



Locals cut down roadside trees to block vehicular movement at Ramdubi on Dinajpur-Dhaka highway in Dinajpur Sadar upazila to vent their grievance after a road accident killed an elderly woman and her granddaughter on September 1.

PHOTO: STAR

Roadside trees often fall prey to roadblocks

KONGKON KARMAKAR, *Dinajpur*

Frequent road blockade in Dinajpur and Joypurhat districts has emerged as a serious threat to the roadside trees that are often felled to put up barricades on national and regional highways.

There have been 37 reported incidents of road-block in Dinajpur and 12 in Joypurhat district since January this year as locals often resort to such programmes to realise their demands and protest against crimes and road accidents.

Road blockade causes immense sufferings to the commuters while a section of people in the name of protest loot roadside trees belonging to forest and roads and highways departments, said police and officials of the two departments in Dinajpur and Joypurhat.

On September 1, villagers of Ramdubimore area on Dinajpur-Rangpur highway blocked the road for five hours protesting a road accident that killed an elderly woman and her granddaughter.

During the blockade, the villagers axed at

least 75 road trees of Dinajpur Forest Department, sources said.

On September 13, villagers of Anandasagar under Dinajpur Sadar upazila blocked Dinajpur-Dhaka highway for three hours demanding cancellation of the decision of police to conduct post mortem of a girl who committed suicide early that day.

The same day, residents of Gopalganj under Dinajpur Sadar upazila blocked Dinajpur-Dhaka highway for four hours demanding a speed breaker after a minor road accident.

In another incident last month, villagers of Kashipur of Dinajpur Sadar upazila cut down three giant trees on Dinajpur-Dhaka highway and blocked vehicular traffic for 18 hours protesting murder of a minor boy of the village.

In the face of rising incidents of roadblock, Dinajpur Deputy Commissioner Md Jamal Uddin recently made an appeal to the people to shun the practice as it causes public sufferings.

The appeal, however, seems to have made little impact.

This correspondent talked to a cross-section of

people regarding the matter.

"Roadblock programmes are reflective of poor governance. Common people have begun to feel that they would not get justice without disruptive activities," said social worker Rezaur Rahman Rezu, also general secretary of Dinajpur unit of Udichi.

"The government should improve the remedy system if they want to prevent such aggressive reactions from people. It is ironical that common themselves become sufferers due to road blockades," Mukur Chowdhury, general secretary of Dinajpur district BNP, said.

Police rarely register cases against those responsible for blocking roads.

"In most cases police cannot take any action against those who resort to road blockade or such illegal means at the beginning. However, in many cases, roadblocks continue for a brief period and the agitators lift the blockade after persuasion," said Md Moinul Islam, superintendent of police of Dinajpur.

Police will use videography for the identification of and taking action against those responsible for road blockade, he said.

SITUATION WORSENS AT KMCH Patients suffer as rival doctors lock horns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Avolatile situation is prevailing at Khulna Medical College and Hospital (KMCH) as a group of students of the medical college locked the office of Superintendent Dr Kazi Hamid Asgar yesterday morning demanding his removal.

The students, backed by a faction of the KMCH unit of Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad (SCP), were also staging sit-in on the campus as of filing of this report at 5:00pm.

They said the sit-in will continue until the superintendent is removed as he, what they said, failed to resolve the crisis created at the hospital following untoward incidents occurred on the campus on Wednesday and Thursday.

On Wednesday, two groups of Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad (SCP) scuffled over selection of the chief guest at a function for installation of a most modern Endoscopy machine for gastroenterology department of the KMCH. Police intervened and brought the situation under control.

As a sequel to the incident, the physicians loyal to Dr Sheikh Baharul Alam, president of the Khulna unit of SCP and central vice president of Bangladesh Medical Association, (BMA) on Thursday assaulted KMCH Superintendent Dr Kazi Hamid Asgar as his supporters opposed the name of Dr Baharul Alam as chief guest of the function at Wednesday's meeting of SCP.

The SCP faction led by Dr Baharul Alam began a three-hour work stoppage yesterday

demanding removal of the superintendent.

As two rival groups of physicians are now locked in agitation and mud slinging against each other, 23 patients of general ward have already left the hospital out of panic.

On the other hand, general employees of KMCH fuelled the tense situation announcing agitation programme demanding removal and punishment of four doctors who are inciting doctors and students to create unrest at the hospital demanding removal of Superintendent Dr Kazi Hamid Asgar who is also holding the charge of acting Principal of Khulna Medical College.

The brought out a silent procession in the hospital compound at 9:30 am yesterday under the banner of KMCH Employees' Union demanding an immediate end to politicisation of KMCH and KMC administration.

KMCH Workers' Union President Sharifuzzaman Biju yesterday alleged that four doctors -- SCP Khulna unit President Dr Sheikh Baharul Alam, Assistant Registrar of Medicine Ward Dr Jewel Krishna Shur, Dr Bishnupada Saha and Dr Rabiul Alam -- are creating unrest in their bid to politicise the administration under banner of Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad (SCP).

Contacted, Superintendent Dr Asgar said he has applied for leave on health ground until September 21. I will seek extension of my leave by another week if KMCH situation does not improve, he added.



Employees of Khulna Medical College Hospital and Khulna Medical College bring out a silent procession on the campus yesterday demanding removal of 'politicised and corrupt' doctors to ensure proper medical service to patients.

PHOTO: STAR

SNIPPETS

Abducted girl rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

A teenage school student, who was abducted by criminals from Singa Eidgah point in Kalaroa upazila on August 31, was rescued by police from a house at Atulia village in Shyamnagar upazila on Friday. Victim's uncle Osman Gani of Singa village filed a case accusing six people. The accused are Abdus Salam Nikari, Rashid Biswas, Idris Ali, Mukul, Asadul Haque and Motaleb of Sonabaria village in the same upazila. Quoting local people police said the girl, a class seven student of Singa High School, was abducted by the accused while she was going to her relative's house at the same village. Acting on a tip-off, a police team led by sub-inspector (SI) Tarak Biswas of Kalaroa police station raided the house of Deshamt Gazi at Atulia village and rescued her on Friday night.

Two electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Lalmonirhat*

Two people were electrocuted in Hatibandha and Lalmonirhat Sadar upazilas in the district on Friday night. They were identified as Sultan Hossain, 40, son of late Farhad Hossain of Saptana Bazar village in Lalmonirhat municipality and Montez Ali, 35, son of Abder Hossain of Goddimari village in Hatibandha upazila. Police and locals said, Sultan was electrocuted in his workplace "Dhaka Workshop" at BDR Hat Road in the town at around 8.45 pm while Montez was electrocuted in his house at around 9:00 pm on Friday.

Agitation in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

Mymensingh Zila Nagorik Andolon, a local citizens' body, yesterday brought out a procession to drum up support for today's road and rail blockade programme to realise 10-point demand. The demands include upgradation of Mymensingh as divisional city, Mymensingh municipality as city corporation, Ananda Mohan College as full-fledged university and establishment of an education board in the district. The procession was joined by hundreds of people belonging to different professions and political parties. A rally was held after the procession. The leaders told the rally that they will continue their movement until the demands are met. Today's road and rail blockade programme will be held from 6:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Three jailed for selling hemp

UNB, *Laxmipur*

A mobile court on Friday convicted three people, including a Jubo League leader, from Isapur village in Ramganj upazila and sentenced them to six months imprisonment each for selling hemp. The convicts were identified as Fazlul Haque, 40, Jubo League Isapur union unit president, activist Sharif, 35, and Hossain, 40, of the village. Acting on secret information, a team of Ramganj police team raided the village and arrested them when they were selling the contraband item. Later, the mobile court led by executive magistrate Masud Alam Siddique handed down the verdict.

CHUNNU MURDER IN MANIKGANJ Accused threaten witnesses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Manikganj*



Chunnu Mia

The accused in the sensational Chunnu murder case are allegedly asking the witnesses to keep away from court and also threatening them with death.

Chunnu Mia, 32, son of Akmat Ali of Borundi village in Hatipara union of Manikganj Sadar upazila, was killed by a gang on the night of September 3 in 2007.

While talking to this correspondent at Borundi village last week, family members said the accused, now on bail, have asked the witnesses not to give their depositions before the court and also threatened them with death.

Chunnu's body was found at Sonakanda under Keraniganj upazila of Dhaka district at around 9:20pm on

September 6 in 2007. Abdur Razzak, elder brother of the victim, filed a a murder case with Manikganj Sadar Police Station on September 8.

After filing of the case, police arrested ten people from Borundi area and produced them to a court that sent them to jail. Gour Rajbangshi, 40, one of the arrestees, gave his confessional statement before

Senior Judicial Magistrate Dilruba Sultana on November 11 in 2007.

On December 7 in 2007, Sub-Inspector Mohammad Daud, also the investigating officer (IO) of the case, submitted charge sheet to the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court in Manikganj against nine people. The IO dropped the name of one of the arrestees as his involvement in the killing could not be found during investigation.

The accused released on bail at different times. After getting bail on May 27 in 2009, four of the accused -- Azizur Rahman Lablu, Gour Rajbangshi, Azad Biswas and Awlad Hossain -- asked Md Mizanur Rahman, one of the witnesses, not to give his statement before the court. They also gave him death threat.

DEATH OF PATIENT IN THAKURGAON 2 nurses of MNH project sacked, 3 transferred

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*

Two nurses of mother and neonatal health (MNH) project have been sacked while three other nurses transferred following death of an expectant mother on September 4 after caesarian operation.

The sacked nurses, who worked under the project at Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital, are Rahima Akhter and Mina Akhter, says a probe report.

Other three nurses Momotaz Begum, Radhika Bala Roy and Asrafun Nesa have been transferred to different hospitals.

Civil Surgeon Dr Abu Md Khairul Kabir also rebuked

Dr Khurshid Jahan Haque who performed the caesarian operation on 3 September.

Hospital sources said Beauty Begum, 25, wife of Md Shajahan of Sheniari Jomadarpara village under Thakurgaon Sadar upazila was admitted to the hospital with labour pain at 6:45am on 3 September. She gave birth to a stillborn through a caesarian operation around 1:00pm.

After that she was not given necessary treatment as her file was not brought to ward from operation theatre and she died the next morning.

Later her husband Shajahan filed a complaint with the authorities alleging

that her wife died due to sheer negligence of the doctor and staffs.

The civil surgeon formed a 3-member investigation committee headed by orthopedic surgeon of the hospital Dr Enamul Haque and asked him to submit report within three days.

The committee found five nurses guilty of neglect of their duty.

Meanwhile, the sacked nurses alleging a biased probe report said that they were simply made scapegoats by the authorities.

We work under the doctors, but they escaped the blame as they are government employees, said a victim.



This half century-old tree got uprooted and fell on the road in front of the Department of Public Health and Engineering office in Rangamati town, disrupting vehicular movement on Rangamati-Chittagong road for a few hours yesterday. Several incidents of landslides and uprooting of trees occurred due to heavy downpour in the district during the last couple of days.

PHOTO: STAR

Bodies of 3 youths recovered

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Bodies of three people were recovered in Narayanganj, Comilla and Habiganj districts on Friday.

In Narayanganj, police recovered the floating body of drug addict Shahjahan Mia, 25, son of late Abdul Mannan of Naluapara from the Sitalakkhya River near Nitaiganj Tolaram crossing in the town in the evening, reports UNB.

Seeing the floating body in the river, local people informed the police. Later, police recovered the body that bore no injury marks and sent it hospital morgue for autopsy.

In Comilla, Mobarak Hossain, 35, a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver, was found dead at Bhangtir Char in Burichang upazila in the morning, according to the

news agency.

Being informed by locals, police recovered the body that bore stab injury marks.

Police suspected that criminals following previous enmity killed him Thursday night and left the body in the area.

In Habiganj, body of Saiful, 25, son of Rafique Mia of Poil area on the outskirts of the district town, was found in a nearby field early in the morning.

Police, on information, recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Family sources said Saiful remained missing since Thursday night after he went out of his house to meet his friends at about 8:00 pm.

Police suspected that Saiful's friends, following previous enmity, killed him and dumped the body in the field.