

# Santals worried after filing FIR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The Santals are worried about their future after filing an FIR on Saturday accusing the people, including the ruling party lawmaker, allegedly involved in the eviction of Santal families from Shahebganj sugarcane farm.

Thomas Hembrom lodged the FIR (first information report) with Gobindaganj Police Station on behalf of Shahebganj-Bagda Bhumi Uddhar Sangram Committee against 33 named people and 600 unnamed others.

Santal leader Philimon Baske said, "We could not file case earlier for fear of arrest. Although we are somewhat pleased after filing of the case, we are still worried about our future."

"We might be attacked by the ruling party leaders as the FIR has been lodged against them in connection with eviction of Santals from the cane farm," said Rafayel Hasda, another leader of Bhumi Uddhar committee.

"We are worried that the case might not run smoothly, since the accused are very influential," said Subol Hembrom of Joypurpara.

Seeking anonymity, a Santal man at Joypurpara said they cannot say what would happen in the future as they have stood up against the lawmaker and the chairmen of the unions.

The case statement said Gaibandha-4 lawmaker Abul Kalam Azad arranged erecting houses for 2,500 ethnic and Bangalee people on the government acquired land of the farm house. Sapmara union Chairman Sakil Ahmed Bulbul started a movement in favour of this, the statement continued.

A clash over cane harvesting ensued on November 6 between the mills' labourers, Santals and outsiders, in which over 500 people took part at the direction of the lawmaker and in presence of the managing director of the sugar mills and the upazila nirbahi officer of Gobindaganj, Thomas mentioned in the statement.

# Teacher, another killed, over 100 injured during cop action

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Two persons, including a college teacher, were killed and over 100 others injured, 10 of them seriously, as police swooped on an agitation programme of teachers, students and locals in Fulbaria upazila of the district yesterday.

The two deceased were Abul Kalam Azad, assistant professor of botany department of Fulbaria Degree College, and Safor Ali, 65, a resident of Kushmille Koroitola village in Phulbaria.

The teachers, students and employees of Phulbaria Degree College brought out a protest procession on the college campus around 1:00pm yesterday. Earlier, they announced a programme to block Mymensingh-Fulbaria road as part of the day's programme.

They have continued agitation including human chain, road blockade and hartal, also joined by local people, demanding nationalisation of the college for last 44 days, college teachers said.

"When we were holding a protest procession, a large police team led by Rifat Khan Razib, officer-in-charge (OC) of Fulbaria Police Station, entered the college campus and started beating up the rally participants without any provocation, injuring over 100 people including some 25 teachers," said college teacher SM Abul Hashem, also convener of Fulbaria Degree College Nationalisation Committee.

Later police engaged in a series of chases and counter chases with the protesters outside the college and charged baton in which Safor Ali sustained serious injuries and died on the spot, he said.

Police also fired some 100 rounds of blank shots during the action, alleged Abul Hashem.

Safor was brought dead at the hospital, informed Dr Ahsan Habib, emergency medical officer of Fulbaria Upazila Health Complex.

Critically injured Abul Kalam Azad was rushed to Community Based Medical College Hospital

in Mymensingh where he succumbed to his injuries around 4:00pm, said Azad's colleague Arup Kumar Basak.

"Police beat up the top leaders of movement indiscriminately and Azad was one of them. Some other injured teachers were admitted to different hospitals and clinics," he added.

Abdur Razzak, senior vice president of upazila Awami League (AL), said police attacked the demonstrators without any provocation. He demanded exemplary punishment to the perpetrators.

Contacted, OC Rifat Khan Razib said police did not go into any action today [Sunday] and the deaths have no relation with the agitation.

Syed Nurul Islam, Mymensingh superintendent of police, echoed the same.

Since start of the agitation, the teachers and students of Fulbaria Degree College have been holding local AL lawmaker Muslem Uddin responsible for nationalisation of Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Mohila

College, a non-MPO college, established in 2009 in the upazila, instead of Fulbaria Degree College, established in 1972 and having much better infrastructure and academic achievement that the former.

The lawmaker's son Emdadul Haque Selim is the governing body president of Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Mohila College.

Earlier on Thursday afternoon, a scheduled programme for inauguration of Bhalukjaan Bridge on the Akhalia river in Fulbaria by lawmaker Muslem Uddin was postponed due to an untoward incident between 'agitated people' and AL men.

Emdadul Haque Selim, also Phulbaria upazila AL's information and research secretary, said when the teachers along with students and employees of Fulbaria Degree College were trying to come out for their protest programme, police intercepted them at the college gate.

At one stage they allegedly attacked police with brickbats and police went into action, he said.

# Abducted girl traceless for a month

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A twelve-year-old school-girl, abducted from Fatullah Bazar area in Patuakhali Sadar upazila on October 28, is yet to be rescued.

The victim is a resident of Auliapur village in the upazila and a Class VII student at Pashchim Auliapur Adarsha High school.

Victim's mother Nazma Begum said a neighbouring youth Shahin, son of Mosharraf Hossain of the village, used to tease her daughter on her way to and from school.

Quoting Nazma, police said a gang of four led by Shahin forcibly picked up the girl on a CNG-run three-wheeler while she was going to her private tutor's house around 4:00pm on October 28.

Failing to know his daughter's whereabouts, Monir Hossain, father of the girl, filed a case with Patuakhali Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal on November 14.

# Tale of a trafficked Gaibandha girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Indian border guards returned a trafficked Bangladeshi teenage girl to immigration police through Benapole check post under Benapole Police Station on Saturday.

The 18-year old victim is a resident of Lalchamar village in Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha.

Jessore police handed over the girl to Sundarganj police who later handed her over to her parents.

Gaibandha Superintendent of Police Ashraf Islam said he received a phone call from Delhi police few days ago saying that they rescued a Bangladeshi girl from the Indian capital.

Later, Gaibandha police traced her parents' address and requested Delhi police to send her back through Benapole border, the SP added.

Father of the victim said his daughter left their home on October 29 in 2015 and took a job at a yarn factory in Dhaka where she developed a friendship with one Hasan who lured the girl of a better job in India.

On their way to India, Hasan doped the girl and sold her to Tarun, an Indian national, for Tk 35 thousand.



Police in action yesterday during an agitation by the teachers, students and local people demanding nationalisation of Fulbaria Degree College on the road in front of the college in Phulbaria upazila of Mymensingh.

PHOTO: STAR

# 35 hurt as villagers clash in Habiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

At least 35 people were injured in a clash over land dispute between two groups of villagers at Baghasura village in Madhabpur upazila of Habiganj on Saturday night.

Of the injured, five were admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, 10 at Habiganj Sadar Hospital and seven at different private clinics while the rest took treatment locally.

Quoting locals, police said supporters of one Kajal Mia, 36, and Nasir Uddin, 41, equipped with wooden sticks attacked each other over the ownership of a disputed land that left 35 people from both sides injured.

# Encroachment on Baufal canal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

An influential person is building a permanent structure occupying a canal at Dashpara in Baufal upazila headquarters of the district.

Locals said Alauddin Mridha of the area, is erecting the building. The foundation has been completed and work on the first floor roof is going on, they added.

Md Abdul Jalil, a neighbor, claimed that Alauddin is making the building on a portion of the canal though it is a khas land. He submitted a written complaint last week to the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Baufal, demanding action in this regard, he added.

Refuting the allegation, Alauddin said he did not occupy the khas land and is constructing the building on his own land.

UNO Abdullah Al Mahmud Zaman said they are investigating the matter and if the allegation is true they will remove the structure immediately.

# Most of Lalmonirhat roads in sorry state

## Human chain demands immediate repair of the awful roads

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Most of the roads in the district have been in awful condition for long, causing immense suffering to the users.

Sammilito Sangskritik Jote formed a two-hour long human chain at Mission Intersection in the district town yesterday protesting the awful condition of the roads and demanding immediate repair of all the damaged roads in the district.

The participants also demanded construction of a four-lane highway from Rangpur to Burimari land port via Lalmonirhat, a connecting road from the western part of Dhara Bridge to Lalmonirhat town, and intercity train service between Burimari land port and Dhaka.

Principal of Durakuti Quamrunnesa Degree College

Amirul Hayat Mukul said the people of the district cannot move freely and comfortably due to the bad roads. The Mahendranagar-Borobari and Mahendranagar-Mostafi roads are in extremely bad condition and traffic movement from the district to other parts of the country has become very troublesome, he added.

The people of the district have been demanding repair of the roads since long, but the authorities concerned have not responded as yet, said PK Bikrom, a cultural activist in the town.

General Secretary of the district Sammilito Sangskritik Jote Jahurul Islam Titu said the damaged roads are seriously affecting business and social activities in the district, but the authorities concerned have not taken any steps yet to alleviate the sufferings of the people.



A building is being constructed encroaching on a canal at Dashpara in Baufal upazila headquarters of Patuakhali.

PHOTO: STAR



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Friday	: 3:30 PM - 6:00 PM
Saturday	: 10:30 AM - 1:00 PM
	: 2:30 PM - 5:00 PM

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The enrollment fee for the program (to be paid once only) is Tk. 5,000 (or US\$ 70). The fee for individual module is Tk. 30,000/- (or US\$ 400).

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On successful completion of each module, participants will be awarded a certificate for the module. Participants completing all four modules will be awarded an Advanced Certificate in Business Administration (ACBA).

**Contact Details**

For application and other information, please contact:

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