

# Growing crack cause of concern for villagers

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi**

A 300-metre long crack has developed at Nawpara village under Mohanpur upazila of Rajshahi district.

People of all 30 houses at the village fear that their houses and farmlands may subside any time as the crack is getting longer and deeper.

Experts said extraction of excessive ground water might have caused such incident at the village.

While visiting the tiny Nawpara village yesterday, some 30km from Rajshahi city, this correspondent found hundreds of people from neighbouring villages and distant places were visiting the village.

The villagers said they did not care the 20 feet long crack that appeared first at the mango orchard of one Taser Mia near Barnoi River a year ago.

After Thursday night's nor'wester, the villagers found the crack extended. It was over one foot wide at some places while it looked like hairline at other places.

This correspondent mea-

sured the length of the crack by his motorbike's mileage meter to be over 300 metres.

Noor Alam, a teenaged boy, was describing the incident that occurred Saturday morning. "We heard an unfamiliar sound and later discovered a crack at the mango orchard."

The villagers said there are two deep tube-wells at the village and six others around the village for irrigating farmlands.

"Whenever I look at the crack it frightens me. It seems it will devour us all," said Rozina Begum, a housewife.

When contacted, Dr Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan of geology and mining department of Rajshahi University said the crack might have developed at the village due to its location close to a river bend.

Geography teacher Dr M Shamsul Alam Bir Protik said excessive extraction of underground water can result in cracks and cause land subsidence.

Mohanpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Moinul Islam said he was unaware of the matter.



A 300-metre-long crack has developed at Nawpara village under Mohanpur upazila of Rajshahi. According to the villagers, the crack is getting longer and deeper.

# Sylhet BNP starts 15-day agitation from tomorrow

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet**

Sylhet district and city BNP yesterday afternoon announced a fortnight long agitation programme from April 20 in the region to press 11-point demand.

At a press conference held at Sylhet Press Club, the leaders said the party will hold view exchange meetings with professional and business bodies and other political parties from April 20 to April 25, human chain at Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar on April 26, procession on April 29, street rallies at upazila headquarters and in city from May 2 to 5 and public meeting on May 6. The next course of action would be announced on May 6, they said.

The 11-point demand included deployment of army for Bhola by-election, appropriate measures against the Indian move for Tipai project to save Sylhet region, steps against WDB officials responsible for recent crop damage in Sunamganj haors, withdrawal of appointment of controversial persons as HC judges, ensuring water, gas

and electricity supply and control of price hike, cancellation of renaming of ZIA and other establishments, withdrawal of politically motivated cases against opposition leaders and activists, withdrawal of fake cases against Tarique Rahman to ensure his safe return, cancellation of renaming Saifur Rahman Auditorium in Sylhet, restart of Red Crescent Durre Samad Rahman Medical College in Sylhet and stopping BSF's aggressive acts at Jaintapur and other border points.

Former lawmakers Abul Kaher Chowdhury and Abeda Chowdhury, former city unit chief Ariful Haque Chowdhury and district joint convener Abul Kaher Shamim were present at the press conference. City BNP secretary Nasim Hossain, president Dr Shahriar Hossain Chowdhury and Ariful Haque Chowdhury spoke while Dr Shahriar read out the statement.

In the written statement, the leaders alleged that sensing a sure defeat by BNP, the government went against the EC move and deferred the DCC polls.

They said, the AL-led government withdrew none of the fake cases filed against the BNP leaders, although those against the head of the government and others have already been put off. Besides, BNP men are being harassed with newly filed cases throughout the country.

The ruling party leaders renamed Saifur Rahman Auditorium and Khaleda Womens' Dormitory in Osmani Medical College in Sylhet to satisfy their political intention, the speakers alleged.

The present government also suspended the work of Surma Bridge at Kazir Bazaar in Sylhet as it began during BNP regime, they said.

The grand alliance government has already stopped a number of development projects in the region, only because they were taken up by the BNP, they alleged further.

Four new police stations were expected to open in Sylhet city during the BNP-led regime whereas the present government has reduced the number to only two, the press conference was told.

# Accept 5-point demand, arrest Asad's killers

## CU students give 24-hour deadline

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

General students of Chittagong University (CU) here yesterday gave a 24-hour ultimatum to the university authorities to accept their five-point demand including immediate arrest of the culprits involved in the killing of CU student Asaduzzaman on April 15 night.

The students also demanded immediate resignation of CU vice chancellor (VC) Prof Dr Abu Yusuf, proctor Prof Jasim Uddin and students affair adviser Dr Touhid Hossain blaming them for death of three CU students including Asaduzzaman in two months as they failed to ensure security to the students.

They also asked the CU authorities to pay Tk 50 lakh as compensation to the victim's family, called for announcing CU Gol Chattar (entry point) as Asad Chattar and April 16 as

'CU Black Day.'

Over 1000 students under the banners of CU General Students, Students of CU Accounting Department and Rajbari Zila Students' Welfare Association CU unit at a joint rally in front of Chittagong Press Club (CPC) at around 12 noon gave the ultimatum.

Md Nuruzzaman, a classmate of slain Asaduzzaman and Ameer, a student of CU English Department addressed the rally.

Speakers at the rally said that indifferent attitude of CU authorities towards students' security and two earlier killings have instigated the criminals to kill another innocent and brilliant student.

Earlier, the agitating students formed a human chain on Press Club premises at around 10:30am. Later, they brought out a protest procession that paraded different city streets.

Meanwhile, a section of CU

students set a bus of the city service ablaze in front of Chittagong educational board at around 1:45pm.

Quoting the bus driver, sub inspector (SI) of Panchlaish police station Arjun said a group of students boarded the Bohadderhat-bound bus from GEC Intersection and Sholoshohar railway station.

They forced the passengers to get down from the bus in front of the education board office and set fire to it, he said.

Some students also attacked a CU teachers' bus coming from the university in Chawkbazar area at around 2:30pm.

Two students got on the bus carrying 14 to 15 teachers and started threatening the driver, said a CU teacher. All of a sudden, other students standing outside started throwing big stones at the bus damaging its glass at the back.

None was hurt in the attack, he added.

## SNIPPETS

**JCD leader files GD**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari**

District unit president of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Aktaruzzaman Jewel lodged a general diary (GD) with Nilphamari Sadar police station against Shamsuzzaman Zaman, district unit general secretary of BNP, on Thursday night. Aktaruzzaman Jewel in his GD said the district unit JCD had called for a general meeting on April 22. In this connection he rang up Shamsuzzaman Zaman over cell phone of district JCD general secretary Morshed Azam on Tuesday afternoon seeking cooperation of the BNP leader. But instead of extending cooperation, the BNP secretary used abusive words and threatened to kill him by hired criminals, he alleged. Contacted, Aktaruzzaman Jewel told newsmen that he had filed the GD as he is concerned about the security of his own life.

**CJ visits Munshiganj**

**A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj**

Chief Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim and his wife on Saturday enjoyed the natural beauty at the char of the River Padma at Munshiganj. They were accompanied by 29 other justices of the Supreme Court. They arrived at Louhajang at around 11:30am. Police said, High Court Judge AHM Shamsuddin's paternal home is at Paise village in Louhajang upazila. The chief justice and the Supreme Court judges came to visit Louhajang at the invitation of Justice Shamsuddin. Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Sagufta Yasmin Emily, who was on an official visit to her electoral constituency Louhajang, after being informed of the visit by the Supreme Court justices met them and exchanged pleasantries. The guests later at 4:00pm went to Padma Resort Centre and spent some time there. They also enjoyed an hour-long speedboat ride on the Padma. They left for Dhaka at around 6:30pm.

**Criminal killed in 'gunfight'**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet**

A criminal was killed in a 'gunfight' with Rapid Action Battalion at Kaliganj in Bishwanath upazila of Sylhet early Thursday. The deceased was identified as Ansar Miah, 28, son of Ehsan Ali of the upazila. Acting on a tip-off that the criminals were holding a secret meeting at Kaliganj, a team of Rab raided the area. Sensing their presence, the criminals opened fire on the elite force, which forced them to fire back. At one stage, Ansar was caught in crossfire and died on the spot. Ansar was accused in more than 15 cases including for murder and robbery. Police later recovered the body and sent it to Osmani Medical College and Hospital.

**Prime accused surrenders**

**A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj**

Delinquent Alam, 20, prime accused in sensational Chand Moni suicide case, surrendered before Kishoreganj Magistrate Court on Thursday. Bilkis Afroj Chand Moni, 14, daughter of Abdul Mutalib of Satal Battarj Para in Kishoreganj Sadar and a class nine student of local Azim Uddin High School allegedly committed suicide on March 17 in her house due to teasing by her cousin Alam and three other Alam's accomplices. The following day Abdul Mutalib, father of Chand Moni, filed a case with Sadar police station accusing Alam, Saddam Hossain, Abdur Rahman and Rasel Mia.

**Trainee teachers agitate**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet**

The trainee teachers at the Sylhet Primary Teachers' Training Institute (PTI) agitated for the third day yesterday against three instructors accusing them of 'misconduct'. They handed over a memo to the District Primary Education Officer yesterday demanding immediate withdrawal of the three instructors and withdrawal of the showcause notice on the trainees. The official assured them of taking appropriate measures on enquiry. The trainees alleged that instructors -- AKM Ibrahim, Diponkar Mohanta and Idris Ali Khan -- often misbehave with them for unknown reasons. Besides, the instructors also used abusive words in classes, the trainees alleged. The PTI authorities earlier issued showcause notices on the trainees for their alleged absence on April 14, although they all attended the Pahela Baishakh celebration, they said.

# Court rejects bail prayers of 14 Jamaat-Shibir men

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi**

A Rajshahi court yesterday rejected bail prayers of 14 leaders and activists of Jamaat and Shibir in connection with the Rajshahi University (RU) violence cases.

Meanwhile, police arrested a Shibir activist as he went to Rajshahi Police Lines for attending recruitment tests for police sub inspectors.

The 14 Jamaat-Shibir men including Rajshahi city Jamaat

Ameer Ataur Rahman, publicity secretary Emaj Uddin Mondol, former ward councillor Gias Uddin, RU Shibir president Shamsul Alam Golap and Martyr Habibur Rahman Hall Shibir president Rajul Islam were taken to the metropolitan magistrate court.

Metropolitan magistrate Ziaur Rahman rejected their bail prayers submitted in connection with the cases filed by RU Chhatra League (BCL) general secretary Majedul Islam Apu and BCL

worker Ruhul Amin in connection with Shibir attacks on Shah Makhdom and Habibur Rahman halls.

Police arrested Ahsan Habib, a RU student from Atrai, Naogaon and FIR named accused in the February 9 RU violence case from Rajshahi Police Lines.

He went to the police lines for taking the written examinations for the post of police sub inspector, said Tofazzel Hossain, OC of Motihar police station.



Chairman and members of Rangpur Union Parishad under Dumuria upazila of Khulna district have been carrying out their activities outside the UP office for the last seven years as police have set up a camp there.

# Police occupy UP office in Dumuria for 7 years

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**

Twelve of the 13 rooms of Rangpur Union Parishad in Dumuria upazila of Khulna district are still used by police since setting up of a camp in two buildings of the UP office on July 19 in 2003.

As the chairman and 13 other people including members and employees of the union parishad, have remained without any office room for the last seven years, activities of the union parishad are now being done in the houses of chairman and members, sometimes in tea stalls and other available places.

Due to the situation, over 20,000 people of Rangpur union have been suffering a lot as they often fail to get the chairman and members in times of need.

Rangpur UP Chairman Shoumitra Biswas and members Chitta Ranjan Joarder and Kalipada Biswas told this

correspondent that on several occasions during the last two years they appealed to higher authorities of the police department to shift the camp but to no effect.

"The police department set up the camp on the two UP buildings in the name of containing criminal activities. They set up the camp on condition of using the buildings only for two months. But now they are reluctant to shift the camp," said Dumuria upazila chairman Gazi Abdul Hadi.

People will go on movement to free the UP buildings if the camp is not shifted by this month, said UP Chairman Shoumitra Biswas.

The camp manned by 60 policemen is 20 kilometres away from Dumuria upazila Sadar.

When asked, Khulna Police Superintendent Tanvir Haider Chowdhury said he would look into the matter and talk to the authorities on the issue.



Farmers in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) expect bumper yield of bell fruit, locally known as jamrul, this year due to favourable weather condition. Photo shows a jamrul tree full of red-colour summer fruit at an orchard in Dighinala upazila of Khagrachhari district.

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