

AUGUST 5-7

70 indigenous families attacked in the north

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

At least 70 families from the indigenous communities across five districts in the northern region have come under attack since the fall of the Hasina-led Awami League government on August 5.

The violence, which continued for three days, left 25 people injured and resulted in significant property damage.

The Adivasi Chhatra Janata, a student body representing the communities in Dinajpur, revealed the details during a press conference at the Dinajpur Press Club yesterday.

Ishwar Tudu, a leader of the organisation, presented the keynote address, detailing the extent of the attacks.

The violence occurred between August 5 and August 7, affecting the districts of Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, and Naogaon.

The attacks involved looting, vandalism, and arson.

In addition to the destruction of homes, the attackers also looted fish from ponds and damaged or stole crops, with total financial losses estimated at approximately Tk 2.5 crore.

Despite the severity of the attacks, no official cases have been filed yet.

The violence also included the defacement of the Shidhu-Kanu sculpture, a monument commemorating the historic Tevaga movement, located on the way to the Kantajew temple in Kaharol upazila, Dinajpur.

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Amid incessant rain, pullers of rickshaw vans keep waiting for work while parking their vehicles on the side of the road. As there are very few people getting outside due to the downpour, they have been struggling to find passengers or other work. The photo was taken in the Boyra Bazar area of Khulna city recently.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

ACC forms panel to assist anti-graft operations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has formed a panel to maintain the ongoing anti-corruption operations and support the law enforcement agencies.

Md Shahriar, director general of ACC, disclosed this in a letter yesterday.

The panel will assist in seizing evidence and handling legal matters during search operations, the letter said.

The panel includes ACC Deputy Directors Debabrata Mondal, Md Humayun Kabir, Md Saiful Islam, and Mohammad Tajul Islam Bhuiyan, as well as assistant directors Muhammad Zafar Sadeq Shibli and Shoyeb Ibne Alam.

The panel was formed with the commission's approval, the ACC said.

The body will assist in searches with the ACC secretary's approval, the anti-graft watchdog added.

HC scraps petition on bringing edn reform

It says govt needs time for that

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday refused to accept a writ petition that sought its order on the government to reform the education system at the secondary school level.

The bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice Muhammad Mahubul Islam dropped the petition, saying the interim government needs time to bring reforms in the education system.

No order should be passed on the government in this regard, the court said.

Attorney General Md Asaduzzaman opposed the writ petition, citing similar points.

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Most KCC projects halted

Contractors go into hiding after AL gov't's ouster

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

After the fall of the Awami League government on August 5 following a mass uprising, Khulna City Corporation's mayor, most of the ward councillors, and pro-AL contractors fled.

As such, most of the ongoing projects of KCC have been halted since then.

KCC has been working on a Tk 823 crore project to develop the city's drainage system, and a Tk 607 crore project for renovation of the city's roads.

According to sources, most of the works of these projects were being implemented by pro-AL contractors. Also, it has been alleged that some of the works were being done by the mayor himself and some councillors anonymously using the licence and work orders to other contractors. With them now on the run, these projects have been lying suspended.

City residents expressed concerns that solution to Khulna's existing problems, including waterlogging and dilapidated roads, will now either take much longer to be solved, or will be left incomplete midway.

At least 23 of the KCC's 31 ward councillors were directly involved in some of these project works



- Suspension of projects leave roads incomplete
Contractors demand security
Tk 468cr worth of projects remain unfinished

contractually.

Abdur Razzak from ward-25 said the renovation work of at least four major drains have been suspended for two weeks, exacerbating waterlogging.

AKM Kibria Hossain, a resident of ward 28, said local residents are now being compelled to cross the 2km concrete road from Jorakal Bazar to Rupsha on foot as it has been left half done.

According to KCC, around 50-70 per cent works of the drainage and road development projects have so far been completed. However, unless the works resume soon, the projects may get delayed.

Other halted projects include renovation of the road in front of Kuet, and construction of a waste treatment plant in Shalua and Chitrali Market.

The remaining works for all these projects are worth around Tk 468 crore.

A ward councillor, who is also contractor of at least 12 development works, said wishing anonymity that he has been threatened by locals, who also vandalised his residence and office.

"Amid the lack of security, how am I going to oversee the works and complete

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AUG 4 COP KILLINGS Four AL leaders and 6,000 unnamed sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A case was filed yesterday against four local Awami League leaders and around 6,000 unnamed individuals on charges of killing 15 police personnel at Enayetpur Police Station in Sirajganj on August 4.

The accused AL leaders are: AL's Enayetpur union unit President Ahmed Mostafa Khan Bachchu, Secretary Ajgar Ali, Khukni Union Parishad Chairman and also AL's union unit President Mulluk Chand, and Bhangabari Union Chairman Johurul Islam Bhuiyan.

Enayetpur Police Station Assistant Sub-Inspector Abdul Malek filed the case.

According to the case statement, the accused often forced the police to fulfil their illegal demands. On August 4, when police did not listen to them, the

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Ensure safe env in edn institutions Ministry directs DCs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Education Ministry has instructed district commissioners (DCs) to oversee the overall maintenance of a conducive environment in educational institutions under the current circumstances.

The ministry's Secondary and Higher Education Division issued an order in this regard yesterday.

The order stated that demands for the resignation or removal of heads and officials at some universities, colleges, and schools have led to unpleasant situations in various parts of the country.

"In some cases, teachers have been personally harassed, which caused a deterioration in law and order. Such a situation is unacceptable," the order reads.

At the university level, vice-chancellors, pro vice-chancellors, or other officials may resign on their own. If necessary, the chancellor can remove them according to the law.

The order also stated that the SHED or the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education can investigate and take necessary actions, including transfers, for heads or officials in government schools and colleges.

"Similarly, governing bodies or the DSHE can take action in the case of private educational institutions. In such cases, the relevant department or office will investigate and take action if there is a specific complaint against a teacher or official," it also said.

MURDER CASES

Menon, Inu placed on remand

STAR REPORT

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon was remanded for six days and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haq Inu for seven days yesterday in separate murder cases filed in Dhaka.

Menon, a key leader of the Awami League-led 14-Party Alliance, was remanded in the case over the death of garment worker Rubel during the mass uprising on August 5.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Saifur Rahman passed the order after investigation officer Mintu Chandra Banik, an inspector of Adabor Police Station, produced him before the court with a 10-day remand prayer, a sub-inspector working in the court told The Daily Star.

On August 22, Rafiqul Islam, father of the victim, filed a murder case with Adabor Police Station against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 147 others.

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Release detained UPDF supporters Demands Mikel Changma

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

United People's Democratic Front's organiser Mikel Changma yesterday urged the interim government to release 29 supporters of the organisation and its affiliated bodies from jail.

Speaking at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club, Mikel Changma highlighted that while political prisoners in other regions are being released, UPDF leaders and activists in the Chittagong Hill Tracts remain incarcerated, with some detained for over five years.

Mikel presented an eight-point demand, including the formation of a special tribunal to investigate all murders and human rights violations in the CHT during what he described as "the fascist regime of Hasina".

He also called for the United Nations' involvement in the judicial process.

UPDF leader Mikel returned home on August 7,

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Official notice from Bangladesh Police regarding recruitment for Police Staff College. Includes details about the exam, syllabus, and contact information for the college in Mirpur, Dhaka.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Development Bank PLC. Invites tenders for the operation, maintenance, and servicing of 04 (Four) no's passenger lift in monthly payment basis for 03 (Three) years at BDBL Bhaban-2, 12 Karwanbazar, Dhaka-1215.

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