Over 20 men injured in AL upazila council

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pirojpur*

Over 20 men from two opposing groups of Awami League were injured in a clash in Pirojpur's Nazirpur upazila, amid the presence of central unit leaders, yesterday evening.

The clash occurred in the field of Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib College when the central leaders were busy with forming the upazila AL committee.

Witnesses have said that supporters of Fisheries and Livestock Minister SM Rezaul Karim and AL's Pirojpur district unit president AKMA Awal gathered on the council premises in the morning.

After the first session of the council, they were involved in clash after supporters of both groups began to chant for their separate candidates.

Noore Alam Siddique alias Shaheen, younger brother of Rezaul Karim,

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Sports equipment sellers are having good business days amid the ongoing buzz for the football world cup. Football fans have been rushing to these stores to get their favourite team's jerseys. Each of these garments are selling for Tk 300 to 600. This photo was taken in Khulna's Doulatpur Bazar area recently.

PHOTO: **HABIBUR RAHMAN**

No remedy for migrant workers in sight

Despite pressure from international organisations, FIFA, Qatar yet to commit

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Human Rights Watch (HRW) has called for Qatar and FIFA to take action to remedy the migrant workers and families harmed in the process of building infrastructure for the World Cup, which will begin today.

Qatar and FIFA haven't committed to remedy abuses and the unexplained deaths of migrant workers who made the event possible, even though HRW and a coalition of rights organisations led a global campaign calling for a remedy of abuses over the last six months.

In a statement, HRW yesterday said the ability of Qatar to host an unprecedented 1.2 million visitors depended on the contribution of millions of migrant workers from South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Africa.

"As the World Cup opens, migrant workers and their families, players, and fans will be feeling the terrible weight of the human cost of the tournament," said Michael Page, deputy director, Middle East and North Africa division at the New York-based global rights watchdog.

"FIFA's failure to provide a remedy while accruing billions of dollars in revenue has left everything in sight in Qatar – from the roads to the stadiums – as reminders of the migrant workers who built and delivered the games but

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Cattle market on rail track!

Traders demand alternative space; admin 'unaware'

MINTU DESHWARA, *Moulvibazar*

Ignoring risks of accidents, a cattle market sits two days a week on the rail line in the southern part of Shamsernagar station in Moulvibazar's Kamalganj upazila.

Cows are tied with the railway tracks, and buyers and sellers conduct their businesses standing on the rail line. When a train comes, people hastily move away along with their cattle, an endeavour that can cause serious accidents within a split second.

The lessee of the market said they are well aware of the risk, but claimed they do not have any alternative space for setting up the cattle market.

The market sits regularly every Sunday and Wednesday. In a recent visit, this correspondent saw cattle being tied up with rail sleepers, signals and point keys.

If the traders delay even for a second when a train arrives, these animals, completely defenseless, will be the first in line to fall under the wheels of the moving train.

Besides, buyers and sellers were seen bargaining over the price of cattle by standing on the rail track, disregarding the dangers attached to such an act.

Besides, the cattle market sits without any written permission from the rail authorities, making this business practice illegal to begin with. But no one knows why the authorities and local administration are playing the role of silent spectators.

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Fact-checking more crucial than ever

Say speakers at 'Fact-checking for Journalism Learners' seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The spread of fake news and disinformation is increasing with the advancement of technology. Inclusion of fact-checking courses in the curriculum of universities and skilled media workers for fact checking are required to prevent this, said speakers at a programme yesterday.

Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) organised the seminar titled "Fact-checking for Journalism Learners" at The Daily Star Centre, where media persons and faculty members of media and communications from different universities joined.

In the seminar, Prothom Alo Head of Online Shawkat Hossain, said, "Many times, what we're seeing in plain sight is also wrong. If there's a mistake online, it has to be corrected, the mistake has to be admitted."

Speaking at the programme, Reaz Ahmed, executive editor of Dhaka Tribune, said the pressure to publish the news before anyone else also leads to different mistakes.

"Media houses should train their staff about fact-checking, so that they don't fall into the disinformation trap," he said further.

Channel-i News Editor Zahid Nawaz Khan said when it comes to wrong or fake information, one should be careful of the groups that spread fake news.

Dainik Bangla Chief Reporter Morshed Noman said, "Media workers should be made more efficient for properly verifying information."

Shahnaz Sharmin, chief reporter of Nagorik TV, said there's a competition between newsrooms of media houses, and misinformation often spreads due to that.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Admit, correct mistakes made online
- Train media staff on fact-checking
- Be wary of fake-news groups online
- Include fact-checking courses at universities
- Establish fact-checking cells in media houses
- Prioritise correct info over breaking news first
- Be careful of sensationalising news reports

Addressing the discussion, Fact-check Editor of AFP Bangladesh Qadaruddin Shishir said, "Fake news is published almost every month in the country's top media... In many cases, media workers fail to verify information."

"If there are courses in this regard at universities, the practice of verifying information will increase," he added.

Kaberi Maitraya, a senior reporter of Ekattor Television, said the consumers lose trust on the media when fake news spreads. Therefore, media workers have to take the responsibility of spreading or publishing fake news.

Kazi Anis, a teacher in the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of Comilla University, said many times, fake news and fake information are spread in the mainstream media to increase online views. The media should be more careful about these issues.

North South University Associate Professor SM Rezwan Ul Alam, said there's no such thing as a fact-checking cell in many media houses.

Among others, MRDI Executive Director Hasibur Rahman; Kazi Faisal Bin Seraj, country representative of The Asia Foundation; Prof Shahidul Haque, chairperson of Chittagong University's communication and journalism department; University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) Associate Professor Sumon Rahman; and Barishal University Assistant Professor Emran Hossain spoke at the programme.

Ensure fair price of safely-produced fish

Demand farmers at Rajshahi discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Rajshahi*

Farmers are losing interest in farming fish following "good aquaculture practices (GAP)", as they do not get fair prices, said speakers at a discussion in Rajshahi yesterday.

GAP are a series of procedures designed to foster efficient and responsible aquaculture production and expansion, and to help ensure high quality of final the product, safety, and environmental sustainability.

At the programme, the farmers demanded separate markets for safely-produced fishes, proper certification and branding of their products to ensure fair prices. Around 50 fish farmers joined the discussion held at Ashray Training Centre in Rajshahi's Paba upazila.

Ashray, a Rajshahi-based NGO, organised the discussion before launching a day-long training programme under its "sustainable enterprises project (SEP)", funded by PKSF and World Bank.

Abdun Naser Khan, secretary of Bangladesh Food Safety Authority, was chief guest at the programme, chaired by Ashray project manager Md Anwar Hossain.

Naser Khan said he would raise the farmers' demands to the government.

Saharul Islam, a fish farmer, said he suffered Tk 15 lakh loss in production by following GAP.

Sohrab Hossain from Parila village said, "If we follow GAP, farming costs increase, fishes don't grow large, but market prices remain the same."

Another farmer, Sadikul Islam, said they only get product certificate during export, but they need the certificate for domestic markets as well.

He also demanded that rui, katla and carp species be exported, mentioning that farmers have export permission for only pabda.

Md Asaduzzaman, Paba upazila food safety officer, said some feed factories mix substandard products with standard feed, forcing the farmers to compromise with fish quality.

FARIDPUR CLASH

Case filed over man's death

STAR REPORT

A murder case was filed against 51 identified, including a former UP chairman, and some 140 to 150 unidentified people yesterday over the killing of a man during a clash in Faridpur three days ago.

Md Delowar Hossain, brother of the deceased, filed the case with Sadarpur Police Station, said Officer-in-Charge Subrato Goldar.

Billal Fakir, former chairman of Krishnapur Union Parishad, along the others, has been accused in the case. Six people have been arrested in this connection, added the OC.

On Thursday, Jalal Fakir was killed and 20 were injured as supporters of Md Aktaruzzaman, incumbent chairman of Krishnapur UP; and Billal Fakir, also general secretary of Krishnapur union AL, clashed at Jatrabari area of the union over establishing supremacy, said Subrata.

SI Krishna Biswas said the arrestees were sent to jail by a court yesterday.

Bangladeshi researcher among world's influential scientists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladeshi researcher based in Malaysia has been listed as one of the world's most influential scientists by renowned UK-based analytics company "Clarivate".

Prof MA Hannan, a professor of electrical engineering at Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN), achieved the recognition based on his significant research in the field of renewable-energy engineering.

Researchers from 69 countries received such recognition. Hannan is the only researcher to receive it from Malaysia this year, UNITEN said in a statement.

His research is among the top 1 percent cited papers over a period of 11 years from January 2011 to December 2021. He has published 255 articles in the Web of Science index, with a total of 7,911 citations, which helped him achieve such a recognition.

Hannan studied electrical and electronic engineering at Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology in 1990 and completed his master's and PhD at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM).

He has over 28 years of industry and academic experience. Besides, he is the author and co-author of over 400 articles published in international journals and conference proceedings.

As winter approaches, makers of traditional blanket, locally called "lep", are busy preparing the items for their customers. A single blanket-maker can make around four to five of these items per day, and each one goes for Tk 1,000 to 1,200. This photo was taken on Khulna's Mohsin Road yesterday.

PHOTO: **HABIBUR RAHMAN**