

'CALLING FFS RAZAKARS' IN BIRGANJ FFs want apology from UZ chairman-elect

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Freedom fighters in Dinajpur's Birganj upazila yesterday urged the upazila's Awami League-backed chairman-elect to issue apologies for terming freedom fighters Razakars during his speech at an Independence Day programme on Tuesday.

During a press conference organised in the afternoon at Dinajpur Press Club, the war heroes also said they would announce a tougher agitation programme unless their demand is met.

On Tuesday afternoon, on the occasion of the country's 48th anniversary of Independence Day, local administration organised a discussion and reception at Birganj Pilot High School playground to heroes of 1971 Liberation War.

As many as 140 freedom fighters attended the programme where Manoranjan Shil Gopal, lawmaker for Dinajpur-1 (Birganj and Kaharol), was present as the chief guest and the upazila chairman-elect, Aminul Islam, was present as the special guest, according to freedom fighters.

Aminul Islam during his speech said, "A group of freedom fighters did not vote for me [in the March 18 upazila parishad election], although I was nominated by Awami League. They are Razakars."

Addressing the programme later, lawmaker Manoranjan Gopal urged Aminul to withdraw his remark. But the meeting ended without any apology from Aminul.

Offended by Aminul's remark, the freedom fighters organised the press conference yesterday when Kalipada Roy, former commander of Birganj upazila unit of Muktiyoddha Sangsad, read out a written statement.

"We demand his [chairman-elect] apology for labelling the freedom fighters as Razakars, who had opposed the country's liberation," said freedom fighter SMA Khaleque.

After this correspondent reached Aminul Islam on his cellphone for his comments on the matter, he said he did not intend to call all freedom fighters Razakars.

Rather, he wanted to refer to those who did not endorse or extend cooperation to him during the campaigning of the Upazila Parishad election, he added.

WASIM'S DEATH Bus driver, assistant remanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The bus driver and his assistant, accused of killing Sylhet Agricultural University (SAU) student Wasim Afnan by pushing him off the bus, were placed on 5 days' remand each yesterday.

Addition Judicial Magistrate Bahauddin Kazi of Moulvibazar Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court-1 passed the order after police placed the accused -- driver of Udar Paribahan Jewel Ahmed and his assistant Masuk Ali -- before it with a 10-day remand prayer, said Sohel Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Moulvibazar Sadar Police Station.

On March 23, Wasim, 21, was run over by an Udar Paribahan bus after he was pushed off the same moving vehicle in Sherpur Muktiyoddha Chattar area of Moulvibazar on Dhaka-Sylhet highway.

Son of Abu Zaher Mahub and Dr Mina Parvin Mahub from Rudrogram area of Habiganj, Wasim was a fourth-year bachelor's student of biotech and genetic engineering at SAU.



Local fishermen set current nets on the Boleshwar in Barguna's Pathorghata upazila. Inset, fishermen catch fish in the river with current nets. PHOTO: SOHRAB HOSSAIN

Fish stocks under threat as use of current nets on

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Indiscriminate use of current nets is threatening extinction of fish stock in the Bay and its adjacent rivers in the coastal areas of Barguna.

The rivers include Boleshwar, Payra, Bishkhali, Ramnabad, Buragourango, Tentulia and Lohalia.

Despite regular drives by the authorities concerned to prevent the use of current nets, a section of fishermen continued catching fish with the nets, said Md Nazrul Islam, field officer of Pathorghata

upazila fish office.

During a recent visit, this correspondent saw some fishermen catching hilsa and other fishes with current nets in the Boleshwar river under Pathorghata upazila.

Abdul Halim, a fisherman of Nishanbaria in the upazila, said he has to run his six-member family by fishing. He catches fish in Boleshwar with current nets to get more fish easily.

"I know about the negative impact of current nets but I have no alternative as

other type nets hardly catch fish," he said.

Another fisherman Abul Bashar of the same area said mobile courts often destroy current nets but they have no alternative to catch fish.

Sarder Mohiuddin, Barguna district fisheries officer (DFO), said they are taking legal steps against current nets but a section of fishermen often catch fish with current nets to get more fish, threatening fish stocks in the Bay and rivers.

About 23.26 lakh metres of current nets were seized in 475 drives in different

rivers of the district from January 1 till March 20, said the DFO, adding that they also realised Tk 2.79 as fine and seven fishermen were sent to jail.

Mollah Emdadullah, Patuakhali district fisheries officer, said they are showing zero tolerance to the use of current nets and conducting drives regularly to protect fish.

Lieutenant Shakil, commander of the south zone of coastguard, said around 1.95 lakh metres of current nets were seized in 170 drives on the Bay under Barguna from January 1 this year and it is their routine works.

Low price worries potato growers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Potato farmers in the district are worried as they cannot recover the production cost due to low price of the vegetable.

Many growers expressed their anxiety about meeting the expenditure for cultivating upcoming crops like Boro.

Now one kg of potato is being sold at Tk 8 to Tk 12 in the retail market and Tk 7 to Tk 10 in the wholesale market, while the growers are selling it at Tk 6 in the field against production cost of Tk 7.

Bidhubhushon Roy, deputy director of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Lalmonirhat, said 5000 hectares of land have been brought under potato cultivation this year while it was 5,385 hectares last year.

Due to loss in potato farming last year, a number of farmers did not cultivate the vegetable this year, he said.

Farmers who worked in their own fields are benefited but those who hired labourers are facing loss, Bidhubhushon said, adding that it is true that if growers do not get their production cost back, they will lose interest in farming potato next year.

Farmer Matilal Barmon, 65, of Haziganj village in Aditmarri upazila, said "I thought I would get expected price from selling potatoes this year, but it is same price what



Frustrated over low price, a farmer shows harvested potatoes at his field of Mogholhat village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila. PHOTO: STAR

was in the last year."

He incurred loss of Tk 25,000 from potato cultivation on six bighas of land last year, said Matilal.

Surat Ali, 58, of Mandolerhat village in Sadar upazila, said he got 18,000 kg of potato from two acres of land spending Tk 1.23 lakh but he got only Tk 1.8 lakh from selling the produce at Tk 6 per kg in the field.

Ataur Rahman, 55, of Bhatibari village in Sadar, said he spent Tk 1.20 lakh for farming potato on two acres of land, but he is uncertain about recovering his investment due to the low price in the local market.

Mizanur Rahman, a wholesaler in the town's Goshala Bazar kitchen market, said they are buying potatoes from growers at low rate due to huge supply of the item in the local market.

Lone doctor for three lakh people!

MD AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Lone doctor has been working at Durgapur Upazila Health Complex in Netrakona for the last five months, causing immense sufferings to thousands of patients.

It is the only hospital for around three lakh residents in the upazila, mostly belong to poor families. People from adjacent Kalmakanda upazila and Dhobaura upazila in Mymensingh also visit the hospital. They cannot get proper treatment due to lack of doctors and other staff.

The health complex, upgraded to a 50-bed hospital in 2009, has two operation theatres and separate wards for dental, medicine and gynecology. The government hospital also provides various test facilities.

Though the hospital is well-equipped, patients are deprived of proper treatment for shortage of doctors and technicians. As the post of lone anesthetist has been lying vacant for long, the necessary operations cannot be done there.

Hospital sources said there are 17 posts of doctors but only five are posted at the health complex. Of the five, two are on deputation at Netrakona Medical College and one (consultant) is at Dhaka Medical College Hospital while another is on leave on health ground.

The lone doctor, Resident Medical Officer (RMO) ASM Tanjirul Islam Raihan, has been running the hospital for some five months.

The post of Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer remained vacant after the officer joined here on March 9 and went on a training the same day.

Out of eight posts of sweepers, five are lying vacant. Out of three posts of health

inspectors, two has been lying vacant for long.

But the posts of 24 nurses are fulfilled, said Dr Raihan.

The lone ambulance of the hospital is also out of order for over a year and the only X-Ray machine is dead for over three years. A few tests are done at the hospital but the patients have to go to private clinics for major tests like ultrasound, X-Ray and some blood tests, said hospital sources.

Over 60 patients remain admitted at the hospital regularly. The rush of patients at the outdoor is over 250 daily and it is very difficult to handle the huge patients, said the RMO.

As the hospital is in the remote area, the doctors who join there often try to get transferred on various excuses like bad communication, said local people.

Interestingly, some doctors who left the area on transfer also work for different private clinics adjacent to the hospitals for private practice, alleged the locals.

Praising the frantic efforts of the lone doctor and nurses, Rahima Akhter, a local school teacher, said posting of necessary doctors and staff can make the hospital situation better.

Ajoy Saha, president of Sushasoner Jonno Nagorik (Sujan) Durgapur unit, said due to negligence of the authorities concerned, patients are being deprived of their due services though the hospital has necessary supports.

Cashing in on the situation, private clinics and diagnostic centres grown up adjacent to the hospital are doing brisk business, he alleged.

Civil Surgeon Dr Tajul Islam Khan said they have already informed the higher authorities about the matter.

SAVOR EXPO
Presented by

Follow Us On: [Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [YouTube](#) [www.savord.com](#)

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

SAFECON

POWER
GEN-2019

RENEWABLE
ENERGY SHOW '19

Water
Management
Show '19

SAFE
HVACR
2019

Complete B2B Platform for Safe Building Materials
Power & Utilities, Renewable Energy
Water Management & HVACR Solutions

28, 29, 30 March, 2019 10 am - 8 pm, Everyday
Bangabandhu International Conference Center, Agargaon, Dhaka.

48,000 SQFT Exhibition Area
Industrial Seminars and Technical Sessions
Engagement of Industry Professionals and Business Communities
B2B & B2G Expositions
More than 300 New Innovations & Technologies
240+ Booths from 14 Countries

Organized By

Sponsors:

Knowledge Partners:

Media Partners:

One killed, 25 injured over land disputes

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A man was killed and at least 25 others were injured in separate incidents of land disputes in Thakurgaon and Habiganj yesterday.

Our Thakurgaon correspondent reported that a man was killed in a clash allegedly over a land dispute in Sadar upazila.

The deceased, Moktadur Rahman, 54, son of late Anisur Rahman, was a resident of Mohammadpur Kalitala village.

Inspector (Investigation) Chittaranjan Roy of Sadar Police Station said there had been a feud between slain Moktadur and two sisters--Rahima, 35, and Parul, 40, daughters of late Dabidul Islam--over the ownership of a piece of land.

An altercation took place between Moktadur's men and supporters of the two sisters around 12:00noon.

At one stage, both the groups attacked each other that left Moktadur critically injured.

He later died on his way to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital.

Away in Habiganj, at least 25 people were injured when two rival groups of villagers locked in a fierce clash allegedly over occupying a government land in Baniachong upazila, reports our Moulvibazar correspondent.

Of the injured, 10 were admitted to Habiganj Sadar Hospital while 15 others to Baniachong Health Complex and other private clinics in surrounding areas.

Quoting witnesses, police said two rival groups, one led by Ilias Ali, 50, and the other by Rahmat Mia, 46, of Kendua village, locked in a quarrel over occupying a government land on Saturday.

As a sequel, both the groups swooped on each other with sticks and sharp weapons yesterday morning that left 25 people from both sides injured.



Only one doctor has been working at Durgapur Upazila Health Complex in Netrakona, much to the suffering of patients. PHOTO: STAR