

SANTAHAR-LALMONIRHAT SECTION

Passengers suffer as 16 of 31 rly stations closed

Few others to follow if manpower crisis not met soon

KM REZAUL HOQUE, Gaibandha

Faced with acute manpower shortage and other problems, authorities of West Zone of Bangladesh Railway (BR) have closed down 16 railway stations out of a total 31 in Santahar-Lalmonirhat section during the last couple of months, much to the sufferings of local passengers.

Authorities shut down Mohimaganj station last month as its lone stationmaster is going to retire this month, railway sources said.

During the last three months, the department shut down eleven other stations -- Mohendra Nagar, Ananda Nagar, Chowdhurani, Naldanga, Trimohoni, Badiakhali, Mohimaganj, Bhelurpara, Kahalu, Altaf Nagar and Nasratpur.

Earlier, the BR authorities shut down five single track stations at Hasanganj, Kuptola, Salmara, Syed Ahmed College and Panchpir Mazar.

Now only 15 railway stations in this section are operational.

Those are Lalmonirhat, Teesta, Kawnia, Pargachha, Bamondanga, Kamarpara, Gaibandha, Bonarpara, Sukhanpur, Gabtoli, Bogra, Talora, Adamdighi



PHOTO: STAR

Mahimaganj railway station in Gaibandha district in last month joined the row of 16 recently closed down stations in Santahar-Lalmonirhat section in West Zone of Bangladesh Railway as manpower shortage forced the authorities to shrink passenger services.

and Santahar, said Abul Kashem, stationmaster of Gaibandha railway station.

"It needs ten employees including three stationmasters, two porters, four point men and a sweeper for smooth functioning of a station, but several stations are running

with only three to four employees. Quite a few employees will go to retirement by next month. If the vacant posts are not filled up, it will be hard to continue operation of the existing stations," he added.

Mostafizur Rahman, divisional traffic superintendent of railway in Lalmonirhat, said, "Employees' recruitment procedure on different occasions remained suspended due to filing of cases. Now the problem is over and the department will recruit employees soon to solve the manpower crisis."

Following the prosecution, Kutijan Bibi, mother of Phul Miah of Aura village, was killed in an attack by some people over a previous enemy on August 4, 2012.

Phul Mia filed a murder case with Sadar Police Station the same day. After investigation, police pressed charges against 63 people.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Mafroza Parveen, after examining the records and 21 witnesses, handed down the verdict. The court acquitted 45 other accused as the allegation brought against them could not be proved.

Clash over land dispute leaves 8 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

At least eight people were injured as two groups of villagers clashed over a disputed land at Roypara village in Sundarganj upazila on Wednesday.

Quoting locals, police said there had been a long-standing dispute between Abbas Ali and Fanir Chandra Roy of the village over the ownership of the land.

The two groups locked in a clash over the issue at Gabertal Bazar in the morning, leaving at least eight people from both sides injured.

Nandigram UZ chairman sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A court here sent to jail Nandigram upazila parishad chairman Nurul Islam Mondol, a charge-sheeted accused in five cases for sabotage, arson and vandalism, when he attended there for bail in a case for sabotage on Wednesday afternoon.

Nurul Islam, 56, son of Ochim Uddin of Bijrul village under the upazila, is also ameer of the upazila unit of Jamaat-e-Islami.

He was an accused in five cases filed with Nandigram and Sadar police stations in Bogra district on charges of



Nurul Islam Mondol

sabotage, vandalism, and arson on March 3 in 2013, during the mayhem following a false propaganda of the appearance on the moon the image of Delwar Hossain Sayedee, a convicted war

criminal, police said.

As he attended the Special Tribunal-1 of AM Md Sayeed for praying for bail in one of the cases on Wednesday, the court rejected his prayer and sent him to jail.

Following the charge sheet against him, Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives ministry earlier suspended him from the post of upazila parishad chairman.

Later following a writ filed by him, the High Court cancelled the suspension order, approved his temporary bail and ordered him to pray for bail in the district court.

Four get life for murder in Habiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulribazar

A Habiganj court on Wednesday sentenced four people to life imprisonment for killing a woman in Sadar upazila of Habiganj district in 2012.

The lifers are Motabbir, Sultan, Ali Haidar, and Gafur of Aura village in the upazila.

The court also fined the convicts Tk 10,000 each. In default, they are to suffer six months more in prison.

Besides, the court sentenced seven other people to three years' imprisonment for beating up the witnesses and fined them Tk 6,000 each, in default, they are to suffer three more months in jail.

It (court) also sentenced seven more people to one year's imprisonment on the same charge and fined them Tk 3,000 each, in default, they are to suffer two months more in jail.

According to the prosecution, Kutijan Bibi, mother of Phul Miah of Aura village, was killed in an attack by some people over a previous enemy on August 4, 2012.

Phul Mia filed a murder case with Sadar Police Station the same day. After investigation, police pressed charges against 63 people.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Mafroza Parveen, after examining the records and 21 witnesses, handed down the verdict. The court acquitted 45 other accused as the allegation brought against them could not be proved.

13 held while going to India illegally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) on Wednesday night arrested 13 Bangladeshi nationals from Benapole border under Benapole Port Police Station while they were going to India without passports.

The arrestees include 10 men and three women.

A patrol team of the border guards conducted a drive in the area around 11:30pm and arrested the 13, Ashraf Hossain, assistant sub-inspector of Benapole Port Police Station, said.

The arrestees were later handed over to Benapole Port Police Station.

Meanwhile, BGB personnel on Tuesday morning detained 16 Bangladeshis from Gatipara border while they were entering the country without valid documents.

The arrestees, who hail from different areas of Barisal and Jhalakathi districts, include nine women and three children.

On secret information, a BGB team raided the area around 7:30am and detained the 16. BGB later handed over the arrestees to Benapole Port Police Station, said Tajul Islam, sub-inspector of the police station.

Housewife killed for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A housewife was strangled to death alleged by her husband for dowry at Pashchim Bejgram village in Hatibandha upazila of the district early yesterday.

The deceased is Munni Begum, 19, daughter of Montu Islam of Dakkhin Sindurna village in the upazila.

Police quoted victim's mother Jesmin Begum as saying that Munni's husband Harun Mia, son of Jadu Mia, often tortured her daughter for dowry since their marriage about six months ago.

The couple had an altercation over the issue early yesterday and at one stage, Harun strangled Munni to death and fled the scene, alleged Jesmin.

DEMAND FOR DISSOLUTION OF NEW BODY Tangail BCL enforces hartal in town, vandalises vehicles

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A faction of Tangail district unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League observed a daylong hartal in the town yesterday, demanding cancellation of the new district committee.

They vandalised several vehicles and shops in the town in the morning from a procession in support of the shutdown, said locals.

On Wednesday afternoon, Bodiuazzaman Sohag and Siddique Nazmul

Alam, president and general secretary of the central unit of BCL, approved the new Tangail district committee.

Previous committee's general secretary Ishtiak Ahmed Rajib and its publicity secretary Shamim Al Mamun were made president and general secretary of the new committee.

Being informed, a section of leaders and activists of the party brought out a procession in the town and held a rally in front of the district Awami League (AL) office

on Main Road in the area.

Terming the new committee illegal, previous committee's vice president Mustafizur Rahman Sohel, its joint secretaries Mirza Rana and Shofiful Alam Muku called the hartal.

Senior and dedicated leaders were dropped from the committee while district AL leaders disclosed nothing about the matter, they said.

They also threatened to go for tougher programme if the committee is not cancelled immediately.

Flood situation worsens in Bandarban

20,000 families marooned

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Around 20,000 families in the district have been marooned as flood situation worsened further, snapping vehicular movement on Chittagong-Bandarban highway for the second day yesterday.

Army Para, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Islampur, and Memberpara areas in Bandarban town and Lama upazila Sadar area have been flooded, locals said.

Sangu and Matamuhuri rivers are overflowing due to the huge onrush of water from the hills and many villages went under water, said officials of Bandarban district administration.

Bandarban Disaster Management Committee met yesterday afternoon and directed the local administration to distribute food and water to the flood-affected people, said Md Mizanul Haque Chowdhury, Bandarban

deputy commissioner.

Several areas in the city went under water on Wednesday night, forcing many families to take shelter in schools and government buildings, he added.

Bandarban Municipality Mayor Md Javed Reza and Lama Municipality Mayor Md Amir Hossain said 12 shelters were set up in the affected areas and food, water, and other daily necessities were distributed among the affected people.



PHOTO: STAR

Islampur in Bandarban Sadar upazila gets flooded as Sangu and Matamuhuri rivers in the hill district continued overflowing amid heavy downpour during the last couple of days.

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