

DINAJPUR, LAXMIPUR DISTRICTS

Roadblock, hartal for smooth power supply

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Power starved people in two upazilas of Dinaipur and Laxmipur districts yesterday blocked road and enforced hartal, protesting frequent outages and demanding smooth supply.

People from all walks of life yesterday blocked a highway in Birganj upazila of Dinaipur protesting frequent load shedding.

Police charged batons on the agitating people to disperse them, reports our correspondent.

Locals said, several hundred people, including teacher, students, farmers and businessmen of Birganj upazila, besieged the upazila complex at around 12.00pm yesterday.

Md Ayub Ali, AGM at Birganj Zonal Office Palli Bidyut Samity-1, rushed to the spot and tried to pacify the agitating people. But the angry people moved to Old Shaheed Minar in the town and later blocked the Panchagarh-Dhaka highway, demanding smooth power supply in the upazila.

As dozens of vehicles got stranded on both side of the highway, police charged baton on the protesters to bring the situation under control.

At around 1.10pm, police restored the road communication by assuring the people that the matter would be placed before the high officials.



PHOTO: STAR

Several hundred people block Panchagarh-Dhaka highway in Birganj upazila of Dinaipur yesterday, demanding smooth power supply in the upazila.

Most roads in Galachipa in rundown state

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Most of roads in Galachipa municipality area under the district are in a very bad shape due to lack of renovation for long.

During the rainy season, water gathers in the potholes, much to the sufferings of commuters and pedestrians.

Set up in 1997 as a second class municipality, Galachipa was upgraded to a class one category early this year but there has been no noticeable improvement in service for its 25,000 inhabitants in 3.46 square kilometre area.

Of its 46.5 km metalled roads, only 11.10 km is well, said sources of the municipality.

Thana road (police station road), Ferry ghat road, Samudabad road, T&T road, Upazila road, Chowrasta, Arambagh road, Halipad road, College road, Sadar road, Fider road are a few of the awfully rundown roads.

"We have to suffer greatly as most of the roads have become unfit for use due to lack

of repair. Sufferings increase during the rains as water gets stored in the holes at different places," said Babul Mia, 60, a resident of Sadar road area.

The municipality authorities should take immediate step to repair the badly damaged roads to mitigate sufferings of the locals, he said.

SM Solaiman, assistant engineer of Galachipa municipality, said, "We have called tenders to repair the damaged roads. We hope that fund will be available by December and we will be able to repair it."

Abdul Wahab Khalifa, mayor for Galachipa municipality, said some projects including repair of roads have already been approved by local government ministry and we will take step to repair all the damaged roads after getting fund.

Most roads are badly damaged as a good number of trucks loaded with water melon move through the roads during the dry season, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Most of the roads in Galachipa municipality area, including this one at Aratpatti, are in awful conditions, thanks to the authorities of the first class category municipality.

Transport strike called off

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satikhira

Buses returned to streets of the district as transport owners and workers called off their indefinite strike yesterday morning.

President of District Bus-Minibus Owners' Association Saiful Karim Sabu said they withdrew the strike as the local administration at a meeting assured them of resolving their problems including imposing ban on plying of illegal vehicles on the highways.

District Bus-Minibus Owners' Association and Bus-Minibus Workers' Association enforced the transport strike on Tuesday morning, causing immense sufferings to passengers. No buses plied in nine routes of the district.

The associations alleged that the Jamaat-Shibir men from a procession on Satkhira-Kaliganj highway at Sekendara in Debhata upazila on Monday evening vandalised around 15 passenger buses.

BNP enforces hartal in Chowgachha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

BNP Chowgachha unit enforced a half-day hartal in the upazila yesterday, protesting murder of its activist Atiar Rahman allegedly by local Awami League men on Monday night.

Atiar, 35, a charge sheeted accused in upazila Jubo League president Asraf Hossain Asha murder case, was hacked to death at a tea stall near his house at Jagannathpur village in the upazila at around 8:00pm.

Vehicles, including buses and human haulers were off the roads during hartal hours. BNP activists put up barricades on roads at the upazila headquarters and brought out a procession, demanding arrest of the killers.

Shops and educational institution remained closed. Officer-in-Charge Golam Rahman of Chaugachha Police Station said no untoward incident occurred during the hartal.

Atiar's elder brother Mosharrar Hossain filed a case with local police station on Tuesday night, accusing 17 local Awami League men. None of the accused was arrested as of filing of this report at 5:00pm yesterday.

BCL locks entrance to IU

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Defying a ban on rallies and processions, activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Islamic University (IU) unit yesterday took out a procession on the campus and locked the main entrance to the university, demanding quota in the ongoing recruitment of class three and class four employees.

They also assaulted Officer-in-Charge (OC) MD Moniruzzaman of IU Police Station as he tried to prevent them from bringing out the procession on the campus, defying the ban imposed by the university authorities for a month from on September 3.

The BCL men led by IU unit convener Samim Hossain Khan paraded the campus, chanting slogans against Vice Chancellor Abdul Hakim and demanding removal of the officer-in-charge.

They unlocked the gate at around 2:30pm at the request of some IU officials.

On Monday, BCL kept the offices at the administrative building under lock and key for over two hours as the university authorities convened a syndicate meeting without completing viva voce for recruitment of class three and class four employees.

The IU authorities fixed September 29 for holding the syndicate meeting while viva for recruitment of 30 employees is scheduled to be complete on September 3.

Campus sources said BCL has submitted a list of its candidates and is putting pressure on the IU authorities to recruit its candidates. The BCL men want the VC to convene syndicate meeting after September 3 to give approval to new recruits, sources added.

Youth jailed for stalking

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A youth was jailed for two months for stalking a female doctor of Sadar hospital on Tuesday afternoon.

Executive Magistrate Shariful Islam handed down the verdict at his office in presence of police, witnesses and local people.

The stalker was identified as Abdur Rahim, 24, son of Yaqub Ali of Hatura village under Kulaghat union in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

Police said, Rahim sexually harassed a female doctor while she was returning to her quarters after emergency duty at hospital at around 10.30pm on Monday night.



PHOTO: STAR

A four-kilometre long human chain from Taltoli to Nazirerpool in Barisal city was formed yesterday, protesting raise in treatment costs at Holling Bery Syed Moazzem Hossain Red Crescent Hospital in the city. Around 10,000 people joined the programme that continued for an hour from 11:00am to 12:00 noon.

As schoolhouse damaged by storm not repaired..

KM REZAUL HOQUE, Gaibandha

Students of Putimari Registered Primary School in Monoharpur union of Palashbari upazila have to attend classes under the open sky as the schoolhouse, damaged in a storm in April this year, is yet to be repaired.

Local people set up the school in 1974 and the present schoolhouse was constructed in 1995.

The number of students increasing gradually. In April this year the roof of

schoolhouse got damaged by a storm.

The school authority on May 1 urged the upazila education officer of Palashbari for immediate renovation of the schoolhouse, so that the children's classes are not hampered.

On July 1, upazila engineer of LGED Abu Taiyab Shamsuddin visited the school and he issued a letter on July 15, declaring the schoolhouse abandoned.

After that the authority arranged classes on the school ground.

"It is really difficult to conduct classes in scorching hot days while students run for shelter at nearby houses when the sky is covered with cloud. If the situation continues, we will not be able to prevent dropout of students," said Nurul Islam, headmaster of the school.

"The schoolhouse will be renovated with a tin-shed roof, and we are contacting the LGED for the purpose," said ATM Rowan Akhter, upazila education officer, Palashbari.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Putimari Registered Primary School in Palashbari upazila of Gaibandha attend classes under open sky as the schoolhouse, damaged during a storm in April this year, is yet to be repaired.

Lightning kills 9 in 4 districts

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Lightning killed four people yesterday afternoon at Barshalupara village under Atwary upazila in Panchagarh, reports our thakurgaon correspondent.

The deceased were identified as Dabiruddin alias Pohatu, 30, son of late Sabdul of Rampur village, Poritosh Barman, 17, son of Chan Mohon, Biren Sing, 40, son of Akalu Sing of Alowakhawa Konpara village and Mintu, 18, son of Islam of Balapara village under the same upazila.

Chairman of Alowakhawa union parishad Md. Touhidul Islam told this correspondent over cell phone that lightning struck a group of people about 3:00pm while they were fishing, lifting sand or grassing cattle in Bahubadh area of Brashlupara village. Four people died on the spot while Krishna, 17, son of Chatao Sing of Alowakhawa village received burn injuries.

Local people rescued Krishna immediately and took him to Atwary upazila health complex.

Later he was shifted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital after a few minutes of admission as his condition deteriorated.

In Munshiganj, two fishermen, identified as Mamun, 18, and Ziaur Rahman, 35, were struck by a lightning while they were fishing in the Meghna at Char Jhapta village under Char Kewar union in Sadar upazila yesterday noon, reports our correspondent. Seriously burnt, they were taken to Munshiganj General Hospital, where the on-duty doctors declared them dead.

In Rangpur, a woman killed by a thunderbolt at Ponchaetpara village under Badarganj upazila yesterday noon, reports our correspondent.

The deceased was identified as Monoara Bagum, 45, wife of Asgar Ali

of the village.

Police and local sources said, Monoara went to the nearby field at 3:30pm to bring back cattle.

At that time a thunderbolt hit her, killing her on the spot.

In Dinaipur, lightning killed a housewife and a teenage boy in Biral and Parbatipur upazilas yesterday, reports our correspondent.

The housewife was identified as Rani Bala Roy, 28, wife of Bishu Chandra Roy of Paschim Rajarampur village under Biral upazila and Nur Nabi, 14, son of Abu Kalam of Sherpur village under Parbatipur upazila.

Police said the woman was killed on the spot by lightning at around 8:30am when she came out of her house for household works.

Nur Nabi was killed in the afternoon when he went out to fetch cattle from a nearby field.

Housewife murdered for dowry

Body of another found in jungle

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A housewife was killed allegedly for dowry by her husband at Char Daserbari village in Sarishabari upazila of Jamalpur on Tuesday morning.

The deceased was identified as Hawa Begum, 22, mother of a baby girl and wife of Jamirul Islam of the village.

Police quoting villagers and family members of the deceased said Jamirul had been demanding dowry from Hawa's family since their marriage three years ago. For this he used to torture her on and often. On Tuesday morning, the couple picked up a quarrel over the matter and at one stage, Jamirul strangled her and then hung the body to show it as a case of suicide.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Jamalpur General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

In Netrakona, Khaliajuri police on Tuesday morning recovered the body of a housewife from a jungle at Fata village under the upazila.

The dead was identified as Rokshana Begum, 30, wife of Abul Khandakar of the village, reports our correspondent.

Police and neighbours said, Rokshana went to bed with her only son Faisal, 6, as her husband went to Mymensingh for treatment.

In the morning, local people found her body in the jungle and informed the police.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Khaliajuri

PS Abul Kalam said, they were yet to ascertain the reason behind the murder. A case was filed, he said.

In Comilla, a housewife allegedly committed suicide at Chiwara village in Noangolkot upazila yesterday morning, reports our correspondent.

The deceased was identified as Tahmina Begum, 19, wife of Dubai expatriate Khonkon Miah of Jordda village in the upazila.

Officer in charge of Noangolkot PS Swapon Kumar Nath said, they recovered the woman's hanging body from a room at her parental house at dawn.

Police suspect that the housewife might have committed suicide following a family feud.