



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Students bring out a procession in Gaibandha town, a demonstrator in Mymensingh town holds a poster asking drivers without license not to offer bribe, students stage a sit-in on Devendra College Road in Manikganj town, and a large procession of students parade different roads of Faridpur town yesterday demanding an end to anarchy in transport sector.

PHOTO: STAR

Demonstration for safe road continues

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Students in different districts across the country continued their demonstration yesterday demanding measures for ensuring safety on roads along with justice for killing of their two fellows due to reckless driving in the capital on July 29.

Students gathered at different intersections of Mymensingh town including Town Hall, Mymensingh Zila School and Natun Bazar areas.

They were seen checking driving licenses of the vehicles plying Town Hall-Ganginarpur Road. They held a rally at Town Hall intersection.

They carried placards inscribed with slogans like "No stand for vehicles near

educational institutions", "Under-age drivers won't be allowed", "No stalls on footpaths", and "Make Mymensingh town free from stalkers".

The students held their programmes peacefully, said Khandaker Shaker Ahmed, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Kotwali Police Station.

Students also staged demonstrations in different upazilas of the district.

Jono Udyog, a forum of civil society members, formed a human chain in the town at noon demanding early realisation of the students' demand.

Demanding safety on roads, students continued their agitation in Dinajpur, Rangpur and Joypurhat yesterday.

In Rangpur, students brought out a

procession in the town and formed a human chain in Dhap area.

They checked driving licenses of the vehicles plying the roads.

In Dinajpur, students of different institutions gathered near Dinajpur Press Club and staged demonstration there.

Students also formed human chain at Nimtola in Phulbari upazila of Dinajpur.

In Joypurhat, students brought out a procession from Zero Point of the town.

Students blocked Gaibandha-Palashbari highway, snapping road communication with other places including Dhaka for six hours yesterday.

They brought out a procession that paraded the main roads of Gaibandha

town. They checked license and other documents of motorcycle riders.

Several hundred students staged demonstration and formed a human chain at Biswa Road intersection in Chapainawabganj town yesterday for three hours from 10:00am.

Students of different institutions gathered in front of Faridpur deputy commissioner's office and brought out a procession from there.

They formed a human chain in front of Faridpur Press Club around 10:00am.

A large number of students took position near Madrasa More area of Natore town from 10:00am.

They checked the driving license and documents of vehicles.

Later the Additional Deputy Commissioner Razzakul Islam, Additional Superintendent of Police Abul Hasan and lawmaker of Natore-2 constituency Shafiqul Islam Shimul assured the protesters that no vehicle will run in this district without license.

In Satkhira, students formed a human chain in front of Satkhira Press Club, urging early realisation of their demand for ensuring safety on road.

Our correspondents from the respective districts contributed to writing this report.

3 JMB men arrested in Kurigram

Bogra police also held four other militants in Rangpur on July 30

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police in a drive arrested three alleged members of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from a militant hideout in a remote char area of the Brahmaputra river in Kurigram on Friday.

They also seized firearm, bullets, sulfuric acid and explosive powder from their possession.

The arrestees are Tofazzul Hossain alias Tota Mia, 30, Rafiqul Islam, 30, and Abdul Hamid, 60, of Diarar Char under the newly formed Dhushmara Police Station in Kurigram.

Tofazzal is the chief of military unit of Kurigram district JMB, Rafiqul is chief of its military wing in Rajibpur, Roumari and Chilmari region and Hamid is an active member of the outfit's Dawa unit, said Bogra Police superintendent Ali Ashraf Bhuiyan.

Bogra Detective Branch of police and Kurigram police jointly conducted the drive from Thursday night to Friday morning and arrested the three JMB men from Diarar Char.

The law enforcers also seized one pistol, two magazines, four bullets, and 500 gram of explosive powder, half kg of sulfuric acid and grenade making equipment from them.

A case was filed with Dhushmara Police Station of Kurigram in this connection.

Earlier on July 30, police from Bogra arrested four alleged members of the banned militant organisation from a remote char area in Rangpur and seized one AK-22 rifle, 15 bullets and two pistols from their possession.

One more held in Kirtika murder case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachari

Another person was arrested on Friday in fifth-grader Kirtika murder case.

Police said Monir Hossain, 30, a three-wheeler auto-rickshaw driver, was arrested from Chowdhury Para area under Dighinala upazila using mobile tracking technology. He had been absconding since July 30.

Police arrested Shah Alam, 33, Nazrul Islam alias Bhandari, 32, and Monir Hossain, 38, on July 30.

Dighinala Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abdus Samad said Monir was produced in court yesterday with a plea for a seven-day remand. The court fixed August 6 for hearing on the remand plea and ordered the accused to be sent to jail.

Kirtika Tripura Punati was killed after rape and her body was found in a jungle on July 28.

Another bridge collapses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

An iron bridge on the Tushkhali canal collapsed on Friday night, disrupting communication on several routes, including those going to Dhaka.

An iron bridge at Gudighata village under Mathbaria upazila collapsed in June, 2016 and another iron bridge at Madarshi village in Bhandaria upazila on the same road collapsed in August last year.

The one at Madarshi village was repaired, but the other one was not repaired. Instead, a road was built by blocking the canal at Gudighata village.

Witnesses said a truck carrying an earth-lifter, locally called beku, got on the bridge on the Charkhali-Tushkhali-Mathbaria road in Mathbaria upazila while a three-wheeler got on from the opposite side at the same time.

The bridge collapsed on one side as the truck tried to make room for the three-wheeler, they said. The truck driver, however, managed to flee, they added.

The road connects Pirojpur with Barisal, Khulna, Dhaka, Jessore and Barguna other places in the district.

"As we have not found the owner of the truck or the driver, we are having trouble removing it from the bridge," said Md Fakharul Islam, sub-assistant engineer of Pirojpur Roads and Highway Department.

He said the bridge has the capacity of bearing a maximum load of 20 tonnes, but the truck was carrying more weight than that.



An iron bridge over Tushkhali canal in Mathbaria upazila of Pirojpur collapsed on Friday when a truck carrying an earth-cutter, locally called beku, got on it.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Self-immolation out of shame

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Eighth grader Sumaiya immolated herself out of shame after classmates blackmailed the girl with her fake indecent picture. She died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on Friday.

Seven days ago, she tried to commit suicide by setting fire to herself after pouring kerosene, said police and family sources.

Before her death, the girl gave a statement to the doctor of the hospital. However, police could not arrest any of the blackmailers.

The 15-year-old deceased was the daughter of Moslem Miah of Sakumira village in Harirampur upazila and a student of Diabari High School.

Sumaiya's brother Saiful said his sister had a love affair with Manna, 20, of the same village. After the matter became known, both families recently agreed to their marriage.



Sumaiya

After the incident, Sumaiya's classmates Rehana and Yasin created a fake indecent picture with Photoshop and later showed it to Manna. Following the incident, Manna ended the relationship.

Not only this, Rehana and Yasin also blackmailed Sumaiya's family several times by showing the indecent picture and forced them to give Tk 25,000.

Out of shame and fear, Sumaiya poured kerosene on her body and set herself on fire at their house on July 27.

Critically injured Sumaiya was rushed to Harirampur Upazila Health Complex and then shifted to the burn unit of DMCH, where she died on Friday, said her brother.

The victim's father filed a case with Harirampur Police Station, accusing Manna, Rehana and Yasin.

The accused went into hiding soon after the incident, said Officer-in-charge of Harirampur Police Station Omar Faruque.

Python freed in Sakhipur forest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A python rescued from Karatia in Sadar upazila on Friday was released into the forest in Sakhipur upazila yesterday.

Forest officials released the python in the forest at Nalua area in the morning, said Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) in Tangail Harun-or-Rashid.

The DFO said bamboo trader Abdul Alim of West Akur Takur Para in the town bought a bamboo cluster at Dheli Karatia area in Sadar upazila. When he along with labourers went to cut bamboo in the cluster in the morning they saw the python coiled on a bamboo.

Being informed, local people tried to kill the snake but Alim stopped them from doing so.

Wearing a helmet, Alim caught the 8-foot-long python with the help of others. They later handed it over to the forest department officials.

The python might have come to the area from a nearby forest due to shortage of food there, the DFO said.

Trader hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A fish enclosure owner was hacked to death near Baleshwar bridge in Morrelganj upazila of Bagerhat on Friday night.

The deceased was Jahangir Khan, 45, son of Kalu Khan of Hoglapasha village of the upazila.

Jahangir's wife Beauty Begum told journalists that her husband had a log business on the bank of the Baleshwar river and a fish enclosure near Baleshwar bridge, which connects Pirojpur Sadar upazila and Morrelganj upazila of Bagerhat.

Jahangir had gone to his fish enclosure on Friday night when some criminals suddenly attacked him and hacked him mercilessly with sharp weapons and left the scene.

Hearing Jahangir's screams, neighbours rushed to the spot and took him to Pirojpur Sadar Hospital where the doctor on duty declared him dead.

Beauty alleged that a neighbouring rival of her husband might have murdered him in a planned way.

The body was sent to Pirojpur Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Pirojpur Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge SM Ziaul Haque.

As the incident took place in Morrelganj upazila of Bagerhat, legal steps will be taken there, he added.

Outlaw dies in India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A former leader of outlawed Gono Bahini, hiding in India since 2005, died while undergoing treatment there on Thursday.

The deceased, Abu Taleb, 67, hailing from Kakilah village in Kushtia's Mirpur upazila, was former south western chief of Gono Bahini and wanted in over a dozen cases including those for murder and abduction, said police.

Taleb went to India in 2005 after a crackdown on outlaws. He lived in a rented house at Dhubulia village under Krishnanagar Thana in Nadia district of West Bengal. He died on Thursday and was buried there on Friday, said Taleb's wife Tahmina Khatun.