



Huge quantities of hard rock lies piled up on the premises of Madhyapara Granite Mining Company Limited in Parbatipur upazila under Dinajpur district as transport of the item to different places has remained virtually suspended due to the non-stop countrywide blockade along with frequent hartals enforced by BNP-led 20-party alliance since January 6.

IMPACT OF BLOCKADE

Hard rock piled up at Madhyapara mine

Production faces suspension due to shortage of space

KONGKON KARMAKAR, Dinajpur

The stock of hard rock extracted by Madhyapara Granite Mining Company Ltd (MGMCL) in Parbatipur upazila under the district continues rising as sale of the item remained suspended due to countrywide blockade as well as intermittent hartals enforced by the BNP-led 20-party alliance from early January. Around four lakh tonnes of rock has been kept at nine places inside the mine complex and rock production may have to be suspended anytime due to the shortage

of space, said Md Mir Hannan, general manager (Marketing) of MGMCL. The monthly production of the mine stands around 1.2 lakh tonnes of rock and nearly the same amount is sold to Bangladesh Railway, Water Development Board and construction companies under different government and non-government organisations, officials said. But now the area gives a deserted look due to suspension of transport amid the blockade. Around 150 people, who work at the delivery section on daily basis, are virtually jobless due to the situation.

"I usually earn Tk 400 daily working here, but there was no work in over a month. I am passing hard days with family," one Azgar Ali told this correspondent during his visit to the mine site yesterday. Usually 4,000 tonnes of rock is daily produced through operation in three shifts but the authorities have already slowed down the production, officials said. Germania Trest Consortium (GT), a Belarus-based company, took the charge of cash-starved MGMCL on September 2 in 2013 for development,

maintenance and production of the mine. Under a six-year contract, they are to produce nine million tonnes of rock. "We started three-shift work for optimum rock extraction and processing. But huge quantity of rock remained unsold due to political unrest for over a month and the company is incurring loss of around Tk 1 crore daily," said Javed Siddiqui, general manager of GTC. Despite good demand for MGMCL rock, it remained unsold due to the blockade, said Abul Bashar, managing director of the company.

PHOTO: STAR

Criminals loot Tk 35 lakh in Feni

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Criminals looted Tk 35 lakh from two staff of a factory in Fatehpur rail gate area of the town on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in broad daylight on Tuesday. Rezwan and Amal Nath, employees of Nurani Dying and Sweater Ltd at Fatehpur village in Sharsadi union in Sadar upazila, withdrew the amount from Southeast Bank Ltd on Trunk Road in the town at around 1:30pm. When the two were going to the factory in a covered van, criminals in two micro-buses waylaid them near the rail gate. They beat up the two staff of the factory, set fire to the covered van and took away the money. None of the gang members was arrested as of 4:00pm yesterday. Contacted, Additional Police Superintendent Md Saiful Haque said law enforcers have launched a drive to arrest the criminals.

Youth held with pistol, bullets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Police arrested a youth along with a pistol, four bullets and sharp weapons in Dhamoirhat upazila of Naogaon district yesterday. The arrestee is Aminur Rahman, 30, son of Mizanur Rahman of Chawk Jodu village in the upazila. Mirza Abdus Salam, officer in-charge of Dhamoirhat Police Station, said the law enforcers, acting of a tip-off, raided Aminur's house at the village around 8:30am and arrested him. On the basis of his statement, they seized a foreign made pistol, four bullets and several sharp weapons from his house. A case was lodged against Aminur with the police station, the OC added.

Abducted trader found murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The body of a trader, abducted from Ajmeriganj upazila town on Monday, was found in a pond near the bazaar on Tuesday. The deceased is Nantu Chandra, 45, son of late Gopal Chandra of Rajibpur village in Itna upazila of Kishoreganj district. Local found the body of Nantu Chandra, owner of a shop named Doyal Hardware and Engineering in the town, at around 7:00am and informed the police. Law enforcers went to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Victim's nephew Palash filed a murder case with Ajmeriganj Police Station. No one was arrested in connection with the murder as of filing of this report at 4:00pm yesterday.

Declared dead before death in upazila health complex!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

An injured construction worker was declared dead at Bakshiganj Upazila Health Complex in Jamalpur district yesterday, before he died there actually. Mujibur Rahman, 45, a construction worker of Majhpara village in Bakshiganj upazila, received serious injuries as he fell onto the ground while working at a construction site at the same village around 10:30am, locals and witnesses said. Locals rushed him to the health complex in a critical

condition and Asif Raihan, the doctor on-duty, declared him dead. Family members took him home but after a while they noticed that Mujibur started movement along with raid breathing. Then he was again taken to the health complex. After about one hour of treatment there he died finally, said the family sources, adding that this time Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Dr Hibrul Bari declared him dead. "Dr Asif Raihan had declared Mujibur dead without observing his con-

dition," said Habibur Rahman, brother of the victim. As the death news spread, agitated villagers rushed to the hospital and tried to assault Dr Asif Raihan who managed to flee. Informed, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control, said Mostasinur Rahman, officer in charge of Bakshiganj Police Station. Refuting the allegation of negligence in duty by doctors, Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer Dr Hibrul Bari said the patient died of cardiac arrest.



PHOTO: STAR

Workers spray pesticides at a budding mango orchard at Maharajpur in Sadar upazila of Chapainawabganj district, famous for producing a variety of high quality tasty mangoes.

Blockaders vandalise houses of two AL men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Blockaders allegedly attacked the houses of two local Awami League men in Gokul area under Sadar upazila on Tuesday night. Police said supporters of BNP-led 20-party alliance swooped on the houses of Abdur Rahim, president of Ward no 6 unit of AL, and Abdul Momin, a member of the party's Gokul union unit

around 8:00pm. They vandalised furniture, doors, windowpanes and other valuables of the houses and also set fire to a window of Momin's house. Aminul Islam Dablu, a local leader of Juba League's district unit, said the supporters of BNP-led 20-party alliance launched the attacks as the duo recently formed a 'peace committee'

in the area. On information, police visited the spot. None was arrested in this connection till filing of this report as of 7:00pm yesterday. Contacted, Nazir Ahamed Khan, senior assistant superintendent of police in Bogra, said law enforcers have already identified the attackers and are raiding different areas to arrest them.

40 maunds of jatka seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

At least 40 maunds of jatka (hilsa fry less than 10 inches long) were seized from a Dhaka-bound launch here yesterday. Being tipped-off, law enforcers raided in the Dhaleshwari River at around 8:00am and seized the fish.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Md Mosharraf said the fish were being taken to Dhaka in 14 plastic containers. People involved in transporting the fish managed to flee, sensing the presence of the law enforcers, he added. Meanwhile, Coastguards seized current nets worth about Tk 10.50 crore from a launch in the Meghna in Chandpur district yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, coastguards intercepted a Bhola-bound launch 'MV Bandhan-7' from Dhaka and seized the current nets, reports UNB. However, no one was arrested in this connection. Later, the seized nets were burnt in presence of Chandpur district fisheries officer.

SNIPPETS

Jamaat leader held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Police arrested a local Jamaat leader at a house near Nayadiari High School in Gomostapur upazila yesterday. The arrestee is Anwarul Islam, general secretary of Gomostapur upazila unit of Jamaat. He was an accused in five cases, including one for arson, said Firoj Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Gomostapur Police Station.

Man found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A man was found dead at a mela (fair) in Birampur upazila of the district early yesterday. The deceased was identified as Abu Bakkar alias Hiru, 35, son of late Abdul Bari Mondol of Ranjoypurhat village in Nawabganj upazila. Locals said they found the body inside a pandal at Katna Fair where obscene dances were going on. On information, police rushed to the spot and recovered the body. The reason behind the death could not be known immediately, said police.

Body recovered from river

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

The body of a youth was recovered from the Nabaganga River in the district yesterday. The dead is Mostafa Jaman Rana, 35, son of late Rafique Uddin of Chandipur village in Shailakupa upazila. Iqbal Hossain, assistant sub-inspector of Sadar Police Station, said Rana went to his relative Imdadul Islam Mizan's house at Chaklapara village in the town on Tuesday night. When he was returning home at around 11:30pm, locals chased him, suspecting a thief. He jumped into the river and drowned. Locals found the body floating on the river and informed the police. A team of divers from Khulna reached the spot yesterday afternoon and recovered his body.

Five crude bombs seized

UNB, Bhola

Police recovered five crude bombs from Pukur Par area in Sadar upazila early yesterday. Acting on a tip-off, a team of police conducted a drive in the area and recovered the bombs at 12:30am. However, no one was arrested in this connection. Assistant Superintendent of Police Ramanand Sarkar confirmed it.

Digital fair begins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

A three-day long Digital Fair-2015 began at Obaidul Haq College ground in Sadar upazila on Tuesday. Md Gaus, divisional commissioner of Barisal, inaugurated the fair organised by Bhola district administration. Deputy Commissioner Md Selim Reza, ADC (General) Subrato Kumar Sikdar and Sadar Upazila Parishad Chairman Mosharraf Hossin spoke at the programme. Different government and non-governmental organisations have set up 25 stalls at the fair.

Murder case accused dies at jail gate

UNB, Noakhali

An accused in a murder case died in front of the gate of Noakhali district jail on Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Saiful Islam alias Masud, 30, son of late Abul Kalam, a resident of Purba Chauria village in Sadar upazila. Nazrul Islam, supervisor at the district jail, said Saiful was sick and he died at the jail gate before police could hand him over to the prison authorities. Anwar Hossain, officer in-charge of Sudharam Model Police Station, said

local people caught Masud from Kalitara Bazar in the upazila, beat him mercilessly and handed him over to the police. Later, police produced Masud before a district court in a case for killing school-teacher Shamsunnahar that sent him to the jail. On the other hand, deceased's family sources said two youths of the area--Suman and Hanif, called Masud out of his house, beat him up and handed him over to the police. They said Masud joined Jubo League a few months ago although he was involved with BNP politics.

MJF provides 600 first aid boxes for risky workplaces

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) provided 600 first aid boxes for the children working at risky workplaces in the city and Thakurgaon municipality area yesterday. Under The Child Labour Elimination for Real Change in Urban Slum Areas of Rangpur City Corporation (RCC) and Thakurgaon Municipality of North Western Bangladesh (CLEAR) project, MJF handed over the first aid boxes at an advisory committee meeting of RCC in its conference room. The owners of risky workplaces, including motor garage, lathe machine workshops and welding shops, received the first aid boxes from RCC Mayor Sharfuddin Ahmed

Jhantu at noon. Among others, Md Ruhul Amin, chief executive officer of RCC, Md Mahabubul Haque, coordinator of CLEAR project and RCC councillors, were present. Funded by MJF, Eco-Social Development Organisation (ESDO) is implementing the two-year-and-three-month project at the slums of 33 wards in RCC and 12 wards in Thakurgaon municipality. Beside the first aid boxes, MJF provided dust masks, eye protective glasses and gloves among the children who are engaged in hazardous jobs in RCC and Thakurgaon municipality. A total of 1,450 vulnerable children were sent to the government primary schools and 290 children to vocational institutions under the project.



PHOTO: STAR

Locals join a human chain organised by Pabna office of Maasranga Television in front of Ananda Gobindo Public Library in Pabna town yesterday, expressing grievance as the killers of journalist couple Sagar Sarowar and Meherun Runi have not been brought under trial in three years. Sagar and Runi, working as news editor and senior reporter of private television channels Maasranga and ATN Bangla respectively, were hacked to death at their West Rajabazar house in the capital on February 11 in 2012.