



Facebook group Amader Ichhamati stage a sit-in and observe hunger strike for 12 hours on the bank of the nearly dead Ichhamati river in Pabna town yesterday demanding steps to save the once flowing water body from extinction.

PHOTO: AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU



2 BNP former lawmakers, among 9 held

They were picked up from Independence Day programme

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police yesterday arrested nine BNP leaders and activists, including its president and secretary of Kushtia district unit, when they went to the memorial to pay homage to the martyrs on the occasion of the 49th Independence and National Day.

The arrestees include BNP district unit president and former lawmaker of Kushtia-4 Syed Mehd Ahmed Roomy, also the advisor to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Secretary of the unit and former lawmaker of Kushtia-3 Shohrab Uddin and its Joint Secretary AK Shamim Arzoo.

Locals said a group of BNP leaders and activists chanted slogans while leaving the memorial.

At the time, police arrested nine BNP men after a chase, said Officer-in-Charge Nasir Uddin of Kushtia Model Police Station.

The BNP men were arrested as some of them tried to create traffic congestion on Kushtia-Khulna highway in the name of paying homage to martyrs, said Tanvir Arafat, superintendent of police (SP).

Moreover, the arrestees were accused in different cases filed against them on different time, said the SP.

14 BNP men hurt in attack by 'BCL, Jubo League'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

At least 14 leaders and activists of BNP were injured in an alleged attack by activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jubo League after the former placed wreaths at martyrs' monument in Faridpur town yesterday.

The BNP leaders and activists said they came under attack in Bhanga Raster Mor area around 7:30am while they were returning after placing the wreaths on the occasion of Independence Day.

Dildar Hossain, joint publicity secretary of BNP's Faridpur district unit, said, "At least 10 to 12 activists of BCL and Jubo League attacked us with hockey sticks and sharp weapons in front of Zaman Filling Station while we were returning from martyrs' monument."

The injured include Julfikar Hossain, joint secretary of Faridpur district BNP; Syed Modarres Ali, general secretary of the same unit; Liton Biswas, president

of Swetchhasebak Dal's Faridpur municipality unit; and Siddiqur Rahman, publicity secretary of Faridpur district unit of Jubo Dal.

Among them, Julfikar Hossain was sent to Dhaka for treatment, while others were admitted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital, Faridpur General Hospital and other medical facilities in the area, Dildar added.

Contacted, Nishan Mahamud Shamim, president of BCL's Faridpur district unit, refuted the accusation, saying, "We've been busy with the inauguration programme of Rajendra College Central Students' Union... The accusation made by BNP is absolutely false."

Kotwali Police Station Officer-in-Charge AFM Nasim confirmed that a number of BNP leaders and activists came under attack by miscreants in Bhanga Raster Mor area yesterday morning.

No case was filed in this connection as of 4:00pm yesterday, he added.

Fellow students save girl from early marriage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Members of Kishori Club, formed with girl students of different institutions, on Monday foiled an early marriage bid of a sixth grader in Mirzapur upazila of the district.

The marriage of the 15-year-old girl was scheduled to be held yesterday.

Getting information that family members of a Class VI student at Bongsai School and College have fixed the marriage of the underage girl on Tuesday, the club members of the school unit informed the matter to the principal of the institution first and then went to the girl's house to convince her parents.

Later, failing to convince the girl's parents, the club members informed the matter to Mirzapur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Abdul Malek.

Being informed, UNO Malek immediately sent a police team, who took the girl's parents to his office for a talk.

During the discussion, the UNO briefed the girl's parents about the bad affects of early marriage.

He later released them taking their undertaking that they would not marry her off before legal age.

"I sent a police team to detain the bridegroom, but he managed to flee before law enforcers could reach his house," UNO Malek said.

Brutally tortured by stepmother, kid lands in hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A seven-year-old girl, who was tortured allegedly by her stepmother, has landed in Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital.

The victim is Sumaiya Akhter, daughter of Helal Hossain and Sheuly Begum of Abdultari area in the town, and a student of Class I at Shaheed Shajahan Colony Government Primary School.

Sheuly, who went to Dhaka after her husband's second marriage, works as a domestic help at a house in the capital.

Locals said Sumaiya's stepmother Beauty Begum beat her mercilessly on Monday. Later, locals rescued the girl and admitted her to the hospital.

Hearing the incident, the victim's mother came back from Dhaka and she is now looking after her daughter at the hospital.

Sumaiya's mother Sheuly said Beauty often tortured her daughter. She will file a case in connection with the incident.

"My stepmother used to beat me every day. She did not give me proper food. I informed my father about the incident but he did not pay heed," said the victim at the hospital.

Contacted, Sumaiya's father Helal, a transport worker, said he was unaware of the matter as he has to stay outside home for his work most of the time.

The stepmother said she beat Sumaiya as she refused to attend school on Monday morning.

Resident Medical Officer of Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital Dr Aminur Rahman said the girl sustained injuries to her legs, back, head and hands. She is now out of danger.

Elderly woman crushed under train

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

An elderly woman was crushed under a train yesterday at Mobarakganj railway station in Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah.

The identity of the woman, aged around 70, could not be known as of writing the report.

"The woman was moving here and there since Monday morning. When Dhaka bound Chitra express reached the platform at 10:30am the women jumped on the railway track and her head and hand got detached from the body," said Stationmaster Nazrul Islam.

Government Railway Police received the body, he added.

Road construction starts before work order, serious anomalies alleged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Locals alleged that low quality bricks are being used for construction of a half a kilometre rural road in Rangapanichhara area under Golabari union in Sadar upazila.

Moreover, the contractor concerned has started the road construction work without obtaining work order from the authorities concerned.

Funded by Relief and Disaster Management Ministry, Sadar Upazila Project Implementation Office (PIO) has been implementing the project at a cost of Tk 20 lakh while Golabari Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Gyana Ranjan Tripura is conducting the construction work.

According to the PIO, a tender was floated in this regard recently and local construction firm M/S Bitharon Chakma got the work as the lowest bidder.

Low quality bricks are being used in the road construction work, local resident Lalon Chakma said, adding that the width of the road is also reduced to nine feet.

Due to use of substandard materials in the construction, the road may collapse in the upcoming rainy season, Lalon said.

When asked, contractor Bitharon Chakma said he got the work as lowest bidder of the tender, but he handed the sub-contract to Golabari UP Chairman Gyana Ranjan.

Despite repeated attempts, this correspondent could not reach Gyana over phone for his comments as he did not receive the calls.

Contacted, Sadar Upazila Project Implementation Officer Kazi Masudur Rahman said they are yet to issue any work order so there is no question of supervising the work.



Construction of this half a kilometre road in Rangapanichhara area under Khagrachhari Sadar upazila is going on, using such low quality bricks.

PHOTO: STAR

Structure near martyrs' complex damaged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Tilework on the base of two foundation plaques commemorating martyrs of 1971 Liberation War was found vandalised in Dolura of Sunamganj Sadar upazila on Monday.

The tilework was done a couple of days ago, ahead of the 48th anniversary of Independence Day celebrated yesterday, according to the office of Sunamganj Sadar upazila nirbahi officer.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Mohammad Abdul Ahad directed the OC of Sunamganj Police Station to file a GD in this regard.

The structure was damaged before the scheduled visit of senior officials including the DC and superintendent of police at the martyrs' grave in the area on the Independence Day.



Unruly people from an Awami League procession beat journalist Asaduzzaman Sazu on a road in Hatibandha upazila of Lalmonirhat yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Journalist assaulted, camera vandalised

He was taking photo of AL procession

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The local correspondent of a national daily was assaulted and his camera was vandalised while he was taking photographs of procession and counter procession of two Awami League (AL) factions in Hatibandha upazila yesterday.

Injured Asaduzzaman Sazu, district correspondent of Bangla Daily Manabkantha, was first admitted to Hatibandha Upazila Health Complex and later shifted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital the same noon.

The victim, also a resident of Dakkhin Gaddimari village in the upazila, sustained injuries on his legs, hands, back and waist, Resident Medical Officer (RMO) at Hatibandha Upazila Health Complex Dr Nayeem Hasan said.

"I was taking photos of the processions when all of a sudden a group of four to five youths from the procession swooped on me and started beating me with wooden sticks," injured Sazu said.

"They snatched away my camera and vandalised it," he said, adding that although their faces are known, he doesn't know their names.

Hatibandha Press Club President Elius Basuniya said police assured them that the culprits would be arrested within 24 hours.

"The assaulted journalist is under treatment and his family will lodge a case in this regard," he added.

Officer in Charge of Hatibandha Police Station Omar Farooque said they were working to identify the attackers and will try to arrest them as soon as possible.

BCL leader's hanging body found

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Bangladesh Chhatra League's (BCL) Madaripur unit vice president's body was found hanging inside a building under construction in Amirabad area of Madaripur town Monday morning.

Being informed, police later arrived at the scene and sent the body of the BCL leader -- Limon Mazumdar, 28, son of Babul Mazumdar from Sabujbagh area in the town -- to Madaripur General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Limon was found hanging in a building behind Milon Cinema Hall in Amirabad area around 9:30am, locals said, adding that a towel was wrapped around his neck.

Members of Limon's family claimed that he must have been killed.

His mother Laila Begum said, "He went out of the house on Sunday night after someone asked him to get out. He didn't come home since then."

Contacted, Madaripur Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge (Investigation) Sirajul Haque said they could not comment on the incident as an investigation was underway.