

30 injured in Rangpur post-UP poll violence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

At least 30 people were injured in post-UP poll violence in Mithapukur upazila of Rangpur district yesterday.

The incident took place in front of Mithapukur UNO office where the supporters of defeated chairman candidate Rezaul Karim was holding a rally in the morning demanding cancellation of results of Changmari Union Parishad election held on Monday.

Police charged truncheons on the supporters and workers of Rezaul Karim, leaving 30 of them injured. The officer-in-charge of Mithapukur Police Station said police went into action to disperse the agitat-

ing workers and supporters of Rezaul Karim as they had a plan to attack the UNO office.

Of the injured, Khaleque Miah, Saiful Islam, Kabir Hossain, Mozammel Haque, Karim Sheikh, Rustam Ali, Krishna Chandra, and Suman were admitted to the upazila health complex while the rest given first aid.

Defeated chairman candidate Rezaul Karim and his supporters alleged that chairman-elect Abdul Khaleque Mondol, in collusion with the presiding and polling officers, manipulated election results at different centres in the union.

Contacted, Mithapukur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Abu Horaira said the workers and supporters of

Rezaul Karim on Monday night snatched a ballot box while the presiding officer of Bokulpur centre along with police was carrying it to the upazila headquarters after announcement of election results.

Our Jhenidah correspondent adds: Clashes between the AL and BNP supporters during yesterday's voting at two centres in Chandpur Union of Harinakundo upazila left at least eight people injured.

The incidents occurred between the supporters of chairman candidates at Sarabaria Govt Primary School centre and Durlavpur centre.

Polling at 76 other centres in eight unions of Harinakundo upazila was largely peaceful.

13 jailed for violence, looting ballots during B'baria poll

UNB, Brahmanbaria

A mobile court on Monday sentenced 13 people to jail for clashing and looting during vote in Ashuganj upazila.

Two of the convicts got one year imprisonment each while 11 each jailed for 6 months.

Police said the aforesaid people created panic, engaged in clashes, snatched ballot boxes, looted valuables and property of rival party supporters and ransacked their houses

during vote at Haji Abdul Jalil High School polling centre and Thermal Power Centre High School centre in Sadar union parishad and Shohagpur polling centre in Bahadurpur UP on Monday.

They also beat up police and election officials. Additional police were called out to quell the situation.

The arrestees were produced before mobile court which instantly tried them and handed down the punishment at 2:30am.

In Pabna, a union

parishad chairman candidate of Atghoria upazila was arrested yesterday, the day before the election, on charge of election violence, reports our correspondent.

The arrestee is Mohammed Ali, 40, of Ekdanta union Parishad.

Pabna police superintendent Md Jahangir Hossain Matobbar said police arrested him on charge of attacking rebel candidate's men. He is also the accused in a case filed by his rebel candidate, Ismail Sarder, the SP said.

Digging their own graves

Hillocks created for shelter of coastal people during high tide and cyclone are getting flattened because of theft of earth

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Artificially created hillocks, meant for use as shelter by coastal people and their livestock during natural disasters, are getting flattened as unscrupulous people often take earth from there for personal use in Dashmina upazila of Patuakhali district.

After the devastating cyclone and tidal surges of November 12 in 1971, authorities made around 100 hillocks in seven upazilas of Patuakhali district to save people and their livestock during such disasters, said sources of District Relief and Rehabilitation Office (DRRO).

Seven of the hillocks, locally called *tillas*, were created at different places in Dashmina upazila but they have either disappeared or got smaller as there is no supervising authority to maintain those, said sources of Dashmina upazila administration.

The hillock at Char Borhan under Rongopaldi union in Dashmina upazila has been totally destroyed due to mindless earth taking by the locals.

The hillock at Chandpur village has become very small as locals removed its soil for their personal work.

The hillock at Patar Char



PHOTO: STAR

This artificially made hillock at Nalkhola village in Dashmina upazila under Patuakhali district, meant for sheltering locals during tidal surges, is facing extinction as a section of unscrupulous people are cutting away earth from it and erecting makeshift structures.

in the upazila has been washed away due to erosion by the Dashmina River and another hillock at Char Hadi is under the same threat.

A resident of Nolkhola village of the upazila, also a supporter of ruling Awami League, has already cut earth of over 20 feet in the south sides of a hillock and Engineering Department), set up a personal toilet by making it plain land, said witnesses.

Nizam Jomaddar, son of

former UP chairman Sekander Ali Jomaddar, often cuts earth from the hillock for personal use, locals said.

Besides, local workers use its earth to repair a nearby earthen road under the maintenance project of LGED (local Government and Engineering Department), they added.

When contacted, Nizam Jomaddar, a resident of Nalkhola village, said, "I did

not cut earth from the hillock. Former UP member Mojibur Rahman cut earth to build a nearby earthen road in front of a local temple two or three years ago."

Mojibar Rahman's version could not be obtained.

When contacted, immediate past UP chairman Sekander Ali Jomaddar said, "No authority gave any instruction to take care of these hillocks created on people's lands. Local people

often cut the hillocks and in most cases it is done by the land owners. Labours employed for earthen road construction also cut it."

"I and all my neighbour saved life by taking shelter on the hillock during super cyclone Sidr on November 15 in 2007. But some people are cutting earth from there, causing harm to our shelter during disasters," said Safura Begum, 70, of Nalkhola village.

The government should acquire lands of these hillocks and take step to maintain it properly as it is safer place to local people to save themselves during disasters including cyclone, flood, said Abdul Hai, team leader of Disaster Preparedness Programme for Dashmina upazila.

Mahtabul Bari, assistant director for the programme, said he informed the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Dashmina of the matter and the latter gave assurance of taking necessary steps.

When contacted, Dashmina UNO Ajmol Hossain said, "I will take lawful step against those who will be found guilty for hillock cutting. But nobody has submitted any complaint to me in this regard. Local people should protect the hillocks in their own interest."

11 HWF activists 'abducted', freed

PCJSS refutes kidnap charge, blames 'unknown goons'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Eleven activists of Hill Women's Federation (HWF) were freed early yesterday five hours after they were abducted allegedly by the members of pro-peace treaty Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) from Somotaghat in the town.

The activists are Juthika

Chakma, Shipa Chakma, Lili Chakma, Binota Chakma, Richi Chakma, Nipa Chakma, Bipasha Chakma, Eki Chakma, Jeki Chakma, Helpi Chakma and Lipika Chakma.

HWF is an associate body of anti-peace treaty United People's Democratic Front (UPDF).

According to Kotwali police station sources, PCJSS members picked up

the female activists at gun point at about 8:00pm Monday when they reached Somotaghat on their way to Dhaka by an engine boat from Naniachar upazila.

Then the kidnapers took the eleven to Rangamati village in the town.

Later, they freed them on condition that they would not do UPDF politics in future, police said.

"PCJSS members waylaid us at Somotaghat and forcibly took us to Rangamati by five CNG-run auto-rickshaws. Later, they released us on condition of staying away from UPDF," Juthika, convenor of HWF Rangamati district unit, said.

Nirupa Chakma and Konika Dewan, vice-president and secretary of HWF central unit, in a joint

statement yesterday bitterly condemned the incident and demanded exemplary punishment of the kidnapers.

Meanwhile, Sajib Chakma, assistant information secretary of PCJSS, refuting the allegation said, "Our party has no involvement with this incident. So far I know, they were picked up by unknown goons."

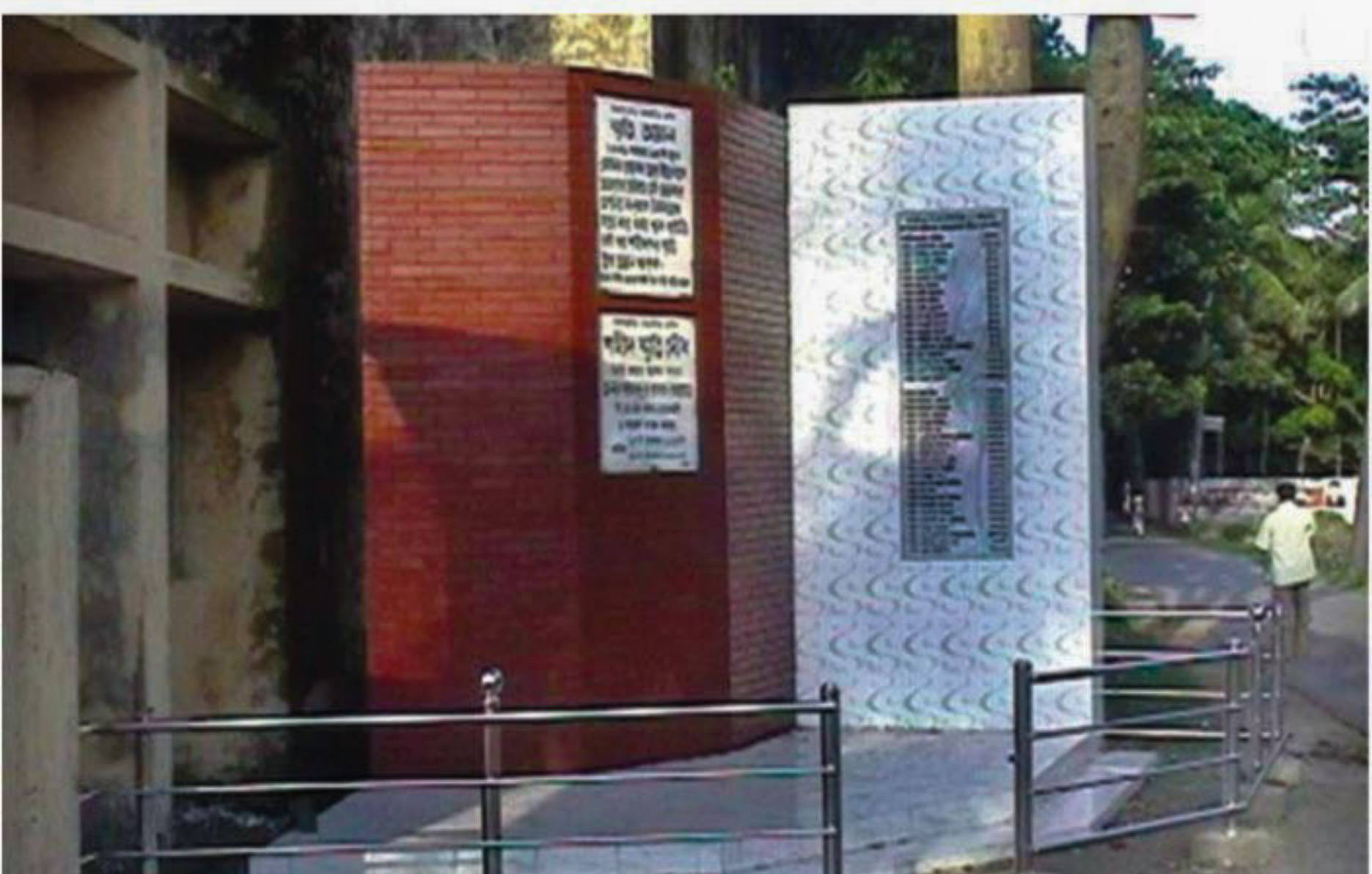


PHOTO: STAR

Memorial plaque at Sripur village near Sonapur rail station in Noakhali district, built in honour of around a hundred killed by Pakistani occupation forces on this day in 1971.

SRIPUR VILLAGE IN NOAKHALI

Over 100 massacred by Pak forces on this day

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Today is Sripur massacre day.

On this day in 1971, Pakistani occupation forces with the help of their local collaborators shot dead over 100 innocent people and raped at least 10 women at Sripur village adjacent to Sonapur railway station under Noakhali Sadar upazila.

They also looted houses at the village and shops at nearby Sonapur Bazar and set them afire.

Freedom fighter Fazlul Haque Badal, also a resident of Sripur village, said a good number of people of this village spontaneously participated in the liberation war responding to the call of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Two non-Bengali government employees, Sakhawat Hossain and MM Khan, acted as informants of Pakistani army stationed at the district headquarters.

Sakhawat was the stenographer of the then

police superintendent while Khan was booking clerk of Sonapur railway station, Badal said.

Villagers said Pakistani occupation forces and their local collaborators led by Major Bukhari entered the village in the afternoon and killed Ali Hossain in front of Ahmadiya High School.

They (occupation forces) then stormed into Hossain's house near the school, shot his brothers Ali Karim and Ali Haider dead and set fire to the house, they added.

As the villagers were running helter-skelter to get away from the attack, the occupation forces opened fire, leaving over 100 people dead.

They looted at least 300 houses and shops, set them afire and raped 10 women of the village. The horrifying memories of that day still haunt the villagers.

To mark the day, the villagers will hold a discussion meeting and *doa mehfil* at the village today.

Wife murdered for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkhira

A housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband at Munijitpur in the town for dowry early Monday.

Victim Fatema Khatun, 24, wife of Alimul Islam of Mahmudpur village in Sadar upazila was residing at a rented house at Munijitpur.

Quoting local people police said Fatema, daughter of Mobarak Ali of Sakhipur village in Debhata upazila, was married to Alimul Islam, son of Nurul Islam of Mahmudpur village in Sadar upazila about four years ago.

Recently Alimul demanded Tk 50,000 dowry from the victim's parents. He started torturing Fatema as she failed to bring the amount, the parents alleged.

On the fateful day, Aminul beat her mercilessly leaving Fatema dead, police said.

Later, the killer hung the body from the ceiling of the house and told the neighbours that Fatema had committed suicide.

Police recovered the body with several marks of injuries on her person and sent it to Sathkhira morgue for postmortem, hospital sources said.

Boomerang!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested a woman for attempt to trapping a relative by putting arms and ammunition the latter's kitchen at Badalpara village under Bakerganj upazila.

The woman, Helana Begum, 32, wife of Mohsin Howladar, had put the arms and ammunition at the kitchen of Mohsin's brother's house and informed Rab with a view to trapping him, Rab said.

"An woman over mobile phone informed Rab that one Golam Mustafa of West Badalpara village has stocks of illegal arms and ammunition," said Lt Col Manirul Islam, commanding officer Rab-8.

On basis of the message from the informant, who identified herself as Helena Begum, wife of Golam Mustafa's brother, Rab recovered one pipe gun, two rifle bullets, and two gun cartridges that were hidden under the firewood at the kitchen of Mustafa.

But Rab men suspected the incident as a staged one to trap rivals and interrogated Helena who later confessed that her husband already sold his share of paternal property and to grab the shares of paternal properties of two brothers Mustafa and Imran, she and her husband plotted a trap, Rab said.

The couple collected the arms and ammunition from Jalil Dakait, member of a local robber gang, by giving him Tk 2000, and after putting those in Mustafa's kitchen they informed Rab, she said during interrogation.

নদী রক্ষার আহ্বান

আবেদন দখলদার এবং বিষাক্ত বর্জ্যে ঢাকার চারিদিকের বুড়িগঙ্গা, শীতলক্ষ্যা, তুরাগ ও বালু নদী মৃত প্রায়।
নদীগুলোর প্রাণ ফিরিয়ে এনে নির্মল ঢাকা গড়তে আপনার নাগরিক দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।

আর নয় বিষাক্ত নদী

নদীতে

- আবেদন স্থাপনা নির্মাণ করবেন না
- পলিথিন বা বর্জ্য ফেলবেন না
- দৈনন্দিন গৃহস্থালি বর্জ্য ফেলবেন না
- হাসপাতাল, ট্যানারী বা শিল্প বর্জ্য ফেলবেন না
- সূয়েরেজ সংযোগ দিবেন না
- মল-মূত্র ত্যাগ করবেন না
- কৌশানে ব্যবহৃত পোড়া তেল ফেলবেন না
- মাটি বা বালু দিয়ে ভরাট করবেন না
- স্বাভাবিক গতি প্রবাহ বাধাগ্রস্ত হয় এমন কাজ করবেন না

চাই স্বপ্নের নির্মল নদী

মনে রাখবেন,
নদী দখল এবং দূষণ
করা পোর্ট ফলস্-১৯৬৬ এবং
বাংলাদেশ পরিবেশ সংরক্ষণ
আইন-১৯৯৫ অনুযায়ী
শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ।

জন সচেতনতায় : বিআইডব্লিউটিএ