

SIX-KM-LONG BOAT CHAIN, RALLY FOR BARISAL UNIVERSITY 'Start session without delay'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal
'Barisal University Implementation Committee' yesterday held a six-kilometre-long boat chain, a human chain and a rally to press for immediate implementation of the project of Barisal University (BU), the only proposed general public university in Barisal division. Students of different

educational institutions, their guardians, and people from cross sections of people participated at the programme. The speakers at the rally urged the government to lay foundation of the BU at the selected site in Karnakati and start academic session at rented premises till the infrastructures are completed. Implementation of the project for establishing a

university in Barisal is hanging for over three decades although more than 30 public universities have been established in different parts of the country during this time, they said. Decision to establish a general public university in Barisal was first approved during the tenure of late president Ziaur Rahman on November 23, 1979. On September 17 in 2006, the then prime minister

Khaleda Zia laid the foundation stone of the project to set up the university on 50 acres of land at Defulia on the outskirts of the city near the borders of Barisal, Jhalakathi and Pirojpur districts after the parliament approved that the university would be named after Ziaur Rahman. Later the caretaker government changed the site for the university at Gorir Par,

about eight kilometres from the city centre near BKSP on November 10, 2008 and the University Grants Commission advertised for appointment of a vice chancellor for Shaheed Ziaur Rahman University on November 25, 2008. A fund of Tk 95 crore was approved in the meeting of ECNEC on November 29, 2008, and the authority also decided to start classes of five departments of the university by renting 16 rooms on Barisal Zila School campus in 2009-10 academic session. However, that project was abandoned after the Awami League (AL)-led grand alliance came to power. Later on March 9 in 2010, the government piloted a bill in parliament titled Shaheed Ziaur Rahman University, Barisal (Amendment) Bill 2010 seeking renaming of the proposed university as Barisal University, which was duly approved. Prof Dr Harun-or-Rashid Khan, director of Barisal University Implementation Project, said due to stay order of the court, even after placing a fund of Tk 7.44 crore for acquisition of land, the project authority is yet to receive its possession.



The main street in Brahmanbaria district town during hartal yesterday. BNP enforced the hartal protesting alleged vote rigging in January 27 by-polls in B'baria-3 constituency.

ALLEGATION OF 'VOTE RIGGING' IN B'BARIA Hartal enforced by BNP passes off peacefully

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A dawn-to-dusk hartal enforced by local unit of opposition BNP to protest 'vote rigging' during January 27 by-polls in Brahmanbaria-3 constituency passed off peacefully yesterday. BNP called the hartal in the constituency after its

candidate was defeated by the ruling Awami League candidate by a margin of 40,510 votes in the election. Private offices, educational institutions, business houses, shops and super markets remained closed. All modes of transports but a few rickshaws were off the roads during hartal hours. Four opposition activists

sustained injuries as police charged batons on pickets at Moulvipara. They were given first aid at a local clinic, said BNP district unit secretary Md Zahirul Haque. Besides, pickets took positions at different points, including Kalibari intersection, Kachari Pukurpar, Medda and Kautali points, since morning.



PHOTO: STAR

Cross sections of people including a large number of students join a six-kilometre-long boat chain in Kirtankhola River yesterday demanding early start of academic activities of Barisal University.

59 Indians languishing in Satkhira district jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

At least 59 Indian nationals including three women are languishing in Satkhira district jail, despite completion of their prison terms.

The jail authorities tried several times to send them back to India but the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) repeatedly refused to accept them.

The Indian nationals now languishing in the district jail are Montu Paramanik, 33, Ashraf Sheikh, 45, Sabbir Rahman, 35, Shah Jahan Ali Molla, 33, Md Zakir, Nazir Hossain, 32, Anajali Devi alias Monju Rani, 40, Bijoy Kumar, 42, Smriti Mondal, 40, Bai Mondal, 38, Modon Karmokar, 35, Bhaskari Nayeki, 32, Nazrul Mondal, 33, Yakub Ali Khan, 30, Montu Chang, 38, Baddi Mondal, 45, Maharu Kalsingi, 28, Harmaji Pandi, 38, Mohammad Reza, 70, Sree Ram Milon, 50, Ram Sing, 35, Zinkao, 37, Ashik Sheikh, 27, Mahadev Ghosh, 60, Naresh Chengshi, 40, Sambori Wang, 28, Ganesh Goshwami, 35, Subol Kanti Mondal, 45, Majer, 35, Jinnah, 36, Rajpal, 33, Ajit, 44, Kanna, 44, Rajkumar, 24, Sohrab, 70, Shariful Islam, 38, Sanyasi Das, 36, Abul Sheikh, 38, Gopal Mondal, 50 and Chhunna Sing, 50.

They hail from Indian states of West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tripura, Rajasthan, Hariana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh. They were arrested by Bangladesh Border Guard (BGB) and police from the border areas in last one decade on charge of their involvement in various crimes including smuggling, arms peddling.

They were convicted by the courts concerned and were sentenced to suffer two to five years rigorous imprisonment. Prison terms of some of the convicts were completed in 2002.

On completion of their prison terms in different jails including in Satkhira, the jail authorities tried to send them back to India several times but Indian Border Security Force (BSF) declined to accept them on the plea that they can not do it without 'order from the government.'

While talking to this correspondent, Shah Jahan Ali Molla, Sanyasi Das and Mahadev Ghosh and others at the jail gate recently urged the authorities concerned to take measure so that they can go back to their houses in India. But the jail authorities are yet to be able to release them due to 'indifferent attitude'

of the BSF, jail sources said. The jail authorities even tried to push them back to India on completion of their prison term last year but they would take them only after verifying their nationality. Since then on step was taken by the BSF authorities in this regard, jail authorities said. Contacted, Satkhira Jail Superintendent Nurun Nabi Bhuiyan said, the prisoners were brought to the district from other jails in the country and their jail terms ended two to five years back.

"We could not send them back as the Indian authorities are not showing interest," he said.



PHOTO: STAR

Fifty-nine Indian nationals including three women, convicted for various crimes during the last one decade, are languishing in Satkhira jail even after end of their prison term as Indian Border Security Force repeatedly refused to accept them.

Rivals kill outlaw

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

An outlawed party leader was stabbed to death by his rivals in Bethuri river terminal of Goalanda upazila in Rajbari district Saturday night.

Deceased Kadam Ali Sardar, 60, was son of late Khidir Ali Sardar of Bethuri village and 'regional leader' of outlawed Sarbahara Party. Locals said a gang of 10-12 people swooped on Kadam near Bethuri ghat area at about 7:30pm. They stabbed him indiscriminately leaving him dead on the spot. Ilyas Hossain Mollah, sub-inspector of Goalanda police station said Kadam was an accused in Yakub murder case of 2007. He was on bail, he added.

Verdict in case against 61 mutineers today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The special court-14 will deliver judgement in the mutiny case against 61 jawans of BGB Sylhet sector headquarters today.

The court headed by Col SM Farhad, fixed the date on completion of arguments between the prosecution witnesses and the accused on December 29 last year.

During the argument, prosecutor Major AKM Aurangajeb stated that 61 jawans took control of the sector headquarters in the city's Akhalia area on Sylhet-Sunamganj Highway on February 26, 2009. They looted arms and ammunition from armoury, set fire to some vehicles and put up barricades on the highway, he added. Of the accused, 28 confessed to their involvement in the mutiny while the rest claimed innocence. The then officer-in-charge of Sylhet Kotwali Police Station Syeduzzaman filed

three separate cases with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court on May 18 in 2009 against the mutineers of Sylhet sector and two separate battalions under the sector. They were immediately arrested and produced in the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court that sent them to jail hajat. It will be the fourth judgement in the cases for mutiny in greater Sylhet region. The special court-3 sentenced 14 jawans of 8 Rifles Battalion, Sunamganj, to different terms of rigorous imprisonment on August 2 last year. The second judgement was delivered on December 29, awarding jail terms to 39 personnel of 21 rifles Battalion. In the third case, 59 jawans of 38 Rifles Battalion were jailed on December 30. Deputy Attorney general Farhad Ahmed will represent the attorney general while special public prosecutors Gazi Zillur Rahman and Md Habibur Rahman Sheikh will remain present.

Latif finally caught

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chnauabganj

An absconding college teacher, who allegedly took video footage of his illicit act with a student here in Shibganj, was sent to jail on his surrender before a court on Wednesday.

Accused Abdul Latif, assistant professor of chemistry department of Binodpur Degree College remained absconding for over three months. He appeared before the Court of District and Sessions Judge, Chapainawabganj and prayed for bail. Judge Anwar Hossain rejected his bail prayer and sent him to jail. Police said, Latif took video footage of his illicit act with a student of the college in his mobile phone in 2007. Later, the girl was married to a schoolteacher of the same upazila and they had a child. Meanwhile, Latif's mobile phone went out of order last September and he took it to a service centre at Binodpur Bazar. Technicians at the centre copied the obscene video and sent those to a number of mobile phone holders. Angry over seeing the footage, the girl's husband sent her to her parent's house on October 1 last year. As the news spread, the next day hundreds of students of Binodpur Degree College, their guardians and people of Binodpur village demonstrated and confined college principal Ruhul Amin to his office for at least two hours demanding punishment of Abdul Latif. Same night, the girl filed a rape case with Shibganj police station and Abdul Latif went into hiding.



PHOTO: STAR

Organisers of a so-called 'adivasi mela (fair meant for indigenous people)' at Balabhir village in Boda upazila under Panchagarh district have continued arranging deceitful lotteries in the name of 'lucky coupon' to fleece innocent villagers while law enforcers are turning a blind eye. x

Obscene dance, illegal acts under the guise of fair

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Obscene dance, gambling and deceitful lottery are going on under the guise of 'adivasi mela' (fair of indigenous people) at Balabhir village in Boda upazila of Panchagarh district. A couple of days after the fair started on January 7, the organisers arranged round the clock gambling at the site where ganja, phensidyl and other harmful items are sold, villagers said. Many innocent people are becoming losers while the activities, run throughout the night, cause disturbance of students ahead of the SSC examinations. Civil and police administrations are yet to take any action although there is no legal permission to run gambling, raffle draw and Although the organisers claimed it to be a fair meant for indigenous people, no cultural activities of indigenous people were seen when this correspondent visited the fair on Friday. In the name of jatra (open air drama), several groups are performing obscene dances in presence of policemen. A public representative of Boda upazila, also a local leader of ruling Awami League, along with a few political colleagues are conducting the activities, locals said.

Admitting organisation of jatra, lottery and gambling at the 'adivasi mela' without legal approval of the administration, acting in charge of Boda police station Sub Inspector Harun-or-Rashid said, "As local ruling party men arranged it for indigenous people's welfare, we overlooked the matter. But all these activities will be stopped from tonight [Sunday]." When contacted, leader of Panchagarh Indigenous People's Welfare Association Rajoni Kanti Mardi said, "Although it has been arranged in the name of indigenous people's welfare we are yet to get benefit from it." When contacted, Vice-Chairman of Boda upazila parishad Mofizur Rahman said, "No nude dance is being performed here. I have ordered the organisers not to hold any gambling at the jatra compound. We have taken verbal permission from the authority." He, however, declined to say who the authority is. District Superintendent of Police Shahriar Rahman said the jatra has been permitted but obscene dance and gambling are not allowed there. Upazila Nirbahi Officer Sarwar Alam could not be contacted for his comment as he did not receive his cell phone despite repeated calls from this correspondent.



PHOTO: STAR

National Awami Party, Communist party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal and Gonotantri Party jointly formed a human chain in Moulvibazar town yesterday demanding early repair of Moulvibazar-Shamshernagar road that has remained in a dilapidated condition for long.