

Dissolve
Tangail
committee

Demands ICD faction
OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Tangail

A faction of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of BNP, demanded dissolution of the district committee whose term expired in 2011.

The faction leaders made the demand at a press conference in the town yesterday.

They also demanded formation of a new committee through a council.

Tohidul Islam Babu, a joint secretary of the committee, in a written speech said the committee was formed through a council about eight years ago.

The president and general secretary of the committee resigned last week and a vice president was given charge of acting president violating the secrecy as well as the constitution of the organisation, he alleged.

A central leader of Jubo Dal made the change illegally. The central ICD leaders were not informed about the matter, said Babu.

Number 3 Vice President Moniruzzaman Jewel, who took charge as acting president of the committee, said the president and general secretary of the district committee resigned from their posts as they were made joint secretary and organising secretary of the district unit of BNP respectively.

He said there was no violation of seniority as the number 1 vice president is inactive in politics and the number 2 vice president left the organisation. Besides, the number 3 vice president was made acting president and number 1 joint secretary Nurul Islam acting general secretary.



Children pluck water lilies at the wetland, widely known as Lal Shapla Beel, at Baghda in Agajjhara upazila of Barisal.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

A slice of heaven Barisal's water lilies paint the landscape with joy

SUSHANTA GHOSH with ANDREW EAGLE

Pink and more pink, as far as the eye can see! When Barisal district's water lilies bloom, the naturally occurring spectacle could not be finer. While water lilies are to be found throughout Bangladesh and indeed much of the world, the annual display at the wetland known as Lal Shapla Beel, at Baghda in Agajjhara upazila and Satla in Uzirpur upazila, can only impress, as its many thousands of flowers light the landscape.

It goes without saying that the beel in season is a tourist magnet. "I brought my family here," says one visitor, Marif Bappy from Dhaka. "The

scenery is really charming!"

"We visited the area a week ago," says munibul, a company executive. Md Nasiruddin.

"I'd heard how beautiful the beel is, so of course I wanted to see it. I only wish there was a place to stay nearby."

According to locals, between five and ten tourist groups arrive to witness the floral spectacle each day, double that number at weekends. "This year at least five hundred tourists have visited the beel so far," says Agajjhara shopkeeper Dini Biswas.

To make the most of the beel's tourist potential however, some tourist facilities might help. "We hope to set up a rest

house and restaurant soon, along with a boat service to cater to tourists," says Barisal's deputy commissioner Md Habibul Rahaman.

For neighbouring villages meanwhile, the beel is not only a source of delight but an important source of income. Communities rely on harvesting and selling water lilies for six months of the year.

"In the beel area we can only grow one rice crop per year," explains Kailas Halder from Baghda village. "The rest of the year we rely on water lilies for daily income; and in the autumn season when the plants burst into flower and dramatically change the whole landscape, the beel is popular

with tourists too."

Native fish species and carp as well as types of frogs around the beel also contribute to local incomes, adds another villager, Bipul Halder.

"Water lilies are a popular vegetable in the locality," says Agajjhara's agriculture officer Nasiruddin. "They have some medicinal properties too, and can be useful in treating diseases including dysentery, calcium deficiency, skin conditions, urinary and liver infections, as well as diabetes."

Water lilies serve as a sought-after ingredient for curries; while children in particular often enjoy eating the stem and fruit even while it is raw.

People suffer as bus strike on

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Passengers in the southwestern and northern regions are suffering immensely as the indefinite transport strike, called by bus owners and workers of the district, continued for the second consecutive day yesterday.

Thousands of passengers from Kushtia could not reach their destinations. A large number of passengers intending to travel to different districts had to return home from the bus terminals after a long wait.

"I have been waiting to go to Jessore since the morning, but no bus is leaving from Kushtia or com-

ing from other districts," said Akbar Mridha, a trader in Kushtia town.

Many women and children were also seen suffering at the bus terminal.

Tanjim Khatun, a student of Rajshahi University, said she came to Kushtia on Friday. "I have to reach the university on Saturday (Wednesday) as a vivacity exam will be held tomorrow (Thursday)," she said yesterday.

Kushtia District Bus Owners' Officers Okhya Parishad enforced the strike from Tuesday, protesting arrest of the conductor of a passenger bus after drugs were seized from the vehicle by Rapid Action Battalion in Kushtia last Thursday.

According to different law enforcement agencies, inter districts routes in the region are a safe way to transport drugs, and some transport workers are involved in it.

Kushtia Transport Workers Association President Mahbub Alam rejected the allegation that transport workers were involved in drug transportation.

"How we will identify who is a smuggler and who is not in a passenger bus?" he asked.

Mahbub said he wants assurance

that law enforcers will not arrest any transport worker or owner if anything suspicious is found in a bus. This correspondent tried to talk

with Asgar Ali, president of Kushtia Bus Owners Association, also general secretary of the district Awami League.

Asgar asked the correspondent to talk with the leaders of the Transport Workers Association. "The strike has been called by transport workers," he said.

The district administration has nothing to do regarding the arrest as the matter is in court now," Kushtia Deputy Commissioner Zahir Raihan said.

"We have requested the bus owners-workers to withdraw the strike considering the sufferings of people," he added.

Passenger numbers were critical, he added.

"As per the plan, Rumman groped Aziza and Sujon captured it on his mobile phone," the police official claimed.

Later, they demanded she hand over her valuable blackmailing her with the video clip. As she refused, Sujon called Aziza's brother over the phone asking for Tk one lakh, but he did not agree to their proposal.

Earlier police also speculated that Aziza might have been killed because she found out about Beauty's extra-marital affair.

Police and Rab arrested six persons, including the three accused.

Later, they robbed Aziza of her money, mobile phones and ornaments. After Sujon, Rumman and Rizam left the place, Rezaul and Sujon got Aziza an auto-rickshaw around 8:00pm on Friday.

Aziza later bought one litre kerosene oil from one Mizanur Rahman's shop in Kotik Bazar. After a while locals heard a scream at an orchard near Aziza's house and rushed there where they saw her on fire," the police official claimed, adding that they are yet to confirm whether it is suicide or murder.

On her way to the hospital, Aziza could only scream for water. She couldn't say anything else as her condi-

tion was very critical," he added.

After Aziza's death on Saturday morning at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, it was alleged that she was burnt to death for revealing her aunt's mobile phone.

Her father Abdus Sattar filed a murder case with Shibpur Police Station accusing seven persons.

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Exam this year

FROM PAGE 2

Hearing the incident, Shital Chandra Deo, head of Narayanganj Girls High School and College, gave them the new question papers. The students sought an extra hour that elapsed after the beginning of the exam, but the teacher refused, said the guardians and students.

"We talked to the head of the institution, he admitted the fault and assured us of solving the problem. But at one stage, he disappeared," said Ferdous Ara, a mother of an examinee.

Both the candidates and guardians expressed concerns over the results as they did not get proper time to give the answers.

Shital Chandra claimed that they changed the question papers several minutes before the exam. "We know about it and the examinees were given the time they lost for getting the wrong question papers."

Contar Barai, additional deputy commissioner (education and ICT) of Narayanganj, said it was difficult to hold a fresh examination as the exam was held across the country.

This year, 24,68,820 class-VIII students from 28,628 schools and madrasas have registered to sit for the exam under eight general education boards and a madrasa.

Classes under open sky

The Jamalpur primary school was devoured by the Jamuna

ABM AMINUL ISLAM, Jamalpur

A government primary school in the district's Sarishabari upazila has been holding classes under the open sky as the schoolhouses along with the land were eroded by the Jamuna river during flood in late July.

Two buildings of Dakatia Menda Government Primary School, which was established in Dakatia Menda village in 1938 and nationalised in 1973, were eroded on July 25, and the land followed a few days later, resulting in suspension of classes for 21 students for a week, teachers said.

"We were able to start taking classes in a rented house on August 1, which was also washed away after two weeks," said assistant teacher Arif Hassan.

The school managing committee (SMC) failed to find another house where they could take classes, he added.

Finally, they started holding classes under the open sky on August 20 on land belonging to a mosque so that the kids, especially examinees of Primary School Certificate, whose exams begin on November 20, could continue their lessons, Arif said.

"Three teachers have been conducting

classes in two shifts," said acting headmaster Mithunul Selim Badsha, adding that this is hampering the education of the kids.

"A number of students, particularly primary to Class II, remain absent due to the sun or rain as a result, they are lagging behind in learning their lessons," Badsha said.

The headmaster told this correspondent that he wrote to the district primary education office over two months ago seeking money to build a tin-shed on 33 decimals of land, which is expected to be donated by SMC President Mahir Uddin, a farmer.

The school has been contributing much to educate children of disadvantaged families living in the Jamuna basin areas for 80 years, but erosion has left our children's education in uncertainty," Mahir said.

"I am ready to give the land free of cost for construction of a school whenever the authorities want, but they have not yet registered the land for the school," he added.

"We have arranged the money and hope to go ahead after getting the land registered," district Primary Education Officer Shahidul Islam said.

Police suspect

FROM PAGE 16

stabbing a mobile phone.

Last night, Tamizur Begum, an actress in the TV show 'Aziza', was found dead in her home. Her aunt, Beauty, was

having an affair which Aziza came to know of and that is why she was killed. She also

alleged the involvement of

Beauty and her relatives in

the "murder".

Yesterday at a press briefing held at the conference room of Narsingdi police superintendent's office, SP Amena Begum told the reporters of the new developments.

The primary investigation of police has now found that Aziza herself bought kerone from a shop after her "boyfriend" Rumman and his two friends Sujon and Rezaul on Monday and also claimed to have recovered the lost mobile phone of Aziza's aunty from them. On Tuesday, the trio gave con-

cessional statements at a

Narsingdi court.

But police are yet to con-

firm whether it was a suicide

or murder, saying that the

matter would be clarified

after the arrest of one Rubel.

Aziza's father Sattar, who brought Aziza from her house and tied her to the bed,

also asked them to

join him.

They then took Aziza to the hospital.

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tion was very critical," he added.

After the phone was

stolen, Rezaul and Sujon

left the house.

Meanwhile, the other two

arrestees -- Beauty Begum and her mother Sanowara Begum -- were placed on a two-day remand yesterday.

"That day (Friday) the victim Aziza called Rumman at 11:50pm from her brother's mobile phone and asked him to bring her from Narsingdi town from Shibpur around 1:00pm," Amena said, after analysing the call lists of the different mobile phones used.

Meanwhile, Rumman told his friend Sajib to join him saying that his girlfriend was coming. "Aziza introduced herself as Lovely to him," the police official said.

When Rumman asked her about the reason for coming to Narsingdi, she informed them that her father had fixed her marriage despite their disagreement.

Arif, the police official said, added that they have obtained the relevant call records.

Later, they robbed Aziza of

her money, mobile phones and ornaments. After Sujon, Rumman and Rizam left the place, Rezaul and Sujon got Aziza an auto-rickshaw around 8:00pm on Friday.

Aziza later bought one litre kerosene oil from one Mizanur Rahman's shop in Kotik Bazar.

After a while locals heard a scream at an orchard near Aziza's house and rushed there where they saw her on fire," the police official claimed, adding that they are yet to confirm whether it is suicide or murder.

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