

Valuable timber worth Tk 10 lakh seized

From CHT Correspondent

RANGAMATI, Sept 7: Authorities have recovered over 1,212.97 cubic feet (cft) of valuable timbers worth over Taka 10 lakh from two different places in separate raids conducted on last Wednesday, which were illegally extracted from the government reserved forests in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region.

In a tip off, the members of the 33 battalion of Bangladesh Rifles stationed at Waggachhora in Kaptal thana of the district accompanied with the forest officials of Borachhari Forest Check and Tolls Station in Chittagong Hill Tracts South Forest Division recovered 612.97 cft of timbers including teak, gamar and other costly species in 437 pieces worth over Taka five lakh from Borachhari-Ghagra road on the day at 3.00am while the smugglers were in a bib to load the illicit forest produces in the trucks for smuggling.

Seventeen persons engaged in smuggling were rounded up.

two trucks as well as one motor-bike were also seized in this connection, officials said.

The arrested were identified as Mohammad Solaiman, Aziz Talukdar, Mohammad Haroon, Nantoo Krishna Dey, Mohammad Shahjahan, Badi Alam, Akkas Miah, Aung Hla Marna, Naba Kumar Tanchangya, Nurul Amin Driver, Mofazel Ahmed Driver, Mohammad Idris, Sobrab Miah, Abu Musa, Abdur Razzaque, Shibu Chowdhury and Mohammad Siddique.

The accused held up were sent to Rangamati court for trial while the trucks seized bearing number Chatta NA 01-0011 and Ranga TA 3249 as well as the motor-bike were kept in the custody of the forest department.

A case was lodged with Kaptal thana police in this connection under forest act, officials added.

Simultaneously, the forest officials of Khagrachhari Forest Division has recovered over

another 600 cft of valuable timbers worth about Taka five lakh from different places in Khagrachhari town including Gorubazaar and Khagrachhari areas in a surprise raid early morning last Wednesday.

Nobody was arrested in this connection as the possessors of the illegal timbers managed to escape sensing the presence of the forest team, officials said.

The recovered timbers, allegedly extracted from the government reserve forests illegally were brought to Khagrachhari Forest Division office campus for taking further necessary action.

The raid said to have led by Mohammad Hasan and Razul Karim, the range officer and the deputy ranger respectively of the Khagrachhari sadar range in Khagrachhari Forest Division.

A forest case was instituted in this connection as per forest act with Khagrachhari Forest Sadar Range.

Phensidyl seized, one held

From Our Correspondent
FARIDPUR, Sept 7: Kotwali police arrested Aslam Khan, 22, and recovered 18 bottles of phensidyl from his possession on September 4.

According to police source two havidlers headed by TSI Jahangir Hossain acting on a tip-off raided the house of Aslam Khan near at Shuvarampur sluice gate and nabbed him.

On interrogation Aslam confessed that he had kept concealed the contrabands in a nearby pond where from police recovered 18 bottles of phensidyl contained in a gunny bag.

A case was lodged with Kotwali police in this connection and the contrabands were deposited to Kotwali thana.

It may be mentioned here that Kotwali police have seized at least 57 bottles of phensidyl in the spell of a month.

Police also informed that most of the drug-finds belong to affluent and influential families. They are allegedly threatening police over telephone every now and then, TSI said.

TSI Jahangir Hossain also said that drug-addiction is attracting a large number of youths, alarmingly in and around the town. The contrabands including phensidyl is available at east Khabashpur, Taltala, Milkbazar, Raibazar, Shubarampur, CB ghat and bus-stand, he mentioned.

When asked about the seized phensidyl bottles, one officer of the Narcotic Control Department said that the bottles are immediately destroyed.

Edible oil

JAMALPUR, Sept 7: Sale and consumption of adulterated oil has been increasing in the district threatening the public health, reports UNB.

According to local health officials, some dishonest traders in seven thanas of the district, have been selling palm oil and other low quality edible oil mixed with mustard oil essence smuggled from India.

They said essence-given liquid assumes the colour and odour of mastered oil, good enough to deceive the consumers.

After consumption of these low quality oil a large number of people of the district have been suffering from intestinal diseases like diarrhoea and gastro-enteritis.

Thana Sanitary Inspector told UNB that surprise check, fine and punitive measures by mobile courts could bring down this illegal and anti-social activity.

Step mother chopped to death

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Sept 7: One Nurjahan Begum, 35, was chopped to death by her stepson on Friday at Musuri Kalli village under Galachipa thana of Patuakhali.

Police and witnesses said, when Nurjahan Begum asked her step son Abdul Mannan, 20, to bring some woods to cook he refused. Serious quarrel developed between the two. At one stage angry Mannan chopped Nurjahan Begum, his mother, with a lethal weapon and fled from the scene.

Seriously injured Nurjahan Begum died on way to hospital. Police later arrested Monnan. A case was filed.

Two commit suicide

From Our Correspondent
SATKHIRA, Sept 7: Two women committed suicide by taking pesticide on Monday, family and police sources said.

According to police sources, one Rabita Rani, 32, mother of two children and wife of Nisal Chandra Biswas of village Gavo under sadar thana following family troubles allegedly took poison and died on the spot.

An UD case was filed.

In the other incident, one Rizia Khatun, 18, daughter of Hasan Ali Moral of village Agaljhara under Tala thana allegedly took poison and died on the spot. Family trouble was the cause of her suicide, police sources said.

An UD case was lodged.

Main accused in Amu murder case arrested

From Our Correspondent
KUSHTIA, Sept 7: Kushtia police in special raid arrested eight accused persons including the main accused of Amu murder case.

Police source said that those accused persons remained absconding and escaped arrest for a long period.

The arrested Fazlur Rashid alias Bazu, son of Abdur Rahman of Talipara in Kushtia poura area is suspected to be the main accused of Amu murder case.

Meanwhile, Nizamuddin Traffic Sergeant conducted search in a bus and recovered 2 kg. of ganja worth Tk several thousand.

Launch passengers robbed

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Sept 7: An armed dacoity was committed on Thursday night in a passenger launch, M. L. M. Mohikhan-2.

Police said, the alleged dacoits looted at arms point all the belongings of passengers soon after it reached Labonchora area, three kilometres from the IWTA terminal ghat.

On the same day, two alleged muggers looted at arms point a sum of Tk 15,000 from three passengers of a taxi bound for Khulna from Daulatpur. Police said the smugglers boarded the baby taxi in the guise of passengers at about noon.

Minor girl drowns

From CHT Correspondent
RAMGARH (Khagrachhari), Sept 7: A minor girl drowned in the frontier river, Feni in Ramgarh thana of the district while taking her bath Wednesday.

The ill-fated girl was identified as Nishi Akhtar, 4, the only daughter of Serajul Islam of the river bank village in Ramgarh thana of the district, Ramgarh thana-police said.

The villagers rescued the girl on hearing the hue and cry of the Indian people from other side of the river who viewed the girl drowning.

The doctor on-duty in Ramgarh thana health complex declared Nishi dead when she was brought there by the rescuers immediately after recovery from the river.

A case of unnatural death was registered with Ramgarh thana police in this connection.

One convicted for embezzling govt money

From Our Correspondent
KISHOREGANJ, Sept 7: One Abdus Samad Bhuyan, Superintendent of Charigram Taguria Nurul Ulum Dakhli Madrasa of Mitamoin thana was convicted and sentenced him to suffer rigorous imprisonment for four years on charge of misappropriation of government money.

In his judgement delivered on August 29, Additional Session Judge, of Kishoreganj Md Shahidullah also fined the accused Tk 10,000.

The accused, according to the prosecution, Samad Bhuyan withdrew in total Tk 40,790 as salary from June '84 to November '87 in the name of one. Luthfur Rahman by showing his false appointment letter as assistant teacher of the madrasa. The whole amount was later embezzled by the superintendent.

The matter was later brought to the notice of the district anti-corruption bureau. The bureau lodged a case and after proper investigation submitted charge-sheet against him.



SYLHET: Sandhya Bazar Samabaya Samity brought out a procession in the town Monday demanding immediate stoppage of load-shedding of electricity. — Star photo



GOPALGANJ: People of Gopalganj pourashava recently brought out a procession protesting the plan of converting the public hall to a cinema hall. — Star photo



Security personnel from the Bangladesh Rifles and Ansar force are seen at the Kaokhali Girls School voting centre during the polling hours of Thursday by-election. — Star photo

Recent flood damaged crops worth Tk 32cr in Madaripur

MADARIPUR, Sept 7: Crops worth over Tk 32.30 crore were destroyed in the recent flood in the district, reports UNB.

According to farmers, the flood destroyed seed-beds, aush and aman paddy on 20,380 hectares of land worth Tk 21.27 crore.

The flood also destroyed jute plants worth about Taka 4.23 crore. In Shibchar thana alone jute plants worth about Tk 2.84 crore were damaged totally, they added.

In the district, sugarcane on 27 hectares of land worth about Tk 1.8 crore were destroyed in the flood. Betel-leaf worth about Tk 4.95 crore was also damaged.

Banana worth Tk 57 lakh, Papaya worth Tk 7.50 lakh and vegetables worth Tk 4.92 crore were destroyed in the flood.

The affected thanas are Rajoir, Shibchar, Sadar and Kalkini. Shibchar is worst hit. Flood water has started receding in different parts of the district.

The affected farmers are facing financial hardships. They urged the government to start agriculture rehabilitation programme without further delay.

Four awarded 1 yr RI for carrying phensidyl in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent
JHENIDAH, Sept 7: Four accused were awarded one year RI and fined Taka one thousand each by the court on August 29 last, it was reported. The case in brief was that acting on a tip off police recovered 567 bottles of banned phensidyl syrup from a Jhenidah-Dhaka night coach of Five Star Paribahan at Hatgopaiapur on Jhenidah Magura highway in the night of July 31, 1995. Police after thorough investigation submitted chargesheets against four persons including the driver and the helper of the coach.

10 persons convicted for murder

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Sept 7: The 2nd additional session judge of Barisal, Md. Momtullah awarded life imprisonment to 10 accused on Saturday for murdering one person.

According to the prosecution, one Saha Alam was killed on the spot on his disputed cropland by the people of his rival group at Noapara village under Gournadi thana of the district on November 5, 1988.

Police after investigation chargesheeted against the accused persons. Learned judge examining the witnesses awarded life imprisonment to Raachan, Pearsy, Seraj, Altaf, Jamal, Golam Hossain, Isahaq, Akkas, a Rob and Mangal Khan. Trial of Akkas, Rab and Mangal was held in absentia as they are still absconding.

Newly built Kushtia police station inaugurated

From Our Correspondent
KUSHTIA, Sept 7: Police Force always will remain with the people and discharge their duties and responsibilities sincerely in maintaining law and order and with this end in view they must acquire confidence of the people about their neutrality in the administration. This was stated by Ashraf Huda DIG of Police Khulna Range while inaugurating the newly built Kushtia police station building on Tuesday last. He expressed his happiness that he laid the foundation stone of the building and inaugurating the same as the construction of the building was completed in a short time. After inaugural function a milad mahfil was held.

The milad mahfil was attended by AFM Serajul Haq Deputy Commissioner Kushtia, Mahfuzur Rahman ADC (General), Rafiqul Haq TNO, Shafique Anwar NDC, all officers of police department, political leaders and journalists.

Fish preservation at stake Short supply of power hits ice production

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Sept 7: Irregular and short supply of electricity in the coastal southern districts of Barguna and Patuakhali for months and specially in this fishing season has severely disrupted production of ice used for preservation on fish.

Production of ice is necessary for processing hilsa fish during this season in the coastal districts said the fishermen.

More than 3000 maunds of hilsa fish decomposed last week as electricity supply in Barguna and Patuakhali remained totally suspended for 3 days.

According to the fishermen, ice is not at all available in sufficient quantity. For this more than 2 thousand cans of ice are necessary but production is less than half, they said.

One killed in road mishap

From Our Correspondent
FARIDPUR, Sept 7: One person was killed on the spot in a road accident recently.

According to eyewitnesses and police sources the accident took place when a Faridpur bound fish loaded truck from Barisal collided head on with another truck coming from opposite direction at Shankar Pasha on Faridpur-Barisal highway.

In the accident one truck passenger identified as Wazed Malo son of Kalipada Malo of village Pukuria under Bhanga thana was killed on the spot.

A case was lodged with Nargakanda thana in this regard.



JHENIDAH: Fish fries are being released in river Kumar in Sailkupa thana of the district on the occasion of national fish fortnight. — Star photo

Bridal party robbed

From Our Correspondent
PABNA, Sept 7: A dacoity was committed in a boat carrying a bridal party along with bride, on way to their return journey following the completion of the wedding ceremony while crossing through river Baral within Faridpur Tuesday. The dacoits looted away properties worth about Tk one lakh at gun point. It is alleged.

Abdul Khaleque of village Nabin under Chatmohar thana, along with the bridal party recently went to village Golkata under Faridpur where his marriage was solemnised with Iu Khatoon, daughter of Abdul Manna. After wards the bridal party, along with the newly married bride, left for their home back in the night on boats loaded with about 30 passengers.

When the bridal party reached near Hariabaria High School, in river Baral, about 12 armed dacoits attacked them and on point of gun, looted away with gold ornaments and other valuables worth about Tk one lakh.

Alleged irregularities in allotment of ring wells

BANDARBAN, Sept 7: Local leaders have alleged irregularities of allotment of ring wells and tara pumps in the seven thanas of the district, reports UNB.

They said the Public Health Engineering Department decided to install only 34 ring wells and tara pumps in current fiscal year. There are 87 Wards in 29 unions of seven thanas and as the government directive was to install one ring well or a tara pump in each Ward, the PHE allotment fell short of the requirement, they added.

It was also alleged that many people of this Hill district were suffering from various intestinal diseases due to consumption of contaminated water from the rivers and canals.

Local leaders complained that corruption, inefficiency and indifference have threatened the pure water supply programme in the hill districts.

They demanded adequate number of ring wells and tara pumps to be installed in the district to ensure supply of drinking water.

Election of executive body of BSAS held

From RU Correspondent
RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Sept 7: The executive body election of Bangladesh Society for American Studies (BSAS) was held at senate house of Rajshahi University on September 4 voting Prof Anwaruzzaman Khan and Prof M Shamsur Rahman as President and General Secretary respectively for next 2 years tenure.

The other elected office bearers are: Prof AN Shamsul Haque, Vice President, Prof Zafar Reza Khan, Prof M Solaiman (CU), Prof A F M Shamsur Rahman, Joint Secretaries Prof Abu Hanif Sheikh, Prof Afra Uz Zaman Khan Chowdhury and executive members are Prof Kazi Ahmed Nabi (CU) Dr Priti Kumar Mitra, Dr Zoglu Haider, Dr Enamul Haque, Dr Sheheen Akhter (SUT), M A Latif (IU), Zakaria Rahman (IU), Mehedi Hasan MH Rahman (KU) M Ibrahim (AKC College), Ms Nasreen Islam and ANM Jahangir Kabir.



SYLHET: Divisional Commissioner, Sylhet, Habibur Rahman, speaking at the inaugural function of the programme for prevention of child eye sight retardance at Rebaty Rahman High School recently. — Star photo