

MYMENSINGH MOVEMENT

Meet demands by December 21

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Reiterating the demand for implementation of the first phase of land acquisition for divisional activities, sparing their dwellings and farmlands, agitated villagers of Mymensingh Sadar upazila vowed at a rally that they would go for tougher movement if it is not fulfilled by December 21.

The rally was held at Char Gobindapur Primary School ground in Char Sirta union under the upazila yesterday.

The villagers have been continuing their movement for nearly two months under the banner of Basothbitta and Fasolijami Rakha Committee.

"We hope the administration will take steps to save our farmlands and homesteads at the meeting with the movement leaders scheduled to be held on December 21 at the deputy commissioner's office," the leaders said.

"If the administration acts according to the proposed acquisition list, it would be a disaster for the char people living there for centuries," they said.

"We want development of Mymensingh division and are ready to assist the government, but the khas land should be used on priority basis," the speakers said.

The rally was addressed by committee convener Prof Syed Mosharrif Hossain, Kazi Rafiqul Islam, Abul Monsur, Nadim Mustafa, Sadequl Islam Sabuj, Shahidul Islam, Dr Harun-ur-Rashid, among others.

They recently submitted memorandums to Religious Affairs Minister Principal Motiur Rahman and deputy commissioner of Mymensingh in this regard.

Mystery over death of newlywed girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A teenage girl was found hanging from a ceiling of her tinshed house in Palashbari upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased, Sumi Akhter, aged about 14, was a daughter of Goffer Mia of village Haripur in the upazila, and a Class VIII student of Rawshanbagh High School.

Quoting family sources, Palashbari Police Station Officer-in-Charge Majibar Rahman said the girl got married to one Ashraf Ali of the same village secretly fleeing from her house eight months ago.

Soon after the marriage, they have developed a quarrel between themselves that was continuing as both the families refused to recognise their marriage, the OC said. A few days ago, Sumi returned to her father's residence along with her newly married husband Ashraf where they were staying since then, he said, adding that on Saturday noon the inmates of the house went to a relative's house at an invitation in Sadullapur upazila, leaving them there.

The family members found the body of Sumi hanging from a ceiling of the house with her scarf after returning home at night when her husband Ashraf was missing, Majibar said.

On information, police recovered the body yesterday noon and sent it to Gaibandha Hospital for autopsy, he added.

Majibar said it would be known after investigation whether the girl was killed or committed suicide.



Hawkers have reoccupied the railway tracks near Saidpur railway station to set up makeshift shops selling second-hand warm clothes just three months after they were evicted.

PHOTO: STAR

Evicted hawkers reoccupy rail tracks in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Only three months after eviction, hawkers have again set up scores of makeshift shops of second-hand warm clothes next to the railway tracks near Saidpur rail station, creating the risk of accidents.

In the third week of September, railway authorities launched a drive against the illegal occupants of railway tracks prior to a visit by the railway minister to give him a positive impression of uninterrupted rail service in the railway town of Saidpur.

At that time, about 300 makeshift shops were removed from both sides of the rail lines stretching for one km from Saidpur rail station towards Parbatipur railway junction.

Sources in Bangladesh Railway's (BR) West Zone said Railway Minister Mujibul Huque visited Saidpur on September 29 to see the country's largest railway workshop and other

infrastructures.

BR sources in Saidpur said fourteen intercity and local passenger trains arrive at and depart from Saidpur rail station every day, and old or damaged bogies come to the workshop for repairs, making the area a busy place.

Presence of the makeshift market in a risky place earlier led to several casualties, locals said.

Only a week ago, an old man was cut into two pieces as a running train dashed him while he was walking past the rail track without noticing the approaching train.

On a visit to the area on Sunday, this correspondent saw that occupants spread polythene or jute bags on rail tracks to make their makeshift shops and second hand warm clothes are kept there in piles.

Hundreds of poor people, including women and children, crowd the place to buy warm clothes, and traders and customers run to and fro with bundles of clothes to go to safer places

when a train passes by.

Meraj Hossain, a trader, said they are compelled to sit on the rail tracks as they are poor and can't afford to rent a shop in any market.

Mokbul Hossain, a loco master (train driver) said operating trains through Saidpur town is risky as there are hundreds of shops on or around the rail lines and the place is full of customers.

Ward Commissioner of Saidpur municipality Ershad Hossain Pappu said they were trying to rehabilitate the traders in a suitable place.

Stationmaster Abul Kashem said setting up of shops and movement of pedestrians within 20 feet of both sides of the rail tracks are unlawful as per existing rail law, but a section of people do not care about it.

Officer-in-Charge of Saidpur Railway Police Station Lutfor Rahman said, "We'll continue eviction drive off and on until the area is completely free from the occupants."

STALKING OF 2 GIRLS Threat to kill father

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Shahnur, who was injured seriously by the stalkers of his two daughters in October, has received fresh death threats

from accomplices of three criminals arrested earlier for the crime.

Shahnur returned home from a hospital in Dhaka on December 5 and is suffering at home.

Police arrested two people on Thursday night for threatening to kill him.

The arrestees are Kazal Hossain, 28, son of Mahbub Hossain of Nalbhanga village and Sohrab Hossain son, 40, of Bilal Ali of the same village.

Some criminals beat up Shahnur on October 16, leading to amputation of his legs, as he protested stalking of his daughters.

Officer-in-Charge of Kaliganj Police Station Aminul Islam said they arrested two people for threatening to kill Shahnur, adding that a charge sheet will be submitted to the court soon.

FACTIONAL CLASH

6 BCL men suspended from NSTU

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Noakhali Science and Technology University (NSTU) yesterday suspended six activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of Awami League.

The BCL men were suspended over a factional clash at Abdus Salam Hall of the university on Saturday.

The suspended BCL men are, Abdul Hamid Bappi, Nasir Ahmed Rana, Saiful Haque Rupu, Sazzad Shihab, Jahidur Rahman Nayeem and Nasir Hossain.

At least 20 students were injured when two factions of BCL locked in a clash on the university campus on Saturday evening allegedly over a scuffle during distribution of Biryani on December 16.

Plaintiff takes V-day gift from Sayedee's son

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Md Mahabubul Alam Howlader, the complainant against convicted war criminal and Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee, received gift from the latter's son Masood Sayedee in Zianagar upazila under the district at a Victory Day programme on December 16.

Mahabubul Alam is former commander of Zianagar upazila unit of Mukti Joddha Sangsads while Masood is chairman of Zianagar Upazila Parishad.

At the programme organised under the banner of Zianagar upazila administration, freedom fighters were given flowers and other gifts on the Victory Day.

"I arranged programmes in honour of the freedom fighters. This year we arranged a victory procession where a large number of people including the freedom fighters of the upazila as well as ruling party leaders and activists attended," Masood told this correspondent.

Masood posted some photos of giving gifts to the freedom fighters in his Facebook page on December 16 afternoon and wrote a description, also mentioning that he was giving gift to the complainant and witness against his father but he deleted that particular part on 17 December night.

Contacted, Mahabubul Alam said, "There is no question of receiving gift from Sayedee's son on the Victory Day. After receiving gift from the upazila nirbahi officer, upazila unit Awami League president, and the officer in charge of Indurkani Police Station, I was leaving the spot when Masood suddenly appeared there from behind."

As the upazila parishad chairman, Masood attended the Victory Day programme but was not allowed to hoist the national flag or deliver a speech there, said upazila Awami League President Motiur Rahman.

"Delawar Hossain Sayedee is a convicted war criminal. But there is no allegation against his son Masood," said Md Belayet Hossain, leader of Zianagar upazila unit of Mukti Joddha Sangsads.

Poor sale of quilt upsets traders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Second-hand warm clothes and cheap rated blankets have a bad impact on the sale of quilts this season, making the traders upset in the district.

Quilt traders said they started making quilts a month ago but they are seeing poor sale till now due to low demand.

"We cannot sell expected number of quilts though the winter has set in," said Abdur Rahman, a quilt trader of Pirojpur town.

Cheap rated new blankets and second-hand warm clothes in the town's old market is the main reason behind the decrease of demand for quilts, he said.

"As a second-hand good quality blanket can be bought within Tk 300, most of the residents, especially middle class people, showed more interest to buy blankets," said Jahangir Hossain, another quilt trader in the town.

Meanwhile, sellers said a quilt is sold between Tk 900 to 1,800 according to its size and quality.

Normally, two workers could make five quilts in a day and they did not have any leisure time in winter, Asadul, a quilt maker, said.

But this year, mostly they are passing their time idle because of poor demand for quilts, he said.



Like many other local freedom fighters, Mahabubul Alam Howlader receives gifts from Masood Sayedee, chairman of Zianagar Upazila Parishad in Pirojpur, at a Victory Day programme on December 16. Ironically, Mahabubul Alam, also former commander of upazila unit of Mukti Joddha Sangsads, was the complainant of the case for crimes against humanity in which Masood's father Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee was awarded imprisonment until death by the Supreme Court.

PHOTO: STAR

Missing elderly man found dead in Natore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A missing elderly man was found dead at Chawk Goas village in Bagatipara upazila of the district on Saturday morning.

The deceased was identified as Niranjan Sarkar, 65, son of Sasthi Sarkar of the area, said the officer-in-charge of Bagatipara Police Station.

He left the house to go to Tomaltola bazar on Friday afternoon and remained missing since then, said family sources.

Informed by locals, police recovered the body from the spot around 8:00am and sent it to Natore Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The reason behind the death could not be known immediately, said police.

100 years of Latif Seminary

Celebration of centenary of school begins Dec 22

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Patuakhali Latif Municipal Seminary, a famous non-government secondary level educational institution, is celebrating its 100th founding anniversary this year.

The institution started on January 1 in 1916 with only 16 students, and has around 750 students now. A two-day-long programme, including a colourful rally, cultural function and discussion meeting, has been drawn up to celebrate the centenary on December 22 and 23.

The school was set up on 4.88 acres of land in front of Patuakhali municipality office in the centre of the district town. It is the third oldest educational institution in the district, with Jubilee Government High School set up in 1887, and Bibichini Niamot Ali United High School set up in 1912 being the first two, school sources said.

It was named after the then administrator of Patuakhali sub-division Abdul Latif as he took the initiative to set up the institution.

The school was recognised by Kolkata University five years after it was established. It ran under Dhaka University from

1947 to 1950 and then under Dhaka Education Board from 1951 to 1963. Later it came under Jessor Education Board and is now under Barisal Education Board.

The school held classes from Class I to Class X in the beginning. Its primary section was separated and named Latif Government Primary School on the same campus after nationalisation of primary education in 1975.

The school started in a tin-shed house but now it has six separate buildings with 32 rooms. It also has a hostel, science building, library building with around 4,500 books, computer building, Red Crescent building and mosque on its campus. It has a large playground.

Ashutosh Chakrabarti was the first headmaster of the school, said headmaster Md Zakir Hossain. Many other prominent educationists were also headmasters of the school, among whom Gonesh Chandra Sen, Raj Kumer Sen, Surendra Nath Roy, Asita Ranjan, Moazzem Hossain, MA Gafur and MA Rob are mentionable.

The school has a good reputation in academic results and achievement in sports.



Established in 1916, Patuakhali Latif Municipal Seminary, a non-government high school in the town, will celebrate its 100th founding anniversary with a two-day event on December 22 and 23.

PHOTO: STAR