

National

One killed in elephant attack

From CHT Correspondent
RANGAMATI, Apr 8: A woman was killed by a wild elephant when a herd of elephants numbering about 25 attack the village of Mursidabad under Langadu thana in Rangamati Hill district this morning at 1:30 am.

The woman identified as Komola Khatun age 32. Reports say Khatun was sleeping in her thatched bed room when the elephants suddenly attacked the house and crushed her to death instantly.

Her husband and two children managed to escape the attack.

A number of other neighbouring houses were also ranged to ground in the attack.

Arms, ammunition recovered from academic hostels in Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, Apr 8: The police has recovered seven fire arms and 78 ammunitions from sader thana and arrested 7 persons in this connection recently, reports BSS.

A special drive started from April 1, in the police station area including Agriculture University, AM College Hostel and Mymensingh Medical College Hostel.

The fire arms included rifles — one, pistol — one, revolver — one and pipe gun four.

Besides 10 ramda kizir were also recovered by the police during this period.

Acquisition of land at JMB site: Victims allegedly not getting compensation

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 8: About 5000 families of west bank of Jamuna affected due to construction of Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge are allegedly being deprived of getting proper compensation, reports UNB.

In a written allegation to concerned authorities, the affected people said the local officials selected only 600 families for compensation when World Bank, JMB authorities and the district administration identified 5,575 families as victims.

The decision angered 50,000 people of the west bank following which they are staging demonstration everyday in the area to press home their five-point demand, said a local leader.

Deputy Commissioner Syed Abdul Malek held meetings with local political leaders in the last two days, but could not reach on any solution to this effect.

The petitioners urged the concerned authorities to pay equal amount of compensation to the affected families barring any discrimination.

Arms recovered, 3 arrested in Comilla

COMILLA, Apr 8: Police recovered some arms and ammunition and arrested three people in this connection from different parts of the district last week, reports UNB.

During the period, police seized three pigeons, one revolver and four rounds of bullets in separate drives at Lalmai Bazar and Tikkharchar in sader thana and Dighipur village in Daudkandi.

Three people were arrested from Lalmai Bazar.

Separate cases were filed with sader and Daudkandi police stations.

Another report says: Railways police seized 50 bottles of phenyl syrup from Comilla Railway Station on Sunday.

However, no arrest was made in this connection. A case was lodged with the GRP.

BNP leaders demand removal of Sirajganj DC

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 8: Local BNP leaders demanded removal of the Deputy Commissioner, a senior Assistant Judge and two other government officials for "taking side with the opposition" during the non-cooperation movement, reports UNB.

Addressing a meeting at Eliotganj crossing of the town on Friday, the BNP leaders said those officials claimed themselves as supporters of a certain political party while giving speeches from the local Janata Mancha.

No election would be neutral under the supervision of these officials as they had lost their neutrality by giving political speeches, the BNP leaders alleged.

Students demand exam centre

For Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, APR 8: The students of the district Homeo Medical College and Hospital have demanded the opening of examination centre here. They have submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner demanding immediate steps to be taken in this regard. They have been continuing their movement for the purpose for a long time which remained unheeded.

C&F agents threaten to stop work unless demands met

From Atiur Rahman

JESSORE, Apr 8: Horrible scenes of devastating fire at Benapole Port Warehouse causing extensive damage to importers and national finance, recently, is still vivid, said sources.

According to reports, businessmen including exporters and importers are organising themselves to launch movement in support of their claim for compensation from port authority.

It may be mentioned here that the devastating fire at Benapole Port warehouse broke out on March 18, last, which was quite unprecedented in respect of occurrence and losses.

Sources informed that it originated from store-blast, while worker of Indian truck waiting inside warehouse to offload cargo, were looking for food. Goods worth Taka over 100 crore have been gutted, the report added.

According to another source, Mongla Port Authority (MPA) formed enquiry committee to probe into causes of fire and assess extent of losses

immediately after the incident.

Benapole Land Port is under control of MPA.

It is further reported that task of MPA apparently ended with forming the enquiry committee, as no tangible result was achieved so far.

Benapole land customs clearing and forwarding (C&F) Agents Association has taken up the matter very strongly. It has bitterly criticised the MPA for its passive role in this connection.

At a press conference, held by the association at its office auditorium at Benapole on March 30 last, as representatives of importers and exporters, speakers accused the MPA including Chairman for their failure to avert the fire incident and demanded removal of all staff and officers including chairman on national interest.

They are reported to have placed charter of 8 point demands including payment of compensation for goods gutted, introduction of insurance to cover the warehouse, installation of fire unit at port to meet such emergency more

effectively, upgrading Benapole Port into full-fledged land port and structural development of warehouse. Judicial enquiry into the whole affairs of the fire incident has also been demanded by the association, report said. Speakers threatened to stop functioning of the port should their demands were not met by the authority soon, the report added.

President over by Acting President Benapole Land Customs Clearing and Forwarding Agent Association, Shamsur Rahman, the press conference was attended among others by Vice-President Haji Moinuddin Ahmed, General Secretary, Anwar Ali, joint secretary Mofizur Rahman, Rabial Alam, Ali Reza Raju.

Strangely, enquiry committee was yet to find out causes that originated the fire and assess extent of losses even after expiry of 3 weeks from its formation, nor the authority has taken any steps to settle claims yet.

Witnesses say that more than 500 Indian trucks were still stranded on both sides of the road from Benapole warehouse to check post creating serious traffic jams. What was more surprising was that Indian truck drivers were still cooking food inside the store in their usual habit carefree of any hazards despite the recent fire at Benapole warehouse.

On the other hand, business activities at Benapole Port has come to halt following decision of Indian exporters not to make any shipment of cargo since March 20, last. Besides Indian Truck Owners Association, has categorically said that they would carry no goods to Bangladesh through Benapole until Bangladesh administration agreed to pay full compensation for damage of 17 trucks in the fire at Benapole port.

Incidentally letter of credit LC worth Taka over several thousand crores opened earlier for importing goods through this port, became uncertain causing growing concern to parties concerned on the back drop of current situation, said a source on condition of anonymity.

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