



PHOTO: STAR
Supporters of National Committee for Protection of Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Port set fire to the rail tracks during their six-hour-long road, rail blockade programme in Phulbari upazila of Dinajpur district yesterday protesting the government's move for open pit mining at Barapukuria.

RAIL, ROAD BLOCKADE IN PHULBARI

Locals say 'no' to open pit mining at Barapukuria

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

National Committee for Protection of Oil, Gas, Mineral resources, Power and Port, supported by a section of locals, observed a six-hour-long road and rail blockade programme in Phulbari upazila yesterday in protest against the government's plan to go for open pit mining at Barapukuria. The speakers at a rally on the occasion also urged the government to meet the six-point demand as per the agreement signed on August 30 in 2006, following the death of three people on August 26 the same year when aggrieved

villagers tried to besiege the Asia Energy office in Phulbari.

During yesterday's programme, the agitators damaged two microbuses, a motorcycle and a bicycle.

The blockade programme that started at 6:00am forced the railway authorities to reschedule the times of seven intercity trains plying different routes from Dinajpur to Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna.

The trains that departed from their respective stations remained stranded at railway stations in Birampur and Parbatipur upazilas, much to the sufferings of thousands of passengers, said Md Abdus

Sattar, stationmaster of Phulbari railway station.

The protesters also burnt tyres and continued picketing at different places of Phulbari upazila, disrupting road communication between Dinajpur and other parts of the country during the six-hour-long blockade programme.

At a rally held at Dhaka Moar, Anu Muhammad, secretary general of National Committee for Protection of Oil, Gas, Mineral resources, Power and Port, and its convener Sheikh Muhammad Shahidullah, local leaders and a few leaders of left leaning parties spoke.

At the rally chaired by

Syed Saiful Islam Jewel, convener of Phulbari unit of the protection committee, the speakers gave more 15 days to meet their demand.

Earlier on February 28, the leaders observed a blockade programme at the same places and gave a 30-day ultimatum for the same.

Ahead of yesterday's protest programme, police and Rapid Action Battalion members were deployed on Sunday night to tighten security of Asia Energy Office, Phulbari Railway station and other key establishments in the upazila, sources of Dinajpur police administration said.

BARISAL, KHULNA DIVISIONS

Polls to 148 UPs today

STAR NATIONAL DESK

All preparations are set as 93 unions in 12 upazilas of Barisal district, 39 unions in five upazilas of Khulna district and 16 unions in two upazilas of Bagerhat district go to union parishad (UP) elections today.

Elections in 944 centres of 93 unions of 12 upazilas under Barisal division will be held today, the first day of the March 29-April 3 elections covering 294 out of 346 union parishads (UP) in Barisal division, reports our Barisal correspondent.

Of the 944 centres, 247 are in 27 UPs of four upazilas in Barisal, 250 in 14 UPs of one upazila in Patuakhali, 93 at 10 UPs of one upazila in Pirojpur, 147 in 19 UPs of two upazilas in Bhola, 108 in 12 UPs of two upazilas in Jhalakathi and 99 centres in 11 UPs of two upazilas in Barguna district.

Law enforcement agencies have marked 1724 out of 2636 vote centres in 294 unions of 40 upazilas under six districts of Barisal division as sensitive or risk-prone, said Dr Abdur Rahim, deputy inspector general (DIG) of police (Barisal Range).

More than five thousand members of law enforcement agencies including police, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and coast-guard under 125 magistrates will be deployed to help conduct free, fair and peaceful elections to the 294 UPs from March 29 to April 3, he said.

Over 18 thousand candidates for 294 chairmen, 2646 general ward members and 882 reserved member posts for women are contesting in

this election, said Manirul Islam, acting deputy election commissioner in charge of Barisal division.

Expressing hope to conduct free, fair and peaceful elections, EC officials urged all the candidates to help maintain law and order during the election and post election period, by accepting the results.

Our staff correspondent reports from Khulna: Five lakh 95 thousand and 452 people are expected to exercise their right of franchise in 373 polling centres in today's elections in 39 unions of Batiaghata, Dakope, Digholia, Paikgachha and Koira upazilas under Khulna district.

A total of 1,502 policemen and 502 Ansars were sent to polling centres on Sunday

afternoon to maintain law and order to hold elections and fair, said Khulna District Election Officer (DEO) Bibhore Kumar Biswas.

Rab will do patrol duty in and around polling centres for the same purpose, he said.

A total of 235 candidates are in the race for chairman posts, 1659 for posts of general members while 536 will vie for women's reserved seats of members in these 39 unions today, District Election Office sources said, adding that 373 presiding officers, 1,847 assistant presiding officers and 2,694 polling officers will be on duty during the election.

Elections in 10 unions of Rampal upazila and six unions of Mongla upazila

will also be held today.

Meanwhile, 384 out of 686 polling centres of nine upazilas of Bagerhat district have been identified as vulnerable, said Bagerhat Superintendent of Police Khondaker Rafiqul Islam.

District Election Officer Md Dulal Talukder said 39 candidates are running for the chairman posts, 2,958 for general members and 878 for the reserved posts for women in 75 unions of nine upazilas of the district.

The number of voters is 857,146. They will elect 75 chairmen, 675 general members and 225 women members in reserved seats.

Training was provided to 686 presiding officers, 5,518 assistant presiding officers and 8,277 polling officers, the DEO said.

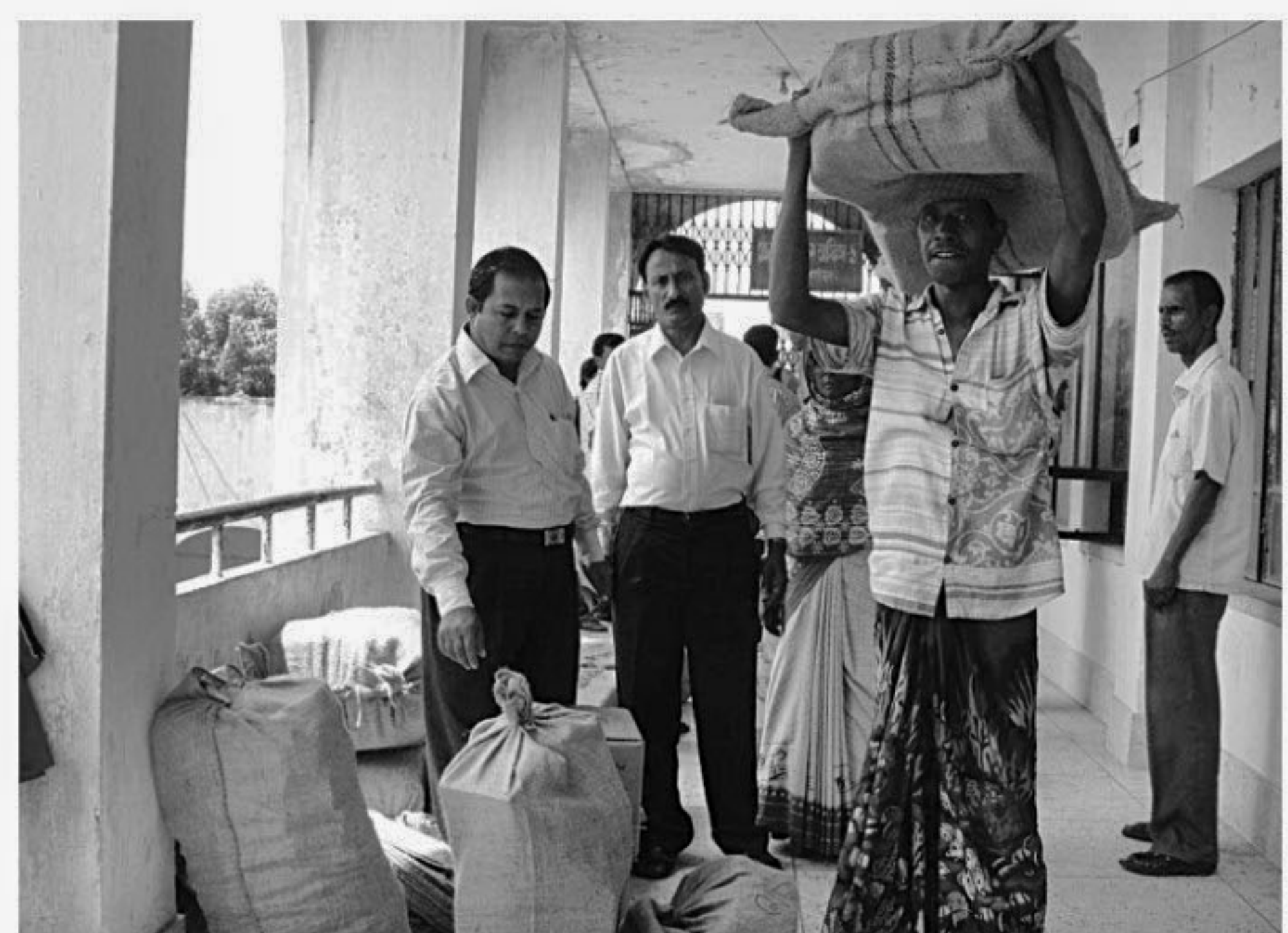


PHOTO: STAR
Election materials being despatched from Barisal election office to different polling centres yesterday, on the eve of today's election to 93 union parishads under 12 upazilas in Barisal division.

Eight get life for killing two

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A court here yesterday sentenced eight people to life imprisonment in a double murder case.

The convicts are Sabuj Sharif, 28, Rafiq, 32, Ripon Sharif, 19, Kabir Sharif, 32, Harun Mridha, 30, Qader Gazi, 45, Monir Sharif, 32, and Khalil, 32. They all hail from Labukhali village in Dumki upazila of the district.

District and Sessions Judge's Court fined the convicts Tk 20,000 each, in default, they are suffer six months more in jail. The court also acquitted two others- Rina Begum and Dulal Sharif--as charges brought against them could

not be proved.

According to the prosecution, driver Akaruzzaman and his helper Hossain Ahmed of Chandpur came to Patuakhali town from Ispahani Tea Company's depot in Chittagong with a tea-laden truck on February 7 in 2007 and unloaded the goods at Patuakhali depot of the company. While returning to Chittagong on the following day, they came under attack by a gang of criminals at Lebukhali ferry ghat in Dumki area.

The gang killed the trucker and his helper, threw the bodies into the river and fled the area with the truck. Police recovered the truck from Goalando

ferry ghat in Rajbari district on February 10.

Locals found the decomposed bodies floating on the river on February 14 and informed the police who recovered the bodies.

Kamruzzaman Munna, brother of Akhtaruzzaman, filed a murder case with Dumki Police Station on February 14.

After investigation, DB (Detective Branch) police arrested the accused. Sub-Inspector Madhusudha of DB submitted the charge sheet to the court on November 15 the same year.

After examining the records and witnesses, the District and Session Judge delivered the judgement.

Fire kills 3 of a family

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Three of a four-member family succumbed to their burn injuries on Friday and Saturday after a fire incident at Khalapara village of Khalapara union under Raipura upazila early Wednesday.

The incident occurred at the house of one Zakaria when fire from a lantern came in contact with petrol-soaked floor of the house in the early morning.

Zakaria's 85-year-old mother Zubeda Sarkar first detected the petrol-soaked floor as soon as she rose up from bed to say Fazr prayer.

She hurriedly called her grandson Masum Sarker, 23, who rose up from bed, took a lantern and went to check a motorbike inside the room from where petrol was leaking out.

All of a sudden, fire from the lantern came in contact with petrol-soaked floor and engulfed the entire house.

Zubeda Sarkar along with her grandsons Masum, 23, and Maruf, 15, and grand daughter Tania, 20, sustained serious burn injuries. All of them were hurriedly shifted to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) for treatment.

Zubeda Sarkar succumbed to her injuries on Friday while Masum and Maruf died on Saturday.

One killed as rival UP candidates' men clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

One person was shot dead and 12 others injured during a clash between the supporters of two chairman aspirants for Kaurjur Union Parishad under Mithamon upazila of the district yesterday.

The dead was identified as Saddam Mia, 25, son of Abdul Alim Bhuiyan of Telikai village.

According to Officer-in-Charge of Mithamon Police Station Jahangir Alam and Upazila Chairman Shahjahan Kabir, two groups belonging to rival chairman candidates-Aftab Uddin Bhuiyan and Billal Hossain-locked in the clash over a cricket match of local children at a field at Telikai village in Kaurjur

Union in the morning.

Saddam Mia, said to be a Bangladesh Chhatra League adherent and supporter of Billal Hossain, received bullets and died on the spot. Both the groups also used lethal weapons, leaving 12 people from both sides injured.

The OC said the clash was a sequel to a longstanding rivalry between Aftab and Billal

Four of the injured-Rubel, Alam, Chanchal, and Russel were admitted to Kishoreganj Adhunik Sadar Hospital while the rest given first aid.

No case was filed with the police station concerned as of filing of this report at 5:00pm yesterday. Additional police have been deployed in the area to avert any further clash.

12 madrasa students hurt in roof collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Twelve students were injured when the roof of a tin-shed madrasa here fell upon them while they were asleep during a storm on Saturday night.

The injured were identified as Md Shawon, 9, Md Yeasin, 8, Mehedi Hasan, 8, Abdur Rahman, 8, Al-Amin, 8, Siam Hossain, 8, Foyez Ullah, 16, Aminul Islam, 15, Intiaj Hossain, 16, Atiqul Islam, 19, Shahidul Islam, 18, and Nayan Mia, 11.

Mufti Jamal Uddin, principal of Sadekul Ulum Madani Madrasa said, the incident occurred at around 11:30pm on Saturday night when a storm lashed the area.

A portion of the roof fell on the students, causing injuries to 12 students.

The injured were given treatment at 200-bed Narayanganj General Hospital.

Indigenous woman killed after rape in Khagrachhari

Human chain demands punishment to the culprits

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Marma Students Council formed a human chain in Khagrachhari town yesterday demanding exemplary punishment to those who killed Naubai Marma after rape in Mahamuni area under Manikchhari upazila of Khagrachhari district on the night of March 25.

Several hundred indigenous people also joined the programme at Shapla Chattar in the district town.

Addressing a rally at the venue, the speakers strongly protested the incident and demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits who killed Naubai Marma after rape.

They urged the local administration to ensure security of indigenous women in Mahamuni area.

President of Marma Students Council Sunida Marma, President of Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) Aprosri Marma, and Durbar Nari Network leader Shapla

Tripura addressed the rally, among others.

Naubai Marma, 29 wife of Suisapru Marma, was gang-raped and killed at her house in absence of her husband.

Following a case filed by Suisapru with Manikchhari Police Station, police arrested three people named Md Selim, 25, Md

Sahabuddin, 24, and Firoz Mia, 22, of the area for their alleged involvement in the rape and murder of Naubai.

Police produced the arrestees in the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court, Kharachhari, on Sunday with a prayer for a five-day remand. Chief Judicial

Magistrate Abdullah Al Mamun granted three days' remand.

Demanding the same, Marma Unnyan Sangsad and Marma Oikya Parishad jointly organised a human chain programme at Manikchhari upazila headquarters yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR
Marma Students' Council forms a human chain at Shapla Chattar in Khagrachhari town yesterday demanding punishment to the criminals who gang-raped and killed Naubai Marma of Mahamuni area in Manikchhari upazila of Khagrachhari district on March 25.

UP member held with gun

UNB, Sherpur

A Union Parishad (UP) member was arrested along with a pipe gun and three bullet at Alinapara village in Sadar upazila on Friday night.

The arrestee is Sadek Ali, 35, member of Kamaria Union Parishad.

Acting on a tip-off, police conducted a drive at Alinapara village at around 11:00pm and arrested Sadek at his house with the gun and bullets.

LEGAL DISCLAIMER & NOTICE OF CAUTION

This is for the information of all concerned that our client Mr. Shabbir Ahmed Chowdhury s/o. Late Arshadullah Chowdhury of House No 10, Road No. 54/A, Gulshan 2, Dhaka 1212 and 8/6 Aurangzeb Road, Mohammedpur, Dhaka 1207, as the plaintiff has filed a suit for declaration under T.S. No. 248/2011 before the Joint District Judge, 1st court, Dhaka against Shahnaz Perveen Chowdhury d/o Late Abdul Khaleque Khan and Late Moqbulun Nessa Khan as the defendant in respect of House No 10, Road No 54/A, Gulshan 2, Dhaka 1212, hereinafter called the 'said property' which the defendant after receiving full payment from the plaintiff for the 'Seller', registered the said 'property' in her name through a fraudulent instrument.

Through this notice all intending buyers, developers or any interested parties are cautioned not to engage or enter into any negotiation or any agreement with the defendant Shahnaz Perveen Chowdhury for purchase, lease, rental, development, mortgage or transfer in any form whatsoever in respect of the 'said property' failing which they shall do so at their sole risk, liability and responsibility.

Our client intends to actively and vigorously pursue the above case against the defendant Shahnaz Perveen Chowdhury as well as all other cases filed against the defendant for breaches of prevailing laws in Malaysia and Bangladesh under Shariah, Civil & Criminal courts.

The Jurist House
80/3 Kakrail (1st floor), VIP Road, Dhaka 1000