

Hard rock miners plan rail, road barricade

Strike continues, ultimatum ends but no programme today due to hartal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The miners of Madhyapara Granite Mining Company Ltd (MGMCL) continued strike for the third day yesterday to press for their seven-point demand including reinstatement of five fellows and withdrawal of the case filed against them by the authorities.

miners gave a 24-hour ultimatum to the authorities concerned to meet their demands. Otherwise, they threatened to go for a tougher agitation from Tuesday morning. Though the deadline ended yesterday, the miners deferred their programme due to a country-wide hartal to be enforced by the opposition BNP on the day.

Addressing a press conference at Dinajpur Press Club on Sunday, the miners alleged that the MGMCL authorities terminated five miners on November 25 without serving any show cause notice on them.

Miners have been demanding regularisation of their job with MGMCL for long. Against this backdrop, they protested appointments of nine officials and held demonstration when the officials went to the site for joining on November 23.

MGMCL authorities said the miners assaulted the officials and snatched their appointment letters. The company dismissed five miners and filed a case against them following the incident.

Meanwhile, miners of Barapukuria Coal Mine and workers of Barapukuria Power Plant expressed their solidarity with the miners of MGMCL. Md Abul Basar, general manager (admin) of MGMCL, said the miners have been hired through the outsourcing company as per the decision of Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecneec).

At a meeting held at the entrance of MGMCL yesterday afternoon, the agitating miners announced that they would launch a tougher agitation programme including blocking of Phulbari-Rangpur highway and rail tracks from December 1.

“So MGMCL cannot regularise their job. But we’ve informed the ministry concerned about the miners’ demands,” he said.



A THING OF BEAUTY... as if heralding the advent of winter, a blooming mustard field at Patbila village in Kaliganj upazila in Jhenidah district offers a captivating sight.

PHOTO: STAR

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY IN DINAJPUR

Same old tale of violent attack by land grabber

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Several families of an indigenous community at Aluari village in Phulbari upazila of Dinajpur district are passing days amid panic as musclemen of a local influential person made a violent attack on them to grab their land on Saturday afternoon.



A piece of land of an indigenous family at Aluari village in Phulbari upazila of Dinajpur district lies barren after muscled men of a land grabber axed around a hundred trees there on Saturday. Inset, hapless family members of the victims.



MD Afzal Hossain of Hazipara village of Phulbari upazila accompanied by about 100 people equipped with sharp weapons and wooden sticks attacked the indigenous people to grab about 2.5 acres of land belonging to Shupal Soren, son of late Ramu Soren, locals said.

The village is home of about 30 indigenous families who have been living on government khasland for over 50 years.

The attackers beat up the indigenous people, injuring at least six of them.

Shupal Soren, 40, Mukhi Soren, 55, wife of late Ramu Soren, Ramnath Soren, 38, Gita Moni, 30, wife of Shupal Soren, Sunita Hemram, 27, wife of Manik Soren and Putul Murmu, 22, wife of Ramnath Soren were admitted to Phulbari Health Complex.

The criminals damaged a number of houses, crops and a church made of corrugated iron sheets, axed about 100 trees of a graveyard of the indigenous people and looted goods during the attack, alleged the indigenous people.

Informed, Phulbari police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Following the attack, Shupal and his family members have remained out of their house due to security threat.

Shupal and his three brothers along with their families have been living on the khas land as their forefathers settled there 50 to 60 years ago,

indigenous people of the village to leave the place. They also threatened of worse consequences if any case is filed against them.

Md Nabiul Islam, chairman of Aluari union parishad, also admitted that the indigenous people of the village have been living on the khas land for about 50 to 60 years.

Afzal Hossain could not be contacted as he remained out of his residence while his cell phone was found switched off.

AKM Sarwar, assistant commissioner (Land) of Phulbari upazila, declined to make any comments over the incident.

Jonas Soren, brother of Supal Soren, filed a case with Phulbari police station on Sunday night accusing at least 22 people for Saturday’s attack on indigenous people, said Md Shawkat Ali, officer-in-charge of Phulbari police station.

Nobody was arrested in this connection.

Two youths jailed for stalking

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two youths were jailed in Kushtia and Naogaon for stalking a housewife and a schoolgirl yesterday and the day before.

A man was sentenced to one year imprisonment yesterday for stalking a housewife in Chourhastha area in Kushtia town.

According to police, Selim Reza, 25, son of Amirul Islam of Monakhali in Mujibnagar upazila in Meherpur often stalked Surovi Khatun, 30, wife of Kamruzzaman of the area. Surovi’s mother of two children.

On Monday, Selim entered into Surovi’s house with a bad intention when her husband was not at the house at about 8.30pm.

Surovi informed the matter to Kushtia Sadar police and concerned magistrate.

Executive magistrate Mokhlesur Rahman with police team rushed to the spot and arrested Selim.

After examining the situation and witnesses, the magis-

trate handed down the punishment to the stalker under Penal Code 509.

In Naogaon, a mobile court on Sunday night convicted a young man for sexually harassing a schoolgirl and sentenced him to six months imprisonment in Mukti crossing area of the district town, reports UNB.

The court also fined convict Ariful Islam Nayan, 20, son of Muzaffar Rahman of Chandipur village in Sadar upazila Tk 5000, in default, to suffer two more months in jail.

Police said Nayan was arrested red-handed in the afternoon while he was teasing Sraboni, a class VII student of a local school, while she was returning home from the coaching centre in the area.

Later, police produced him before the mobile court.

After examining witnesses and the victim, executive magistrate M Hedayet Uddin handed down punishment to the stalker.

He was sent to district jail yesterday morning.

Bombs recovered in Chuadanga, N’ganj

UNB, Chuadanga

Police recovered two live bombs from Baidyanathpur village in Alamdanga upazila on Sunday.

Police said locals found the two bombs in a betel-leaf field and informed them. Later, police rushed to the spot recovered the bombs at about 5pm.

Alamdanga OC said the bombs were wrapped up in a red tape.

In Narayanganj, police recovered 15 bombs and some sharp weapons from a jungle at Khirdasadi village in Araihaajar upazila on Friday afternoon.

Araihaajar police station SI Safiqul Islam said, on secret information, they raided the jungle and recovered 15 bombs, two knives and two bilhooks in a bag in abandoned

condition at about 3:30pm.

He suspected that the robbers kept the bombs and sharp weapons in the jungle to commit robbery at night in the area.

In Jessore, a housewife was injured in a bomb attack at Komorpol village in Keshabpur upazila early Sunday.

The injured was identified as Sobura Begum, 50, wife of Jakatullah Morol of the village.

Local people said a gang of criminals attacked the house late at night following a previous enmity and hurled bombs at the house leaving Sobura critically injured. She was rushed to a local hospital.

The gang later torched the kitchen and cow-shed of her house and fled away.

On information, police rushed in and recovered a hand bomb from the spot.

SNIPPETS

Power generation resumes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Remaining shut for one and a half months, the 9th unit of Shahjibazar power station in Habiganj district resumed operation yesterday morning putting the station’s total generation at 90MW. The unit stopped power generation on 13 October last due to a serious technical fault in the generator. The 8th and 9th units having 35MW capacity each started power generation first on 7 July in 2001. Running for 30 years, all the five units of the 104 MW gas-run Shahjibazar power station went out of operation in 1998. The units-5 and 6 were however, put into operation for producing 20MW in September this year after repairs by local engineers at a cost of Tk one crore.

Khulna Bar executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Advocate Sheikh Masud Hossain Rony of BNP-led four-party alliance and advocate Anisur Rahman Poplu of AL-backed 14-party alliance have been elected president and general secretary respectively of the 14-member new executive committee of Khulna District Bar Association. Eight hundred and seventy-seven out of 958 voters exercised their right of franchise in the annual election held from 9am to 3pm on Sunday at the auditorium of bar association. Results were announced at 8:45pm after completing counting of votes at 8pm by a four-member election committee headed by advocate Sheikh Yunus Ahmed. According to official results, the AL-led 14-party alliance panel captured nine out of 14 posts while the BNP-led four-party alliance won the remaining five posts in the election.

Youth commits 'suicide'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A young man allegedly committed suicide by going under the wheels of a running train near Rajshahi University mass grave yesterday. Deceased Mohammad Rafi, 20, son of Abdul Majid of Mirjapur area in the city lied down on the rail track at around 12.30pm. The Rajshahi-bound train Uttara Express ran over him severing his body into two parts, said railway police. Sub inspector Khorshid Alam of Rajshahi GRP who visited the scene and recorded statement of witnesses told this correspondent that Rafi used to work at a rural barbar shop.

'Thief' beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj:

A mob beat an alleged thief dead at Azaipur Moholla in the municipal area yesterday. The dead was identified as Yeasin Ali, 20, son of late Toufijul Hossain of Ramkrishnotopur area in the town. ASI Sayed, duty officer at Sadar police station said, Yeasin entered a grocery shop of Abul Bashar at Azaipur breaking the locks at around 5:00am to steal goods. Sensing the incident, locals surrounded the shop and caught him red-handed. Following a severe mob beating Yeasin was taken to Chapainawabganj Adhunik Sadar Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at around 12:20pm.

Viva voce date changed

RU CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of Rajshahi University (RU) will take the first year admission viva voce for DF1, F2 and F3 units tomorrow instead of today due to BNP called hartal. Sub-registrar of Life and Earth faculty, Abdul Hai said that they took the decision to avert any unwanted situation and sufferings of the admission seekers during day-long hartal. The details information of viva voce is available at the respective faculty offices and on the university website www.ru.ac.bd, dean office sources said.

Man stabbed to death

UNB, Narsingdi

A drug addict, who was stabbed grievously by criminals in front of Rail Colony in the district town Friday night, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Saturday. The deceased was identified as Kamal Miah, 35, son of late Ialam Miah of Baniachal area of the town. Police said a gang chopped Kamal indiscriminately at about 9pm in the area, leaving him critically injured. Hearing his shrill cry, local people rescued and rushed him to Sadar hospital. Later, he was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated where he died at midnight.

3 'smugglers' arrested

UNB, Sunamganj

Three 'smugglers' were arrested along with huge Indian Nasir bidi, current net and lead in separate drives in Biswambhorpur and Tahirpur upazilas Sunday and Saturday. Acting on secret information, a patrol team of 8 Rifles Battalion on Sunday conducted a drive at a cluster village in Biswambhorpur upazila and arrested three wanted smugglers along with 5,320 packs of bidi. The arrestees were identified as Abu Mia, 35, Abdul Jalil, 35, and Hasar Ali, 38. Earlier, BDR members in a drive on Saturday seized 7000 packs of Nasir bidi from Gamaritala in Biswambhorpur upazila and huge current net and lead from Shah Arefin Mazar area in Tahirpur upazila.

Bailey bridge over Chitra collapses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A bailey bridge over the River Chitra in Chitalmari upazila of Bagerhat district collapsed on Sunday morning, snapping road links between Bagerhat and some other districts.

The accident occurred soon after a stone-laden ten-wheeler truck (Dhaka Metro-Ta-16-2476) boarded the bridge at around 8:00am.

The stone-laden truck also fell into the river, but its driver and helper, however, survived and managed to escape.

According to Executive Engineer M Monowaruzzaman of Bagerhat office of Road & Highways Department (RHD), the Bagerhat-bound truck from Panchagarh district was carrying stones.

Though the bridge has ten tonnes load capacity, the truck was carrying 40 tonnes of stones, he said.

The engineer further said that at least seven days would be needed to reconstruct the bridge. The RHD will sue the owner of the truck with a demand for compensation, he added.

Witnesses said one Mesbahuddin and rickshaw van driver Ramen Biswas, who were on the bridge, have been missing since the incident while another named Nazrul Mir sustained severe injuries.

Son of Ashraf Mir of Chitalmari upazila, injured Nazrul Mir is undergoing treatment at Khulna Medical College and Hospital (KMCH), police said.



This bailey bridge over Chitra River at Chitalmari in Bagerhat district collapsed under the pressure of a stone-laden truck on Sunday.

PHOTO: STAR