

BARAPUKURIA LAND SUBSIDENCE

Victims want full damages, threaten fast unto death

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

The land subsidence affected people around Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Ltd (BCMCL) yesterday warned of an indefinite hunger strike if the remaining amount of their compensation and rehabilitation package money is not disbursed by June 17.

At a demonstration programme organised by Jibon O Shampad Rakkha Committee, a body of the affected people, at the BCMCL gate yesterday noon, speakers also threat-

ened to suspend coal production at BCMCL if they have to start the hunger strike to realise the package money.

They urged the government to accelerate the disbursement as land prices continued going up at other places since the disbursement started in BCMCL area.

According to the villagers, the office of Dinajpur deputy commissioner distributed Tk 112 crore out of Tk 190 crore compensation and rehabilitation package money among the affected people since the disbursement started on September

22 last year.

Urging the government to disburse the remaining Tk 78 crore among the affected people within June 17, Md Ibrahim Khalil, convener of Jibon O Shampad Rakkha Committee, said, "If the remaining package money is not disbursed within the deadline, we will start a three-day sit-in programme at the BCMCL gate on June 18. On June 21, we will start an indefinite hunger strike."

The demonstrators also chanted slogan demanding removal of BCMCL managing director and Dinajpur

deputy commissioner, alleging that they are responsible for lingering disbursement of the package money.

Belal Hossain, Motiar Rahman and Emamul Haque also spoke at the programme.

When contacted, Md Jamal Uddin Ahmed, deputy commissioner of Dinajpur, said that Tk 112 crore has already been distributed among the affected people, but none of them have left the place.

He added that the distribution programme has not been suspended.

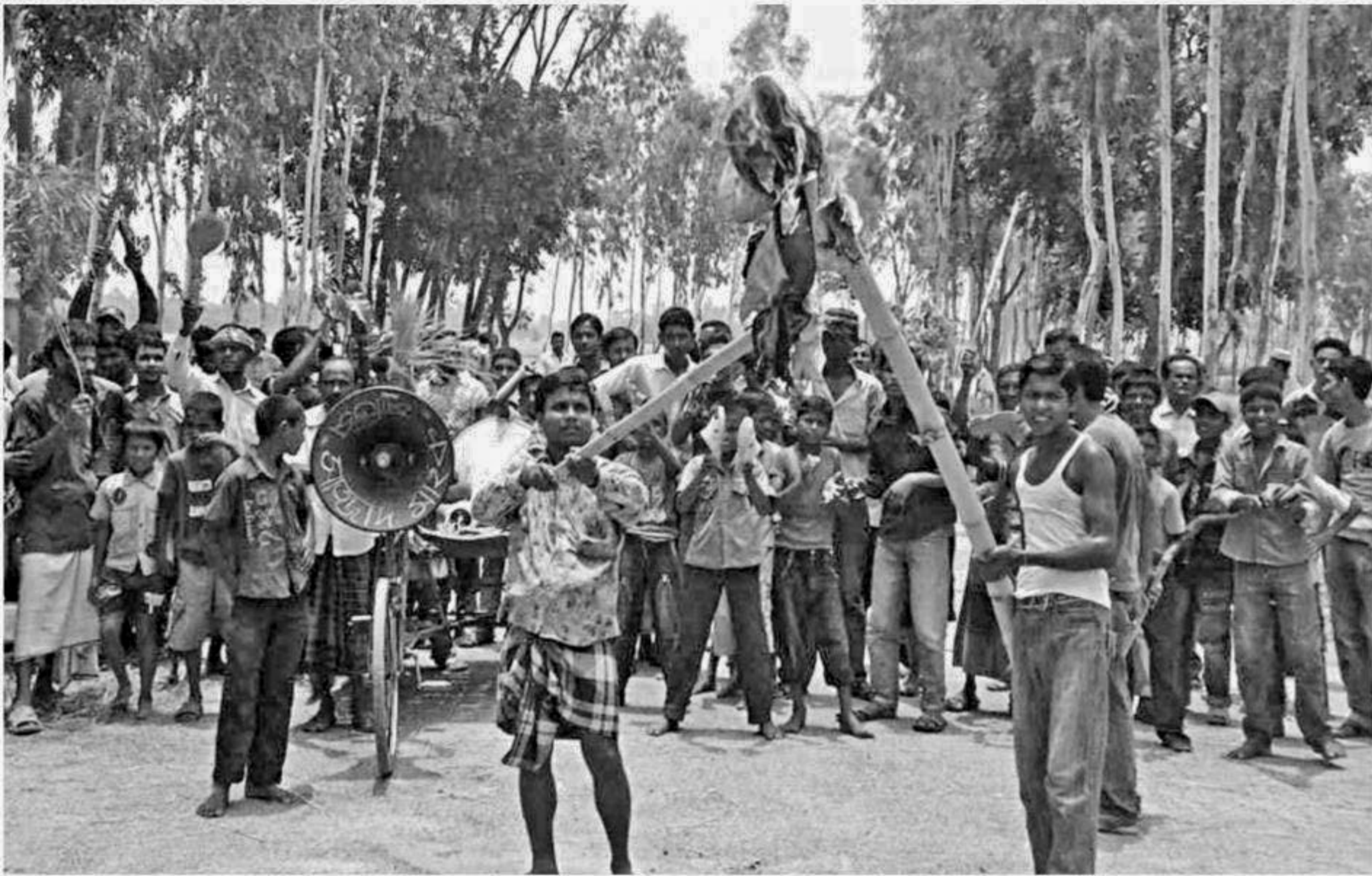


PHOTO: STAR

People of land subsidence affected villages around Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Ltd in Dinajpur demonstrate at the entrance of the company yesterday demanding full payment of their compensation within June 17.

ATTACK ON JOURNO FAZLUR

2 suspects held, 5-day agitation from today

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Pabna

Local journalists at a protest meeting at Pabna Press Club yesterday announced weeklong demonstration programmes in the district demanding the punishment of the criminals who injured the daily Samakal reporter ABM Fazlur Rahman on the campus of Pabna Edward College on Saturday.

Police yesterday arrested Shoshti Jugi, 27, and Babu Hossain, 30, of Jugipara village in Pabna Sadar upazila, on suspicion of their connection with the attack.

"The arrestees are listed criminals. They often commit crime in the college area. We caught them suspecting their connection with the attack on journalist Fazlur Rahman. We are interrogating them and investigation is going on to find out the attackers," said Jahangir Hossain Matobar, superintendent of police in Pabna.

At yesterday's protest meeting, Pabna Press Club Secretary Ahmedul Haque Rana announced that Pabna journalists will continue their agitation programmes across the district until arrest of the real culprits of the attack on Fazlur Rahman.

They will bring out a silent procession at about 11:30am today, form a human chain on May 24, stage demonstration in front of the office of Pabna superintendent of police on May 27 and in front of Pabna deputy commissioner's office on May 29, and hold protest meeting and human chain in every upazila of the district on May 30.

Senior journalist Ranesh Maitra, Anwarul Haque, Robiul Islam Robi and Abdul Matin Khan spoke at the protest meeting presided over by Pabna Press Club President Shobojit Nag.

Housewife set afire for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Benapole, Jessore

A housewife was set on fire allegedly by her husband for dowry at Bahadurpur village under Sharsha upazila on Sunday night.

Rupali Bagum, 23, wife of Mukul Ali, is now undergoing treatment at Jessore Medical College and Hospital in a critical condition.

Family members said Mukul, son of Hanif Ali of the village married Rupali, daughter of late Abdur Rob of Sarbanghuda village under the upazila eight years ago.

After the marriage, Mukul and his family members often tortured her for dowry.

The couple engaged in an altercation over the issue at around 8:00pm on Sunday. At one stage, Mukul and his father poured petrol on Rupali and set her on

fire, leaving her critically injured.

Hearing scream, neighbours rescued the housewife and took her to the hospital.

Meanwhile, police recovered a housewife's body hanging from the ceiling of her room at Sankarpur village in Jhikargachha upazila on Sunday night.

The dead is Purnima Ghosh, 40, wife of Shankar Ghosh. Shakar is a Bangladesh expatriate in Malaysia.

Enamul Haque, officer in-charge of Jhikargachha Police Station, said Purnima might have been killed following a family feud that surfaced after Shankar got married the second time.

Being informed by locals, police went to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

Three get life for murder in Sylhet

UNB, Sylhet

A court here on Sunday sentenced three people to life imprisonment for killing a young man in 2009.

The convicts are Goyas Mia alias Goyas, a Bangladesh expatriate in Saudi Arabia, his wife Rozina Begum and Iqbal Hossain Bakul, son of Abdul Matin of Hawsha village in Sadar upazila.

The court fined each of them Tk 20,000 in the murder case and Tk 5,000 in the kidnapping case, in default they are to suffer 18 months more in jail.

According to the prosecution, Goyas planned to kill Ali Akbar Sumon, son of Cherag Ali of Pashchimpara village in the upazila, after he came to know upon his return from Saudi Arabia that his wife Rozina had developed an extramarital relationship with Akbar.

As per the plan, Goyas called Sumon to his house on September 25, 2009. Later, his body was recovered from a haor (water body) on September 28.

Victim's brother Ali Ahsan Sohel filed two cases-one for killing Sumon and another for kidnapping him.

Police submitted the charge sheet in both the cases on September 4 in 2010.

After examining the records and witnesses, Judge of the Speedy Trial Tribunal Dilip Kumar Debnath handed down the verdicts.

Two robbers arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Bagerhat

Police arrested two alleged robbers of Sundarbans from Mongla upazila yesterday morning.

The arrestees are Monsur Sheikh, 32, of Haldibunia, and Shelim Sheikh, 36, of Burburia villages.

Monirul Gias, officer in-charge of Mongla Police Station, said on secret information, two teams of police raided the area and arrested the duo.

They were wanted in a number of criminal cases, the OC added.

Girl killed during clash over land

A CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A seven-year-old girl was killed during a clash between her father and uncles over a piece of disputed land in Kampapur area of Jamalpur municipality on Saturday night.

The victim is Shampa, daughter of Syed Ali. Majibur Rahman Mazumder, officer in-charge of Jamalpur Sadar Police Station, said there was a longstanding conflict between Syed and his two brothers Shamsheer Ali and Sobhan over the land.

The trio locked in an altercation over the issue at around 9:00pm. At one stage, Syed hit Shamsheer with a brick, leaving him seriously injured. To defend himself, Syed then hit Shampa with an iron rod with a view to filing a case against Shamsheer on charge of injuring his daughter. But she died on the spot. Victim's mother filed a case accusing her husband, the OC added.

Woman drowns

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Narail

A woman drowned in Modhumoti River at Char Kalna village under Lohagara upazila yesterday.

The dead was identified as Mukta Begum, 25, wife of Lablu Mia of the village.

Family sources said Mukta drowned in the river while taking bath at around 4:00pm.

The Daily Star - রবি ENGLISH FAIR



PHOTO: STAR

Prize recipients from Feni Government Girls' High School and GA Academy in the town flash V-sign at the English language fair held at the government school yesterday.

Students learn amid an air of festivity

STAR NATIONAL DESK

English language fairs under English in Schools programme, a joint initiative of The Daily Star and mobile operator Robi, were held at six schools in Lalmonirhat, Jessore, Feni and Chandpur districts yesterday.

Adcom Ltd is the creative and event partner of the fairs.

Over 300 students of Lalmonirhat Government Boys' High School and Gias Uddin High School joined the English language fair held at Gias Uddin High School.

Mahfuzur Rahman, headmaster of the school, opened the fair at around 11:00am. Robi Area Manager Shakil Jahan was present, reports our correspondent.

The headmaster in his inaugural speech said The Daily Star and mobile operator Robi have created the opportunity for schools students to learn English through taking part in such programmes. Teachers of the two schools and students' guardians also attended the programme.

Globally renowned movie The Lion King was screened followed by quizzes on vocabulary, one-ward questions, situation-based questions, extempore speeches and role play.

Students of the two schools took part in joyful interactions and watched the events based on the movie.

Ten students took part in role play event while 20 others participated in the quizzes based on the movie.



Prizes were distributed among the winners of different competitions at the end of the programme. An English Language Club was formed.

Our Benapole correspondent reported that around 200 students of Jhikargachha Pilot Girls' High School in Jhikargachha upazila of Jessore district participated in the English language fair yesterday.

Md Liaquat Ali, headmaster of the school, inaugurated the fair at the school auditorium at around 10:00am. The headmaster in his speech said it is a matter of pride and pleasure for us that The Daily Star and Robi have jointly organised English in Schools programme in our upazila.

Globally renowned movie The Lion King was screened, followed by quizzes on vocabulary, situation-based question-answer, role play and extempore speech. Students entertained the audience by reciting poems, telling jokes and singing songs.

Fifteen students won different competitions. Headmaster Nuruzaman and English teacher Monwar Hossain of the school were the judges.

Headmaster Mohammad Liaquat Ali and Robi Area Manager Moshir Rahman distributed prizes among the winners at the end of the programme.

In Feni, around 150

students of Feni Government Girls' High School and Feni GA Academy participated in the English language fair held at the girls' school auditorium yesterday, reports our correspondent.

Subrat Nath, headmaster of Feni Government Girls' High School, opened the programme. Zahir Uddin Mahmud Babar, English teacher of the school, and Narayan Chandra Das, senior teacher of GA Academy were present.

Globally renowned movie The Lion King was screened, followed by quizzes on vocabulary, situation-based question-answer, role play and extempore speech.

Students of the two schools took part in joyful interactions and entertained the audience by reciting poems, telling jokes and singing songs.

Eighteen students won different competitions. Prizes were distributed among the winners at the end of the programme.

Students of Hasan Ali Government High School in Chandpur town took part in the English language fair held at the school auditorium yesterday, according to a correspondent.

The fair events comprised presentation of globally renowned movie The Lion King, contests on vocabulary, situation-based questions, extempore speech, role play and etiquette test.

Prizes were distributed among the winners of different competitions.



PHOTO: STAR

Prize winners at different events of the English language fair held at Hasan Ali Government High School in Chandpur pose for photograph with their teachers yesterday.

30 roadside trees felled in Tentulia

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Thakurgaon

Local people have submitted complaint with civil and police administration against the chairman of Banglabandha union parishad in Tentulia upazila under Panchagarh district for cutting down and selling 30 jackfruit and mahogany trees beside Gawalgoch-Uttar Kashipur road.

Acting Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ahmed Kabir, Tentulia Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Prioshindhu Talukdar and Tentulia police station Officer in Charge (OC)

Mosabberul Haque received the complaint on Sunday.

The 30 trees would be worth about Tk 5 lakh, locals said.

After receiving the complaint, police seized some logs of the felled trees conducting drives at different places of Banglabandha union on Sunday, Tentulia OC Mosabberul Haque told this correspondent over cell phone.

"A few years ago, members of RDRS Federation and Banglabandha union parishad jointly planted the trees beside the road with 70 per cent and 30

percent shares respectively. We are examining the project papers submitted by the UP chairman," he said.

Asked about the matter, Banglabandha UP Chairman Kudrat-E-Khuda said over cell phone, "RDRS Federation members cut down the trees and I bought them for Tk 50,000. This is my fault."

On the other hand, Ramjan Ali, president of Banglabandha union RDRS Federation, said, "The UP chairman got the trees felled and sold by his own people. We are not involved with the tree cutting and

selling."

Admitting of receiving the complaint of tree felling, UNO Prioshindhu Talukdar told this correspondent that Tentulia Forest Beat Officer Kamal Pasha is investigating the matter.

Acting DC Ahmedul Kabir said he ordered the officers concerned to take action after proper investigation in this regard.

Meanwhile, locals alleged that police is dilly-dallying to take any action against the UP chairman as he is upazila unit organising secretary of Awami League.