



Santals demonstrate in Gaibandha yesterday demanding justice for the attack in 2016 that left three people dead. Inset, former adviser to caretaker government Sultana Kamal at a meeting. PHOTO: STAR

2016 attack on Santals a shame for nation, says Sultana Kamal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha
Killing, looting and arson attack on Santals in Gobindaganj upazila on November 6 in 2016 has brought shame for the nation.
Former adviser to a caretaker government Sultana Kamal said this at a meeting on Gobindaganj Shaheed Minar premises yesterday on the occasion of the second anniversary of the brutal attack.
"We must stand beside the victims, if we think us as human being," she said.
She also demanded justice for the brutal attack.
Earlier, hundreds of Santals carrying red flags, placards, banners and festoons brought out a procession demanding justice for the attack and return of their forefathers'

lands at Sahebganj sugarcane farm belonging to Rangpur Sugar Mills in Gaibandha.
Sultana Kamal, united NAP President Panakaj Bhattacharja, former justice Nizamul Huq Nasim and human rights and land rights activist Shamsul Huda joined the procession jointly organised by Bagda Farm Bhumu Uddhar Sangram Committee, Jatiya Adivasi Parishad, Bangladesh Adivasi Union, Adivasi-Bangali Sanghati Parishad and Jano Udyog.
The procession was brought out from Santal villages Joypurpara and Madarpur and marched ten kilometers to Shaheed Minar premises.
The Santal people at the programme said they are yet to get

justice two years into the incident.
CPB central leader Mihir Ghosh, Jatiya Adivasi Parishad President Rabindra Soren, Bangali-Adivasi Sanghati Parishad Convener Sirajul Islam Babu and Nari Adivasi leader Pricila Murmu were present.
Three Santal men were killed and many others injured during an eviction drive at their village at Sahebganj sugarcane farm by local people and police. Over 1500 sheds were torched and households looted during the attack.
Speakers said earlier in July 2016, the landless Santals occupied over hundred acres of land at Sahebganj sugarcane farm of Rangpur Sugar Mills in Gaibandha as their forefathers' landed properties. Over the issue, a tense situation was cre-

ated among the local people, the mill authority and police.
On November 6, police and mill workers during an eviction drive swooped on the newly erected village of Santal community. Police opened fire, killing three Santal men and leaving many others injured.
One Sawpan Murmu filed a case, accusing 33 named people, including local lawmaker Principal Abul Kalam Azad and Sapmara Union Parishad Chairman Shakil Akand Bulbul. Police arrested three people in the case, but they were released on bail.
Speakers said police are yet to arrest the main accused and victims were not provided with any compensation or rehabilitation, although two years have passed since the attack.

Madrasa boy found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh
Police recovered the decomposed body of a madrasa boy in Hossainpur upazila of Kishoreganj yesterday.

The 15-year-old boy Obaidullah Munna, son of Nurul Huda of Shahedal Madhyapara village, was a Class IX student of local DS Dakhil Madrasa.
Locals found the body in a jungle of adjacent Dariabaj village in the morning and informed police.
Police recovered the body and sent it to Kishoreganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Hossainpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Abdul Hossain.
The OC said Munna had been missing since October 15 and a general diary was lodged with the police station.
Miscreants might have killed the boy and left body in the jungle, the OC said.

'Drug peddler' dies in 'gunfight' with DB police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A suspected drug peddler was killed in a 'gunfight' with members of Detective Branch (DB) of Police at Nishchintapur village in Meherpur Sadar upazila early yesterday.
The deceased, Enamul Haq Ena, was son of Toaj Ali of the village.
Being informed that two groups of drug peddlers were gathering at the village for an illegal drug deal, a team of plainclothes policemen conducted a raid there around 2:00am, Officer-in-Charge of Meherpur DB Police Obaidur Rahman said.
As the police team reached the spot, the gang of drug peddlers opened fire on them, prompting them to retaliate, the OC claimed.
After 20 minutes of gunfight, police found Ena's bullet-riddled body on the spot, he said, adding that they also seized a shutter-gun and 63 bottles of Phensidyl from the spot.
Police said Ena was accused in at least eight cases including for murder.
Deceased's elder brother Sobdel Ali said his brother surrendered to police in July, 2017 and came out of jail in April this year.
Sobdel said locals told the family that some plainclothes men picked up his brother from a local marker on Monday.

Woman strangled by husband

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A woman was strangled allegedly by her husband on Saturday over the latter's extramarital affair at Bahechar village in Hijla upazila of the district.
The victim, mother of two, was identified as Salma Begum, 30, daughter of Nehal Howlader of the same village, said Hijla Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) SM Maksudur Rahman.
The OC said the housewife's husband Shamim Sarder, son of Nur-e-Alam Sarder, was arrested immediately after the incident. The arrestee confessed to the crime during the primary interrogation, he added.
"Beaten and strangled by her husband during altercation over family feud early on Saturday, the woman was admitted to Hijla Upazila Health Complex in a critical condition where the on-duty doctor declared her dead", Maksudur said.
He said police suspect that the victim was killed for protesting her husband's extramarital affair. The body has been sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy, Maksudur added.
"Salma and Shamim married nine years ago and they have two children, the OC said.

Tk 3cr Yaba pills seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered 1.15 lakh Yaba tablets worth Tk 3 crore from a microbus in College Para area of Teknaf upazila headquarters early yesterday.
They also arrested the driver of the microbus in this connection, said Major Mehedi Hasan, company commander of Rab-7.
The arrestee is Mir Quasem, 30, son of Abu Sayed of Mithaichhari area in Moheshkhali upazila.
On secret information, the elite force waylaid the microbus bearing a sticker of an NGO and seized the Yaba tablets from the vehicle.
A case was filed in this connection, said Pradipta Kumar Das, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station.

Turkey

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table at the summit (this weekend) in Paris," Erdogan said.
"We will absolutely not abide by such sanctions. We buy 10 billion cubic metres of natural gas. We cannot freeze our people in the cold."
Speaking in Japan earlier yesterday, Turkey's foreign minister said it would be dangerous to isolate Iran, adding that it was not easy for countries like Turkey and Japan to diversify energy supplies.
"We do not believe any result can be reached with sanctions. I think meaningful dialogue and talks are more useful than sanctions," Mevlut Cavusoglu said.
US President Donald Trump aims to hit Iran's economy and force it to abandon not only its nuclear ambitions and ballistic missile programme but also its support for militant proxies in Syria, Yemen, Lebanon and other parts of the Middle East.

Faridpur road in bad shape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

The people of 50 villages under three unions of Boalmari upazila have been suffering for one and a half years as a 400-metre section of the Satair Bazar-Alankhali road in Satair Bazar area has been in awful condition for long.
Locals said the 7-kilometre-long and 3.66 metre wide road is under Boalmri upazila Local Government Engineering Department (LGED).
Thousands of people, including students, of Satair, Ghoshpur and Moyna unions use the road every day, facing serious problems due to the damaged section. The suffering is beyond description when they need to take a critical patient to district headquarters, locals said.
Apart from the people of the three unions, some people of Magura and Jashore use the road as a shortcut to go Faridpur, they said.
It has become almost unfit for vehicular movement due to lack of repair or renovation for long, they added.
Khan Jahidul Islam, a trader in Satair Bazar area said people who come to the bazar on haat days have to suffer a lot due to the dilapidated road.
Rickshaw-van puller Zafar Sheikh said accidents occur regularly when they cross that portion of the road as the rainwater stays there for a long time.
Satair Bazar Managing Committee Secretary General Abu Zafar Siddiki said they told the engineer of Boalmari upazila LGED several times to repair the road, but no steps have been taken yet.
"We repaired this road two years ago but it was damaged again as there is no drainage system in Satair Bazar and the rainwater remains stagnant on the road," said Boalmari LGED Engineer Rafiqul Islam.



Rainwater remains stagnant in a section of Satair Bazar-Alankhali Road in Satair Bazar area under Boalmari upazila of Faridpur as it has not been repaired for years. PHOTO: STAR



Students leave Pabna University of Science and Technology campus after the authorities closed the institution for an indefinite period following students' unrest. PHOTO: STAR

STUDENTS' AGITATION PUST closed sine die

The authorities suspend 10 students for movement

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Pabna University of Science and Technology (PUST) has been closed for an indefinite period yesterday following a students' agitation to press home their seven-point demand.
Besides, the university authority in an urgent Regent board meeting on Monday night decided to suspend 10 agitating students involved in the ongoing students' movement.
PUST authorities have decided to close the university for an indefinite period to bring the situation under control, University Proctor Dr Pretom Kumar Das said, adding that the students were asked to vacate the dormitories by Tuesday morning.
The agitating students became violent and misbehaved with the VC and some of the teachers when they went for a discussion with the students on Monday, the proctor said.
Earlier on Monday, agitating stu-

dents staged a demonstration in front of the administrative building and besieged the university vice-chancellor (VC), pro-VC, teachers and administrative officials to press home their seven-point demand, including removing semester drop system.
Meanwhile, the agitating students yesterday held a protest rally before leaving the campus and gave ultimatum to meet their seven-point demand within two working days, said Faridul Islam Babu, BCL general secretary, PUST unit.
Pro-VC Dr Anwarul Islam said a committee was formed to work out a solution in this regard but it found that there is no logical ground to fulfil the students' demands.
The committee also collected ordinances of some other universities and found that there is no provision anywhere in Bangladesh to promote the students if they do not pass their examinations.

Won't accept

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accept the amended charter. He submitted the application to the Dispatch Section of the EC Secretariat.
Interestingly, Mozammel didn't give the EC time to address his plea. He hurriedly moved to the HC the next day and filed the writ petition seeking its directives on the EC.
In its order, HC asked some high-ups of the EC, the LGRD ministry and the BNP to explain within four weeks why the deletion of the provision in the party charter, which restricted a person convicted of corruption from holding party positions, will not be declared illegal as the changes violate article 66(2) (d) of the country's constitution.
The article says, "A person shall be disqualified for election as, or for being, a member of parliament who has been, on conviction for a criminal offence involving moral turpitude, sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years, unless a period of five years has elapsed since his release."
The court also asked the commission to dispose of the plea within a month and issued a rule questioning the legality of the changes in the BNP charter.
Talking to this correspondent last week at his office, Election Commissioner Rafiqul Islam had said the commission would sit in a meeting to discuss the issue.
Election Commission Secretary Helal Uddin Ahmed recently told The Daily Star that the EC had received the directive and would take its next course of action in line with the order.
Following the HC directive, the BNP faces fresh troubles over its top leadership as the order triggered a debate on whether Khaleda Zia and her son Tarique Rahman can remain the party's chairperson and senior vice chairman respectively as they have been convicted and sentenced in corruption cases.