

# Mob assaults UNO for assaulting elderly person

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

An angry mob assaulted the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Bagmara in Rajshahi as the UNO misbehaved with an elderly person during a drive to evict illegal traders at a local bazaar yesterday.

The UNO, AKM Maruf Hasan, accompanied by six policemen and 20 Rab members, went to conduct the eviction drive at around 11:00am, said witnesses and law enforcers.

An hour later when there was a quarrel over functioning of the hat, the UNO slapped Mojibur Rahman, 65, a farmer, also maternal uncle of local lawmaker Enamul Haque. The officer also kicked a youth and ordered arrest of the two persons.

Terming the matter unfair, locals carrying sticks encircled the UNO and beat him up.

Police and Rab men rescued the UNO from the angry mob. "I am preparing to file a case against the attackers on charge of creating obstacle to performance of government duty and assaulting me," the UNO told this correspondent.

He said the eviction drive was conducted following complaints by Amzad Hossain, the leaseholder of Shikdari Haat.

The haat (village market) normally functions on Saturdays and Tuesdays but the cow traders of Bagmara upazila started business there on Thursdays from April 29 without any permission, said locals and police.

The cow traders from Ahsanganj cattle market in neighbouring Atrai upazila also shifted there following harassment by extortionists and criminals, they said.

# 4 'stalkers' arrested in N'ganj, Benapole

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Police yesterday arrested four alleged stalkers in Narayanganj and Benapole while students and people in Pabna formed a human chain demanding action against stalkers.

Special Branch (SB) of Detective Police yesterday arrested three youths from in front of Narayanganj Government Girls' High School at Sher-e-Bangla Road at Masdair on charge of teasing girl students.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of district DB Police Mainur Rahman told to our correspondent that a team of SB was patrolling near the school. At the time of break the stalkers started teasing the girls by using mobile phones and singing songs and making remarks. The team arrested the four from the spot.

A Correspondent from Benapole reports: Police yesterday arrested an 18-year-old youth from in front of Navarone Burujagan Government Primary School on charge of teasing a class five student on her way to school.

Locals caught the teenage boy as he held the hand of the girl trying to take her with him.

A case has been filed with Sharsha police station.

In Brahmanbaria, a police official was manhandled on

Tuesday as he went to arrest an alleged stalker at Gokorna village in Nasirnagar upazila, according to UNB.

Teenage son of Amir Hossain of Gokorno Pashchim Para used to harass a girl student of class IX of Gokorno Syed Waliullah High School, since long, police said.

The girl was also physically tortured by the boy on her way back home from school by a rickshaw on April 13.

Being informed, Saiful, Sub Inspector of Nasirnagar police station, along with a constable went to arrest the accused at the village at 5:00pm but the boy's family members swooped on Saiful and manhandled him.

Our Correspondent in Pabna adds: Several hundred students and people yesterday formed a human chain demanding effective steps to stop stalking.

A local NGO and Mohila Parishad, Pabna district unit jointly organised the human chain in front of Annada Gobinda Public Library in the morning.

A dozen other non-government organisations also participated in the programme.

At a discussion after the rally, the speakers urged the authorities to take urgent steps including social awareness programmes to remove the menace from the society.



Intra-party rivals loyal to Sylhet district BNP convener Ilyas Ali vandalise the podium in the city's Court Point area, where city BNP was scheduled to hold a rally, right, stick wielding activists chase rivals during the intra-party clashes yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

# 25 injured as Sylhet BNP factions clash

## Ilyas Ali's men foil rival's rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Twenty-five people sustained injuries as two factions of Sylhet BNP engaged in clashes in Zindabazar and Court Point areas in the city yesterday afternoon.

Police charged truncheons to control the situation and arrested 20 people, said Kotwali Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mohammad Ali Bhuiyan.

Most of the arrestees belong to the faction led by Sylhet district BNP convener Ilyas Ali.

At about 3:20pm, activists of the group backed by district BNP convener

Ilyas Ali vandalised the podium in Court Point area where BNP Sylhet city unit and a faction of district BNP organised a rally at the end of a fortnight-long anti-government agitation programme that Ilyas group had opposed from the very beginning, said party insiders.

Shortly afterwards, a procession of the city unit of BNP started for the rally venue but it came under attack by intra-party rivals near Zindabazar point, witnesses said.

The clashes that followed left 25 people injured and eventually foiled the rally organised by the faction led by city

BNP chief Dr Shahriar Hossain Chowdhury and joint convener Nasim Hossain, known as followers of late finance minister M Saifur Rahman.

Rezaul Hasan Lodi, a ward councillor of Sylhet City Corporation, was admitted to a private hospital with head injuries.

Most other injured took first aid. Two gunshots were also fired into the air during the clashes.

Some agitators broke the camera of Prothom Alo photographer Anis Mahmud and took away the camera of Shabbir Foyez, a journalist of local daily Shyamol Sylhet.

# 7sued in Khulna, Bagerhat on war crime charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Three people have been sued in Khulna on charge of killing a freedom fighter (FF) during liberation war in 1971 at Chandpur village under Rupsha upazila in the district.

Advocate Sheikh Mohammad Ali filed a petition case as complainant on May 2 with the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate Md Asaduzzaman.

He accused three alleged collaborators of Pakistan occupation forces of killing his father Aminuddin Sheikh on October 19 in 1971.

The accused are Shahbaj Halder, son of late Jumatulallah Halder, Amjad Mina, son of late Golam Rahman Mina of Alaipur village under Rupsha upazila and Jalil Howlader of Narkeli village under Mongla upazila of Bagerhat.

The Chief Judicial Magistrate ordered OC of Rupsha police station on Tuesday afternoon to take necessary legal action in this regard after proper investigation.

The complainant said in the petition case that the accused picked up freedom fighter Aminuddin Sheikh at gun point from his house at Chandpur village and shot him dead at about 11 pm.

Later, they beheaded him and cut his body into pieces and threw those in the nearby pond owned by Matleb Howlader of the same village.

The complainant further said that the accused later looted money, paddy, rice, 49 cows

and goats and fishes of the victim's pond.

The accused also threatened to kill all family members of slain freedom fighter several times after independence.

In 1973, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibar Rahman donated Tk 2,000 to the members of the deceased freedom fighter, he said.

Another case was recorded with Mongla police station on Monday night accusing seven people of killing seven freedom fighters on April 12 in 1971 at Bajirkhondo village under Mongla upazila of Bagerhat district.

Complainant Shanti Ranjan Halder of Sitakhali village under the same upazila stated in his case that the accused shot dead the seven freedom fighters and slaughtered them at 5 pm on April 12, 1971 near a canal at the same village.

Later, the killers set houses of the slain freedom fighters on fire after violating women and looting money and gold ornaments, the complainant said.

The accused in the case are Ohid Sarder, Moslem Fakir, Taleb Fakir, Mahatab Mridha, Kalam Mridha, Helal Farazi and Chand Mridha.

The slain freedom fighters are Annoda Halder, Manohar Halder, Boudha Nath Mallick, Chirananda Dhali, Tushar Kanti, Saroj Mallick and Nakul Thakur.

The case is now under investigation while the accused have absconded, police said.

# Mirzapur massacre day today



Ranada Prosad Saha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Today is Mirzapur massacre day.

On this day in 1971, Pakistani occupation forces led by Captain Ayub with the help of local collaborators shot dead 28 innocent people including women and children at Mirzapur and Andara villages adjacent to Kumudini Hospital.

Earlier on the day, the Pakistani army stormed the compound of Kumudini Hospital and Bharateswari Homes and looked for Ranada

Prosad Saha (RP Saha), a great philanthropist and founder of the hospital and homes.

"After the massacre in the two villages, the same Pakistani army team went to the residence of Jethamoni [RP Saha] in Narayanganj town and abducted him, his only son Bhabani Prosad Saha and three others from there. The five persons were lost for ever," said Protibha Mutsuddi, director of Kumudini Welfare Trust.

Marking 'Ranada Abduction Day', Kumudini Welfare Trust has arranged different programmes includ-

ing special prayers and spiritual songs at 7 in the morning followed by a discussion meeting at Kumudini Complex.

Mirzapur villagers have also arranged special prayers, feeding the destitute and three-day kirtan (devotional songs) at Ranada Nat Mandir, set up on the village home of RP Saha.

Thirty-nine years after the brutal killings in Mirzapur no monument has been constructed there to preserve the memory of martyrs for the future generation, lamented Durlav Biswas, a freedom fighter in Mirzapur.

## SNIPPETS

### Cocktails recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A woman received minor injuries in a cocktail blast in Barguna yesterday as she opened an unattended bag at the foreyard of her son-in-law's house at Chuikata village under Amtali. Police later recovered four cocktails from there around noon yesterday. A Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) team defused the cocktails. The injured woman, identified as Salina Begum, 50, who came on a visit to her son-in-law's house, took first aid from a local doctor. Abdul Jalil, SI (Sub Inspector) of Amtali police station said a case was filed with Amtali police station in this regard.

### Current nets seized

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel seized contraband goods including current nets and smuggled motor parts worth about Tk 7.60 lakh from Bhaberber and Gatipara borders at Benapole yesterday morning. None could be arrested in this connection. The seized goods have been deposited to Benapole Customs House. A Chandpur Correspondent adds: Chandpur district administration yesterday seized 3.5 lakh metre of current nets worth about Tk 70 lakh. The seized banned current nets were burnt on the bank of the Dakatia River in Chandpur town area at 10:00 am.

### FF killed in attack

UNB, Brahmanbaria

A freedom fighter (FF) was killed when he went to save tractor workers from the wrath of attackers in Akhaura upazila on Wednesday. Some local people locked in an altercation with two tractor workers - Nurul Islam and Khayer Mia - when the workers were unloading fish-feed at Mogra Bazaar at 8:00am. At one stage, locals beat up the two workers mercilessly. As freedom fighter Haji Shamsu Mia, 65, of the same village went to save the workers the angry people attacked and beat him dead on the spot.

### 5 factory workers hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Five workers of an accessories factory in city's Oxygen area were injured when hot water from a dying machine fell on them yesterday. The injured identified as Rubel, 25, Jakir, 35, Eklas, 25, Subas, 27, and Dipak, 24, were the workers of National Accessories Limited under Bayezid police station. Factory Manager Sanjoy Barua said that the accident occurred at the dying section at around 11:30am when worker Rubel opened cover of a dyeing machine before releasing pressure from it. "As the cover was opened, the hot water from the machine fell on Rubel and four of his fellow workers leaving them burn injured," Sanjoy said.



Local Awami League leader Abdul Berek and his brother Abdul Kader have set up 'Joy Bangla Hotel' on a piece of land after forcibly taking it from a lessee at Jharbari in Birganj upazila of Dinajpur.

# Using 'Joy Bangla' slogan

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A local leader of ruling Awami League (AL) has set up 'Joy Bangla Hotel' on a 0.5 decimal government khas land at Jharbari village of Birganj upazila in the district after grabbing it from Md Abdus Salam who had been using the land following a lease order 20 years ago.

Villagers said Md Abdul Berek, general secretary of AL ward committee of Shatagram UP in the upazila, and his brother Md Abdul Kader accompanied by their hired goons ousted Abdus Salam from the land on April 22.

Afterwards, the two brothers set a signboard reading 'Joy Bangla Hotel' having a picture of boat (electoral symbol of the AL) on it and started an eatery there.

Earlier Abdus Salam ran a small restaurant there but after the April 14 nor'wester damaged it he did not get any scope to restart the business as ruling party men occupied the land.

Salam told this correspondent last week

that he complained to the Birganj upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) but no action was taken against the grabbers belonging to the ruling party.

When contacted, Abdul Berek said he took control of the land and used political symbol of AL there as the upazila AL leaders gave him the nod. He added that he could also manage the AL high-ups.

Expressing shock over using party symbol to grab land, Md Aminul Islam, a former AL leader of Birganj upazila, suggested that the AL leaders take organisational action against such people.

Asked about the matter, an official at the police station concerned said they urged the local AL leaders to take action against their party men for the unwanted act but to no effect.

Lawmaker from the constituency, AL leader Monoranjan Shill Gopal could not be contacted despite repeated attempts as his cell phone was found off.

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