



PHOTO: STAR

A human chain was formed in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali on Friday demanding punishment of killers of a youth belonging to Rakhaine community.

Killing of Rakhaine youth triggers protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Members of the Rakhaine community here formed a human chain in Kalapara upazila town on Friday demanding arrest and punishment of culprits who attacked a youth of the community.

Rakhaine Samaj Kalyan Samity (RSS) organised the programme.

Mngwyan alias Tawan, 25, is now fighting for life at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College and Hospital.

A gang led allegedly by Shahabuddin attacked Tawan on December 21 evening at fisheries market in Kalapara town.

Locals admitted him to

upazila health complex from where he was shifted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College and Hospital.

Local elite including political and social leaders also took part in the hour-long human chain.

During the programme, a street corner meeting was held there where Usuya Howlader, president of RSS, Rakibul Hsan, secretary of Kalapara upazila Awami League, Sultan Mahmud, vice chairman for Kalapara Upazila Parishad, Amjad Hossain, president of upazila unit Jatiya Party and Nurul Haque Munshi, president of Kalapara Businessmen Association spoke.

The speakers demanded

immediate arrest and punishment of the attackers.

Eyan Rakhain, wife of Tawan said, her husband came under attack as he asked Shahabuddin to return Tk 10,000 that was borrowed by him from Tawan. The gang hit Tawan with sharp weapons. Earlier, Shahabuddin threatened Tawan with dire consequences, she said.

Eyan Rakhain also filed a case with Kalapara police station accusing 7 including Shahabuddin on December 22.

SI Kamol, investigation officer (IO) of the case, said they could not arrest any accused as all of them went into hiding. "We are trying our best to arrest them", he added.

BARAPUKURIA COAL MINE

Land subsidence victims lock in factional fight, 20 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

At least 20 people including two policemen were injured as police went into action to stop violent clashes between two groups of land subsidence affected villagers around Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Ltd (BCMCL) yesterday.

Earlier on Friday night, clashes between the two groups left some 25 people wounded, locals said.

The supporters of the two factions also set fire to different set-ups including two warehouses owned by Joyal Abedin and Redwan at Patigram and Kalupara on Friday night and Saturday morning, witnesses said.

As a sequel to Friday clashes, the two factions

equipped with local arms took position at different places around Barapukuria and engaged in chase and counter chase from 10:00am to 12:30pm.

A large number of law enforcers including riot police under two magistrates were called in to tackle the situation.

Ibrahim Khalil, convener of Jibon O Shampad Rakkha Committee, said the affected villagers want their compensation for the damage made due to activities of BCMCL. The government sanctioned Tk 191 crore for the affected people through a meeting at ECNEC, and villagers are ready to get their compensation although it is not satisfactory for them, he said. According to the government compensation

package, the affected villagers would receive Tk 20 lakh for per acre of arable land, 25 lakh for commercial land and Tk 2 lakh for landless people of the area.

But, a group opposed the decision, Khalil added.

In August last year, Md Mokhlesur Rahman formed Bhumi O Shampad Rakkha Committee comprising the breakaway faction of Jibon O Shampad Rakkha Committee. They demanded higher amounts as compensation for the damage.

Consequently, the residents of affected villages around Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Ltd (BCMCL) got divided into two groups over whether or not to accept the compensation package announced by the government.

Robbers kill one at Savar

UNB, Savar

Robbers killed a man and looted cash and valuables worth about Tk 1.50 lakh from a house at Khatarpara village in Tetulbar union early yesterday.

Police said, a gang numbering 30/40, stormed into the house of Abdus Sobhan after breaking open the collapsible gate of the house at about 3 am.

Later, the robbers looted valuables, including gold ornaments and cash, keeping the house members hostage at gunpoint.

When the gang was fleeing, house owner Sobhan, 38, son of Abdur Razzaq, raised a hue and cry for help. Sensing danger the robbers stabbed him indiscriminately leaving him dead on the spot.



PHOTO: STAR

Children find a befitting occasion to celebrate as they get textbooks on the first day of their new class, thanks to the authorities' successful start of free distribution of school books on the 'Textbook Festival Day 2011' coinciding with the happy New Year. The photo was taken at Medical College Hospital Government Primary School in Chittagong yesterday.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS



PHOTO: STAR

Rabindra researcher Dr Noni Gopal Saha receives a presentation at the function marking centenary of Gitanjali, the Nobel Prize winning poetry of Rabindranath Tagore, at Faridpur Zila Parishad Auditorium yesterday. Gitanjali Shatobarsho Udjapon Parishad organised the programme.

52 bombs recovered

UNB, Narsingdi

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members recovered 52 bombs from a graveyard at Bhuiyan village in Sadar upazila yesterday evening. Major Abdur Rahman of Rab-11 said, acting on secret information, a team launched drives at separate places of the village and recovered the bombs digging soil of a graveyard at about 5:30 pm. He said the bombs were kept hidden for carrying out sabotage. None was arrested in this connection.

BCL men held with pistol

RU CORRESPONDENT

Two activists of Chhatra League (BCL) were arrested along with a pistol and three bullets from Puthia upazila Friday midnight. The arrestees are Asaduzzaman alias Asad, a BCL activist of Rajshahi University unit, also a student of accounting and information system department and Selim Reza, a worker of Binodpur Chhatra League unit of the district. On information that Asad and Selim were going to Baneshwar Bazar with firearms by a motorbike from the university campus, law enforcers of Puthia police station stopped them near Puthia Bazar at around 11:30pm and arrested them with the firearms, sources said.

Jasim Palli Mela begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

The fortnight-long Jasim Palli Mela, a fair in honour of late folk poet Jasim Uddin, began at Ambikapur in Faridpur yesterday. Labour, employment and expatriate welfare minister engineer Khondoker Mosharrif Hossain inaugurated the fair as chief guest in the afternoon. The fair will continue till January 15. At the opening session of a discussion on the poet, SM Nurunnabi, central member of advisory committee, Begum Saleha Mosharrif, MP, Arun Chandra Mohottom, additional deputy commissioner (revenue) and poet's son Dr Jamal Anwar spoke with Faridpur deputy commissioner Helaluddin Ahmed in the chair.

RU students boycott classes demanding new grading system

RU CORRESPONDENT

Students of business studies faculty under 2004-05 and 2005-06 sessions at Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday boycotted classes demanding results under newly approved indifferer grading system.

They also locked the faculty dean office for over one hour and staged demonstration on the campus to press home their demand.

Earlier, at around 11:00am, over 300 students of marketing, management, accounting and finance and banking departments brought out a procession wearing back badges on the campus.

Later, they locked the faculty dean office at the university dean complex and staged demonstration in front of the office till 12:30pm to press home their demand.

The students alleged that they will be deprived of better opportunities in job markets as students of the next batches will secure

higher grade points getting the same marks.

"Under University Grants Commission (UGC) approved new system followed from 2006-07 session, a student secures 3.75 points getting 'A' grade where as under the old system he will secure 3.50 points getting the same grade," said a student.

The students alleged that earlier they discontinued agitation on December 21 on assurance from the faculty dean that the authorities will hold academic committee meeting on December 28 to look into matter but they are yet to take any such initiative. They also called for an indefinite strike at the faculty from today if their demand is not met within 24 hours.

Prof Shah Nowaz Ali, dean of business studies faculty told this correspondent that they would need some more time as the 'system is a little complex in nature'.

Sources said no class and examination were held at the faculty during the agitation.

Sramik Dal leader beaten to death in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A local Sramik Dal leader was beaten to death by ruling party cadres in Matiranga upazila Friday night.

The deceased was identified as Md Sirajul Islam, 60, son of late Abu Bakkar from Chowdhury Para of same upazila in the district. He was the president of Matiranga upazila Sramik Dal.

Police and local sources said, an altercation took place between Sirajul and some Awami League cadres over a trifling matter in Matiranga bazaar area Friday evening.

At one stage, the rival group swooped on him and

beat him up mercilessly.

Seriously injured Sirajul was admitted to Matiranga health complex at 09:00pm. He was referred to

Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH) in critical condition but he died on the way.

President of Matiranga upazila AL Md Samsul Islam said, however, said that Sirajul died of heart attack during the altercation.

Officer-in-charge of Matiranga police station Mizanur Rahman said he was aware of the incident, adding the body was sent to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital for autopsy.



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