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Just like the pre-pandemic times, home-goers rush to get tickets at Kamalapur Railway Station ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr. People in the photo waiting in queues want to buy tickets for April 27. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Bodi, brother ‘beat up’ 2 AL leaders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox’s Bazar

Controversial Awami League leader and former lawmaker Abdur Rahman Bodi and his brother allegedly assaulted two local leaders of Teknaf at a meeting on Friday.

In a video footage that went viral on social media, Bodi and his brother Abdul Shukkur are seen beating up Teknaf Municipality AL Vice President Mohammad Yousuf Monu.

Sources said the incident happened at Teknaf Upazila Parishad Auditorium during a meeting between the upazila and municipality AL leaders and activists.

Monu was speaking about different irregularities within the party when Bodi came down from the stage and started hitting Monu.

When Yousuf Bhutto, joint secretary of the municipality AL, tried to save Monu, he was beaten up Shukkur, also a leader of the municipality AL, said the sources.

President of Teknaf Municipal AL Javed Iqbal later said the district AL leaders present at the auditorium would take action about the matter.

Shukkur spent a long time in jail on charges of yaba trafficking, Javed added.

Monu said he was surprised by the incident.

Contacted, Shah Alam Chowdhury, vice president of Cox’s Bazar district AL, said, “We will resolve the issue as per the organisational rules.”

Bodi could not be contacted for comments over the matter.

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## EID TRAIN TICKETS Sold out online, long queues at stations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was 12:35pm. Some 15 to 20 people were waiting at the office of Kamalapur Station Manager Masud Sarwar. But he was not there.

They all were seeking tickets of Kurigram Express yesterday, the first day of advance train ticket sales of Bangladesh Railway ahead of the Eid.

They all were asking almost the same questions. Why would they not get tickets even after spending almost a whole night at the station? Why the sale of tickets online finished within a minute after the opening of the day’s sale?

A railway staffer failed to convince them by giving some explanations. At one point, an official of the Railway, Nirapatta Bahini, asked them to leave the office.

“You can do this [send people out]. You even can use batons against us. But you cannot come up with a solution to this

problem,” said an overwrought youth.

This newspaper talked with two of the ticket seekers.

One of them is Shanto, a BBA student of a private university. He said he and his friends had been trying to collect tickets online to Rangpur for the last four days, but in vain.

On Friday, he reached Airport Railway Station at 5:00am and waited four and a half hours, but could not buy a single ticket for April 26.

Shanto along with one of his friends went to Kamalapur at midnight on Saturday night. He was standing 80th in a line of several hundred people. Most of them chose to travel by train fearing possible traffic gridlocks on roads during the Eid rush.

At 12:15pm yesterday, the authorities declared that tickets of Kurigram Express for April 27 were sold out.

The announcement baffled Shanto completely. “Only 60 to 62 people got tickets. How is it

possible?”

About 30-40 people were still waiting before the ticket counter of Kurigram Express. One of them was Rashidul Islam.

Asked why he was waiting there even after the tickets for April 27 were sold out, he said, “I came here at 5:00am today [yesterday]. I was in the 200th position in the line. So I didn’t go home. I will wait here till tomorrow [today] morning to get tickets for April 28.”

Uzzwal Hasan, a government employee, went to the station at 11:00am from his office. He planned to wait till 8:00am today to buy tickets of Drutojan Express to go home in Joydebpur’s Akkelpur upazila.

“I will go home with my family. To avoid possible tailbacks on roads, I am enduring this pain,” said Uazzal, standing in the 13th position of a line.

People fear Eid rush might cause traffic congestion on a major highway that links Dhaka

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## BCL and Jubo League men stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chhatra League leader and a Jubo League activist were stabbed to death in separate incidents in Chattogram’s Patiya upazila Friday night.

The BCL leader was killed in a factional clash and the Jubo League activist was murdered over rivalry in the union parishad election, said police, quoting locals.

The dead are Askar Bin Tarek Ivan, 18, religious affairs secretary of Jamal Khan ward BCL and a student of BAF Shaheen College Chattogram; and Mohammad Sohel, 36, younger sibling of AL-backed Kashaish UP Chairman Abul Kashem.

Three men – Mohammad Sajjad, 20, Saddam Hossain, 30, and Joyanal Abedin, 34 – were also injured while trying to save Sohel. They were undergoing treatment at Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH), said police.

According to the investigators, there are long-standing rivalry between the followers Jamal Khan ward councillor Shaibal Das Suman and city unit BCL’s Assistant Secretary Sabbir Sadek over establishing supremacy.

As a sequel to the enmity, a brawl took place between the two groups in the city’s Andarkillah area after Iftar on Friday mounting a tense situation.

At the night, the two groups were positioned in the Cheragi More area and locked into a scuffle around 9:30pm. At one point, Ivan was stabbed by Sabbir group, said police.

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## Bidyanondo’s Kishore honoured by the Queen Chosen for Commonwealth Points of Light award

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



Queen Elizabeth II has named Bangladeshi charity leader Kishore Kumar Das for the Commonwealth Points of Light award in recognition of his exceptional voluntary service through “Bidyanondo”.

Kishore, 40, set up charity organisation Bidyanondo in 2013 and has made education accessible for over 1,200 children from marginalised backgrounds, said UK High Commission in Bangladesh in a statement yesterday.

He started with only 22 students and now runs five primary schools, which are free of charge for students. The charity also provides free academic coaching sessions and scholarship programmes to help children pursue higher education.

Kishore has also initiated a meal programme – “Ek takay ahaar” (Meal for a penny) – which

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## WHITE CLAY EXTRACTION Ethnic community now in danger

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unbridled white clay extraction in Dhobaura upazila of Mymensingh district has put the ethnic community in danger as it devoured their homestead and way of livelihood, said the civil society platform Nagorik Uddog.

A ten-member team of the platform had toured Dhobaura and Durgapur upazilas from April 8 to 10. The findings were presented yesterday at a briefing held at the Dhaka Reporters Unity.

While clay extraction is suspended in Durgapur upazila of Netrokona district for two years now thanks to a court order, it is going on in full swing in Dhobaura upazila, said Robaet Ferdous, professor of Dhaka University, while presenting the findings.

The white clay extraction in Vedikuri mouja of Dhobaura has caused ecological disaster; jeopardised the livelihood of Hajong, Mandi and other ethnic groups; damaged hills, forests and wildlife; polluted water and imperilled food

security, he said quoting the indigenous communities.

A whole community known as Hodi community got obliterated from Durgapur, while there is no trace of 11 families belonging to Hajong community.

Just 11 months ago, the wild rabbit was available there. But it is no more seen in the locality due to clay extraction.

The mining of white clay disrupted agricultural activities as the extraction caused waterlogging.

“The roads are getting damaged and noise pollution increased in the area for the extraction. This area has become totally unliveable,” Ferdous said.

The indiscriminate extraction has created a deep gorge, which is prompting landslides in the area, sometimes even killing members of the community.

Since 1974, 37 people died in two upazila by slipping into the gorge.

The platform has put forward ten demands to the government to stop the devastation immediately and protect the

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PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUI

Farmers in Rangpur’s Pirganj upazila taking their produce home. BRRI-28 paddy has ripened on their fields. The photo was taken yesterday.