and classes in the morning and staged demonstration on the campus.

Several teachers of the institute sat with the agitating stu-

dents at the teachers' association office at noon and assured them (students) of resolving the programme after return of the principal from the capital. They also urged the students to postpone their programme and join the classes.

But the students ignored teachers' request and said that they would continue their agitation until the demands are met.

The institute gives 'Diploma in Textile Engineering' degree on completion of a four-year course. On January 25, the students of the institute brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus from where they declared their five-point demand.

The also submitted a memorandum containing the five-point demand to the secretary of Jute and Textile Ministry through the deputy commissioner.

## Police sue 100 Ruet students

Procession, human chain on campus protesting Friday's attack

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday filed a case accusing more than a hundred students of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) of attacking law enforcers on Friday.

Identifying 11 students, sub inspector (SI) Arifuzzaman filed the case with Motihar police station and stated in it that at least 22 members of law enforcers including officer in charge (OC) of Motihar police station received injury in the attack.

The identified accused, who also received injury in the clash, included Al-Amin, Himel, Rahim and Nixon.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Motihar police station Tofazzel Hossain admitted

of the case filing. Meanwhile, the students of the university yesterday brought out a procession on the campus demanding action against those involved in Friday's attack on the students and teachers by bus workers and law enforcers.

They also formed a human chain on the campus in favour of their three-point demand.

The demands are: Immediate resignation of OC of Motihar police station, closing of Shyamoli Paribahan counter in Rajshahi and punishment to those who attacked the students and teachers.

The students also criticised the university authorities for not taking any action against the bus workers and law

enforcers. Later the students met student affairs adviser Prof Ashrafal Alam and raised their demands.

They also threatened to paralyse the campus if their demands are not met within 24 hours.

The university authorities held a meeting with high officials of police and bus owners- workers associations at around 4:00pm.

Prof Ashrafal Alam, Ruet students' welfare adviser told the correspondent that at the meeting the university authorities requested police to take steps against responsible law enforcers and others for attack on students and teachers.

## TENGRATILA GAS EMISSION

## 3 families asked to leave home for safety

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Bapex team yesterday visited the areas around the abandoned Tengratila Gas field where emission of gas through leakages has gone up. They advised the inmates of three families near the gas field to stay away from their homesteads.

Locals informed the Bapex team that gas emission through the leaks around the abandoned gas field has gone up. A leakage point beside the house of one Emran Hossain caught fire on Thursday night. The fireball leapt about 6 to 7 feet, locals said. However, they extinguished fire after an hour. Emran Hossain and his family members left their house for safety reasons yesterday morning.

The team member said they will submit a report to the managing director within a day or two. Doarabazar Upazila Chairman Abdul Quddus was also present at the time of Bapex team's visit.

Bapex MD Golam Martuza Hossain told this correspondent over cellphone that a three-men team had visited a number of private houses near the Tengratila Gas Field. They observed gas emission through several leaks, he added. Receiving gas emission report, the MD had earlier sent a technical team from Sylhet to visit the area.

The Bapex chief said gas

emission through leaks around any gas field is not unusual. But people should remain alert about use of firebox or any other source of fire, he said. No other people have also been informed of Thursday's incident, the Bapex chief added.

Tengratila Gas Field exploded with a big bang on the night of January 7 in 2005 when Canadian company Niko was engaged in drilling a well, causing destruction to huge gas and leaving a trail of devastation in the surrounding area.

The huge gas field location now gives a deserted look, except a few guards.

Another serious blow-out took place on the night of June 24 in 2005 as the Canadian company was running a relief well drilling at the remote location in Doarabazar upazila of Sunamganj district. It was being drilled to seal the original one, which had suffered a huge blow-out on January 7 that year.

Trees got burnt, croplands damaged and thousands of people had to be shifted from their homesteads. The huge fireball leapt 150 feet over the gas field and forced thousands to flee their homesteads.

The raging flames at Tengratila Gas Field, which were visible from even 30 kilometres away, took about two months to go down totally.

## SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

### Youth beaten to death

UNB, Keraniganj

A youth was beaten to death yesterday morning by criminals at south Khejurbagh in South Keraniganj. Victim Al-Amin, 25, is son of Kiran Miah of Kanapatti Par Gendaria village. Quoting witnesses, police said 7-8 armed criminals including Azizul, Abul, Tuhin and Mujibar abducted Al-Amin from his house at 9:00am. They took him to the south Khejurbagh area and beat him to death after tying up his hands and legs. Later, they also gouged out his eyes. On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Mitford Hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed.

### Fertiliser seized: 2 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday recovered 46 bags of smuggled Indian fertiliser from a godown at Fatamohammedpur village in Ishwardi upazila. Rab arrested two workers but the owner of the warehouse went into hiding. Acting on a tip-off, a Rab-12 team and police jointly raided Abdul Latif's godown and recovered the banned MOP fertiliser. The arrestees are Md Hatem Ali and Md Abdul Malek. They were repacking the smuggled fertiliser for marketing, Rab sources said.

### Loan defaulter jailed

UNB, Barisal

A tribunal here on Thursday sentenced a man to one year rigorous imprisonment on charge of loan default. Convict Amir Hossain, owner of Arafat Paints and Hossain Traders in the city, was present on the dock when the judge pronounced the verdict. The court also fined him Tk 36,54,101, in default, to suffer one month more in jail. According to the prosecution, Amir Hossain took an amount of Tk 12,18,033 as loan from the branch of Al Arafat Islami Bank in 2004. But he failed to repay the installments of the loan. Six cheques given against the installments were also dishonoured by the bank. The bank lodged a case against Amir on February 24, 2005.



PHOTO: STAR

Speakers talk about the life and work of former chief minister of West Bengal comrade Jyoti Basu at a discussion organised by Panchagarh district unit of Communist Party of Bangladesh yesterday.

### Tribute to Jyoti Basu

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A meeting was held on Friday evening at Nazrul Pathagar in Panchagarh town to pay tribute to veteran Marxist leader and India's longest serving chief minister Jyoti Basu. Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Panchagarh district unit organised the meeting also to discuss his charismatic political carrier. Different professionals, students, teachers and many elderly left party workers attended. Speaking tribute to Jyoti Basu at the discussion, the speakers said that Basu was the icon of communist movement in the sub-continent. Central committee member of CPB Altaf Hossain Prodhann attended the function as chief guest while Panchagarh district unit president Shafiur Rahman presided.

### Bhola Bar executives

UNB, Bhola

The pro-Awami League lawyers' panel swept the District Bar Association election held on Friday. Out of 12 posts, the pro-AL panel won eight posts including president while BNP backed lawyers' panel got four posts including general secretary. Advocate AKM Nasiruddin was elected president while M Firoz Kibria general secretary. Other office bearers are vice-presidents: Syed Mustafizur Rahman and MUM Obaidullah, assistant general secretaries: M Zakir Hossain and Mohammad Yusuf, religious and cultural secretary: Bashiruddin Ahmed and library secretary: Umesh Chandra Majumder and assistant library secretary: Abul Kashem. Executive committee members are M Ruhul Amin, Shah Alam Shikdar and Zakir Hossain Monu. A total of 111 out of 114 voters exercised their franchise in the election.

### Girl's body recovered

UNB, Munshiganj

Police recovered the body of an unidentified young girl from Dakkhin Islampur area of the district town on Friday. Locals saw the body in the morning and informed police. Later, the law-enforcers recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy. Police suspect that the girl might have been killed by criminals after rape. A case was filed.

### Fugitive convict held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Manikganj Sadar police on Friday night arrested a life term fugitive convict from his father-in-law's house at east Khalipur village under Harirampur police station. Acting on a tip-off, assistant sub inspectors Habibur Rahman and Khairuzzaman went to the spot and arrested Salam, 55, son of Wajuddin of Bhararia village in Manikganj Sadar upazila at around 9:00 pm, officer-in-charge (OC) of Manikganj Sadar police station Azizul Haque said. On August 31 in 1996, Additional District and Sessions Judge sentenced Salam to life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) and fined Tk 20,000, in default, one year more RI for killing his sister's husband and robbery at his house at Baitora village in 1992.

### Four get life in Habiganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A court in Habiganj town on Thursday afternoon sentenced four people to life term imprisonment for hurling acid on a housewife. The convicts are: Sazid Miah, Yakub Miah, Nahid Miah and Farid Miah (absconding). The district and sessions judge of Habiganj, Mahub UI Alam passed the judgement. Prosecution story, in brief, is that the accused on January 31, 2007, locked in a dispute with Parveen Akhter, wife of Tota Miah, over an approach road at their Paikura village in Chunarughat upazila. The accused later on February 1 entered the house of Parveen by breaking open the doors and hurled acid on her at about 2:30 am injuring her seriously. Victim's son Ful Miah filed a case with the Chunarughat police station the next day.



PHOTO: STAR

A blooming mustard field at Gonergana village in Narsingdi Sadar upazila offers a captivating sight as bumper yield is expected in the district where 3,400 hectares of land were brought under mustard cultivation this season.