



A huge quantity of rice remains piled up at a husking mill at Atahar in Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila as transport is badly hampered due to the indefinite countrywide blockade enforced by BNP-led 20-party alliance.

Rice millers in C'nawabganj incur huge loss

Many workers have become jobless as blockade disrupts supply chain, production

RABIUL HASAN,
Chapainawabganj

Rice millers in the district are incurring huge losses due to non-stop countrywide blockade enforced by BNP-led 20-party alliance.

Thousands of labourers of different rice mills have also become temporarily jobless as many rice millers have stopped or lessened production due to problem in sending the food grain to Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet and other places.

"I have suspended operation of four of the seven boiling units of my rice mill due to transport prob-

lem amid countrywide blockade," said Akbar Hossain, owner of Nabab Auto Rice and Feed Mills Pvt Ltd at Atahar in Sadar upazila.

"I usually collect paddy from Chapainawabganj, Naogaon and Dinajpur. After husking it in my mill, I supply the rice to the capital and other places but both procurement and supply works are now badly disturbed," said the owner of the large rice mill.

Monsur Rahman, owner of Sagor Auto Rice Mill in the town, Mozammel Haque, owner of Haque Auto Rice Mill, and Mofizuddin, owner

of Mafiz Auto Rice Mill in Atahar area of Sadar upazila, said they now produce much smaller amounts of rice that is supplied to markets within short distances only.

They are incurring losses as they have to continue paying labourers' wages, electricity bills and interests on bank loans, said the rice mill owners.

Several rice mill workers including Torikul, Atikur, Anarul Islam and Habibur Rahman said they are passing hard days with their families as they have become jobless due to decreased production in rice mills.

Some 15,000 labourers work in around 250 rice mills in the district and nearly 100 truckloads of rice is usually sent to the capital and different districts daily from Chapainawabganj, said Erfan Ali, owner of Erfan Agro Food Ltd and Raju Rice Mill.

But now only 10 to 20 trucks carry rice outside the district as truckers feel insecure to rent out their vehicles fearing vandalism and arson attacks by blockade.

Police recovered the body of Amir Ali Mondol, 30, son of Jalal Mondol of Ovirampur village in the upazila, yesterday morning.

Police said Amir went out of his house along with his auto-rickshaw on Friday afternoon and did not return since then.

Locals found his body around 7:00 am and informed police. Police went to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to the hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Auto-rickshaw driver, 12-yr-old boy murdered

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two people, including a 12-year-old boy, were found murdered in two upazilas of Tangail and Bogra districts yesterday.

Police recovered the throat-slit body of a 12-year-old boy in Ghatail upazila yesterday, reports our Tangail correspondent.

The deceased is Anwar Hossain, son of Abdur Rahim, a resident of Kusharia village in the upazila.

Police said Anwar went to watch a cultural programme at a school in neighbouring Panjerbaid village on Friday evening and remained missing since then.

A local woman spotted his throat-slit body at a turmeric field near the school in the morning and informed Sandhanpur Union Parishad Chairman Shahidul Islam.

Being informed by the UP chairman, police went to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Tangail Medical College Hospital for autopsy around 12:00 noon. Victim's father, a day labourer, filed a murder case with Ghatal Police Station.

In Bogra, unidentified criminals strangled a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver and took away the vehicle at Betgari village in Shibganj upazila on Friday night, reports our correspondent.

Police recovered the body of Erfan Ali Mondol, 30, son of Jalal Mondol of Ovirampur village in the upazila, yesterday morning.

Police said Erfan went out of his house along with his auto-rickshaw on Friday afternoon and did not return since then.

Locals found his body around 7:00 am and informed police. Police went to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to the hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Land disputes leave two killed in Rangpur, Bogra

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two people were killed over land disputes in Pirganj upazila of Rangpur and Sonatala municipality area in Bogra on Friday night.

The dead were identified as Mozammel Haque, 45, son of late Kina Mamud of Rawshanpur village in Pirganj upazila; and Abdul Mannan, 40, son of Torab Ali of Ganakpara village in Sariakandi upazila of Bogra.

Our Rangpur correspondent reported that there had been a long-standing dispute between Mozammel and his maternal uncle Badsha Mia over a piece of land at Abdullaupur village in the upazila.

"We are trying our best to arrest the accused," the OC added.

In Sonatala upazila of Bogra, farmer Abdul Mannan was hacked to death over a land dispute

the spot and swooped on Mozammel and his brothers with lethal weapons, leaving Mozammel and Abu Taleb injured.

Villagers rescued the two brothers and took them to Pirganj Upazila Health complex. Later, Mozammel was shifted to a clinic in Rangpur city as his condition deteriorated. He died at the clinic at around 8:00pm on Friday.

Md Israel Hossain, officer-in-charge of Pirganj Police Station, said Badsha Mia and his men had gone into hiding soon after filing of a case by Mozammel's younger brother Abu Taleb with the police station on January 26.

"We are trying our best to arrest the accused," the OC added.

In Sonatala upazila of Bogra, farmer Abdul Mannan was hacked to death over a land dispute



A large number of students and their guardians join a human chain on Abdul Hamid Road in Pabna town yesterday demanding immediate end to political agitations like hartal and blockade, especially in view of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations starting across the country tomorrow.

Fish trader hurt in gun attack in Kuakata

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Barisal

A fish trader of the city was seriously injured in a gun attack in Kuakata of Patuakhali district on Friday.

The injured, Nirob Hossain Tutul, 38, son of Harunur Rashid of Beni Singher Haveli in Nazirpol area of the city, is joint secretary of Barisal Matsya Aratdar (wholesalers') Samity.

He is also close friend of central Jubo League leader Sadik Abdulla, said locals.

Tutul along with his 30 to

40 associates, including Sadik, went to Kuakata at around 3:00 pm and boarded in Hotel Sea View

there.

"Suddenly, I heard a sound inside a room on the first floor of the hotel in the evening and found Tutul lying in a pool of blood," said Solaiman Islam, manager of the hotel.

The injured was sent to Patuakhali General Hospital and then shifted to Fair Health Clinic in Barisal.

He was later referred to Dhaka for better treatment as his condition deteriorated, said Dr Zahirul Islam Manik of the clinic.

Tutul's left leg might have to be amputated to save his life, said the doctor but refused to say anything about the cause of the injury.

Dr Dilruba Akhtar of Patuakhali General Hospital also refused to give details on the injuries for some unknown reasons.

However, Shoyeb Ahmed, deputy commissioner of Barisal Metropolitan Police (BMP), said Tutul sustained bullet injuries but could not say anything about the reason of the attack.

Despite repeated attempts, this correspondent could not reach Sadik Abdulla and family members of Tutul for their comments on the issue as their cellphones remained switched off.



Pitha Mela in Kaliganj upazila under Jhenidah district attracts visitors on the opening day of the fair, meant for display and sale of varieties of pitha, traditional delicacies of rural Bangladesh, on Friday. The upazila administration and Japan-based NGO Hunger Free World organised the two-day fair.

তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন এণ্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড
(পেট্রোলিয়াম একটি কোম্পানি)
"তিতাস গ্যাস ভবন"
১০৫, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ
কাওরুন বাজার বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২১৫

ফ্লাইর নং: ৮৮০-২-১১২০১৩ ফোন নং: ৮৮০-২-৮৮১৯৩০ পিএভিএল নং: ১১০৩৬০-৯

তারিখ: ২৯-০১-১৫

সূত্র নং-ক্রসিং: ২৩১৬/১-বিসিক

তারিখ: ২৯-০১-১৫

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