

Hard rock miners give in to pangs of hunger

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Hard rock mining resumed on full-scale as almost all miners of Madyapra Granite Mining Company Ltd (MGCL) finally returned to work Saturday afternoon. The miners were on the indefinite strike on November 27 protesting termination of their five fellows including the president and the general secretary of Miners and Workers' Union of the company and withdrawal of the case filed against them by the authorities. MGCL officials said 287 out of 292 miners joined their work on Saturday and 10,000 tonnes of hard rock were extracted yesterday. The company incurred a loss of

Tk 1.2 crore due to the strike that continued for eight days, they added. Mining resumed partially on December 2 as 50 of the 292 miners joined their work on the day, considering the agreement they signed with the hiring authorities at the time of appointment. Miners have been demanding regularisation of their job with MGCL 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. The miners also assaulted the newly appointed officials. After the incident, the MGCL

authorities terminated five union leaders and filed a case against them with Parbatipur Police Station. The sacked miners are Md Mominal Haque Momin, president of MGCL Miners and Workers Union, Md Mostafizur Rahman, general secretary of the union, Md Mehedi Hasan, organising secretary, and union leaders Sadequul Islam and Shafiqul Islam Jaman, Company officials said 292 miners and workers were appointed by Blue Star Service on condition of 'no work no pay'. So, the strike enforced by them was illegal. The miners said, "We have joined our work, considering the financial loss we suffered in the last eight days."



PHOTO: STAR

A few of around 500 winter migratory birds that fell victim to poison traps set by poachers on the bank of Hakaluki Haor in Baralekha upazila of Moulvibazar district on Sunday.

Poachers poison to death hundreds of Hakaluki birds

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Over 500 winter migratory birds fell victim to poison traps set by poachers on the bank of Hakaluki Haor in Baralekha upazila of Moulvibazar district on Sunday. About 500 ducks and other birds, locally known as lenja hans, pati sorali, bhuti hans and chokchoki fell dead or half dead after eating paddy mixed with poison that the callous poachers put on the bank of the large water body. Seeing the poachers putting some half dead birds in bags, Muktar Hussain, a guard working under the Department of Environment (DoE) in Hakaluki Haor called other guards and caught three poachers red-handed.

The poachers -- Liton Miah, 25, Koyes Miah, 35, and Dula Miah, 30, of Judhistirpur village of Fenchuganj upazila, were later handed over to Baralekha police. A case was filed under Environment Protection Law against seven people on charge of poaching birds. The three arrestees have been sent to jail through the court and police is trying to arrest the other absconding bird poachers, said Amol Kumar Dhar, officer in charge of Baralekha police station. Two dead lenja hans were sent as sample to Baralekha upazila livestock office for autopsy. The rest of the poisoned birds were buried in a hole. Ecology of Hakaluki Haor will be threatened if use of poison traps continues to hunt winter birds, said Abdul Malek, officer of DoE in Kulaura upazila.

BCL activists beat up JCD leader at RU

RU CORRESPONDENT

Chhatra League (BCL) activists on Sunday night severely beat up a Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader at Rajshahi University (RU).

Sources said, BCL men Monirul Islam, Kabir Hossain and Tuhinul Islam beat up Iqramul Haque alias Hira, joint convener of RU unit JCD, with iron rods and hockey sticks in front of Ismail Hossain Siraji Bhaban of RU at around 8.00pm. Hearing that Hira was at Siraji Bhaban, the BCL men went to the spot and made a sudden attack while Hira was taking tea at a stall in front of the Bhaban, source said. As students gathered on the spot, the BCL men sped away leaving Hira seriously injured. On information, JCD men of the university unit rushed to the spot and took Hira to the university medical centre. Later, leaders and activists of the university unit JCD staged a demonstration on the campus, demanding punishment to the BCL attackers. BCL men said, they made the attack as Hira and his aides beat up BCL activist Monirul at Shaheed Habibur Rahman Hall playground around a week ago. Iqramul Haque Hira, however denied making any attack on BCL man on the campus. RU Proctor Prof Chowdhury Muhammad Zakaria told this correspondent that he will look into the matter and take action against those disturbing peaceful atmosphere on the campus,



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Students of Purbo Bairag Government Primary School in Anwara upazila in Chittagong seem to have a happy occasion as they get 'relief' from attending the primary terminal examination that started throughout the country yesterday. Twenty-eight thousand students of 110 schools in the upazila failed to take the examination as the question paper of Bangla examination did not reach the upazila in time.

'Bring Lipi's killer to book' Procession, rally in Manikganj protesting police inaction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Students of Government Devendra College agitated in the town yesterday demanding punishment to the husband who allegedly killed Asma Akter Lipi, a student of the college. The agitation programme included procession and human chain followed by a rally. Family members of Lipi and teachers of the college also joined the programme. The procession, brought out from the college campus, paraded the main streets of the district town. After the procession, the protesters formed a human chain and held a rally in front of Manikganj Press Club. A number of students of the college and father of Lipi addressed the rally. They demanded punishment to Mohammad Ali, husband of the victim, who allegedly stabbed Lipi to death on November 23, taking her to his uncles house at Kurgaon of Nabinagar in the city. Mohammad Ali, a navy personal and son of Ahammad Ali of Sametpur village under Daulatpur upazila of the district, married Asma Akter Lipi, daughter of Fazlur Rahman of Karjona village under Ghior upazila in July, 2009. Victim's family sources said Mohammad Ali killed Lipi after she took the decision to divorce him as he was a married person having wife and kids. A case was filed with Ashulia police station but police are yet to arrest the alleged killer.

Hill people block road to protest 'land grabbing'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Indigenous people of Lemuchhari under Mohalchhari upazila of Khagrachhari district yesterday blocked Rangamati-Khagrachhari road in protest against alleged land grabbing in the area by the settlers. They withdrew the road blockade at around 3:00pm after Khagrachhari Deputy Commissioner Anisul Haque Bhuiyan assured them of taking necessary steps to stop capture of their land by the settlers. The indigenous people alleged that hundreds of Bangalee settlers came to Lemuchhari on Sunday morning and constructed 10 thatched houses on 11 acres of land owned by Sunil Kanti Chakma and Ripon Talukder. The settlers captured the land and built houses on it in presence of the security personnel from Mohalchhari zone and Kerengana sub-zone, they further alleged. The ethnic people yesterday staged demonstration at Lemuchhari and destroyed the houses built by the settlers, sources said. The deputy commissioner along with the upazila nirbahi

officer (UNO) yesterday visited the spot and pacified the indigenous people. Mohalchhari Upazila Chairman Sona Ratan Chakma said tension ran high at Lemuchhari after Sunil Kanti and settlers had claimed the ownership of eight acres of land in the area. Sunil filed a case with Mohalchhari Police Station four days ago, accusing some settlers of 'grabbing' his land. Deputy Commissioner Anisul Haque Bhuiyan told this correspondent yesterday that he asked the settlers not to claim the ownership of the land until the issue is settled at the court. Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) yesterday issued a press release, alleging that the settlers backed by local administration are grabbing lands of the indigenous people. The PCJSS strongly condemned Sunday's incident and demanded removal of the settlers from CHT. Mohalchhari Bhumi Raksha Committee in a press release yesterday condemned the incident and demanded return of the lands grabbed by the settlers and removal of settlers from Lemuchhari.

ON THIS DAY IN 1971 Occupation army retreated from several more dists

STAR NATIONAL DESK

With rapid advances of the freedom fighters and Indian allied forces, more areas were liberated from the Pakistan occupation forces on December 7 in 1971. On this day, Gaibandha district (the then sub-division) was freed as freedom fighters and Indian forces captured the area following serious fighting during the last several days, reports our Gaibandha correspondent. During the nine months of liberation war, the Pakistan occupation forces with the help of their local collaborators committed massacre, torture and arson in the area. In November, new batches of trained freedom fighters entered the district through Maniker Char border and intensified attack on the occu-

ent organisations have taken up programmes to celebrate liberation of the district. Our Satkhira Correspondent reports: The people of Satkhira will observe 'Satkhira liberation day' today. Demoralised by successful operations of the freedom fighters in late November and early December, the Pakistan army left Satkhira on December 6. On December 7, groups of freedom fighters from different areas entered Satkhira town in triumphant processions. They hoisted the national flag of Bangladesh on Satkhira court building premises. To mark the day, Awami League-led grand alliance and Satkhira unit command of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad have chalked out elaborate programmes including discussion, rally and cultural function. Our Dinajpur Correspondent adds: People of Bochaganj upazila under Dinajpur district yesterday observed 'Bochaganj liberation day'. After a series of events during the liberation war, the freedom fighters with the help of Indian allied force on December 5 launched a fierce attack on the Pakistani troops, forcing them to retreat from the then Bochaganj thana. The freedom fighters entered the thana headquarters the next morning and hoisted the national flag of Bangladesh. As the news spread, people from the adjacent villages gathered there and rejoiced by chanting 'Joy Bangla' slogan.



PHOTO: STAR

Teachers and students of Government Devendra College in Manikganj, accompanied by the family members of slain Asma Akter Lipi, a student of the college, form a human chain in front of Manikganj Press Club yesterday demanding punishment to the alleged killer, Lipi's husband Mohammad Ali.

Main accused confesses to killing Suma of Barguna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Alleged Barguna stalker Mohsin gave his confessional statement while police recovered a sharp weapon used to chop college girl Suma Aktar yesterday. Main accused Mohsin Shikdar was arrested at about 7:00pm Sunday from a Dhaka-bound launch at Jhalakathi terminal, said Mahabub Hakim, police superintendent of Barguna. Police and court sources said Mohsin yesterday gave his confessional statement before chief judicial magistrate of Barguna Md Abdur Rob. In the statement Mohsin claimed that he was in love

with Suma for long and had proposed the girl and her family to solemnise their wedlock before his going abroad for service, the sources said. As Suma and her family refused to accept the proposal he decided to eliminate Suma so that none can marry her, Mohsin said in his statement. Mohsin said none but he himself chopped Suma. Meanwhile, Sub-Inspector Faruk Khan, investigation officer of the case, said police recovered the dao (cleaver) used to chop Suma from the bamboo cluster of Razzak Chowkidar in the area. Locals said Suma Aktar, 18, a higher secondary student, was severely chopped by

stalker Mohsin Shikdar, 29, and his friends on Saturday morning. Seriously injured in the legs, hand and body, Suma saved her life by jumping into a canal. The young men also attacked her father, neighbours said. Suma was rescued by the locals and sent to trauma center in the capital on Sunday night in a critical condition after being treated at Barguna General Hospital and then at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barisal. Two of Mohsin's friends -- Sohrab and Alamin, were also accused in the case lodged in this connection by Yunus Howladar, father of the victim.

Charges framed against 61 Sylhet mutineers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The special court-14, set up at Sylhet BDR sector headquarters, yesterday framed mutiny charges against 61 jawans of 38 Rifles Battalion under the sector. Of the accused, 34 claimed innocence while the rest confessed to their involvement in the mutiny and prayed for mercy. Earlier on October 20, Prosecutor Major Amanullah Khan, acting commanding officer of the battalion, read out the allegations against the accused at the court headed by Col SM Farhad. Two other members are Lt Col Akhtaruzzaman and Major Maksudul Alam. Deputy Attorney general Farhad Ahmed represented the attorney General while Special Public Prosecutors-Gazi Zillur Rahman and Habibur Rahman Sheikh were present. Major Abu Mohammad Siddique was friend of the accused. After the court framed charges, the prosecution witnesses gave their statements before the court. They said the accused had revolted at the battalion headquarters on February 26 last year,

expressing solidarity with the mutineers of BDR headquarters at Pilkhana in the capital. They took control of the battalion in the city's Akhalia area on Sylhet-Sunamganj highway, blocked the main road and set fire to the vehicles, the witnesses said. After recording the statements of the witnesses, the court adjourned the trial proceedings until 8:30am today. The then officer-in-charge of Sylhet Kotwali Police Station Syeduzzaman filed three separate cases with the Chief Judicial Magistrate court on May 17 last year against the rebel BDR men of Sylhet sector and two battalions. They were immediately arrested and were produced before the Chief Judicial magistrate, who sent them to the jail. Our Khagrachhari correspondent reported that the BDR special court-15 yesterday adjourned the hearing on charge framing against 47 accused of 29 Rifle Battalion until December 6. Three witnesses gave their deposition against the accused at the court. Three of the accused confessed to their involvement in the mutiny while rest 44 claimed innocence.



PHOTO: STAR

Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila command of Muktiyoddha Sangsad brings out a procession in Lalmonirhat town yesterday marking liberation of Lalmonirhat district from the Pakistan occupation forces on December 6 in 1971.