



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Teachers of Begum Rokaya University, Rangpur stage a sit-in in front of the Vice-Chancellor's office yesterday, the third day of their indefinite strike demanding his resignation.

AL men snatch bids in Barguna, Magura

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Ruling Awami League (AL) activists went on rampage, foiling tender proceedings in Patharghata municipality under Barguna district on Sunday, while they snatched tender documents from the Public Works Department (PWD) office in Magura town yesterday.

Men allegedly led by the secretary of Patharghata municipality unit of AL snatched the box containing tender documents of the municipal development work, ransacked the municipal office and injured three councillors on Sunday, reports our Barisal correspondent.

Patharghata municipality authorities called tender for Tk 85 lakh development work in 16 groups on November 20 last year, municipality sources said, adding that 577 forms were sold and a good portion of them were dropped by December 20, the last date of submission.

Due to heavy rush of the tender participants, the municipal authorities arranged open lottery of the tenders at about 2:00pm on Monday.

But Mosharaf Hossain Sohrab, secretary of municipality unit of AL, demanded that the work under groups 1, 2 and 3 be given to him without any lottery.

As municipality Mayor Mallik Md Ayub, councillors, and other contractors opposed the demand, the men of AL and its associate organisations Bangladesh

Chhatra League and Jubo League attacked their 'opponents', snatched the tender box, and looted furniture of the venue and the municipality office in presence of police, said witnesses, municipality officials and law enforcers.

The attackers allegedly led by Sohrab also physically assaulted councillors Abdul Malek, Abdul Karim and Mozammel Huq Polu.

Admitting the incident, municipality Mayor Mallik Md Ayub Hossain said, "As a large number of tenders were dropped, we arranged the open lottery as per rule and procedure under Public Procurement Act to check corruption and maintain transparency. An emergency meeting of the municipality authorities and its tender committees has been called on Monday evening to decide about the legal procedure and action regarding the matter."

Mosharaf Hossain Sohrab denied any incident of attack by his men and said, "The mayor earlier assured us to distribute the work on the basis of the negotiations among the tender participants and accordingly, we collected their signature of no-objection. But the mayor arranged lottery to distribute the works among his selected people and engaged in an altercation with us over the issue."

Our Magura Correspondent adds: Ruling party men allegedly led by a former BCL leader snatched tender documents from the box kept at the

office of the PWD executive engineer in the district town yesterday.

"Shortly after I and another contractor on behalf of 'Galaxy Associates' dropped tender papers of the Tk 50 lakh bid for construction of the office building of Criminal Investigation Department at around 11:00am, some armed youths led by former BCL leader Meer Suman took away the tender documents from the box in presence of police," contractor Rashedul Islam Rakhu told the local journalists.

When contacted, Meer Suman, also secretary of Magura district unit of Sheikh Russel Shishu Kishore Sangsad, refuted the allegation.

"Contractor Rakhu and his elder brother Makbul Hossain Makul, general secretary of the district unit of Sramik League, also a councillor of Magura municipality, had been controlling the tender process of PWD for several years. This time also, they were illegally trying to capture the Tk 50 lakh bid for construction of the CID office. As I protested the matter, the syndicate led by Rakhu and Makbul created chaos at the office and blamed me," Suman claimed.

When contacted, Magura PWD Executive Engineer Sarwar Ahmed admitted the snatching of tender papers and said, "I was not at the office when the incident took place. We have decided for a re-tender for the work."

Reinvestigate Kalpana case

Hill people demand at protest rallies

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Activists of Hill Women's Federation (HWF) in Rangamati and Khagrachhari districts yesterday demanded reinvestigation into the abduction case of their leader Kalpana Chakma.

Leaders and activists of CHT Mahila Samity, HWF and Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) yesterday held a rally in Rangamati town, protesting the latest investigation report on her abduction and demanded fresh investigation.

The report was submitted by Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Chittagong range.

On September 26 last year, CID submitted the report to Rangamati District Judges Court which fixed January 13 for the next hearing, reports our correspondent.

Kalpana Chakma, then

organising secretary of HWF, was kidnapped allegedly by an armed gang from her home at New Lalyaghona village in Baghaichhari upazila on June 12, 1996, the speakers said at the rally.

Victim's elder brother Kalindi Kumar Chakma filed a case with Baghaichhari police station accusing the three people including Lieutenant Ferdous, the then camp commander of Kojoichhari army camp.

The CID report stated that it could not be ascertained whether Kalpana is still alive or dead, said the protesters.

Ferdous, Nurul Haque, the then commander of VDP (village defense party), and Saleh Ahmmed, a member of VDP were exempted from the report.

After 16 years of filing of the case, Baghaichhari police gave its final investi-



Kalpana Chakma

gation report, dropping the names of the main suspects on May 21 in 2010.

Later, CID was assigned to reinvestigate the case, said the speakers.

Among others, Suprova Chakma, secretary of CHT Mahila Samity, Trizinad Chakma, president of PCP central unit, spoke.

Leaders of HWF, a front organisation of United Peoples Democratic Front in Khagrachhari also

demanding reinvestigation into the report on Kalpana Chakma abduction case submitted by CID and punishment to the criminals.

They made the call at a protest rally in Mahalchhari upazila parishad area of the district town in the afternoon.

Earlier, they brought out procession in the town in favour of their demands, reports a correspondent.

At the rally, the speakers urged the government to withdraw the investigation report of CID and bring the main accused to book.

They also threatened to go for a tougher programme if their demands were not met immediately.

Vice general secretary of central HWF Chandani Chakma and finance affairs secretary of central Democratic Youth Forum Sarbananda Chakma, among others, spoke.

Brickfield near school sealed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A mobile court yesterday sealed a brickfield set up near a school in Baufal upazila.

Executive magistrate Hafiz Al Asad took the action at Dhandi village at around 3:00pm as the brick kiln was running illegally.

During the operation, the owner and all workers of the kiln went into hiding. However, the court fined its manager Tk 50,000.

Police said, one Kutti Molla set up the brickfield about 100 yards away from Dhandi High School in Najirpur union under the upazila. He also set up a sawmill there to use wood as fuel illegally.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Dense fog disrupts normal life as another cold spell grips most parts of the country yesterday. The photo was taken from Rupsha Bridge in Khulna city.

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Deadline to IU VC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia

Islamic University Teachers Association (IUTA) and several other organisations yesterday gave a 24-hour ultimatum to vice-chancellor for meeting their three-point demand.

The organisations issued the ultimatum at separate meetings held at the university.

The three demands are immediate removal of IU treasurer Shahjahan Ali, sacking of officials who were loyal to immediate past VC M Alauddin and pro-VC Kamal Uddin, also involved in various corruption and investigation into the incident of attack on teachers' meeting on November 19.

The organisations are IUTA, Bangabandhu Parishad IU unit, Zia Parishad and Green Forum.

According to campus sources, the teachers went on work abstention from September 8 demanding removal of VC, pro-VC and treasurer.

The teachers concerned relieved vice-chancellor Prof M Alauddin and pro-vice chancellor Prof M Kamal Uddin of their duties on December 27 and January 1 to end the four-month-long deadlock at the university.

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