



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Many farmers have taken to sheep rearing at Ichhakhali Char in Mirsarai upazila of Chittagong district as the animals, feeding on naturally grown grass in the area, have high demand in the market. The photo was taken on Monday.

HUMAN CHAIN BY PEOPLE OF GAIBANDHA 'Restore shut-down local trains'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Locals formed a human chain along the platform of Gaibandha railway station yesterday demanding immediate restoration of four shut down local train services in the northern districts under Western Zone of Bangladesh Railway.

At the programme organised by Gaibandha Nagorik Parishad, the speakers urged the authorities to take immediate steps including recruitment of adequate manpower to resume operation of the closed trains and warned of greater agitation programmes including hartal otherwise.

Authorities closed operation of local 481-up and 482-down trains that had been plying Lalmonirhat-Santahar route via Gaibandha and Bogra on December 18 last year. Earlier on August 23, 2011, the railway authorities closed up and down trains of 'Ramsagor Express' plying Bonarpara-Thakurgaon route via

Gaibandha, Rangpur and Dinajpur. Consequently, no train is available till 11:00am from Gaibandha station for going to Bogra, Rangpur, Dinajpur and other places and so, students, office staff, traders and others requiring travel in the morning are badly suffering. People have to count extra money to travel to the places by bus. Due to the situation, traders face problem to transport vegetables and other perishable goods from

rural areas to the markets in district headquarters. "The railway cannot run all the trains properly as a large number of posts of loco-masters and assistant loco-masters in metre gauge sections are lying vacant for long," said Abdul Hye, divisional railway manager, Lalmoirhat. "Authorities will resume operation of all the shut down trains as soon as the vacant posts are filled up. Meantime, to overcome the problem, authorities of western railway have forwarded proposals to the Establishment division for engaging retired loco-masters on contract basis," he said.



PHOTO: STAR

Locals join a human chain at Gaibandha railway station yesterday demanding immediate resumption of four local train services via Gaibandha as the authorities concerned shut down the trains due to shortage of loco-masters and assistant loco-masters, right, passengers try to have a chance to board a packed train from the other side of the platform of Gaibandha station.

LEADER 'GOES MISSING' IN DHAKA BCL activists at IU continue agitation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Saiful Islam, BCL president of Bangabandhu Hall unit at Islamic University in the district 'went missing' in capital Dhaka on Tuesday night. BCL activists at Islamic University in Kushtia yesterday blocked the Kushtia-Khulna highway for one and a half hours, demanding immediate steps to rescue their leader.



Saiful Islam

his way to Kazipara at Mirpur from Farmgate area around 9:15pm Tuesday, sources said. Saiful's cell phone was also found switched off since then. Sad Ahmed, elder brother of Saiful, and Shishir Islam Babu, BCL organising secretary of Bangabandhu Hall unit, filed two separate general diaries with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police station in Dhaka and Islamic University police station in Kushtia on Wednesday. Meanwhile Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police on Friday arrested two people in connection with the incident. The arrestees are Jewel Hossain and Md Rana. Abdul Jalil, sub-inspector at the police station told this correspondent that they arrested them from Farmgate area in the capital on Friday night. "The traditional leaders

Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Regional Council Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma yesterday urged the headmen (traditional leaders) in the hills to be united for full implementation of the CHT peace accord. Addressing as chief guest at the second CHT Headmen's Conference held at the auditorium of Khudro Nrigosthi Institute in Rangamati town, Jyotirindra, who is popularly known as Santu Larma, also urged the traditional jummo leaders not to get involved with national political parties. "National political parties including Awami League, BNP and Jatiya Party do not believe in democracy and good governance. They are against the CHT peace accord, and always work against the interest of jummo people living in hills," he said. Urging the headmen to support Partbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), Santu Larma, also the chief of PCJSS, said, "Do the politics of the jummo people and lack political goodwill to implement the peace accord fully," said the former guerrilla leader.

Unite for full implementation of CHT peace accord

Santu Larma tells headmen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati



Santu Larma

Santu said the AL-led government has done nothing other than giving assurance to implement the peace accord in last four years. Traditional leaders put their eight-point demand including increase of a headman's allowance to Tk 7000 (from present Tk 1000) and a karbari's allowance to Tk 3000 (from present Tk 500), making traditional laws and institutions functional, construction of offices for three circle chiefs and headmen. Two hundred and twenty-four headmen out of a total 375 under Chakma Circle, Mong Circle and Bomang Circle took part in the two-day conference, to be concluded today. CHT Headmen's Network organised the conference under the auspices of CHT Regional Council, International Labour Organisation and CHTDF-UNDP. Tarun Kanti Ghosh, vice-chairman of CHT Development Board, Robert Stoleman, UNDP-CHTDF chief of implementation, Shamsul Huda, executive director of ALRD, and Brishaketu Chakma, member of Rangamati Hill District Council, spoke at yesterday's function chaired by Ranglai Mro, president of CHT Headmen's Network.

must be competent, qualified and educated to be able to discharge their duty rightly. They have to involve with all kinds of social and development activities in the society. They have to be inspired with the values of jummo nationalism to establish the rights of hill people. "As public representatives, the headmen have to play their role in protecting own culture, tradition and customs as good leaders in the society," said the PCJSS chief. "CHT Regional Council and three hill district councils have become dysfunctional institutions as the successive governments during the last 15 years were not sincere about the rights of the jummo people and lacked political goodwill to implement the peace accord fully," said the former guerrilla leader.

40 injured as AL, BNP lock in armed clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Over 40 people were injured during a clash between the activists of Awami League and BNP in Shayestabad area under Barisal Sadar upazila on Thursday night.

The trouble began when Shayestabad Union Parishad (UP) Vice Chairman and local BNP leader Shamim Hawladar along with his party men went to Ramkathi Government Primary School ground adjacent to the house of UP Chairman and AL leader Arifuzzaman Munna at around 8:00pm to have a picnic there.

Locals said AL men led by Munna swooped on the BNP men, prompting them to retaliate. The rival political groups used sharp weapons and exchanged fire during the clash that continued for four hours, they added.

Four houses of local BNP men were also vandalised during the clash.

Of the injured, UP Chairman and AL leader Arifuzzaman Munna, Shahidul Zamaddar, Nasir and Basir, were admitted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital with bullet injuries while the rest to different hospitals and clinics in the city.

Barisal City Corporation Mayor Shawkat Hossain Hiron visited the injured at Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital on Friday.

Being informed, police and Rab personnel went to the spot, dispersed the clashing groups and

brought the situation under control. They picked up 51 people, including UP Vice Chairman and BNP leader Shamim, from the spot.

Md Ibrahim, member of Ward No-7 of the UP, said at least 20-25 gunshots were fired and over 50 people injured during the clash.

Contacted, Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kawnia Police Station, said they found a gun with six cartridges on the spot and arrested 51 people, including UP Vice Chairman Shamim.

UNB adds: Awami League and BNP men clashed over capture of a khas pond at Ratankandi village in Shahjadpur upazila of Sirajganj yesterday, injuring at least 13 people.

Police said there had been a longstanding dispute between two groups--one led by local AL leader Rashid and another by local BNP leader Juran--over taking possession of the pond.

The clash ensued when Juran and Rashid groups went to the spot to take possession of the pond at around 9:00am.

They made chase and counter chase and hurled brick chips at each other. Police went to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Three houses were also vandalised in the area during the clash. Five of the injured were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital while the rest given first aid. No case was filed with the police station concerned as of 6:00pm yesterday.

Bring rapists to book, demand protesters

Driver, helper held in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Different organisations formed human chains in front of Manikganj Press Club yesterday and on Friday demanding exemplary punishment to the rapists of the garment worker.

Police said the 18-year-old garment worker was raped on a running bus on Dhaka Aricha highway by the driver and helper of the bus and then thrown out of the vehicle at Manora in Manikganj Sadar Upazila on Thursday afternoon.

Law enforcers arrested the driver, Dipu Miah, 30, and his helper Kashem Miah, 28, the same day. They were produced in the Judicial Magistrate's Court-1, Manikganj, on Friday. After recording their confessional statements, Senior Judicial Magistrate Sheikh Md Mujahid-ul-Islam sent them to jail.

The human chain programmes were organised by Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association

Follow-up

(BNWLA), Karmajibi Nari, students of Government Devendra College, Gono Sanghati Andolon, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Jatiya Mahila Sangstha, Jaiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) and Bangladesh Chhatra Federation.

Manikganj Poursava (municipality) Mayor Md Ramzan Ali, Ghior Upazila Parishad Chairman Afzal Hossain Khan Joki, district coordinator of Karmajibi Nari Arif Hossain Liton, BNWLA district unit President advocate Monwara Begum, JSD central unit Joint Secretary Iqbal Hossain Khan, Chhatra Federation district unit President Al-Jahid, and Bangladesh Chhatra Union district unit General secretary Rumi Akter addressed a rally at the venue yesterday.

The speakers demanded capital punishment to driver Dipu and helper Kashem and urged the government to

hold the trial of the rapists at a speedy trial tribunal.

The girl works at a garment unit at Ashulia. In the case statement, the girl stated that she boarded the bus at Nabinagar bus stand at around 1:30pm on Thursday to travel to Paturia.

She did not get off the bus even after all the passengers got down as she did not know the last stoppage was Manikganj. The driver continued driving assuring her of taking to Paturia. Helper Kashem raped her followed by Dipu, according to the statement.

Then they drove back and forcibly dropped the girl off at Manra. Locals called police after seeing her beside the road. The case was filed with Manikganj Sadar Police Station under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

After hearing the news, Local bus workers assaulted Dipu at Manikganj bus stand and handed him over to the police. Police arrested Kashem from Nabinagar at around 8:30pm.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Jatiya Mahila Ainjibi Samity forms a human chain in front of Manikganj Press Club yesterday demanding exemplary punishment to the bus driver and helper, who raped a garment worker on the running vehicle on Dhaka-Aricha highway on Thursday.

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