



PHOTO: STAR

This rice mill at Azimpur village in Biral upazila of Dinajpur remains idle as local farmers cannot supply paddy there due to road blockades enforced by the BNP-led 18-party alliance.

2000 Dinajpur rice mills lie idle for blockades

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

Around 2,000 rice mills in the district remain inoperative during this peak aman harvest season due to continuous blockade enforced by BNP-led 18-party alliance.

The suspension of rice production at the mills, including 122 automatic ones, has left around 50,000 workers jobless.

Millers said road blockade has badly affected their business as farmers can't bring their paddy to the

mills for crushing or sale for lack of vehicles.

Though some mill owners buy paddy from farmers through special arrangement, they are not operating their mills, fearing uncertainty of supply of rice to elsewhere in the country.

"Mills are sitting idle as we can't supply rice to different areas due to opposition sponsored hartals and blockade," said Reza Humayun Kabir, president of Dinajpur Rice Millers Association.

Millers said they would

not operate their mills until the situation is improved. If such situation continues, prices of rice will go up, they added.

Miller Delwar Hossain said he hired a truck on Friday last to transport rice to Dhaka at Tk 47,000, which was double the normal fare.

According to the officials of the Department of Agriculture Extension [DAE], at least 60 percent aman paddy from 2.58 lakh hectares of land in the district have so far been harvested.

HAJI DANESH UNIVERSITY

Shibir vandals 50 rooms of BCL-dominated hall

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

Chhatra Shibir activists at Hajee Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) went on rampage yesterday and vandalised at least 50 rooms of a BCL-dominated dormitory.

At least four students were injured during the incident, police said, adding they lobbed tear gas shells to bring the situation under control.

According to university sources, the pro-Jamaat student body at the university brought out a procession on the campus in the afternoon, protesting the death warrant of Abdul

Quader Mollah, one of Jamaat central leaders.

The BCL unit of the university also brought out a counter procession, triggering a chase and counter chase on the campus.

Soon after the incident, Shibir members, along with armed outsiders from surrounding areas, attacked Zia Hall, a dormitory held mostly by BCL students and damaged at least 50 rooms at the 3-storey building.

Officials said, the attackers damaged the windowpanes, doors and furniture of the rooms. The injured were identified as Zahid, Sifat, Rakib and Sumon. They were rushed to

Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital.

A large number of policemen have been deployed at the university to avoid any further clash.

Earlier on Friday afternoon, a gang of unidentified criminals attacked Arun Kanti Roy, a PhD student of HSTU. The criminals also damaged a pickup van of the university.

Arun is now being treated at Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital.

Iftekharul Islam Real, president of HSTU BCL, claimed that the Jamaat-Shibir men attacked Arun. However, police are yet to identify the criminals.

Rivals kill two outlaws

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Two members of an outlawed party have been killed allegedly by their rivals at Laxmipur village in Damurhuda upazila of Chuadanga district.

Police recovered the bodies from Dalka water body at the village yesterday morning.

Police identified one of them as Minarul Islam Malitha, 45, son of Bhodu Malitha of Potarpura in the upazila, while the identity of the other man could not be known immediately.

Police said, Minarul was a cadre of outlawed Purbo Bangar Communist Party (PBPC-ML) and suspected that the unidentified man was Minarul's accomplice.

Ahsan Habib, officer in-charge (OC) of Damurhuda Model police station said they recovered the bodies around 11:00am on

information from local people.

Farmers who went to field saw the bodies with throats slashed and dumped in the water body.

Jalal Uddin Malitha, younger brother of Minarul told this correspondent that Minarul went out of home on Sunday noon and since remained missing.

Jalal filed a case with Damurhuda Model police station without naming any accused in this connection.

OC Ahsan Habib told the journalists that Minarul was accused in Awami League leader, also Natipota union parishad chairman Mizanur Rahman murder case.

Mizan was killed on October 12, 2010.

Minarul was also accused in several robbery cases filed with Damurhuda police station, he said.



PHOTO: STAR

Local journalists form a human chain on the premises of Bandarban Press Club yesterday, demanding arrest of an 'illegal' brick kiln owner, who harassed a Prothom Alo correspondent while taking a photograph of the kiln in Sadar upazila on Sunday. The newsmen alleged that a local BNP leader has set up the brick kiln near Goungguru Khyangpara Primary School, violating rules and ignoring protests by the teachers, students and locals.

Playground in Sirajganj now 'apple of discord'

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, *Bogra*

Development work of a playground has come to a halt allegedly due to political feud between Zila Parishad administrator and municipality mayor.

According to townspeople, since 1976, "Masumpur Krira Chakra (MKC)" of Sirajganj district town has been producing good players at local and national levels in football, cricket, badminton and kabadi using the playground.

Local young men and women and sports lovers are now frustrated due to failure of the authorities to further develop the playground because of political differences of the two elected heads of the town.

Sirajganj municipality mayor Mokaddesh Ali, who is also secretary of the district unit of BNP, managed to arrange Tk 2 crore assistance for the overall development of the playground, which includes construction of the boundary wall and earth filling.

LGRD ministry later sanctioned Tk 25 lakh for

the development of the field and its boundary wall through Zila Parishad administration which allegedly disappointed the mayor.

However, in the second week of September 2013, construction of the boundary wall began. In a week 40 pillars of the wall were built beside the road.

On September 20, 2013, the municipality authorities allegedly stopped the construction saying that the pillars were not built in the right positions and they needed fresh measurement.

The Zila Parishad administration sent a letter to the municipality for doing fresh measurement and survey of the field to construct the wall, but the reply was yet to reach its office till November 28, 2013, said Chief Executive Officer of the parishad Mohammad Ibrahim.

Zila Parishad administrator Abdul Majid Mondal, a ruling party adherent, said as the field belonged to the club, they started the work but the mayor stopped the

work for 'reasons unknown'.

Secretary of the club Mahfuz Alam Bachchu said that the mayor and Zila Parishad administrator belong to rival political camps. However, the club authorities want a peaceful finishing of the development work.

Club's sports secretary Selim Uddin said that the new boundary wall would cut the size (below 120/80 yard) of the field.

Executive Engineer of the municipality Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal told this correspondent that the work was stopped for survey and the letter of the district administration had been sent to the mayor's office.

Contacted, Mayor Md. Mokaddesh Ali said that Zila Parishad administration and club authorities started construction of the club's boundary wall at the location without the consent of his office.

He refuted the allegation of political feud with the Zila Parishad administrator and said that he would look into the matter.



PHOTO: STAR
Construction of the boundary wall of a playground in Sirajganj district town has come to a halt allegedly due to a political feud between the Zila Parishad administrator and the municipality mayor.

Rokeya Day observed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangpur*

Divisional and district administrations, Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) and socio-cultural organisations in the district observed Begum Rokeya Day yesterday.

Begum Rokeya, pioneer of women's renaissance in the Sub-continent, was born at Payeraband village in Mithapukur upazila of the district on December 9 in 1880 and died on the same date in 1932 in Kolkata.

The birth and death anniversaries of the noted feminist, philosopher, writer and social reformer of Bangladesh are being officially observed as Rokeya Day since 1994.

To mark the 133rd birth and 81st death anniversaries of Begum Rokeya, Rangpur district has organised a three-day programme at her birthplace in Payeraband village.

Md. Delwar Bakth, divisional commissioner of Rangpur, inaugurated the celebrations by placing wreaths at the plaque of Begum Rokeya as chief guest yesterday morning.

Later he inaugurated a three-day Begum Rokeya Fair at Payeraband.

Besides, Begum Rokeya Smriti Sangsad of Payeraband, Begum Rokeya Forum, different non-government and socio-cultural organisations of Rangpur also placed wreaths at the memorial plaque.

BRUR also chalked out a day-long programme on the campus.

In the morning, teachers, students and officials of BRUR brought out a procession which paraded the campus.

SNIPPETS

Fire at filling station

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

Five buses and an oil-laden lorry were gutted in a fire at a filling station on Bogra-Nagarbari Highway in Ullapara upazila of Sirajganj district early yesterday. The fire originated from an electric short circuit at 'Eastern Builders Bangladesh' Filling Station at 2:00am and soon engulfed the lorry and the buses stationed there, said Tazul Huda, officer in-charge of Ullapara police station. On information, firefighters rushed to the spot and doused the blaze after one hour of frantic efforts. The loss caused by the fire could go up to Tk 50 lakh, said the fire station officer.

Outlaw shot dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

An alleged outlaw was shot dead in Atghoria upazila of the district yesterday. Deceased Arshed Ali Sarker, 40, son of Akkas Ali Sarder of Choubaria village, was regional leader of outlawed Nakhal Bahini. He was wanted in several cases. Officer in-charge Monirul Islam of Atghoria police station said a gang riding two motorbikes opened fire on Arshed, leaving him dead on the spot while he was returning home from Ekdantabazar at 6:15pm. The body was sent to Pabna Medical College and Hospital morgue for autopsy. He might have killed over internal feud, said the OC.

No trace of abducted man

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khagrachhari*

Police are yet to rescue a local, who was abducted from Natunbazar area in Dighinala upazila on Friday night. The victim is Surja Bijoy Chakma, 45, of Ultachhari area and headman of 35 no Doluchhara Mowza of the upazila. Family sources said, criminals picked up Surja Bijoy from area when he was going to the spot to meet his relatives. Sub-inspector Nizam Uddin, in-charge of Babuchhara police camp, said police are raiding different areas to rescue the headman.

4 hurt while making bombs

A CORRESPONDENT, *Feni*

At least four activists of Jubo League, youth front of ruling Awami League, were injured allegedly while making bombs at Laxmipur village in Sadar upazila on Sunday. They are Saiful Islam, Kotba Ripon and Jamal Uddin of the village while Shah Alam of nearby village Silua. Of them, Saiful Islam was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital in critical condition while the rest to different hospitals. Officer in-charge Abul Kalam Azad of Feni Model police station said that the four were injured while they were making bombs at a poultry firm in the area.

52 rescued from traffickers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Benapole, Jessore*

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) arrested 52 people, including women and children, in Putkhali border area on Saturday while they were being trafficked to India. BGB 23 Battalion Commander Lt Col Majharul Islam said, a team arrested 20 women, six children and 26 men while they were crossing the border. However, the traffickers managed to flee, sensing the presence of the border guards. The arrestees hailed from Dhaka, Narayanganj, Narail, Khulna and Faridpur districts, said the commander.

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