



Power-hungry people demonstrate at Naohata point on Rajshahi-Naogaon Road, right, vandalise the main office of Rajshahi Palli Bidyut Samity in the area yesterday. Several other districts witnessed similar incidents due to power outage.

PHOTO: STAR

## Cry for power, protest against outages on

STAR NATIONAL DESK

People besieged electricity offices and blocked roads and rail tracks, turning violent at places, in protest against frequent power cuts across the country during the ongoing humid weather.

Over 20 people, including two police officers, two Ansar members and an electricity official, were injured as locals ransacked offices of Palli Bidyut Samity at Naohata of Paba and Bhawaniganj of Bagmara upazilas in Rajshahi district yesterday, reports our staff correspondent from Rajshahi.

Demanding smooth power supply, the agitators also put electric poles and torched tyres, blocking Rajshahi-Naogaon and Bhawaniganj-Rajshahi roads.

Over a hundred people stormed the head office of Rajshahi Palli Bidyut Samity after the PBS officials returned a group of villagers telling them that the power crisis cannot be solved shortly.

The angry mob broke the main gate and the security check post and pelted insiders with stones and bricks. Ansar members Faridul Islam and Babur Rahman and employee Punam Das received serious injuries on their heads.

The attackers ransacked the GM's office, administrative building, store and workshop while several officials and staff hid at other rooms to save themselves.

"Villagers want 24-hour power supply but it is just impossible. We are getting only 10 MW supply against average daily demand of 42 MW. The problem worsened as the power distribution is being centrally controlled," said Abdur Rahman Sarker, AGM of the office.

In Bagmara, the sub-office of Natore Palli Bidyut Samity came under attack at around 11:00am. In one and a half hours, the locals damaged 10 transform-

ers, 25 meters, two computers, two motorcycles, wireless and telephone sets while rampaging the office.

The mob also assaulted Jesmin Akhtar, a cashier of the office, and sub inspectors Mahabur Rahman and Zahangir Hossain.

Ekrumul Haque, deputy general manager of the office, said they are facing an extra power shortage due to 'central control' over the local power distribution.

Oor Tangail Correspondent reports: Power hungry people besieged the electricity office in Tangail town and the Gopalpur zonal office of Rural Electrification Board (REB) on Monday night demanding smooth electricity supply.

The people of Gopalpur upazila under the banner of 'Gopalpur Bonik Samity' brought out a procession at the upazila headquarters in the evening demanding smooth power supply in the upazila. Later, locals besieged the REB office at night and damaged its gate.

As the people of Dhulerchar and Hazraghat areas under Sadar upazila besieged the power office in the district town at 9:00pm, the officials and employees of the office fled for safety, sources said.

The protesters alleged that officials and employees of the power office demanded Tk 5,000 for change of the 200KV transformer in their area that got burnt 17 days ago.

Earlier in the morning, locals blocked road at Basail upazila headquarters for two hours protesting unusual load-shedding in the upazila.

Tangail district unit of Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Janata League brought out a procession and held a rally in the town yesterday morning demanding smooth power supply in the district.

Hundreds of people of Sharifpur and Ranagacha

unions under Sadar upazila blocked Jamalpur-Mymensingh-Dhaka highway and Nandina Railway Station by setting fire on tyres and leaving trees and bamboos on the road and rail lines at Nandina Bazar in the district yesterday, reports a correspondent from Jamalpur.

During the blockade from 12:00pm to 4:00pm, intercity Teesta, Agnibina up and Commuter down trains remained stranded at Nurundi, Peyarpur and Jamalpur stations while several hundred buses and trucks, bound for Jamalpur and Dhaka, got stuck on the road, much to the suffering of people.

Following assurance from the local administration of smooth supply of electricity, people withdrew their blockade at 4:00pm.

Aggrieved women on Sunday night vandalised the Palli Bidyut Samity office at Protap under Nalchiti upazila protesting frequent power cuts, reports a correspondent from Jhalakathi.

At around 8:00pm, around 20 to 25 women of Bhairabpasha and Protap area entered the office and damaged chair, table and other furniture, said Habibur Rahman, general manager of Jhalakathi Palli Bidyut Samity.

Hundreds of power-hungry people in Birganj upazila of Dinajpur yesterday besieged Palli Bidyut Samiti office at Basundhara village demanding smooth power supply in the upazila, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

A correspondent adds from Chandpur: Locals yesterday blocked Chandpur-Comilla highway at Mohamaya Bazar under Sadar upazila demanding uninterrupted power.

The agitators set fire to tyres on the road during their demonstration from 10:30am to 12:30pm, creating a huge tailback on the road for hours.

## BARAPUKURIA AGITATION CALLED OFF

# Compensation before Eid promised

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Villagers around Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Ltd (BCMCL) yesterday called off their 'indefinite blockade' programme as the BCMCL authorities assured the agitators to disburse compensation money before the upcoming Eid festival.

They started the agitation on Monday noon demanding compensation for damage of infrastructures in 15 villages caused by underground mining, resettlement of affected villagers with premium compensation for land subsidence due to the same cause and job opportunity at BCMCL for members of the affected families.

The agitators had blocked two entrances of BCMCL, keeping the officials and staffs virtually confined to the complex.

Yesterday's settlement came at a meeting between the leaders of Bhumi O Sampad Rakkha Committee, a body representing the affected villagers, and

BCMCL authorities. Local administration arranged the meeting at Monmela Rest House of BCMCL.

"We called off the programme as the BCMCL authorities gave assurance to give compensation before the Eid," said Md Mokhlesar Rahman, president of Bhumi O Sampad Rakkha Committee, after the two-hour-long meeting that ended at around 4:00pm.

The meeting decided to form a committee comprising high officials from Petrobangla to assess the damage of infrastructures caused by underground mining, BCMCL Managing Director (MD) Quamruzzaman said.

At the meeting the leaders of Bhumi O Sampad Rakkha Committee demanded suspension of the land survey but the MD was able to convince them that the land survey was to be completed for the sake of issuing the premium compensation for land subsidence.

Earlier in the morning

yesterday, the agitating villagers blocked Parbatipur-Maddhapara highway and threatened to block the rail track if their demands were not met immediately.

The affected people started the agitation programme as the BCMCL authorities failed to meet their demand despite assurance given during a similar programme on July 19, said the agitators.

Earlier on March 10 this year, the affected villagers observed went on a hunger strike to press home their demands.

The land subsidence, which was first detected in May 2006, till date damaged at least 646 acres of land and affected at least 2600 families of 15 villages around Barapukuria coal mine, BCMCL sources said.

Meanwhile, the coal production of BCMCL has remained suspended since May 11 this year when an accident inside the mine left one person killed and 18 others including two Chinese miners wounded.

## 5 Khulna Shibir leaders shown arrested in police assault case

### Shibir cadre beaten up in Rajshahi

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Five leaders of Islami Chhatra Shibir, arrested on Sunday in Digholia upazila of Khulna, district, were shown arrested in police assault case yesterday while a Shibir activist was beaten up by BCL men in presence of the law enforcers on Rajshahi University (RU) campus the same day.

In Khulna, police picked up Shibir Khulna district unit leaders Mohammad Sohel Hossain, Sadiqur Rahman, Jalal Sheikh, Mohammad Saifullah and Abdur Rahim from a mosque where they were holding a 'secret' meeting, reports our staff correspondent.

Police said the five Shibir leaders were planning to carry out subversive activities in Khulna city in protest against arrest of city Jamaat Ameer Mian Golam Parwar and 46 others Jamaat and Shibir men following assault on policemen in the city on June 30.

Two of them, Mohammad Sohel and Sadiqur Rahman, were taken on a two-day remand in connection with the police assault case filed with Khulna Sadar Police Station under sections 4 and 5 of the Speedy Trial Act on June 30.

On the day, leaders and activists of Khulna district and city units of Jamaat and Shibir

brought out a procession in the city demanding release of three top Jamaat leaders. They swooped on the law enforcers at Dakbunglow Square, leaving four policemen, including OC Munirul Gias of Khulna Sadar Police Station, injured.

According to a RU correspondent, BCL men belonging to Rajshahi University unit beat up a Shibir activist on the campus in presence of the law enforcers yesterday.

A group of BCL activists led by Firoz Ahmed, Masud Rana and Asadur Rahman picked up Shibir activist Abdur Malek, a third year student of Islamic history department, from Shahidullah Arts Building at around 11:30am.

Witnesses said the BCL men took Malek to Rabindra Arts Building gate and beat him up with sticks and iron rods in presence of the law enforcers.

Later, police arrested Malek in connection with February 9 violence on the RU campus. BCL men alleged that Malek took part in the violence that left BCL worker Faruk Hossain dead.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Motihar Police Station Abul Khair told this correspondent that necessary steps against the arrestee would be taken after primary interrogation.

## ডেঙ্গু প্রতিরোধে চাই জনসচেতনতা

**ডেঙ্গু কি?**

ডেঙ্গু একটি ভাইরাস জ্বর। এডিস মশা ডেঙ্গু ভাইরাসের একমাত্র বাহক। এই মশার কামড়ে ডেঙ্গু ছড়ায়। এডিস মশা দিনের বেলায়, সাধারণত ভোরে এবং সন্ধ্যায় কামড়ায়।

**ডেঙ্গুজ্বরের সাধারণ লক্ষণ**

- ❖ জ্বর (শরীরের তাপমাত্রা হঠাৎ বৃদ্ধি পায়)।
- ❖ মাথা ব্যথা, চোখের পিছনে ব্যথা, পেটে ব্যথা, মাংসপেশী ও হাড় ব্যথা (বিশেষতঃ মেরুদণ্ডে ব্যথা), বমি-বমি ভাব।
- ❖ শরীরে হামের মত দানা দেখা দেওয়া।

**ডেঙ্গুজ্বরের ব্যবস্থাপনা**

- ❖ অধিকাংশ ক্ষেত্রে ডেঙ্গুজ্বর ৭ দিনের মধ্যে এমনিতেই সেরে যায়।
- ❖ রোগীকে উপসর্গ অনুসারে প্রয়োজনীয় চিকিৎসা দিতে হবে এবং বিশ্রামে রাখতে হবে। প্রচুর পানি ও তরল খাবার খাওয়াতে হবে।
- ❖ দ্রুত জ্বর কমানো একান্ত জরুরি। এজন্য মাথা ধোয়া, ভিজা কাপড় দিয়ে গা মোছা এবং প্যারাসিটামল খেতে দেয়া যেতে পারে। এ্যাসপিরিন জাতীয় ঔষধ কোনভাবেই খেতে দেয়া যাবে না।
- ❖ মারাত্মক (হেমোরাজিক) ডেঙ্গুজ্বরে আক্রান্ত হলে রোগীকে অবিলম্বে হাসপাতালে/ডাক্তারের কাছে নিতে হবে।

**ডেঙ্গু প্রতিরোধে করণীয়**

- ❖ এডিস মশা নিয়ন্ত্রণ ডেঙ্গু প্রতিরোধের প্রধান উপায়।
- ❖ বাড়ির ভেতর/বাহির/ছাদ এবং আনাচে-কানাচে পড়ে থাকা অপ্রয়োজনীয় পাত্রসমূহ ডাষ্টবিনে ফেলে দিন। বাড়ির আশপাশের ঝোপঝাড় এবং আদিনা পরিষ্কার রাখুন।
- ❖ ব্যবহারযোগ্য পাত্রসমূহে (যেমন বালতি, ড্রাম, ফুলের ও গাছের টব, ফ্রিজ এবং এয়ার কন্ডিশনারের নীচের পানি ভর্তি পাত্র ইত্যাদি) পানি কোনভাবেই যেন একনাগাড়ে ৫ (পাঁচ) দিনের বেশি জমে না থাকে, সৈদিকে লক্ষ্য রাখুন।
- ❖ অব্যবহৃত গাড়ির টায়ার, নির্মাণ কাজে ব্যবহৃত চৌবাচ্চা, পরিত্যক্ত টিনের কৌটা, প্লাস্টিকের বোতল/ক্যান, গাছের কোটর, পরিত্যক্ত হাড়ি, ডাবের খোসা ইত্যাদিতে ৫ (পাঁচ) দিনের বেশি যেন পানি জমে না থাকে সৈদিকে লক্ষ্য রাখুন এবং প্রয়োজনে অপসারণ করুন।

এডিস মশা নিয়ন্ত্রণের জন্য সকল নাগরিকের সক্রিয় সহযোগিতা প্রয়োজন

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ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন

## A Mock Battle Against Mass Casualty



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A rehearsal on mass casualty management was held at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) yesterday.

The Directorate of Health, CMCH authorities, Fire Service and Civil Defence and Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) jointly organised the programme titled "Simulation on Mass Casualty Management and Handling over Ceremony of MCM Logistics" with financial assistance from Action Aid and European

Commission for Humanitarian Aid in front of the CMCH emergency department.

Around 100 doctors, nurses, firemen, community and Red Crescent volunteers, scouts and policemen took part in the rehearsal that started at 1:00pm.

A number of 'victims' of mock earthquake and fire were rushed by ambulance to the CMCH emergency department where the doctors and nurses separated them with green, yellow and red wristbands and gave

primary treatment before admitting to the hospital.

Command post, first aid treatment booth, attendants' waiting room, and media cell were also set up on the premises of the emergency department.

Director General of the Directorate of Health Prof Shah Monir Hossain, CMCH Director Brigadier General Md Jahangir Hossain Mollick, Fire Service and Civil Defence Director Major MM Matiuur Rahman and Acting Chief

Executive of YPSA Mahabur Rahman were present among others.

Prof Monir in his speech said a well-planned management system for treating the injured during a disaster can save many lives. He urged all concerned to remain prepared and perform duty with utmost sincerity during any disaster.

Earlier, mass casualty management equipment worth about Tk 18 lakh were handed over to the CMCH authorities by the YPSA and Action Aid.

## Robbers kill house owner, loot bus

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Robbers barricaded highway and looted a bus and a truck in Rajshahi yesterday while another gang killed a house owner in Manikganj on Monday.

In Rajshahi, highway robbers looted a truck and a night coach barricading the Rajshahi-Dhaka highway at Belpukur under Puthia upazila early yesterday, reports our staff correspondent.

Among the injured, three were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital (RMCH) with critical wounds. They are - Abdul Matin, 40, a straw businessman of Natore, truck driver Saidur Rahman, 35, of the Naboganga in Rajshahi city and bus

passenger Mofizul Islam, 40, of Chapainawabganj.

Six other bus passengers were treated at Puthia health complex. They are Masudul Islam, 40, Tozimul Haq, 55, Monirul Islam, 30, Sohel Ahmed, 30, and Somirul Islam, 25, of Chapainawabganj and Babul Islam, 40, of Tangail.

According to injured people, a gang of around 15 armed robbers barricaded the Nawardapara-Belpukur bypass road putting bundles of jute plants and logs at Belpukur point while a truck loaded with straws was going to Natore from Naogaon.

They robbed Tk 15,000 from the straw trader and Tk 5,000 from the truck driver and their mobile sets. The robbers equipped with hammers,

machetes and rods also waylaid a Dhaka-bound night coach of Lata Enterprise from Chapainawabganj at the same point, said the injured.

They smashed windows of the bus before taking away cash and valuables including mobile phones from the passengers.

In Manikganj, robbers looted 12 tolas of gold ornaments killing an elderly housewife at Singair Pukurpur on Monday night, reports our correspondent.

The victim was identified as Huma Devi Chakrabarty, 70, wife of Subodh Chakrabarty. She is the mother of Manabendra Chakrabarty, Singair upazila correspondent of the Daily Ittefaque.

Police Superintendent Md Masud Karim said the criminals killed Huma

Devi likely as she could identify them.

In Bagerhat, robbers looted valuables from two houses at Ghanashyampur village in Fakirhat upazila early Monday.

Police said, a gang of masked robbers numbering 7/8 swooped on the house of Nitai Devnath, breaking open the door at dead of night.

The gang looted valuables including cash and gold ornaments keeping the members of the house hostage at gunpoint.

Anita Devnath, 35, was injured as the robbers stabbed her, leaving her critically injured. She was rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital. Later, the same gang stormed into the house of Sadhan Devnath and looted valuables at gunpoint.