

343 BNP men sued over clash in Noakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A case was filed yesterday against 343 leaders and activists of BNP and its affiliated organisations over a clash in Companiganj upazila of Noakhali.

On Thursday, at least four BNP men and a ruling party man were injured in the clash between BNP and Awami League men.

In the case, 93 leaders and activists of BNP were named and 250 unidentified people were accused, Sadekur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Companiganj Police Station, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Upazila Swechchhasebak League Joint General Secretary Md Alamgir Hossain filed the case on Thursday night.

Md Fakhrul Islam, a member of Companiganj upazila BNP, is the main accused in the case. The others accused include Mahmudur Rahman Ripon, secretary of upazila BNP, Obaidul Haque Rafel, convener of Basurhat Municipal Jubo Dal, Nurul Alam Shikdar, convener of upazila BNP, Abdul Matin Liton, president of Basurhat Municipal BNP, among others.

The BNP leaders said the case was filed to harass their leaders and activists.

According to the plaintiff's statement, the clash between BNP activists took place in Basurhat Bazar on Thursday afternoon over internal conflicts within the party.

Hasna Jasim Uddin Moudud, a member of the BNP Standing Committee and wife of Moudud Ahmed, dismissed the claims and stated that the ruling party members attacked them without any provocation.

Noakhali BNP General Secretary Abdur Rahman claimed that their members had been assaulted by ruling party supporters and now a case has been filed against them.

"It's unfair. The home minister had said in parliament a few days ago that no case would be filed against the opposition party leaders before the elections, but the case was filed without any verification," he said, adding that the BNP activists are fleeing their homes fearing arrests.

Two cops suspended for 'torturing businessmen'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two officers of Padma Bridge South Police Station have been suspended over allegation of torturing two businessmen in custody.

The official order of suspension was issued from the police headquarters on June 15 and it reached the office of the police superintendent

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses a civic reception accorded to her by expatriate Bangladeshis at the Hilton hotel in Geneva on Thursday.

PHOTO: PID

CLIMATE CHANGE DISASTER UN chief slams 'pitiful' world response

AFP, United Nations

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Thursday the world is racing toward a climate change disaster, dismissing the current global response as woefully inadequate.

Climate policies currently adopted will lead to average temperatures 2.8 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times by the end of the century, nearly twice the UN goal of a 1.5 degree rise, Guterres said.

"That spells catastrophe. Yet the collective response remains pitiful," Guterres told a press conference.

"We are hurtling towards disaster, eyes wide open – with far too many willing to bet it all on wishful thinking, unproven technologies and silver bullet solutions. It's time to wake up and step up," said the UN chief.

He said the fossil fuel industry must undertake not just a transition but full-blown transformation as it moves toward clean energy "and away from a product incompatible with human survival."

Guterres added: "Countries are far off-track in meeting climate promises and commitments. I see a lack of ambition. A lack of trust. A lack of support. A lack of cooperation. And an abundance of problems around clarity and credibility."

Guterres, who is hosting a climate summit

in New York in September, said the 1.5 degree goal is "still possible," if the fight against climate change is accelerated.

"All of this action must be global. It must be immediate. And it must start with the polluted heart of the climate crisis: the fossil fuel industry," he warned.

"Let's face facts. The problem is not simply fossil fuel emissions. It's fossil fuels – period."

Guterres also called out the oil and gas industry's \$4 trillion net income last year.

"Yet for every dollar it spends on oil and gas drilling and exploration, only 4 cents went to clean energy and carbon capture – combined."

"Trading the future for thirty pieces of silver is immoral," he cautioned.

Scientists say global warming is exacerbating adverse weather, with many countries experiencing deadly heatwaves and temperatures hitting records across Asia in recent weeks.

Temperatures in Beijing hit a record for mid-June of 39.4 degrees Celsius (103 Fahrenheit) yesterday, China's meteorological authority said, warning the public to stay indoors.

"At around 2:30 pm on June 16, the temperature at Beijing's Nanjiao observatory hit 39.4 degrees Celsius, breaking the record high for mid-June," the China Meteorological Administration (CMA) wrote in a social media post.

Rohingya youth killed at Bhasan Char, 2 arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two Rohingya youths were arrested yesterday for killing another Rohingya youth at Bhasan Char.

Victim Jahid Hossain, 15, was killed on June 8 and police recovered his body on June 12.

His throat and wrists were slit with sharp weapons, reported media outlets.

Police found the identity of the dead by making public announcement in the camp and Rohingya woman Mustakima identified the deceased as her brother Jahid.

Mustakima filed a murder case with Bhasan Char Police Station.

The police managed to recover the smartphone of Jahid from Rohingya refugee Md Abdullah.

Based on his information, the police arrested two Rohingya youths who, according to the police, murdered Jahid over previous enmity. The police also recovered a dagger which they believe is the murder weapon.

Three bodies wash ashore in three days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A decomposing body of a man was found floating near St Martin's Island in Cox's Bazar yesterday morning.

His identity could not be known, said Abul Halim, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station, adding that the body was sent to the district Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

With this, three bodies washed ashore in Cox's Bazar in last three days. The body of a woman was found at Teknaf's Sabrang beach on Wednesday and a man's body in Ukhiya's Inani beach on Thursday, police said.

Rafiqul Islam, an additional superintendent of Cox's Bazar police, said they are probing the incidents.

"Phone numbers of Myanmar and Malaysia were found with the woman," he said, suspecting the three might have died on the sea on their way to Malaysia.

4.5 magnitude quake jolts Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An earthquake of 4.5 magnitude jolted Bangladesh yesterday morning, according to Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

The quake was felt in several parts of the country, including Dhaka at 10:46am, Meteorologist Rubayet Kabir of BMD told The Daily Star.

The epicentre of the quake was Golapganj of Sylhet, the BMD official said.

3.80 lakh yaba pills recovered in Teknaf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

BGB members recovered 3.80 lakh yaba tablets near the Naf river from Cox's Bazar's Teknaf upazila early yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a BGB team conducted a drive in Ashikania area and recovered the yaba pills from three sacks, said Lt Col Md Mohiuddin Ahmed, commanding officer of BGB 2 Battalion.

However, the drug smugglers could not be arrested as they fled the scene, sensing the presence of the BGB team.

A case was filed with Teknaf Police Station in this connection, the BGB official added.

Five hurt as SUST students clash with locals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, SYLHET

At least five people including students were injured after clashes broke out between students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) and the locals in Sylhet's Akhalia area yesterday evening.

The clash erupted around 5:00pm as a group of locals got into an altercation with a security guard of the university after being barred from entering the campus.

Police went to the spot and brought the situation under control by 6:30pm.

Saiful Alam Rukon, officer-in-charge of Jalalabad Police Station, said, "The students have gathered inside the campus and locals have taken up positions in different points around the campus. Additional police have been deployed in the area."

Education gets far less than it requires

FROM PAGE 1

is wonderfully crafted, everything is there. It talks about smart citizens, skilled manpower with values, and ensuring the quality of education. But what is absent in it is the direction about how all of this will happen," she adds.

The CPD in its post budget presentation, titled "An Analysis of the National Budget for FY2023-24", said that on an average, at least 35 LDCs spent two percent or more of their GDP on education from 2016 to 2022. In the same period, Bangladesh's

2.6 percent, Rwanda 3.3 percent, Senegal and Ethiopia 5.1 percent and Sierra Leone 6.7 percent, according to the CPD.

Meanwhile, data released by World Bank shows that Bangladesh's average education expenditure as a percentage of GDP is less than that of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The global lender data also shows that Bhutan spent on education 7.0 percent of GDP in 2021, India spent 4.5 percent in 2020, Pakistan 2.4 percent in 2021, Maldives 5.8 percent in 2020, Nepal 4.2 percent in 2020, Sri Lanka

by students due to long-term closures of educational institutions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Fahmida says that the government provides less allocation for education as its priorities lie in physical infrastructure.

Tigers sensing

FROM PAGE 1

Prior to that, it was Najmul Hossain Shanto who stole the show with his second century of the match, while Mominul Haque came to the fore with his first Test century in 26 months as the hosts battled till the first hour of the third session yesterday and racked up their highest target in Test cricket.

Shanto continued his brilliant form to notch up his fourth Test hundred, becoming only the second Bangladeshi batter to score centuries in both innings of a Test match after Mominul Haque.

However, he fell to bowling of Zahir Khan after scoring 124 off 151 deliveries and although many assumed the hosts would declare after Mominul reached his century, the Tigers kept grinding.

Bangladesh head coach Chandika Hathurusingha had said in a chat with broadcasters before the start of the third day that his side would bat for a long period, perhaps considering this as an ideal platform to give the batters some much-needed exposure in a Test.

Bangladesh eventually declared on 425 for four, with Mominul unbeaten on 121 off 145 balls, a knock that featured twelve fours and six, while Liton Das scored his maiden fifty as Test captain and was not out on 66.

Earlier, after resuming on 134 for one, Shanto and Zakir Hasan's 173-run second-wicket stand came to an end after the latter was unfortunately run out after scoring 71 off 95 balls. Mushfiqur Rahim departed cheaply after scoring eight as he mistimed a reverse sweep before Mominul and Liton decided to work the Afghan bowlers to the breaking point.

Barishal city quietly changes hands

FROM PAGE 1

around Tk 1.92 crore is collected from owners of these vehicles every year.

On the city's waterways, a group used to make each operator of the 150 speedboats pay Tk 100 a day. This means around Tk 54 lakh was collected from them a year.

Shekhor Chandra Das, a local AL leader from ward-10, used to collect the money, locals said. Shekhor said he had never taken any money illegally.

Drivers of over 200 rental microbuses had to pay a close aide to Sadiq Tk 100 every day. The amount collected from them every year could

be as much as Tk 73 lakh. This also stopped when Sadiq did not get the AL ticket.

A former Chhatra League leader who is a follower of Sadiq, used to collect Tk 1,000 a month from each of the around 400 buses that used the Nathullabad terminal. Transport companies setting up ticket booths had to pay him between Tk 20 and Tk 30 lakh, said at least a dozen bus operators.

Currently, Aftab Hossain, president of Barishal district Sramik League and a close aide to Khair, is in control of the business.

Aftab maintains that he has nothing to do with toll collection.

Each of the Buses that use Rupatali terminal pays Tk 500 each day.

A Sramik League leader who is a close aide to Khair now controls the terminal, but two months ago, a follower of Sadiq held sway.

Fish sellers say they have to pay Tk 3.5 for the sale of each kg of Hilsa, and Tk 2.5 for other fish.

There are around 200 wholesale fish traders in the city where tonnes of fish are sold every day.

Asked about these, BMP Commissioner Saiful Islam said, "We will definitely take action if anyone files a complaint."

NAGORNO-KARABAKH Armenia accuses Azerbaijan of 'ethnic cleansing'

AFP, Yerevan

Armenia yesterday accused Azerbaijan of pursuing a policy of "ethnic cleansing" in the Armenian-populated region of Nagorno-Karabakh, at the centre of a decades-long territorial dispute between the Caucasus arch-foes.

On April 23, Azerbaijan set up a border checkpoint at the entrance to the Lachin corridor, the only road linking Armenia to the separatist region.

The move followed a months-long roadblock by Azerbaijani environmental activists, which Yerevan claims has led to a humanitarian crisis in the mountainous enclave that had experienced shortages of food and fuel.

Azerbaijan insisted civilian transport was running unimpeded through the Lachin corridor.

Yesterday, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said that the "humanitarian situation in Karabakh has extremely worsened" after Baku blocked the traffic through the road on Thursday.

average education expenditure was 1.8 percent of GDP. And only Somalia with 0.2 percent, Haiti with 1.5 percent, South Sudan with 1.5 percent and Central African Republic with 1.8 percent, remain behind Bangladesh.

Somalia, South Sudan and Central African Republic are African countries that are riven by conflicts. In these countries, economic and social development continues to be hindered by political instability and increasing violence. On the other hand, gang violence has been paralysing the Caribbean country Haiti, fuelling the resurgence of cholera and extreme levels of food insecurity.

Among the LDC countries, Myanmar spends on education 2.1 percent of GDP, Congo and Uganda 2.2 percent, Chad 2.5 percent, Cambodia

1.9 percent in 2019 and Afghanistan 2.9 percent in 2019.

Prof Abu Eusuf, director of Dhaka University's Centre on Budget and Policy, said that education has a relation to the creation of employability. With such meagre allocation, it is hardly possible that education can contribute to the employment sector. "Currently, We are producing graduates but we are not producing productive graduates," he said.

"We don't see any steps to enhance the skills of job seekers. Overall, the research sector did not get due importance in the budget," he added.

Both Rasheda and Eusuf have pointed out that the finance minister did not give any specific allocations to address the issue of learning loss faced

'I want my son back'

FROM PAGE 1

He misused political power. He had blessings from the law enforcers and administration as one of his relatives is a former senior police official, they said.

"Mahmudul was a carpenter around two decades ago. But he made a huge amount of money through illegal activities. His relative, the ex-police official, is the main source of his power," said Humayan Kabir, former chairman of the union.

Lalon said, "Mahmudul was a BNP activist before he joined the Awami League in 2011. He became the general secretary of the union unit Awami League and even managed to get the party ticket for union parishad chairman."

Seeking anonymity, a resident of Aiyermari village in Sadhurpara union, said, "I wanted to sell a piece of land a few years ago. But the chairman prevented me from selling the land to a person. He rather put pressure on me to sell him the land at a low price."

A farmer of Dhatura village said, "My son did not want to be involved in politics. But the chairman forced him to work with his group. The

chairman even implicated my son in a false case to keep my son under his control."

Baki Billah, president of Jamalpur AL, said he was not aware of Mahmudul's involvement in the BNP.

Contacted, Mohammad Sohel Rana, officer-in-charge of Bakshiganj Police Station, said Mahmudul was on the run.

"We are trying to detain him. But we don't know whether he was involved in any other criminal activities," he told The Daily Star.

So far, police have detained six people in connection with the murder. The detainees include the chairman's nephew Rezaul and Bakshiganj upazila unit AL Deputy Office Secretary Rakibullah, police said.

Nasir Uddin Ahmed, superintendent of Jamalpur police, visited Nadim's home yesterday evening and asked his family members to file a case.

Meanwhile, Commander Khandaker Al Moin, spokesperson for Rab, yesterday at a press briefing in Dhaka said they were working to detain the killers of journalist Nadim, reports BSS.