

Indefinite transport strike in Sirajganj

Transport workers attack cops, 10 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least 10 people including three policemen were injured when some unruly transport workers, who were observing an indefinite strike in Sirajganj district, attacked on law enforcers in municipal bus terminal area yesterday.

Earlier, Sirajganj transport worker's association called an indefinite strike from Sunday morning, protesting a clash between bus and CNG drivers and police on Saturday.

Md Habibur Islam, officer-in-charge of

Sirajganj Sadar police Station, said a group of transport workers suddenly attacked on-duty police personnel and hurled brick chips targeting them in front of the municipal bus terminal area around 10:30am that left three cops injured.

Following the attack, police fired 25 to 30 rounds of rubber bullets to disperse the agitating workers and brought the situation under control, which left seven people injured, the OC said.

Of the injured police-

men, Md Abdul Mazed, sub-inspector of the police station was rushed to Sirajganj General Hospital in a critical condition, added the OC.

Earlier, on Saturday, at least 15 people sustained injuries when police fired rubber bullets and lobbed teargas shells to disperse unruly transports workers, while they were demonstrating putting barricade on a busy road of the town, protesting attack on one of their colleagues by some auto-rickshaw drivers.

Tea garden workers demand four times wage hike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Three major unions of tea garden workers have demanded raise of the workers' wages from present Tk 69 per day to Tk 300.

"We demand Tk 300 per day along with provision for revision considering inflation every six months. We also demand extending all wage and non-wage benefits for seasonal workers. Besides, the garden authorities should fill up the vacant posts and provide skill development training for workers," said Joy Mahato Kurmi, central committee president of Cha Sramik Sangha, who convened a

rally in Sylhet Divisional town last week.

"What we get now is utterly scanty. We want the government to intervene and provide a permanent solution," said Makhon Lal Kormokar, president of Cha Sramik Union 'main group'.

"We demand an industry-wise wage fixation for maintaining a minimum living standard, maternity benefits for all women tea workers, setting up of committees to deal with sexual harassment in all gardens, shade and toilet facilities, and pension benefits," he added.

The leaders have also demanded the new wage agreement.



CELEBRATION ADDS SPICE TO RURAL LIFE: The premises of Basirun Nesa High School at Rasulpur village in Tangail Sadar upazila assumes a festive look as locals arrange traditional Jamai Mela, marking yearly grand hosting of sons-in-law in around 30 villages in the area on the 11th of Bangla month Boishakh. The four-day fair ended yesterday.

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Sunamganj youth stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A young man was stabbed to death following an altercation with an employee of a tyre repair shop in Deraipapazila of Sunamganj district yesterday.

The victim was identified as Sayeed Ahmed, 26, of Chandpur village of the upazila.

Enamul Haque, officer-in-charge of Deraipapazila police station, said Sayeed picked up a quarrel with Narayan, an employee of a tyre-repair shop at Deraipapazila stand area over paying charges for repair of his motorcycle tyre around 11:00am.

At one stage, Narayan stabbed him indiscriminately, leaving him dead on the spot, the OC said.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police arrested Narayan Das for his alleged involvement with the killing.



Students of Bangladesh Agricultural University in Mymensingh stage a sit-in in front of the administrative building of the institution yesterday demanding punishment for the killers of fellow student Saad Ibne Momtaz. They are also continuing boycott of classes and examinations as their agitation continued for the 26th day yesterday.

19 Jamaat-Shibir men held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Police in separate drives arrested at least 19 leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student front Islami Chhatra Shibir in Taraganj, Mithapukur and Pargachha upazilas of the district yesterday.

The arrestees area Mahbubur Rahman Bablu, general secretary of Taraganj upazila unit Jamaat and Anisur Rahman, Abdul Qader, Moju Mia, Dalilur

Rahman, Abdur Razzak, Zakir Hossain, Taiyab Ali, Shamim Reza, Robiul Islam, Shahabul Islam, Bipul Mia, Shobhan Ali, Ansar Ali of Mithapukur and Rafique Mia, Abdul Latif, Saidur Rahman, Nur Mohammad, Ataur Rahman of Pargachha upazila.

Md Abdur Razzak, superintendent of police in Rangpur, said they were arrested on charge of creating violence in the district in different times.

Mir Quasem

FROM PAGE 16

executive council member faces 14 charges, including torture and murders committed in Chittagong between November and December 16, 1971.

Quasem has denied the charges.

Initiating the daylong arguments, Malum said Quasem had got involved with Islami Chhatra Sangha, the then student wing of Jamaat's student wing, in 1967 and become the president of its city and Chittagong College units.

Quasem had become the general secretary of Chhatra Sangha, East Pakistan unit on November 6, 1971, Malum said. He added the accused had formed Al-Badr, an auxiliary force of the Pakistani army, in Chittagong comprising Sangha leaders and activists. He was the commander of Chittagong Al-Badr and later had become one of its central commanders, the prosecutor said.

take the matter into cognisance as a judicial notice, the tribunal asked, "But why didn't you submit it?"

To prove Quasem's political role in 1971, Malum referred to several newspaper reports, which their witnesses had already exhibited. The prosecutor said among the 24 prosecution witnesses, 13 were victims, while five represented the victims' family members.

Simon also placed arguments on the second, third, fourth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth charges citing testimony of the prosecution witnesses and documentary evidence. The prosecution did not give witnesses for the first and fifth charges, he said.

Referring to testimony of several prosecution witnesses, Simon said Dalim Hotel was the headquarters of Chittagong Al-Badr and was "controlled by Quasem".

All the victims were taken to the camp where they endured brutal torture "either in presence of Quasem or upon his directive", said Simon, adding, "So, Mir Quasem Ali has to take the responsibility of all the activities [crimes] committed at Dalim Hotel."

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan with members Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Shahinur Islam adjourned the proceeding until today when the prosecution would place further arguments.

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 has meanwhile adjourned recording testimony of the prosecution witnesses until May 6 in the war crimes case against ATM Azharul Islam as the prosecution sought time.

Recording testimony of the 11th prosecution witness was scheduled for yesterday, but prosecutor Tapas Kanti Baul told the three-member tribunal that they could not produce any witness as some of them had fallen sick due to excessive heat of the summer.

According to the war crimes records, Al-Badr was actually a "killing squad" formed with the leaders and activists of Chhatra Sangha and was especially responsible for the killings of the intellectuals in the last part of the war.

Cadres of Chittagong Al-Badr, in association with the Pakistan army and Razakars and under the leadership of Quasem, had set up torture camps at Dalim Hotel, Dost Mohammad Building and Salma Manjil in the city, Malum said.

Al-Badr men used to abduct intellectuals, pro-liberation people and freedom fighters from different places and torture and kill them at the camps before dumping their bodies, Malum added.

At one point of his submission, Malum was going to cite references from a book named "Al-Badr", written by a Pakistani national, when the court asked if they had submitted it as evidence. As Malum said they had not submitted the book but the court could

BCL men hurt four cops

They attack law enforcers for checking bike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Four policemen were injured in an attack by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men in Dimla upazila under the district on Saturday as the law enforcers stopped a upazila level leader for checking the documents of his motorbike.

The injured are Nayek Shachindra Nath Roy, 30, constables Jasim, 23, Masud Rana, 24, and Al-Amin, 22 of Dimla police station. They were admitted to the upazila health complex.

A case was filed against 50 leaders and activists of BCL in this connection, said Shawkat Ali, officer-in-

charge of the PS.

As part of ongoing 'drive against crimes week' from April 20 -April 27, a check post was set up at Shaheed Minar intersection in the town for verifying documents of motorbikes and owners of the vehicles.

At one stage, police stopped Uttam Kumar Roy, general secretary of Dimla upazila unit of BCL, at the check post at 6:30pm and asked him to show the documents of his motorcycle.

Identifying himself as BCL secretary, Uttam asked the law enforcers to let him go, triggering an altercation.

Being informed, more than 50 BCL activists

equipped with sticks from nearby party office rushed to the spot and attacked the law enforcers, leaving the four policemen injured. At this, police fired a shotgun to disperse the unruly BCL men.

Sub-Inspector Raihan lodged a case against 50 BCL activists, including upazila secretary Uttam and vice president Parvez on charge of obstructing police from performing their professional duties.

Contacted, Uttam said some young activists of the party agitated as police detained my motorbike.

Police are raiding different areas to arrest the accused, said the OC.



DRUG TRADERS IN FRENZY: Drug traders and addicts vandalise and torch Nimnagar Samaj Unnayan Samity, a club at Nimnagar Balubari in Dinajpur town, yesterday as the club members had taken an initiative to stop drug trading in the area.

MARIE STOPES BANGLADESH

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