

Titas office besieged for gas in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Townspeople yesterday laid a siege to Narayanganj office of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Co Ltd at Chashara Balur Math to press their demand for resolving gas crisis in their areas.

Agitated people from Isdair, Masdair, Gabtoli, Paschim Masdair, Uttar Masdair and Al Aminbagh areas went to the office in processions in the morning and besieged the office.

Addressing a rally in front of the Titas Gas office, speakers threatened to announce a tougher agitation

programme if the gas crisis was not solved immediately.

The agitators withdrew the siege programme after Sheikh Abu Raihan, manager of the Titas Gas regional office, assured them of quick solution to the problem.

They said the residents of different areas, including Bholail, Kashipur, Golachipa, DN Road, Paschim Deobhog, Shitalkahya, Paikpara, Baburail, Masdair, Paschim Masdair, Uttar Masdair, Bhuiyar Bag, Isdair, Khanpur, Amlapara, Gabtoli and Nitaiganj, do not get gas from morning to midnight.

The residents of these areas filed complaints with Titas Gas authorities several

time, but to no effect, the agitators said.

They alleged that gas crisis became acute in their localities as connection was given to industrial units from the line of residential subscribers.

Amir Hossain, deputy general manager of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Co Ltd Narayanganj office, said they are not getting gas supply as per demand. He said they are getting only 75,000 million cft gas against the demand for 1,44,000 million cft gas.

He said work on setting up of regulator controlling station to put an end to gas crisis is under process.

Imported spurious fertiliser seized from ZFCL godown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Ashuganj upazila administration yesterday seized 630 bags of sand and soil mixed imported urea fertiliser from the godown of Zia Fertiliser Company Limited (ZFCL).

The fertiliser was imported from China.

The dealers of the factory were taking fertiliser from its godowns at noon.

When the fertiliser bags weighing 50 kg each were being loaded onto the trucks, some imported urea bags of China got torn and it was

found that sand and soil were mixed with the fertiliser.

The dealers expressed unwillingness to take the adulterated fertiliser but the ZFCL authorities tried to force the dealers to take it.

As the dealers informed Ashuganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Saiful Islam of the matter, he rushed to the spot and got several urea bags from two stacks at the buffer stock of ZFCL opened.

Finding sand mixed with the urea, the UNO separated 630 bags of such fertiliser and ordered the ZFCL authorities not to sell them.

When contacted, the UNO said he will investigate how the sand and soil came in the fertiliser bags.

"The sand mixed fertilisers are not of my factory. These were imported from China. About 600 bags of China urea got torn while these were being unloaded from the barge in Meghna River. As a result, the fertiliser was mixed with sand. Then these were repacked in the factory of ZFCL. So the fertiliser may have sand and soil," said ZFCL Managing Director Md Osman Goni.

Traders in Gaibandha protest extortion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Traders and businessmen of Gobindaganj upazila yesterday observed a day-long strike demanding immediate steps to stop extortion and withdrawal of cases against the leaders of local chamber of commerce.

Road communication remained out of the purview of strike considering suffering of general people.

During the strike all the shops and business establishments including that at the kitchen markets remained shut.

Locals together with traders brought out procession that paraded main roads and later held a rally at Gobindaganj High School ground.

The speakers at the rally demanded immediate action by the administration to stop illegal toll collection from the traders and harassment of leaders of business community.

Earlier, the Workers Party filed a case against the leaders of business and trade bodies after some unruly processionists ransacked office of their labour union during a agitation programme.

The speakers yesterday warned the authorities that they will go for tougher movement if their demands are not met without delay.



Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) chief Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, popularly known as Santu Larma, who is also chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council, addresses a rally at the inaugural session of the 9th national council of PCJSS on the premises of Rangamati gymnasium yesterday.

Implement peace deal to stop unrest in hills

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Leaders of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) yesterday reiterated their demand for full implementation of the CHT peace agreement and urged the government to curb all sorts of anti-peace activities in the hills.

They said due to delay in implementation of the peace deal, various anti-peace forces are spreading extremism, militancy and fundamentalism in the hills.

The PCJSS leaders were addressing a rally on the premises of Rangamati gymnasium in the town organised on the occasion of 9th national council of PCJSS.

Inaugurating the three-day council, the PCJSS chief and CHT Regional Council chairman Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, popularly known as Santu Larma, said the ethnic people in CHT are passing their days in extreme insecurity.

He blamed the indifference of security forces for the recent killing and arson attacks on indigenous people at Baghaihat and Khagrachhari.

Calling upon the government to take immediate steps for proper execution of the CHT deal, Larma said, "We do not want to see any further delay. Implement the accord fully and as early as possible."

Presidium member of Gono Forum Pankaj Bhattacharya, secretary of Workers Party Anisur Rahman Mollik, member of Communist Party of Bangladesh Shah Alam, information and publicity secretary of PCJSS Mongal Kumar Chakma and Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) president Udayan Tripura also addressed the meeting.

Pankaj Bhattacharya said militancy, fundamentalism and extremism are spreading all over the CHT as full implementation of the treaty is being delayed.

Pankaj said those who failed to keep peace in CHT must be reprimanded for deaths of two indigenous people during the recent ethnic violence.

Leaders and workers of PCJSS, CHT Mohila Samity, Hill Women's Federation and Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) from three hill districts joined the council.

SNIPPETS

Faulty river vessels fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A mobile court on the Shitalakhya river yesterday fined the river vessels running with faults and without fitness and necessary papers and realised Tk 21,000 from them. The court conducted the drive under the leadership of district administration's executive magistrate Shamsudouza at noon. The mobile court fined sand carrying bulhead MV Kazi Farid Tk 5,000, MV Royal Tk 7,000, MV Eagle Super Tk 3,000, MV Banglar Value Tk 2,000, each of MV Shakib, MV Forkania, MV Bin Arefin and MV Shafin Bahar Tk 1,000.

New hospital in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The newly built three-storied Shaheed Sheikh Abu Naser Specialised Hospital will open here today. Begum Razia Naser Dolly, wife of late Sheikh Abu Naser, will inaugurate the hospital as chief guest. Health Minister Professor Doctor AFM Ruhul Haque, State Minister for Labour and Employment Begum Mannujan Sufian, chairman of Health and Family Welfare Affairs Parliamentary Standing Committee Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, City Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque and lawmaker Sheikh Helaluddin will attend the inaugural function as special guests. The hospital will have cardiology, nephrology, neurology, neurosurgery, plastic surgery, burn and coronary care units and cardiac surgery department. Ten modern hemodialysis machines have already been set up in the hospital.

Prisoner dies in Barisal

UNB, Barisal

A prisoner serving life term imprisonment for murder at Barisal central jail, died at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital early Sunday. Superintendent of Barisal central jail said Abdul Wahab, 65, was imprisoned in 2002 and he had been suffering from paralysis since last three years. Prayer for pardoning his conviction on medical grounds was rejected by home ministry recently and he was admitted to the SBMCH on March 25 after his condition deteriorated. His body was handed over to his relatives Sunday afternoon after autopsy, the jail super informed.

Youth's body recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Slaughtered body of an unidentified youth was recovered in Boro Dighirpar area in Hathazari upazila yesterday. Locals found the body lying on the rail line near Boroghripur railway gate around 9.00am. Being informed, police from Hathazari police station recovered the body and handed it over to the General Railway Police (GRP). SI Nizam Uddin of Hathazari PS suspected that the victim might have been stabbed and slaughtered sometimes on Sunday night or early yesterday as the body bore several marks of injuries. Police found two pens and spectacles in the pocket of the victim, he said.

Train derails in Bogra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Train movement on Bogra-Santahar line remained suspended for about five hours as a train derailed near Altar Nagar station area at Duchachia yesterday morning. At least 10 passengers of the train received minor injuries in the incident. As the agitated passengers of the Bogra-bound train laid a siege to the station after the incident the railway staff including the station master fled the scene. Injured train passengers said, Bogra-bound 7-up mail train derailed due to faulty tracks.

2 women commit 'suicide'

UNB, Manikganj

Two women, including a schoolgirl, allegedly committed suicide at Payla and Uttar Khan villages in Shibabaya Upazila on Sunday and Saturday. Police said Kona Akter, 16, a student of class IX and daughter of Abdul Halim of Payla Village took poison at 10am Sunday as her mother rebuked her for watching TV at the time of study. In another incident, Rozina Akter, 25, wife of Arif Hossain of Uttar Khan Village allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself at her bedroom on Saturday night following a quarrel with her mother-in-law.

BSF promises again to stop firing at Bangladeshis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushia

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at a sector commander level meeting in Meherpur yesterday agreed to resolve 'major disputes' through discussion.

Lt Col Zahidur Rahman, sector commander of Mirpur, Kushia, led the 12-member Bangladesh team while DR Yadav, sector commander of Krishnagar BSF, led the eight-member Indian team in the day-long meeting held at the rest

house of Mujibnagar Complex.

Meeting sources said BDR raised several issues, including killing of Bangladeshis by BSF, smuggling of firearms, explosives and contraband items from India and sought help from its Indian counterpart to stop them.

Indian officials agreed in principle to stop firing at Bangladeshis and take effective steps to stop smuggling of firearms explosives and contraband goods, sources said.

The two sides also discussed re-installation of demolished or stolen border

pillars and survey of the disputed lands. At the meeting, the BSF alleged illegal entry of Bangladeshis into India and urged BDR to check it.

BDR Sector Commander Lt Col Zahidul Islam told journalists that talks were held in a cordial atmosphere and BSF officials showed a positive attitude towards resolving the issues.

According to sources, at least 12 Bangladeshis were killed in BSF firing on the southwestern border in the last four months from January 1. Most of the victims were cattle traders.



A policeman stands guard at the camp set up at Baniakhali High School in Dumuria upazila of Khulna district, right, students attending a class on the school ground as the police camp has kept occupying three big classrooms of the school for the last seven years.

Students study under open sky as police occupy classrooms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Teachers, students and members of managing committee of Baniakhali High School in Dumuria upazila of Khulna district have demanded intervention of the education minister for early shifting of police camp that has occupied three classrooms of the institution for seven years.

After a meeting held on last Saturday, school managing committee Chairman Moni Mohan Chakravarty and Headmaster SK Nasir told this correspondent that

they will go for movement if the police camp is not removed from the school within the next month.

Students and teachers have to suffer much, especially during hot weather, as classes seven, eight and nine are held on the school ground under the open sky.

Number of dropouts, particularly among girl students, is gradually increasing as guardians feel embarrassed amid allegations of teasing and taunting remarks from some of the police personnel of the camp, the headmaster said.

"Our repeated requests to

shift the camp have so far gone unheeded. So, we have no other alternative but to go on movement against presence of police camp at the school building since 2003," said chairman of the managing committee.

Number of students has now come down to 478 from earlier 600, showing a rising trend of dropout, he said.

When contacted, lawmaker Narayan Chandra Chanda of Khulna-5 (Dumuria-Phultala) constituency said, "A school cannot be used as police camp. I will take up this matter with the education minister and

higher authorities of police department."

"I am yet to get any written complain from anyone of the school regarding problems due to presence of police camp there. I will play due role to solve the problem if school authorities come in a proper way," said Khulna Police Superintendent Tanvir Hasan Chowdhury.

The school that was established in 1966 has nine rooms in two buildings but three big classrooms have been used for the police camp since 2003.

2 sued on charge of killing 52 during '71 war

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Two alleged collaborators of Pakistani occupation forces were sued yesterday on charge of killing 52 people in Naogaon in 1971.

The accused are Abdur Rauf Kazi and Latif Kazi of Balir Ghat of Sadar upazila in Naogaon.

Shahidul Islam Latif of Pirojpur Moholla of Naogaon Sadar upazila filed the case with Naogaon Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court.

In the petition, the com-

plainant stated that the accused picked up his father from their house of Pirojpur village and 51 others from adjacent villages on April 25, 1971.

They took them to Power Development Board (PDB) Office at Kathaltoli and shoot them dead, he alleged.

The court ordered the officer-in-charge (OC) of Naogaon Sadar police station to accept the petition as an FIR and file a case against the accused people after an investigation.



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