

RIVERS OUT TO DEVOUR TWO SCHOOLS



Students of Borail Government Primary School in Tongibari upazila under Munshiganj district give a grim look as their classes are stopped amid risk of devouring the schoolhouse anytime by the turbulent Padma. Right, Arial Kha engulfs portion of Baheratala Government Primary School in Shibchar uapzila under Madaripur district.



PHOTO: STAR

TORTURE, RAPE OF INDIGENOUS LEADER

Road march, rally demand punishment to culprits

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Indigenous people at a rally held at Adda of Gomostapur upazila yesterday demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of those who beat up and raped an indigenous woman leader in the upazila on August 4.

Lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badshah of Rajshahi and leaders of different political parties and indigenous leaders spoke at the rally.

After the rally, they started their road march which ended in the afternoon in front of Deputy Commissioner office in Chapainawabganj town.

At another rally there, the speakers said that president of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad, Chapainawabganj unit, was beaten up and raped by a gang of land grabbers at Zinarpur village of Gomostapur upazila on August 4. Since then she is undergoing treatment at Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital. But police were yet to arrest all the

accused.

They demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of those who beat up and raped their leader.

The leaders also demanded a separate land commission for plain land indigenous people.

Rabindra Nath Soren, president of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad central committee, presided over the rally.

Usaton Talukdar MP from Rangamati, Pankaj Bahattachariya, NAP leader, Kzai Sufia Akhtar, central leader of Jatiya Mohila Parishad, Sabin Chandra Munda, Adivasi Parishad general secretary, Bimol Chandra Rajoar, its organising secretary, Sushen Kumar, general secretary of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad, Rajshahi district unit, indigenous leaders Bina Munda, Bishut Muni Toppo, Bashanti Murmu and Bazlur Rashid Firoz, central leader of Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal spoke at the rally.

Later, the indigenous leaders submitted a memorandum to the prime

minister through the deputy commissioner of Chapainawabganj, demanding immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of August 4 culprits and a separate land commission for plain land indigenous people.

Several hundred indigenous people, including women, participated in the road march.

The indigenous leader, who was raped and tortured, was also a member of Parbatipur Union Parishad in the upazila. She came under attack while she along with labourers was planting aman seedling on a farmland at noon.

As the labourers fled the scene in the face of attack, three of the gang -- Rezaul Karim, Akbar Ali and Akbar Hossain -- took her to one side of a field and committed the crime.

The attackers also took away her power tiller, two bullocks and a shallow pump machine.

Police have so far arrested three of the gang.



PHOTO: STAR

Indigenous people hold a gathering in front of the deputy commissioner's office in Chapainawabganj town yesterday demanding arrest and punishment of the land grabbers who raped a woman indigenous leader in Gomostapur upazila under Chapainawabganj district on August 4. They also reiterated their demand for formation of a separate land commission for the plain land indigenous people in different areas of the country.

'Robber' found murdered in Kushtia

UNB, Kushtia

Police recovered the body of an alleged robber, with the throat slashed, from a field at Shehala in Daulatpur upazila on Monday morning.

The deceased was identified as Shahidul Islam Fida, 40, son of Pocha, a resident of the village.

Locals spotted the body in the field and informed police in the morning.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Kushtia General Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Enamul Haque, officer in-charge (OC) of Daulatpur Police Station, said rivals might have stabbed him to death and dumped the body in the field.

Shahidul was a member of inter-district robber gang and also wanted in several cases, including for robbery and violence, with the Daulatpur and Gangni police stations, the OC added.

Tales of venomous rivalry

3000 banana plants felled in Jhenidah, 126 mango saplings in Rangpur

STAR COUNTRY DESK

At least 3000 banana plants of 11 farmers have been felled allegedly by rivals at Dudsar village in Shaillkupa upazila of Jhenidah district, reports our correspondent.

The victims are Mojib Uddin, who cultivated the plants of the fruit on 20 decimals of land, Bipul Hossain on 15 decimals, Sayed Ali on 10 decimals, Joyanal Hossain on 45 decimals, Rezaul Islam on 10 decimals, Nazrul Islam on 10 decimals, Hossain Ali on 10 decimals, Mojibur Rahman on 5 decimals, Siddique Ali on 40 decimals, Rabbani Mandol on 8 decimals, Motiar Rahman on 15 decimals, Amirul Islam on 33 decimals, and Saded Ali on 10 decimals.

The affected farmers said their rival group, allegedly led by Milton Joardar and

Tarun Joardar backed by a local lawmaker, felled the banana plants on 7 bighas of land on Monday night.

Locals said, there had been a longstanding conflict between AL-backed former Shaillkupa upazila chairman Nayeab Ali Joardar and Milton and Tarun. As a sequel of the feud, the rival group damaged the plants, causing huge loss to the farmers, they said.

"Now I don't know how I will repay the loan of Tk 5,000 taken from local NGO Asha", posed grower Nazrul who leased 10 decimals of land by Tk 7,000 for the banana cultivation.

Contacted, former UP chairman Nayeab Ali and Milton and Tarun blamed each other for felling of the banana plants.

Deputy Commissioner Shafikul Islam asked OC Sagir Mia of Shaillkupa police

station to file a case and arrest the accused by they are AL and BNP activists.

Away in Rangpur, criminals cut off at least 126 mango saplings of an orchard at Osmanpur village in Pirganj upazila early Tuesday, reports our correspondent.

Owner of the orchard, Habibur Rahman, 65, of Duramithipur village, said he cultivated the mango saplings on 63 decimals of his paternal land a few days ago.

On Tuesday morning, he found the saplings felling when he went to look after them.

"I have no rivalry with anyone but why it happens to me", lamented Habibur.

At night, he filed a complaint with Pirganj police station against some unidentified people in this connection, said OC Md Akhtaruzzaman Proshan.

THAKURGAON

People suffer as transport strike continues

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Transport owners and workers enforced their ongoing indefinite strike on all roads in the district from Tuesday night, demanding a ban on plying of unauthorised vehicles.

On Sunday, they went on an indefinite strike only on four routes in the district. After an emergency meeting held in the office of Thakurgaon Transport Owners Association in the evening, Transport Owners and Workers Coordination Committee took the decision to enforce the strike on all roads in the district.

The coordination committee is comprised of the leaders of Thakurgaon Transport Owners Association, Thakurgaon Transport Workers' Union and Thakurgaon Truck and Tank Lorry Workers' Union.

Bus went off all roads in the district while night coaches from other districts, including Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna and Faridpur, were forced to stop at different points by the supporters of the associations, causing untold suffering to the passengers.

The transport workers also blocked three wheelers and easy bikes on the roads. They brought out processions from Thakurgaon Old Bus stand, Art Gallery Intersection, Thakurgaon Intersection, chanting slogans against three wheelers, Nasimoan, Karimon, Bhatboti and human haulers.

Thakurgaon Transport Owners' Association President Ram Babu said they enforced the strike on all routes in the district as the district administration did not take any step to ban human haulers, Nasimon, Karimon and Bhatboti and battery-run easy bikes on the busy roads and highways.

Leaders of the coordination committee said the number of unauthorised vehicles is on the rise on roads and highways, posing risks of accident and causing huge losses to the bus owners.

Contacted, Deputy Commissioner Mukesh Chandra Biswas said they are trying to resolve the issue as soon as possible.

Transport strike in Rangamati withdrawn

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Transport owners and workers of the district last night withdrew their indefinite strike after the local administration assured them of taking steps against the culprits who assaulted six bus drivers.

The meeting that took place at the deputy commissioner's office ended around 8:30pm.

Earlier, an indefinite strike took effect on 14 roads and six waterways in the district yesterday, demanding arrest of those responsible for the attack.

Rangamati Road and Waterway Transport Owners-Workers' Oikya Parishad announced the strike from a press conference at the office of Rangamati-Chittagong Motor Owners' Association in the town on Tuesday.

The Rangamati District Bus Workers' Union has suspended bus operation on the Rangamati-Chittagong Road in protest against the assault on the six bus drivers on Monday.

On Monday night, the six bus drivers were beaten up by a gang following a brawl between some transport workers and local shopkeepers in Old Bus Station area in the town.

A case was filed with Kotwali Police Station in this connection.

Police said they have already arrested two suspects -- Hafizul and Monzu.

Brutality unbound

Kid molested 4 years ago faces murder attempt as she gives deposition in court

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A 12-year-old girl is groaning in pain at Dimla upazila health complex for a week, following murder attempt by a man who molested her four years ago.

The girl, a Class V student of Dimla Nizpara Government Primary School, faced the criminal's wrath on August 21 as she gave deposition in Women and Children Repression Prevention Court in Nilphamari on August 19.

She was given 12 stitches as there were several deep cut marks on her throat and left ear, said Anup Kumar Roy, resident medical officer of the health complex.

Visiting the girl there yesterday noon, this correspondent found her too ailing and traumatised to speak.

"Neighbour Tabibul Islam, 23, son of Islam of the same village, tried to rape my daughter in 2010 in a nearby paddy field. Regarding the matter, I filed a case with Dimla police station, which is now under trial in Women and Children Repression Prevention Court in Nilphamari," victim's mother Nur Nahar told this correspondent.

In last four years, influential family members of the molester tried to make them withdraw the case,

sometimes by offering money and sometimes giving death threat, but the girl and her parents remained determined to bring the culprit to book.

They attended the court on all dates.

On August 19, the girl narrated to the special judge about the rape attempt on her by Tabibul four years ago and so, the criminal and his associates tried to kill her, said the victim's father Abu Taher, a day labourer of Kumarpura village in Dimla upazila.

"On the night of August 21, Tabibul and his men entered her room and caused injuries on her throat and ear while trying to slit her throat. Hearing her scream, her mother and villagers rushed in and the culprits fled away," he said.

On Friday morning, the victim was brought to Dimla health complex in a critical condition.

The same day, her mother filed a case with Dimla police station accusing seven people including Tabibul of the attempted murder.

Police are trying to arrest the culprits who have fled away from home, said Shawkat Ali, officer in charge of Dimla police station.

Assistant Superintendent of Police in Sadar Circle Shafikul Islam visited the victim at the hospital and talked to her on Saturday.

TIFFIN AT NATORE SCHOOL

50 kids fall sick

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

At least 50 students fell sick allegedly after having tiffin served at a girls' school in the district yesterday morning.

The students of Natore Government Girls High School complained of severe stomach pain after eating cakes given by the school authorities at 10:30am, said teachers and guardians.

Among the sick students, 27 were rushed to Natore Sadar Hospital while the rest to different local clinics.

The school authorities supplied low quality foods


for the students, said Ali Akmak Bappi, president of guardian committee at the school, adding that students got ant and fly in their tiffin at previous times.

Bappi also demanded probe committee to investigate the incident.

Contacted, Gopal Chandra Sarkar, headmaster of the school, said the authorities have been providing the students with tiffin for the last few years.

"A local bakery has been supplying the foods. But no such incident took place before. We will look into the matter," he said.

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



KALIM KHAN

Sadly missed along life's way,
quietly remembered everyday....
No longer in our life to share
but in our hearts, you are always there.

- All family members