

Coalmine workers threaten strike from June 13

Call to meet 5-point demand by tomorrow

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

The miners of Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd (BCMCL) in Parbatipur upazila of the district have threatened to go on an indefinite strike from June 13 if their five-point demand is not met by tomorrow.

The miners gave the ultimatum through a memorandum submitted to the managing director [MD] of Barapukuria Coal Mining

Company Ltd on Sunday.

The demands are regularisation of jobs of 147 workers engaged in underground and surface mining operations, appointment of a full-time doctor for the workers, disbursement of profit bonus for 2011 and 2012, introduction of life insurance scheme and food rationing for the miners.

Wazed Ali Sarkar, president of BCMCL Workers' Union, said they have been agitating for long to realise the five-point demand,

including regularisation of jobs of 147 workers, who are engaged in mining operations, risking their lives.

"We have given a 72-hour deadline to meet our demands. If the demands are not met within the deadline, we will start an indefinite strike on June 13," Wazed said, adding that the BCMCL authorities will be responsible if any untoward incident happens during the strike.

On May 17, the miners issued a 13-day ultimatum

to BCMCL authorities to meet their five-point demand and threatened an indefinite strike from May 31 if the demands were not met by the deadline.

They postponed the programme until June 8 as BCMCL authorities assured them of giving a positive response by this time.

"Since the authorities concerned didn't pay heed to our demands by June 8, we have given a fresh deadline until June 12," the miners said.

100 Jamaat-Shibir men sued in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police sued 100 Jamaat-Shibir men yesterday on charge of attacking police in Sutrapur area of the town on Sunday.

Sub-inspector of Sadar police station Kala Chand filed the case under the speedy trial act.

Police said Jamaat-Shibir men brought out a procession from Titu Milonayaton area on Sunday evening, protesting an ICT verdict that jailed three of their leaders for contempt of court.

Sensing the presence of police, the protesters hurled around 20 cocktails at them in Sutrapur area, leaving at least seven policemen including three officials injured. In, the law enforcers shot 63 rubber bullets to disperse the Jamaat-Shibir men.

Police arrested 16 men including assistant secretary of town unit Jamaat Abdul Hakim in connection with the incident.

Other arrestees are Shahabuddin, Ruhul Amin, Imran, Ashraful, Nasim, Ahsan, Atiqur, Eyamin, Rafiqul, Rakhi, Belal, Shufian, Omar Faruque, Hedaytullah and Al-Amin.

A case was filed under the speedy trial act accusing 20 identified and 80 unidentified Jamaat-Shibir men in connection with the attack, said assistant superintendent of police Gaziur Rahman.

Meanwhile, police yesterday arrested a local Jamaat-e-Islami leader in an arson and vandalism case.

The arrestee is Saiful Islam, 45, ameer of Mokamtola union unit Jamaat and son of late Mozammel Haque of Khamarpara village in Shibganj upazila.

Saiful was arrested from Chokpara area in the upazila on charge of vandalising and torching Mokamtola police outpost on May 3 this year, said the ASP.



PHOTO: STAR

A smiling Dulali holds this seven-month-old baby after buying it from an indigent couple in Hakimpur upazila of Dinajpur for Tk 1,000 and two saris on Saturday.

Baby sold for 1000 taka only!

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

Police in Hakimpur upazila under the district rescued a seven-month-old baby and handed it over to the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) yesterday, two days after the kid's indigent parents, also alleged drug addicts, sold him off just for Tk 1000 and two saris.

Dulali, a eunuch of Madyabasudevur village under Hakimpur upazila, bought the kid from its parents Md Shamsul Alam and Nurjahan Begum for Tk 1000 and two saris on Saturday.

Shamsul and Nurjahan, residents of Parbatipur upazila in Dinajpur, were drug addicts and every day they were seen in Hili land port area, said Rafiqul Islam, a local.

They used to roam in border areas of Hakimpur upazila to collect and sell throwaway goods for living, locals said.

"I bought the kid on Saturday and arranged suitable foods for it. I

planned to hand it over to my elder sister Aleya Begum as she has no children. The kid's parents, as I know, are heroin addicts," said Dulali, who also named the kid Shah Alam.

After hearing the matter, SM Ahsan Habib, officer in charge of Hakimpur Police Station, rushed to Dulali's house at Madyabasudevur village, rescued the baby and took him to the police station.

Later he handed over the kid to the UNO.

Contacted, Hakimpur UNO Azharul Islam said, "After receiving the kid, I handed it over to a couple residing on the upazila complex for taking care. We are searching for its parents and also thinking about suitable options for its bringing up," he added.

After selling off their kid, Shamsul and Nurjahan remained away from Hili land port area and so, they could not be contacted for their version regarding the matter.

Frequent clashes for control of bordering cattle markets

84 injured in two weeks in Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Lalmonirhat

As many as 84 people were injured in clashes among local groups of ruling Awami League (AL) over control of bordering haats (markets) that sell Indian cattle, mostly smuggled ones, in Sadar, Patgram, Hatibandha and Kaliganj upazilas under Lalmonirhat district in last two weeks.

Fifteen people were injured as two groups of AL men got locked in a clash over control of Indian cattle market at bordering Durakuti Haat in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila on Saturday evening.

Eight AL men were injured at the same spot over a similar issue on Tuesday.

On June 2, the local administration imposed Section 144 as a clash at Noyarhat cattle market in Lalmonirhat Sadar left 13 people injured.

Forty eight people were injured in eight more clashes among ruling AL men over control of cattle markets in Patgram, Hatibandha and Kaliganj upazilas in last two weeks.

Depriving the government of huge revenue, around three thousand Indian cows are daily taken to Bangladesh illegally as more than 15 identified syndicates are engaged in smuggling cattle through the border points in Lalmonirhat district,



PHOTO: STAR

Patgram Haat in Patgram upazila under Lalmonirhat district is one of several bordering cattle markets, selling mostly smuggled cows from neighbouring India, that often see clashes over control of the illegal business.

sources said.

The smuggled cattle are sold openly at different haats including Patgram, Bawra, Jagotbar, Barokhata, Doikhowa, Chaparhat, Bhotmari, Durgapur, Saptibari and Durakuti and then sent to capital Dhaka and other areas of the country by trucks.

The Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and other law enforcers often overlook the matter as they allegedly receive handsome kickbacks from the smugglers, said sources in the border areas.

The government earned Tk 63 lakh 75 thousand as revenue against import of 12,750 Indian cattle in five months from January to May this year, said sources of Islampur customs corridor in Patgram upazila.

Only 80 to 90 Indian cows are brought to the country legally through paying government revenue of Tk 500 against each through Islampur customs corridor.

The government earning from the source stands a little over Tk 42,000 on an average daily but it would be

more than Tk 15 lakh per day if all the Indian cattle entered legally through Islampur corridor, customs officials said.

Cattle smugglers give Tk 100 to the haat leaseholder and Tk 100 to the law enforcers for each Indian cow, said one of the leaseholders of Patgram haat, a big cattle market in Lalmonirhat district.

BGB men often ignore the matter of cattle smuggling in the 'greater interest' of the country, said an official of Lalmonirhat 15 Battalion of BGB.

SUPPORTERS HAIL MANIKGANJ LEADERS

Disgruntled BNP men reject new committee

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A faction of the district BNP yesterday demanded cancellation of the newly formed district BNP committee.

At a press conference at the house of Sadar upazila parishad chairman Ataur Rahman, they claimed that popular and selfless leaders were deprived of posts in the new committee.

Around 150 aggrieved leaders of district BNP and its front organisations were present at the press conference.

Former vice president of district unit Jubo Dal Saiful Islam Khoka read out a statement before the newsmen.

In the statement, they said president, secretary and organising secretary in the newly formed committee never joined any party programmes. They are moneyed but not popular among party workers.

They further said that the newly formed BNP committee president Afroza Khan Rita and her father Haruner Rashid Khan Monno worked against BNP candidate advocate Jamilur Rashid Khan during Manikganj-2 constituency byelection in 2001. The BNP candidate was defeated to independent candidate Samsuddin Ahmed.

They demanded reform of the committee with Ataur Rahman as president or secretary.

Meanwhile, BNP and its front organisations yesterday brought out separate procession and held rallies in the district to welcome the newly formed committee.

On Saturday, Manikganj district BNP committee was formed after long 12 years with Afroza Khan Rita as president and Mainul Islam Khan Shanto as general secretary.

BNP acting general secretary Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir approved the newly formed 16-member committee.

The other committee members are -- senior vice-president: advocate Moksedur Rahman, vice-presidents: advocate Khondaker Abdul Hamid Dablu, advocate Jamilur Rashid Khan, Mahbub Hossain Mohobbot, advocate Azad Hossain Khan, advocate Ataur Rahman Bhuyan Farid and Abdul Baten, senior joint secretary: Motaleb Hossain, joint secretaries: Abdul Kuddus Khan Majlish Makhon and Tozammel Haque Toza, organising secretary: SA Kabi Zinnah, assistant organising secretary: Satyenkanta Pandit Bhajan, office secretary: Abdus Salam and agriculture affairs secretary: Dr Khondaker Akbar Hossain Bablu.

Locals confine PDB staff

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Tangail

People of Bhuapur upazila yesterday confined an assistant engineer and four employees of Power Development Board (PDB) to a local hotel on charge of not setting up transformer despite of taking bribe.

The 200-KV transformer on Govindasi T Road went out of order over 20 days ago.

Locals then gave Tk 20,000 to the local PDB officials as bribe to replace the transformer immediately, said sources.

Later, the PDB staffs set up an old 100-KV transformer in place of 200-KV which went out of order on Sunday.

Angered, locals confined the five staffs including assistant engineer Milon Ahmed to the hotel when they went there for line repair.

On information, upazila nirbahi officer Mohammad Helaluzzaman and officer in-charge Rabiul Islam rushed in and rescued them following an assurance of taking steps to resolve the problem immediately.

Misbehaviour noticed but obstruction to police duty ignored!

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Two sub-inspectors (SIs) of Hajiganj Police Station were closed to Chandpur Police Lines yesterday for allegedly misbehaving with some local BCL men on Sunday night.

The sub-inspectors are Billal Hossain and Syed Zahidul Haque.

Delwar Hossain of Tofira village in Kachua upazila married off his daughter Shahina Akhter to Md Ibrahim of Khatara village in Hajiganj upazila two and half years ago. They have a son aged about 18 months.

As in-laws used to torture Sahina since marriage on flimsy grounds, her father complained to local influential people who failed to put an end to the matter through arbitrations.

Following a case filed by Shahina's father Delwar Hossain with a Chandpur court on Sunday, the court asked Hajiganj police to rescue Shahina from her in-laws' house.

As per directive of the court, a police team, led by sub-inspectors Billal Hossain and

Syed Zahidul Haque, went to Khatara village the same day. On arrival, Shahina's brothers-in-law and some local youths had an altercation with cops. At one stage, police slapped Shahina's brother-in-law Kawser.

As local youths tried to obstruct cops from performing their duties, they (police) dispersed the youths, rescued Shahina along with her child and took them to the police station.

In the evening, Shahina's brothers-in-law along with around 100 BCL men besieged Hajiganj Police Station and scuffled with police. Hajiganj BCL leader Sukkar sustained injuries during scuffle.

On information, senior leaders of BCL and AL Hajiganj municipality unit rushed to the spot and pacified the BCL men.

When the incident was brought to the notice of Police Superintendent Md Ameer Zafar, he closed the two sub-inspectors to the district police lines on charge of misbehaving with the BCL men.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Agriculture Training Institute in Ishwardi of Pabna yesterday boycotted classes and brought out a procession protesting attack allegedly by the ruling party backed outsiders on Sunday.

Five children drown in ponds

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Five children drowned in separate incidents in Bagerhat, Chandpur and Moulvibazar on Sunday and Saturday.

In Bagerhat, Azan Sheikh, a 14 months old boy of Nannu Sheikh of Alukdia village in Sadar upazila drowned in a pond near their house on Sunday noon.

Family sources said, little Azan crawled to the pond to unawareness of all and fell in it.

After a frantic search, he was found floating in the pond and taken to Sadar Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

In Chandpur, Manik, 4, son of Sattar Talukdar and Tania Akter, 8, daughter of Sukkur Gazi, fell into a pond while playing on the bank at Dhalirghat in Sadar upazila on Saturday afternoon.

In Moulvibazar, two kids drowned in a pond at Ramnagar village in Srimongal upazila on Sunday.

The deceased are Shohan Mia, 4, and Ferdousi Akhter, 2, son and daughter of Jamshed Mia of the village.

Locals said both the kids were playing near the pond. They suddenly fell in the water and drowned.

SNIPPETS

3 abducted in Dighinala

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Three people were abducted in Babuchhara area in Dighinala upazila early yesterday. The victims were identified as Jesan Chakma, 29, son of Buddha Dhan Chakma of Jarulchhari area, Santipriya Chakma, 32, son of Nayan Kumar Chakma and Chaga Chakma, 42, son of Kalandra Chakma of Lambachhara area in Babuchhara union of the upazila. United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF) in Dighinala blamed the armed cadres of Shantu Larma faction of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati (PCJSS) for the abduction.

Cattle trader shot by BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

A Bangladeshi cattle trader was injured as Indian Border Security Force (BSF) opened fire along Anantapur border in Phulbari upazila yesterday. The victim was identified as Nur Islam, 25, a cattle trader and son of Ayub Ali of Anantapur village in the upazila. Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) sources said the BSF troops at Zikori camp in Cooch Behar district in India opened fire on Nur Islam when he approached the border for bringing cattle at 5:00am, leaving him injured. Later at a flag meeting the BSF men said they used rubber bullets and fired in the leg of Nur Islam.

Seven get life for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Additional District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Abdul Hamid yesterday sentenced seven people to life term imprisonment and fined Tk 10 thousand each, in default, to suffer six months more in jail, for killing a man in 1995. The convicts are Tomizuddin, Lutfur Rahaman, Khodeza Khatun, Sahabuddin, Abdul Gani, Mobarak and Obed Ali of Alamshree village in Madan upazila of the district. The case in brief is that, on May 29 night in 1995, the seven killed Marfat Ali, 45, of the same village with sharp weapons over a disputed land.

BRUR summer vacation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) authorities have changed their summer vacation. As per the new schedule, the six-day summer vacation will begin from June 15, 2013. All academic activities and administrative work of the university will resume on June 22. In a meeting presided over by Dr AKM Nur-un-Nabi, vice-chancellor of BRUR, took the decision yesterday noon.

Jute mill gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A fire gutted goods and equipment of Joy Jute Mill in Mokamtola area of Shibganj upazila Sunday evening. Owner of the jute mill Orobindu Saha Bablu claimed machines and jute worth Tk 10 lakh were gutted by the fire. Senior station officer of Bogra Fire Service Shohel Rana said that the fire might have originated from a machine.