

Pro-AL rail workers vandalise Ctg station

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
A faction of Bangladesh Railway Sramik League vandalised the Chittagong Railway Station on Friday night, demanding "justice" over "harassment" by officials of Bandarban district administration earlier on that day in Bandarban.

Railway officials said a faction of Sramik League led by Sirajul Islam, central press and publication secretary of the organisation, went for a picnic in Bandarban on Friday morning. As some of them became "drunk" and started "stalking" women in the picnic spot, the deputy commissioner (DC) of Bandarban sent them back to Chittagong, said sources in the railway. Upon their return, they demonstrated at the railway station around 10:00pm, and broke some glasses.

Contacted, Sanjit Kumar Roy, superintendent of police in Bandarban, said he was on leave but the DC informed him about the matter over the phone. The DC could have taken action against them by deploying a mobile court, Sanjit said, but he sent them back to Chittagong instead.

Contacted, Zahangir Alam, divisional railway manager of Chittagong, said there was "no incident of vandalism" in the station. Sirajul Islam said the officials of Bandarban district administration "forcibly" sent them back from Bandarban Meghla picnic spot saying that "there was a programme of DC."

"We paid Tk 6,000 for entering the picnic spot. But we were asked to leave the place after one hour," he said. Denying the allegations of stalking women after drinking, he said there were both males and females in their group. He questioned: "Is it believable that they stalked women?" Brushing aside the allegations of vandalism, he said workers just demanded justice. The DC of Bandarban could not be reached over the phone despite repeated attempts.



Sarbarpan Sanskritk Shakti brings out a procession from in front of Bangladesh National Museum in the capital yesterday with a call for observing January 7 as a global day to protest the Rampal coal-fired power plant project and save the world's largest mangrove forest, the Sundarbans. Inset, some people join the protest from Federation Square at Melbourne, Australia.



Regional group urges president, PM to stop Rampal

Local campaigners to observe half-day hartal in capital on Jan 26
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Asian People's Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD) has urged President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to stop the construction work of the Rampal power plant project as it will not only endanger the lives of adjoining communities but also have detrimental effect on climate.

The organisation has joined people's movements and communities in Bangladesh in their struggle to stop building the Rampal power plant, said a press release issued on Friday.

It said the proposed power plant is located 14 kilometres north of the Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world that is recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage site. The coal project will destroy a living and natural protective fence that helps shield communities from the worst impacts of seasonal typhoons now made more extreme because of climate change.

Besides, the Sundarbans

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Develop hybrids for agri sustenance

Speakers tell 10th biennial conference of the Plant Breeding & Genetics Society of Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a conference yesterday urged agronomists in the country to give more emphasis on inventing different types of hybrid and climate adaptive crop varieties to ensure sustainability in agricultural systems.

The varieties can give farmers the option to choose a crop suitable for their lands which will help use agricultural lands more effectively to increase overall production, they said. The remarks came at the 10th biennial conference of the Plant Breeding & Genetics Society of Bangladesh in the capital's Krishibid Institution Bangladesh.

Every year the government has to spend a large amount of money for importing edible oil but the expenses can be reduced

by bringing farmers into cultivating crops from which oil is extracted, like soybean, said Dr Abdur Razzaque, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee of the agriculture ministry.

The breeding specialists in the country have to help farmers by providing them varieties suited to different areas and environments, he said.

The society President Prof Shahidur Rashid Bhuiyan said the government needs to establish a separate genetic resource institute to facilitate breeding and genetic engineering.

"Besides, the breeding specialists need to be smarter while inventing a new variety," he said, adding that all agronomists, including

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

BCL leader misbehaves with DU teacher

DU CORRESPONDENT

A central leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) allegedly verbally abused a Dhaka University (DU) teacher as he protested the leader's misbehaviour with a waiter.

Tanzimuddin Khan, associate professor of international relations department, was taking lunch sitting opposite to BCL central committee Vice President Monir Hossain at the canteen of Dhaka University's Institute of Business Administration (IBA) when Monir verbally abused a waiter, canteen sources said.

As Tanzimuddin protested the incident, Monir then started abusing him too. When the professor introduced himself, Monir said he should keep his lectures for talk shows of the civil society, informed

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Prevent militants from radicalising inmates

IGP Shahidul Hoque tells conference at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Terming the absence of de-radicalisation and rehabilitation centres a "weakness", Inspector General of Police (IGP) AKM Shahidul Hoque yesterday proposed establishing one for detained militants to prevent them from motivating prisoners to join militancy.

He was addressing the start of a two-day international conference on "Terrorism in the Wave of Islamic State" organised by the criminology department of Dhaka University (DU) at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban.

"As the militants are highly motivated, they try to create or recruit followers wherever they stay. So I feel the necessity of establishing the centre under the jail authority or other government bodies so that they can turn back to a normal life," he said.

Regarding terror financing, the IGP said it comes through "money laundering".

On the ability of government agencies to counter terrorism, he said, "A specialised counter terrorism unit comprising promising and skilled police members is functioning. Training of our officials is going on, including commando training of a few officials in India."

Deputy Inspector General Monirul Islam of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police said, "Salafism, Wahhabism and such ideologies offer a distorted narrative of Islam with a wrong interpretation of jihad and Hijrat to attract people."

He said Bangladesh's culture and history can act as a counternarrative to fight terrorism which was now a global menace.

Prof DR Ziaur Rahman of the criminology department gave the keynote speech of "Rising Terrorism in Bangladesh".

He said the Gulshan and Sholakia attacks showed how the affluent, educated and urban youths can come together under an extreme rightist ideology.

The reasons behind the radicalisation include the absence of family bonding, community engagements and co-curricular activities, faulty education systems and other social, psychological and administrative factors.

Ambassador of the Netherlands in Bangladesh Leoni Margaretha Cuelenaere said the Netherlands has taken a strict stance against terrorism and militancy.

She stressed on protecting civilians from attacks, eliminating breeding grounds of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



Traffic on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue gets obstructed for earth piled up from road development works being carried out by Dhaka North City Corporation in East Tejguri Bazar in the capital. The photo was taken around 2:30pm yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

College girl abducted; child 'raped'

STAR REPORT

Criminals stormed a house in Bagerhat and abducted a college girl indiscriminately stabbing her parents early yesterday while a seven-year-old girl was allegedly raped at Jatrabari in the capital.

Police detained Najimuddin, 28, owner of a five-storey building in North Kajla area in connection with the rape, Anisur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Jatrabari Police Station, told The Daily Star.

When the girl was playing near her home in the morning, Najimuddin allegedly took her into his house luring her with sweets, he added. The girl returned home bleeding and informed her parents of the matter. Based on her family's complaint, police detained Najimuddin, the OC said.

"The girl has been admitted to One-Stop Crisis Centre (OCC) of Dhaka Medical College Hospital and will be undergoing forensic tests tomorrow [today]," said Bilkis

Begum, coordinator of the OCC.

Meanwhile, Fatema-tuz-Zohra Shanta, 21, a second-year student of political science department at Pirojpur Government College and daughter of Shah Alam Gazi of Bagerhat's Sharankhola, was abducted from her home in the wee hours of yesterday, reports our Bagerhat correspondent.

Shanta's father Alam said 15 to 20 people stormed his home in Rajoir village around 1:00am when they were sleeping. He said the intruders first knocked and claimed to be policemen.

As Alam was hesitating to open the door, the men, who had their faces covered, broke into the house and started stabbing him and his wife indiscriminately.

They then took Shanta, and valuables, including gold ornaments and Tk 1 lakh in cash, and left the village in a tawler.

Alam and his wife were under treatment at Sharankhola Upazila Health Complex.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

President for promoting democracy to stop terror

BSS, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid yesterday underscored the need for promoting democratic values and non-communal spirit to free the country from communalism, superstition, terrorism and militancy.

"Autocracy and rise of militancy hampered our development and advancement many times. Communalism, superstition, terrorism and militancy are still hindering the country's democratic march. Democratic values and non-communal spirit have to be promoted to be free from those," he said at the "28th Mahboobullah

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

IBA GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION

DAY 01 20th JANUARY 2017, FRIDAY (6 pm - 10 pm)
GALA DINNER AT ARMY MUSEUM GROUND

DAY 02 21st JANUARY 2017, SATURDAY (11 am - 11 pm)
FAMILY CARNIVAL AT ARMY STADIUM

Register Online at www.iba-reunion.net
Last Date of Registration: January 12, 2017
Contact: 01911368313

Organized by:
IBA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Find us on [f/IBAAumniAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/IBAAumniAssociation)