

Call to empower indigenous leaders for dev of CHT

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Leaders of Khagrachhari Headmen-Karbari Association yesterday called on the government to empower the traditional indigenous leaders and evaluate them for the development of CHT area.

They made the call at the inaugural ceremony of the two-day conference organised by Khagrachhari Headmen-Karbari Association at Town Hall Auditorium here with its President Shaktipada Tripura in the chair.

Local lawmaker Jatindra Lal Tripura was present at the programme as the chief guest.

Pointing to the vulnerable situation of both headmen (mouza chiefs) and karbaris (village chiefs), the leaders said they were not evaluated since the British colonial era and are still facing discrimination instead of playing an important role in the CHT area.

They also lambasted the administration for their negligence.

The leaders placed a set of recommendations, including activation of customary law and customary organisations, setting up of offices for traditional leaders and recruitment of sufficient staff, increased honoraria for organisation chiefs, attestation power on land-related documents and ensure participation of circle chief, headmen and village chiefs in all local government development activities.

Khagrachhari District Headmen Association Secretary Sulapru Chowdhury, Executive Director of LRD Shamsul Huda, Additional Deputy Commissioner Mahammad Sala Uddin, UNDP Representative Robert J Stalman, Khagrachhari Hill District Council Chairman Ruhith Karbari and Mong Circle Chief Saching Prue Chowdhury also spoke.

Later, Chakma Circle Chief and former adviser Barrister Debashish Roy inaugurated the conference.

Train derails in Lalmonirhat, 10 injured

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

At least 10 passengers were injured while trying to jump out of a train that derailed near Kakina Railway Station at Kaliganj in the district yesterday morning.

Rail communication on Lalmonirhat-Burimari route remains snapped because of the accident.

Sources said 28 wheels of 4 compartments of the train were derailed due to dilapidated condition of the rail track and sleepers.

The injured were identified as Maminul Islam, 56, Kanteswar Barman, 32, Nizam Uddin, 20, Ruhul Amin, 15, Monowara Begum, 24, Ilias Hossain, 36, Taher Uddin, 24, Mrinal Sarker, 30, Rashidul Islam, 14, and Zaheda Banu, 22.

They received first aid at the local health complex. The rescue work was continuing till filing of this report.

2 injured, 10 shops gutted in N'ganj fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Two people were injured while trying to douse a fire that gutted at least 10 shops at Madanpur in the district on Thursday.

The injured were identified as Selim, 25, and Berek, 40, a night guard.

Fire service sources said the fire originated from an electrical short circuit.

Two units of Demra Fire Service extinguished the fire after an hour-long effort.

The loss in the fire was estimated at about Tk20 lakh.

Youth strangled in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

An unidentified youth was strangled in the town yesterday.

Police recovered the body from the town's No5 Sarghat area.

Officer-in-Charge Akhter Hossain of Sadar Police Station said the victim was clad in a black half sleeve t-shirt and a full sleeve orange coloured t-shirt.

The youth might have been killed five or six days ago and then dumped under piles of hay.



Participants of the National Mathematics Festival and 8th Bangladesh Math Olympiad release balloons at its inaugural ceremony at St Joseph Higher Secondary School in the city yesterday. Bangladesh Math Olympiad Committee organised the two-day event in association with Dutch-Bangla Bank and the Prothom Alo.

RU teachers vow to free campus from Jamaat-Shibir

A CORRESPONDENT, RU

Rajshahi University (RU) teachers under the banner of Progressive Teachers Society (PTS) yesterday vowed to build a Jamaat and Shibir-free campus.

They also decided to publish a list of the teachers and employees of the university who were involved in war crimes in 1971.

At a press conference at the Juberi Bhaban of the university, the teachers called upon the government and the uni-

versity authorities to ban the politics of Jamaat-e-Islami and pro-Jamaat student organisation Islami Chhatra Shibir to stop the politics of killing.

Demanding immediate trial of the war criminals, the teachers said Jamaat and Shibir cadres are trying to destabilise the country as the government is going to try the war criminals.

They also criticised the role of the law enforcers and detective branches regarding the violence on the campus when

Shibir cadres hacked to death Faruque Hossain, an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League, at Shah Mahkdoom Hall in the early hours of February 9.

The progressive teachers also demanded pro-Jamaat teachers and employees recruited by the BNP-Jamaat government be suspended.

They urged countrymen to be united against the anti-liberation forces and demanded immediate punishment to the killers of Faruque.

The teachers also called upon the government to stand by the distressed family of Faruque.

PTS Convener Prof Shahnewaz Ali presided over the press conference while Mukhlesur Rahman of Bangabandhu Parishad, Prof Jalaluddin, Prof Chitta Ranjan Saha Mishra, Prof Moly Kumar Bhowmik, Prof Mahbubur Rahman, Prof Dulal Chandra Bishwas, Prof Ananda Kumar Saha, Prof Sabbir Sattar Tapu and Prof Fayekuzzaman also spoke.

16 Razakars sued

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

A freedom fighter has sued 16 Razakars in Jessore on charges of abducting and killing five freedom fighters during the liberation war in 1971.

Shahadat Hossain, an organiser during the liberation war and an inmate of Sarutia village at Keshabpur in the district, filed the case with the court of the judicial magistrate on Thursday.

Judicial Magistrate Abdullah Al Mamun directed the officer-in-charge of Keshabpur Police Station to investigate the matter.

The accused are Abdul Bari Wadud, Mazid Sheikh, Abdul Barik Goldar, Hasim Fakir, Ansir Fakir, Wadiz Ali Saddar, Kismat Fakir, Moksed Ali Saddar, Azher Ali Gazi, Ansar Mollah Darji, Abdul Barik Saddar, Gani Sheikh, Shamsher Sheikh, Ibrahim Karigar, Amin Dhali and Badiur Zaman.

In the complaint, the plaintiff stated that the freedom fighters planned to attack a Razakar camp in November.

However, on information, a group of Razakars led by Gani Sheikh attacked the village and abducted six freedom fighters, including himself, Habil Saddar, Kabil Saddar, Jabbar Saddar, Khorsheed Ali and Ramzan Ali.

Shahadat somehow managed to escape, but the other five were killed.

5 killed in road crashes

Mother, daughter among the victims

METRO DESK

Five people, including a woman and her daughter, were killed in separate road accidents in Rajbari and Dinajpur in the last two days.

Three of them were killed and 13 others injured as a truck rammied into a human hauler at Felur Dokan in Sadar upazila on Rajbari-Faridpur road early yesterday, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Azad Munshi, 60, Yusuf Ali, 55, and Abdur Rashid, 55. They hailed from Pangsha upazila.

The police said the Faridpur-bound speeding truck dashed a human hauler carrying 16 passengers who were returning home from a waz mahfil at about 1:30am, leaving all of them seriously injured.

Among the injured, two died at Sadar hospital while another at Faridpur General

Hospital. The truck driver managed to speed away.

In other accident, a woman and her daughter were killed when a speeding Indian fruits-laden truck ran over them in Hili land port area in Dinajpur on Thursday evening.

The victims were identified as Fatema Begum, 35, wife of Rafiqul Islam of Khatta Uchana village, and their daughter Rosy, 8.

Witnesses said the truck hit a van carrying Fatema and her daughter and ran over them in front of gate-1 of Panamaport.

The accident occurred at about 6:00pm when the Indian truck was entering the port, locals said.

The driver and helper of the truck managed to flee the scene soon after the accident.

Police sent the bodies to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital morgue.



Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka and others offer munajat after he unveiled the name plaque of a road at Mirpur in the city on Thursday. The road was named after industrialist Jahurul Islam. M Manjurul Islam, chairman of Islam Group, and family members of late Jahurul Islam were present.



Iranian Ambassador Hasan Farajande gives away 'Shishukabi Gokhy Sahitya Purshkar 2010' to Waheed Murad at the award giving ceremony at the National Press Club in the city recently. Waheed won the award as the best poet of Barisal division. Lekhaprakash organised the event.



Thousands of book lovers throng the Bangla Academy premises in the city for the Amar Ekushey Book Fair yesterday, a weekly holiday.

Shibir's false claim on dead

FROM PAGE 1

He succumbed to his injuries on the way to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

Meanwhile, the Chittagong University authorities have suspended all classes and postponed scheduled examinations till February 18 following the killing of Masum.

Victim's cousin Motiur, also a 4th year student of LLB at CU, told police that Masum was not involved in any party politics but was a supporter of Bangladesh Chhatra League.

Family members of Masum requested all not to do politics over the dead.

Victim's father lodged a case in this connection with the Railway Police Station that night accusing seven to eight unidentified persons. In the case statement, he also said his son was not actively involved with any political party.

Earlier on Tuesday night, following a rumour circulated on the campus that second year student of Management

Department Mohaiminul Islam was murdered for his identity card was found next to injured Masum.

Hearing the false news of Mohaiminul's death, hundreds of Shibir activists of CU came out with sticks and brought out a procession on the campus claiming Mohaiminul a Shibir activist. They continued the procession till 2:00am.

Victim's classmate Fazlul Hasan identified Masum at the hospital around 11:00pm. Later deceased's uncle Joinal Abedin confirmed the identity.

Meanwhile, a large number of Jamaat and Shibir activists gathered at CMCH mortuary near Probortak intersection yesterday morning. Shibir also gathered a good number of students there from Chittagong College and Mohsin College.

Jamaat lawmaker of Sankian Shamsul Islam and former lawmaker Shahjahan Khan along with other senior leaders came there around 11:00am and asked police to

hand over the body to them for namaz-e-janaza. Police refused them.

Jamaat leaders later in a brief rally blamed Chhatra League for the killing.

Shamsul Islam blamed the government for creating political chaos centring killing of a student at Rajshahi University and condemned the arrest of Jamaat Rajshahi city ameer. He also demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits.

Police escorted Masum's body to his home at Rajarbil Faisakhali of Noapara union in Cox's Bazar yesterday afternoon.

Over a thousand people participated in his namaz-e-janaza. Masum was buried at his family graveyard around 4:30pm, sources said.

CU Vice Chancellor Prof Abu Yusuf in a statement expressed profound shock over the death of the student. Conveying condolences to the bereaved family he said he requested law enforcers to bring the killers to book.

10 injured in BCL-JCD clash in Jessore

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

A clash between Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) in Jessore left 10 activists of the both the groups injured on Thursday night.

BCL activists ransacked the district BNP office in Laldighirpar area during the clash.

Locals said both the groups took out separate rallies in the town. They met at Chhatra intersection about 6:00pm.

The clash ensued when a brickbat was thrown on the BCL rally.

Both the BCL and JCD men were involved in chase and counter-chase for an hour, injuring at least 10 of the both group.

Later, the BCL activists ransacked the BNP office.

JCD activist Mahatab Najir Polash and BCL leader Arab were injured severely.

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