



Another PCJSS man abducted in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Another leader of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) was abducted from Boalkhali area under Dighinala upazila in Khagrachhari district yesterday.

Police quoted locals as saying that a group of armed men raided Boalkhali Bazar at around 10:00am and picked up Paran Dhon Chakma 52, publicity secretary of PCJSS (Santu Larma group) Dighinala upazila unit.

Being informed, law enforcers rushed to the area and launched drives in nearby jungles to rescue the PCJSS leader.

Officer-in-charge of Dighinala Police Station Subhash Chandra Pal said they will launch drives in other areas of the upazila to rescue Paran Chakma.

On Tuesday last, PCJSS Laxmichhari upazila unit leader Chaithowai Prue Chowdhury was picked up from his house at Kutubchhari allegedly by the cadres of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF).

Police could not rescue Chaithowai, also the member of Barmachhari Union Parishad, even after five days of his abduction. PCJSS claimed that UPDF cadres abducted their leaders.

Denying the allegation, UPDF Publicity Secretary Niron Chakma said the two PCJSS men were abducted by their rival party men.

Mrasathowai Chowdhury, president of Aikka Parishad, an organisation of Marma circle, in a press release yesterday urged the district administration and law enforcers to rescue Chaithowai, vice president of the organisation.

Basharpara village in Fulchhari upazila of Gaibandha district goes under water as flood hits the upazila yesterday, right, two women of flood affected Etapota village under Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila wade through knee-deep water to reach a safer place.

Thousands more marooned in Gaibandha shoals

Flood situation static in Lalmonirhat

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Flood situation worsened in Gaibandha while it remained static in Lalmonirhat yesterday.

In Gaibandha, the flood situation deteriorated further leaving around 25,000 more people marooned in shoals and low-lying areas, reports our correspondent.

Jamuna further swelled flowing 35 centimetre above the danger mark yesterday while the water level of river Ghagot increased by 18 cm and Teesta by 58cm.

Fresh areas in Shaghata and Fulchhari upazilas were inundated as water continued to enter villages through the breaches of the town protection dyke.

A large number of people

in the newly affected areas shifted to safer places including flood shelters.

Road communication in shoal areas of four upazilas snapped as all the village roads went under knee to waist deep water. Marooned people were seen moving with the help of boats or banana rafts.

Croplands on vast tract went under flood water damaging recently planted Aman seedlings.

Scarcity of pure drinking water became acute in the flood-affected areas, as most tube-wells went under water. Flooding also shut down educational institutes in those areas in the Jamuna basin.

Meanwhile, over 500 more

families were displaced due to erosion by river Jamuna at Sathalia, Bera, Hasilkandi, Munshirhat areas under Shaghata union. The victims have taken shelter on the embankment.

In Lalmonirhat, the flood situation remained unchanged in 50 villages under 14 unions of five upazilas yesterday, reports a correspondent.

Most flood-hit people have taken shelter on government roads, schools, colleges and at relative's houses. Still, a large number of them were under the open sky.

They are facing food and pure drinking water scarcity in several areas of Patgram, Hatibandha, Kaliganj, Aditmari and Sadar upazilas.

Till yesterday no relief from government or from NGOs reached the areas, victims alleged.

The most affected areas are Dohagram, Kuchilbari, Sahab Danga, Majhitari, Sree Rampur, Burimari of Patgram upazila, Goddimari, Sindurna, Dawabari, Dowani, Patikapara, Saniyazan and Paruliya villages of Hatibandha upazila, Totmari, Rudreshwar, Char Kakina, Mohishamuri villages of Kaliganj upazila, Mohishkhoa, Gobordhan, Kutirpar, Balapara villages of Aditmari upazila and Khuniya Gachh, Rajpur, Gokunda, Kurul, Etapota, Bongram, Kulaghat and Mogholhat villages of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

30 injured as BCL attacks IU bus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

At least 30 students of Islamic University (IU) were injured as Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists attacked a university bus carrying the students to the campus from the district town on Friday night.

According to police, 20 to 25 BCL men, led by Kushtia Sadar upazila BCL General Secretary Zillur Rahman, stopped the bus at Madhupur, two kilometres off the campus, around 8:30pm and vandalised it.

At least 30 IU students, who were returning to the campus from the district town in the bus, were injured during the attack, police added.

When police reached the spot, the BCL men fled the scene. Police later riaded different places in Madhupur, Laxmipur and its adjacent areas, but could not arrest any of the BCL men involved in the incident.

A case was filed with Islamic University Police Station, accusing 20 BCL men of ransacking the bus.

However, Normalcy

returned to the campus yesterday morning and the university buses were seen plying different routes of Kushtia and Jhenidah.

University Registrar Dr Moslem Uddin told this correspondent that classes and examinations were held as usual.

On Thursday, IU BCL activists halted movement of the university buses demanding immediate release of four of its leaders.

Police said a group of about 20 BCL men halted the first trip of transport at Alampur around 8:00am on Kushtia-Jhenidah highway and snatched the key from one of the drivers.

Several police teams from Kushtia rushed to the spot and escorted the buses to campus.

The BCL men again took away keys of buses of the second trip at customs intersection in the town at around 9:00am, forcing the drivers to go back to the garage.

Proctor Mahbubul Arefin blamed a group of BCL men, who are not students of the university, for the unrest on the campus.

BM College probe points at BCL

A CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A three-member probe committee on Wednesday afternoon submitted a six-point report blaming BCL cadres for assault on teachers and students at Government Brojo Mohon (BM) College on Sunday.

Prof. Ramizuddin, head of the probe committee and chairman of physics department, submitted the report to the principal of the college Prof. Nanigopal Das. Two other members of the committee Prof. Nazrul Islam, chairman, soil science and SM Alauddin, associate professor, accounting department, were present on the occasion.

In the report, Mozammel Alam Rana of Moin Tushar group and Al Amin Mamun of rival Rafiq Semiat group of the college unit of BCL, were blamed for instigating and leading Sunday's incident. The report backed the college authority's decision to expel and take legal action against them, said the college principal.

Five other recommendations in the report stressed on taking prior permission from the chairmen of the departments concerned about any extra-curricular activities like

study tour, picnic, wall magazine; visibly putting identity cards to prevent outsiders from entering the campus; more active, regular and dynamic role of the college disciplinary committee on the campus; opening five gates in campus area maintained by members of campus police camp; and submitting list of troublemakers to the college authority by the hostel superintendents.

The principal said that the college academic council will meet soon to implement the recommendations of the probe committee.

The teachers and students of the college staged protest against the assault on five teachers for the third day Wednesday. They also attended classes wearing black badges.

The agitating students demanded a campus, free from terrors and outsiders, restoration of academic environment and punishment to the offenders.

The college authority has expelled two students, suspended three others and sued another 40 after Sunday's incident on the campus.

Later police arrested two BCL cadres in this connection.

A town that has no town service bus

People suffer as three-wheelers take undue advantage

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, Rangamati

Commuters in Rangamati hill town have to count exorbitant amounts as they depend solely on CNG-run autorickshaws in absence of any town service bus.

Disagreement on fare of the three-wheelers often leads to altercation between drivers and passengers while the latter even face verbal or physical abuse for declining to pay 'excess fare'.

As per the fare fixed by the district administration, autorickshaw drivers realise Tk 20 per passenger (a three-wheeler carry five passengers although its usual capacity is three persons per trip) for going to Reserve Bazar or Tabalchhari from Vedvedi by

whereas it would be half if town service is opened, locals said.

One has to pay much higher amount if he wants to carry goods in the town or surrounding areas.

Only half of the 414 four-stroke three-wheelers plying the hill town have got road permit, sources said.

During the period of past BNP-led four-party alliance government, Moni Swapan Dewan, the then deputy minister for CHT affairs ministry, tried to introduce bus service in the district town but the initiative failed in face of opposition from leaders of Rangamati District Auto-rickshaw Sramik Union.

Paresh Mojumder, secretary of union, however, said, "People will be benefited if

'town service' is launched. Why should we oppose such initiative?"

When contacted, Dipankar Talukder, state minister for CHT affairs ministry, said, "Initiative will be taken very soon for a roundtable to decide about launching town service. Chairmen of CHT Regional Council and Hill District Council or their representatives and all stakeholders will be called at the roundtable. I hope town service will help to mitigate people's sufferings."

"A meeting of BRTA will be held within this month in Rangamati. The issue launching of 'town service' will be discussed in the meeting," said Souendra Nath Chakrabarty, deputy commissioner of Rangamati.

Missing Bogra college student found dead

UNB, Bogra

Body of a college student was recovered from nearby Joypurhat district railway station on Friday.

The deceased was identified as Selim, 22, son of Shamsur Rahman of Kazla village in Sariakandi upazila of Bogra district.

Selim was a degree examinee of Bogra Government Azizul Haque College. Family sources said Selim went missing on Thursday afternoon.

Police suspected that the criminals took him to Joypurhat and strangled to death on that night following a previous enmity.

Joypurhat police on information recovered the body and handed it over to his family members after autopsy.

A case was filed with Sadar police station.

Meanwhile, an alleged thief was killed in mob beating while trying to steal valuables from a house at Gobindapur village in Shibganj upazila early Friday.

The deceased was identified as Harun-or-Rashid, 35, son of Abul Hossain of Kalai Didamgara village of nearby Kahalu upazila.

Police and locals said a gang of thieves entered the house of Hafizar Rahman of the village. Sensing the presence of the thieves, the members of the house raised a hue and cry.

Locals rushed to the spot and caught one of the thieves, Harun, and gave him a good beating leaving him dead on the spot.



Police arrested 24 alleged activists of banned Allar Dal at Rother Bazar village under Gaibandha Sadar upazila yesterday. Locals besieged them while holding a secret meeting at a house in the early morning and handed them over to police.



Commuters in Rangamati are solely dependent on CNG-run autorickshaws in absence of any town service bus in the hill town.

Tiger kills woman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Tiger killed a woman at Golabaria under Koira upazila of the district on Tuesday afternoon.

Victim Shujata Mandol, 35, was wife of Shuranjan Mandol of Maheshwaripur Union under the same upazila. The tragic incident occurred when she was catching shrimp fries from Shakbaria river.

Later, the forest guards recovered her body from inside the Sundarbans in the evening.

Jubo League man killed

A CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Police recovered the body of a local Jubo League leader from the T&T pond at Singra bazar, about 300 meter away from Singra police station, yesterday afternoon.

The victim was identified as Atiqur Rahman Bidyut, 27, son of Jahangir Hossain of Baluvora area of Singra municipality and vice president of Singra municipality Jubo League.

Police and locals said, some unidentified people called out Bidyut of his home on Thursday night. On receiving a call over cell phone he hurriedly went out and remained missing till yesterday afternoon.

Later local people saw his body floating in the T&T pond in the afternoon and informed police. Police recovered the body at around 5:00pm.

Abul Kalam Azad OC of Singra police station said, Bidyut was shot dead by criminals.

Meanwhile, police arrested two people in connection with the murder. They were identified as Ziaur Rahman Zia, 25, and Atiqur Rahman Sumon, 28,

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