

Citizens' rally demands RU VC's removal

RAJSHAHI, Dec 30: A citizens' rally organised by the Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (RUTA) recently demanded removal of Vice-Chancellor Prof Yusuf Ali for restoring normalcy on the varsity campus, reports UNB.

The meeting, held in the district council auditorium with RUTA Vice-President Prof Abdulla Ansari in the chair, decided to submit to the Chancellor a memorandum of the demand for removal of the VC.

Speakers at the rally, attended by local political leaders, cultural activists, professionals, intellectuals, newsmen, students and city elite, accused the VC of patronising the Jamaat-Shibir axis which bred unrest at the university.

The university has long been closed since the latest round of clash between Shibir and APSU activists on the violence-ridden RU campus.

The rally was addressed by RUTA General Secretary Dr Mizanuddin Ahmed, first RUCSU VP Bazul Karim, former RUCSU VP Fazley Hossain Badsha, city Awami League President Moniruzzaman, city BNP Organising Secretary Adv Ershad Ali Isha, Enamul Huq of CPB and Shafiqur Rahman Badsha of Gano Forum.

Dacoits stab old man to death in Magura

MAGURA, Dec 30: An old man of Rupdah village in sadar thana was stabbed to death by dacoits on December 20 last when he tried to resist them, reports UNB.

Police said, a gang of seven dacoits stormed the house of Golam Mohammad and beat the inmates of the house mercilessly. But when Abdul Gaffar, 50, a member of the house, tried to resist the dacoits they stabbed him to death.

The miscreant decamped with Tk 8,000. A case was registered and police investigation is on.

Another report says: A young man of Katli village in Shalikhah thana succumbed to his injuries on December 14 last after he was hit by dacoits.

Police said, Musa Dofadar, 30, was attacked by the miscreants on December 11 last while he was keeping an eye on the deep tubewell at his cropfield at night.

The gang numbering about 10 beat Musa mercilessly and decamped with the tubewell.

Later, Musa was admitted to Shalikhah Hospital, but he died on his way to Dhaka PG Hospital.

A case was lodged with the police.

Three killed, 25 injured in road accident

COMILLA, Dec 30: Three people were killed and 25 others injured when a bus hit a truck parked at Amirabad in Daudkandi thana on Dhaka-Chittagong highway on Wednesday last, reports UNB.

Police seized both the bus and truck. A case was filed with Daudkandi thana.

Valuables worth Tk 15,000 robbed in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Dec 30: Dacoits numbering 10 to 12 stormed the house of Naren Mondal of Chandipur village under Shyamnagar thana recently and looted cash and valuables worth Tk 15,000.

According to reports, the group entered the house at dead of night and looted cash and valuables at gunpoint. During the act they injured Shanta Mondal when he tried to resist them.

Shanta was admitted to Shyamnagar Hospital in a critical condition.

Serious LP gas crisis

JHENIDAH, Dec 30: Scarcity and price hike of liquid petroleum (LP) gas is causing immense sufferings to the people of Jhenidah.

According to reports, at least 2,800 LP gas cylinders are needed in Jhenidah district per month, but there is a supply between 700 and 750 cylinders only. As a result consumers are compelled to use firewood as fuel for cooking causing in the rise in price of the same.

Bank dacoity in Moulvibazar

MOULVIBAZAR, Dec 30: A bank dacoity was committed recently in the Agrani Bank, Gias Nagar branch under Sadar thana of the district.

Police said a gang of armed dacoits entered the branch of the bank by breaking open the windows. They break the strong room and looted Tk 37031.01 and a gun of the security guard.

Huge quantity of forest resources being illegally extracted

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, Dec 30: Kalachhera, Lauachhera, Chautali and Satgaon forest zones under Moulvibazar Range of the Forest Department are on wane due to illegal felling of trees by some gang of wood pilferers. According to allegation made by concerned people, due to pilferage of forest trees and negligence in duty of forest officials, environment of the district are on serious threat and the government is also being deprived of revenue from the forest resources.

In the meantime, market of pilfered wood is available in abundant in the district. Huge number of 'saw-mills' and 'furniture manufacturing factories' have been set up at different places of the district. Main source of timber of these factories are illegal forest woods, it is learnt.

The forests of Moulvibazar district were full of valuable trees like timber wood, firewood, bamboos, cane and other old trees.

According to a survey, that was conducted last year in the district it reveals that trees on 20 lakh acres of forest land were cut down during last two and half decades. It was also learnt that total forest areas of the district was 55.44 lakh acres earlier. However, the figure has come down to 35.50 lakh acres.

The official source of the district claimed that the total forests area now stand at 16.85 percent of total land in Moulvibazar district. But according to the said survey it is only ten percent. The survey report further says that the ratio of afforestation and deforestation is 1:3. Meaning, one plant is being planted while three are being cut down. The ecologists said that, there must be at least 25 percent forest land for healthy environment in the district.

However, when the nation has paid attention to afforestation programme across the country, reserve forest, in the meantime, of Moulvibazar district are being plundered.

Due to indiscriminate felling of trees, the environment has started to show some changes.

According to a source, some well organised gang of wood-pilferer are engaged to destroy our forest resources. These groups are being assisted by some middle and lower level forest officials of different forest offices. Most of these unscrupulous wood pilferer are always choosing some specific species of trees like, *segun* and *gamai* trees.

It is also gathered that the timber wood which are pilfered from the reserve forests are being processed at different saw-mills and then these are supplied across the country. Consignment of such timber are being made through railway routes. Railway stations of Rasidpur, Sattajuri, Satgaon, Bhanugachh, Tilagaon and Longia are commonly used by the powerful wood pilferers for transportation.

On the other hand, son-grass and bamboos has also been pilfered from the reserve forests. These items are often sold at different markets including Srimongal. Poor people of the areas are purchasing these items as their house-building materials and as fire-wood at cheaper rates.

When asked about availability of trader of son-grass and bamboo at Srimongal market-said, they purchased son-grass and bamboos from 'mohaldars' who collected those from forest. During a conversation with the traders they refused, to mention any names of such 'mohaldars' but added that these items are illegal one and each of the 'mohaldars' have an arrangement with concerned officials. Though the retail traders are giving tolls to different persons but they are secured.

An official of the Forest Department confess the allegation of wood pilfering but said, most of the local forest Department employees are poor and Moulvibazar district has a large area of reserve forest. According to him, there are 60 thousand acres of reserve forest in Srimongal area under only one Assistant Conservator of Forest (ACF). But this post of ACF at Srimongal is lying vacant for few months. Another ACF from

Sylhet office is looking after the Srimongal office for interim period. The acting ACF made his visit to Srimongal Forest Department as an extra duty but it is not sufficient for the need. The said forest official added that number of posts at different stage of Moulvibazar district forest department must be increased immediately for proper maintenance of our reserve forests. He also denies that wood pilferers have any link with any Forest Department personnel, but admitted that some dishonest people have been taking the opportunity of man-power shortage in the Forest Department.

However, the BDR personnel seized nine cubic feet of valuable timber-wood recently from different areas. Besides this, the forest officials also seized another 150 cubic-feet of timber. More than one hundred cases have been filed against the wood-pilferers in Kulaura, Kamalganj and Srimongal thanas during the period. A police office of Kulaura thana says they had been arresting some wood-pilferers at different time, but due to some weakness in existing forest-laws, the culprits are escaping allegations.

The authorities concerned should pay due attention to take preventive measures for protection of our forest resources of the district. It is widely felt.



Earth filling work of to be Baligaon-Kalama road is progressing fast in Munshinganj district. This road was totally damaged by the recent flood. — Star photo by Mohsin

Frequent piracy Fishing off the coast of Cox's Bazar threatened

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 30: At least 50 fishermen were injured, 15 seriously, when pirates attacked 29 fishing boats in the Bay near the St. Martins island during last seven days.

Chairman of Sabrang Union Parishad Shafiq Miah under Teknaf thana and local fishermen said about 30 miscreants from Myanmar allegedly intruded Bangladesh waters in a powerful mechanised boat and swooped on the boats.

The pirates beat up the fishermen and looted fish nets and 25 engines of the boats worth about Taka 40 lakh and decamped with the booties.

Sea fish supply has drastically fallen in Cox's Bazar, a wholesale fish market of the country.

Sea fish and various other local variety of fishes are generally accumulated and sold in the bazar, an important centre in the southern region.

But according to local traders, due to increased activities of the pirates in the

sea and its adjoining areas, fishing in the Bay has been facing a serious setback resulting in huge short supply of fish resources in the market.

Local people said, about 60,000 fishermen in Cox's Bazar region are engaged in fishing. But in recent days many fishermen have abandoned sea fishing for fear of pirates.

According to sources, there are more than 8,000 trawlers and 6,000 fishing boats in the region for fishing in the Bay. But now most of the boats and trawlers are lying idle owing to rampant attack by the pirates and outlawed underground activists.

Fish traders urged the authorities to ensure security for the fishermen in the Bay.

Policemen arrested for alleged murder

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Dec 30: Seven policemen including two officers were arrested in connection with Freedom Fighter Rayub Ali murder case in Borolekha thana recently.

The arrested policemen are Sub-Inspector Kajol Borua, Assistant Sub-Inspector Kabir Ahmed, Constables — Abdul Baten, Shahjan, Abul Hashem, Sultan Ahmed and Mohammed Alam. They are now in the Moulvibazar district jail.

It may be mentioned here that Freedom Fighter Rayub Ali, was allegedly beaten to death after being arrested by the police on December 6 last at village Daulatpur under Borolekha thana of the district.

After being arrested, Rayub Ali was allegedly tortured. People of the village rescued him and sent to union health complex where he succumbed to his injury. Agitated people detained the police team for few hours in the spot.

However, elder brother of the victim registered a murder case with Borolekha thana against the policemen. Besides this, Moulvibazar district administration constituted a probe-body with a First-Class Magistrate and an Assistant Police Super.

In the meantime, the post-mortem report of the victim was received on December-12 last where it was stated that physical torture was the cause of death of the victim. After receiving the post-mortem report, it was decided by the police administration to arrested the said policemen including two officers.



NOAKHALI Medicare camps organised by the Inner Wheel Club of Dhaka North West was held at Bangla Bazar, Begumganj of Noakhali district recently. The camps provided free of cost medicine, cataract operation and spectacles to the patients. Some 3,500 patients were treated in 35 eye camps

Former UP Chairman killed in Bhola

BHOLA, Dec 30: A former UP Chairman was brutally killed by unidentified miscreants in Borhanuddin thana of the district last week, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the miscreants on the night of the incident called Hosain Bepari, 55, former Chairman of Doula UP, out of his residence and killed him by lethal weapons.

Local people recovered the body from Napitavita area near his house the following morning.

The body was sent to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with the local police.

Meanwhile, police arrested one Jasim Uddin, 25, in this connection.

'AL would continue its movement until demand was realised'

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Dec 30: Addressing Awami League workers' meeting at Pabna Circuit House premises, Md Nasim, Organising Secretary, Bangladesh Awami League, said, his party, under no circumstances, would compromise on the issue of neutral, independent, non-party caretaker government as this is the demand of the people of Bangladesh. He said, Awami League would continue its movement until the demand was completely realised.

The meeting held on Tuesday last, was presided over by Wazuddin Khan, President. Pabna district Awami League. The meeting was also addressed, among others, by Dr Mohzar Ali Quadri, Advocate Amzad Hossain, Advocate Golam Hasnayan, Saidul Haque, Rezaur Rahman Lal, Ahmed Tafizuddin, Mohiuddin Ahmed and other senior Awami League leaders.

81 bottles of Phensidyl seized, one arrested in Rajbari

RAJBARI, Dec 30: Police on Friday seized 81 bottles of Phensidyl syrup from Khanapour Bazar in the sadar thana, about 12 kilometres from the district town, reports UNB.

Shafiuddin, 30, a shop-keeper of the bazar was also arrested in this connection. Police Super of the district Syed Mujibul Haq led the operation.

A case was filed in this connection.

Arms, ammunition recovered, 295 held in Barisal

BARISAL, Dec 30: Police recovered 31 firearms and 95 rounds of ammunition along with some explosives from different parts of the Division during the first week of the countrywide hunt for illegal arms and arms holders, reports UNB.

The arms included 24 pipeguns, six countrymade guns and one shuttergun. Eleven homemade bombs and one grenade were recovered during the week-long drive, police said.

Police also detained 295 people, including 145 fugitives, on various charges from the Division during the operation that began on December 21 last.

College students demand removal of principal in Moulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, Dec 30: The All Party Student Unity (APSU) government college in Hobigonj locked the room of the principal and demanded for his immediate release from the college.

According to APSU leaders, the said principal of the college is directly involved with 'Jamaat Shibir politics'. They added that, there is no room in the Hobigonj Brindaban Government College for a 'Rajaker' like the said principal.

It is learnt that the said principal recently joined his job at Brindaban College from Murari Chand Government University College of Sylhet.

Students of Brindaban Government College under the banner of APSU has rejected his appointment and demanded immediate withdrawal of his appointment order.

Tension was prevailing in Hobigonj district headquarter in this connection till writing of this news.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Superintending Engineer (RHD) Khulna Road Circle, Khulna Phone: 61912 RHD Notice Inviting Tender (2nd Call)

Sealed tenders in BD Form No 2911 are hereby invited from enlisted contractors of RHD according to their financial limit for the following work.

1. Tender Notice No : 1 (One) of Khulna Road Circle, Khulna for the year-1995-96.
2. Name of work : Construction of 298.12 Metre long prestressed RCC girder bridge on well foundation over Shibs river at Paikgachha on 34th KM of Betgram-Tala-Paikgachha-Koyra Road under Road Division, Khulna during 1995-96.
3. Estimated cost : Tk 7,94,50,620/-
4. Earnest Money : Tk 2% of SI-3 in BD/TC from any scheduled bank/NDS Certificate in favour of Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Khulna.
5. Time allowed for completion of work : 750 (seven hundred fifty) days from the date of issue of work order.
6. Eligibility of contractor : i 'A' Special category of RHD, Contractor who have past experience of constructing at least one RCC bridge of minimum length 300'-0" or successfully completed one prestressed concrete bridge. In addition the contractor should have past experience of constructing at least one Prestressed concrete girder bridge of minimum length 300'-0".
ii Joint venture (Not more than of two) will be allowed to participate in the tender. In such cases 'A' special category of RHD contractor not having experience as in (i) may form joint venture with other 'A' special category of RHD contractor having the requisite experience as stated above in (i). Memorandum of association of joint venture shall be registered by the Notary Public in which the extent of share and responsibility of each partner shall be mentioned and one of them to be specified as 'Lead firm'. In such case FD of individual partner will not be acceptable. They shall have to submit earnest money as per rule in the name of joint venture.
iii. (a) Contractor's experience certificate issued after 30-3-95 shall be in prescribed form duly signed by the concerned Executive Engineer (RHD) as per sample attached with the tender documents.
(b) Contractor possessing experience certificate issued before 30-3-95 shall fill up and sign the prescribed experience certificate form in accordance with the experience certificate in possession. The contractors shall also attach the copy of original experience certificate duly attested by any class-I officer of RHD. In filling the experience certificate form if the contractor cancels any fact and (a) if it is proved during evaluation of tender then the tender will be cancelled forfeiting the earnest money (b) if it is proved after issuance of work order, then the work order will be cancelled & contractors enlistment will also be cancelled or suspended.
(c) Experience certificate issued by the other department will not be acceptable unless it is examined and countersigned by the Executive Engineer (RHD) of the area where the work is situated.

7. Name of offices where tender documents will be available for sale : Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Khulna/ Bagerhat/ Satkhira/Planning Division (Roads & Bridges), Dhaka/ Planning & Design Division under Addl Chief Engineer (RHD), Dhaka Zone/ Chittagong Zone/Comilla Zone/ Rajshahi Zone/Rangpur Zone/Khulna Zone/Barisal Zone
8. Name of office where tender will be received : Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (RHD), Khulna Zone/ Chittagong Zone/Comilla Zone/ Rajshahi Zone/Rangpur Zone/Dhaka Zone/Barisal Zone/ Superintending Engineer (RHD), Khulna Road Circle, Khulna/Jessore/Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Dhaka/ Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Khulna/ Bagerhat/Satkhira
9. Last date of selling of tender documents : 10-01-96 during office hours.
10. Last date & time of receipt of tender bids : Up to 12-30 PM on 11-01-96.
11. Office where tender bids will be opened : Superintending Engineer (RHD), Khulna Road Circle, Boyra, Khulna
12. Ch Head : 266 Dev of Betgram-Tala-Paikgachha-Koyra Road.

NB: The estimate are on process of approval. The change if any, of the approved estimate will be incorporated in the formal tender.

Md Forhad Hussain
Superintending Engineer (RHD)
Khulna Road Circle, Khulna