

9 hurt in attack on Sirajganj baul event

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least nine artists were assaulted when a mob attacked a cultural programme featuring baul songs in Sirajganj on Friday night. Musical instruments, chairs and other valuables were also vandalised at the venue.

Sirajganj Baul Shilpi Goshthi organised the two-day event on the premises of Abdul Rouf town hall near Sirajganj Bazar station.

Talking to The Daily Star, Sanjib Kumar, president of the organisation, said they inaugurated the programme with songs and a discussion on Friday afternoon.

After the discussion, they resumed the cultural programme around 8:15pm, he said.

“A group of people suddenly got out from a local mosque and vandalised the venue,

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No country for bauls

They pass days in fear as attackers go unpunished



Left, the vandalised venue in Sirajganj on Friday. Baul Ronesh Thakur standing in the middle of his torched music room in Sylhet in 2020. In the last seven years, fanatics mounted several attacks on the bauls' dens (akhra). Not a single attacker has been brought to book as of now.



PHOTO: STAR/COLLECTED

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Bauls in the western part of the country continue to live in constant threat of attacks and humiliation as the attackers enjoy complete impunity.

To protect themselves, the victims had to settle with their attackers on multiple occasions. Even in their stronghold in Kushtia, they no longer feel safe.

In the last seven years, fanatics

mounted at least five attacks on the bauls' dens (akhra). Not a single attacker has been brought to book as of now.

On November 5 last year, attackers led by an imam of a local mosque swooped on a Baul akhra in Kushtia's Laubaria. Fazal Fakir, a baul who's in his 80s, was injured in the attack. The following day, a case was filed with Daulatpur police station, accusing 19. Of them,

18 were granted bail after they surrendered to the court.

Out of the five, Chuadanga saw four attacks on bauls, which involved hair cutting, setting akhras on fire, and even murder.

The latest incident took place on February 7, when miscreants attacked and set fire to a baul akhra in Belgachi Shewratola in Chuadanga's Sadar upazila.

Abdur Razzak Fakir, leader of the akhra, filed a case against

unknown people with Sadar Police Station on February 9. Police have not arrested anyone so far.

Zakaria Hossain, a baul organiser of Akundabaria village of Sadar upazila, told The Daily Star that a baul was hacked to death on his way to take part in an event around 11:30pm on December 10, 2015.

A case filed on December

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Another fire in Sitakunda

Flames at cotton depot could not be doused even after eleven hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A fire broke out in a cotton warehouse in Chhoto Kumira area of Chattogram's Sitakunda around 10:30am yesterday.

As of filing this report at 9:30pm yesterday, eight units of firefighters from Sitakunda, Kumira and Agrabad fire stations have yet not managed to douse the flames, said Abdul Hamid Mia, deputy assistant director of Chattogram Fire Service and Civil Defense.

Around 9:00pm yesterday, a team of army reached the spot to help firefighters douse the blaze, upon request from the Chattogram district administration.

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7 lives lost on roads



Two persons were killed and 15 injured after this passenger bus overturned in Rangpur's Gangachara upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

STAR REPORT

At least seven people died and 21 were injured in road accidents across the country in the last two days, report our correspondents and a news agency.

In Rangpur, two persons were killed and 15 were injured after a speeding passenger bus overturned in Gangachara upazila yesterday, said police.

The deceased are Jahangir Alam, 35, of Gangachara upazila and Md Sumon Mia of Gaibandha Sadar upazila.

OCDulalHossainofGangachara

Police Station said locals with the helper of firefighters rescued the injured and sent them to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

The driver and its helper fled after the accident, he added.

Meanwhile in Phulbari upazila, Mongli Kisku, 50, of Hakimpur upazila was killed after a speeding bus hit the van carrying her yesterday noon. Van puller Akher Ali was injured in the accident.

In Nawabganj upazila, Rashida Begum, 70, was killed after a speeding bus ran her over at Daudpur village of Daudpur-

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Bhashani univ students demand safe roads

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Students of Mawlana Bhashani Science and Technology University (MBSTU) in Tangail blocked the road in front of their university in Santosh demanding road safety yesterday. They also formed a human chain to press home their five-point demand.



On Wednesday, Md Emon, a student of the university, was seriously injured after being hit by a CNG-run three-wheeler in front of the university. Emon is currently undergoing treatment at Dhaka's Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

The demands include setting up of police boxes at the Kagmari intersection of Tangail-Nagarpur road

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Tea workers from different areas, belonging to different ethnic groups with their own language and culture, gathered to celebrate Fagua, a festival of colours. The event showcased at least 30 mesmerising performances from different cultures, including Patrasaora, Nrityayogi, Charaiya Nritya, and more. This photo was taken from Moulvibazar yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Finding joy, unity amid struggle

Tea workers come together to celebrate Fagua festival

MINTU DESHWARA

In the heart of the green Fulchhara tea garden, the air was filled with a riot of colours and joy as thousands of tea workers gathered to celebrate the Fagua festival yesterday. It was a rare moment of respite from their otherwise arduous and monotonous lives.

For tea workers in Bangladesh, life is riddled with struggles. They toil hard in the tea gardens, earning meagre wages to support their families. The work is back-breaking, and the hours are long. But once a year, all the tea garden workers come together to celebrate Fagua, a festival of colours.

This year's celebration was a sight to behold. People from different areas, belonging to different ethnic groups with their own language and culture, took part in the festival.

As the bright colours of the abir powder filled the air, people of all ages, children, teenagers and elderlies, danced and sang all day, forgetting their sorrow.

The festival was organised by the "Fagua Utshab Udjapon Parishad" to preserve the heritage of the tea workers. Deputy Commissioner of Moulvibazar Mir Nahid Ahsan inaugurated the programme, while Assistant High Commissioner of India Shri Niraj Kumar Jaiswal

attended the event as a guest of honour.

For Bidhan Roy, a tea worker at Phulchhara tea garden, the festival was a time to forget about the difficulties of life. "Our lives are difficult... But during this time of the year, we forget about everything and celebrate the diversity in different tea gardens, celebrate different cultures."

As the day drew to a close, the tea workers returned to their homes, their hearts filled with joy and their minds at peace. The festival of colours may be over, but the memories of this day will live on, reminding them of the power of community, culture, and celebration.

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Memo No: PUST/PDW/e-GP/OTM/446/2023  
Date: 11/03/2023

e-Tender Notice (FY/2022-23)

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Sl No	e-Tender ID	APP ID	Package No & Invitation Ref. No	Name of Works	Tender Publication Date & Time	Tender Closing Date & Time	Method
01.	799426	190557	24448 & Memo No: PUST/PDW/e-GP/OTM/446/2023; Date: 11/03/2023	Supply, Installation, Configuration, Testing & Training Wi-Fi Access Point for Pabna University of Science and Technology, Pabna.	12 Mar, 2023 14:00 pm	28 Mar, 2023 12.00 pm	OTM

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