

Metropolitan

Huge timber being smuggled thru' Cox's Bazar, Rangamati daily

A gang of timber smugglers, and wood traders, have been destroying the forests of Cox's Bazar and Rangamati for a long time, police sources said, reports UNB.

The gang of about 100 people almost everyday smuggle 15 to 20 trucks of timber to the capital from the region. The trucks usually reach the city's entry point at Kanchar Bridge after 11 pm.

A timber trader is allowed to bring only 150 to 175 cubic feet (cf) of wood from the forest area to Dhaka. But most often the traders bring thousands of cfs of timber everyday.

Police sources said the timber traders have been doing the illegal business by paying handsome amount of money to some unscrupulous officials of the forest department and police.

Mushroom growth of hotels threatening public health

The mushroom growth of hotels and restaurants in the district town and thana headquarters has been threatening the public health, reports UNB.

Foods are being prepared and stored in most unhygienic way in these hotels and restaurants. Besides, stale foods are being sold to the customers in the absence of inspection by the authorities concerned.

Many people have been suffering from intestinal diseases due to intake of adulterated and stale foods in the district. The garbage are also being dumped beside the hotels and restaurants polluting the environment.

A large number of tea stalls have also been set up beside the main roads hampering the vehicular movement. Several hundred such shops have sprung up in the municipal areas of Majdee and Chauhumi.

Another report says: People, who own motor vehicles, are passing sleepless nights as incidences of stealing of vehicles and spare parts have been rising alarmingly in the district town.

The vehicle owners urged the authorities concerned to take punitive action against the organised gang without further delay.

Housewife burnt to death

A housewife was burnt to death in a fire that charred 10 dwelling houses at village Pachila in Ullahpara thana in Sirajganj on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Aleya Parveen (28), wife of Nurul Islam. According to witnesses, fire caught Aleya when she fell down suddenly on a container full of petrol while entering into her house with a lantern in hand.

The blaze soon engulfed the adjacent areas destroying 10 houses. The extent of damage was estimated at about Tk 2 lakh.

Aleya was rushed to the Sirajganj General Hospital where she succumbed the following day.

ডাক্তার আবশ্যিক

জরুরী ভিত্তিতে মহিলা জুনিয়র ডাক্তার বোম্বোয়াল করুন। পরিচালক, ফরিদা ক্লিনিক, ১৬৫/এ, শান্তিনগর, ফোন: ৮৪১১৯, ৮৪১২০। C-11

HOUSE AT GULSHAN TO-LET

One two-storied house built on one acre of land located in Gulshan (House # 22, Road # 56, Block NWD, Gulshan-01) to be rented for one year from January, '98 to December, 1998. The house can be inspected and Mr Ak Biswas may be contacted over Phone-9561011, 9565152-4 immediately. Preference to be given for office, but contact can not be renewed over 31-12-98. D-04

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Directorate of Women Affairs
Women Assistance Programme Project
Chittagong Divisional Office, Chittagong

Memo No. DWA/Cig/WAPP/Admn-5-8/97/188 Dated: 21.12.97

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide contractors/supplier firms for supplying (A) Clothings for sheltered boarders, (B) Raw materials for training, (C) Office accessories & miscellaneous items from 01.01.98 to 30.06.98 of the Women Assistance Programme Project, Chittagong Division, run by the Directorate of Women Affairs. Tenders will be received in the tender box kept at the office of the undersigned up to 11:30 AM on 15.01.98 and will be opened on the same day at 12:00 Noon in presence of the tenderers (if any). Tender schedule (with terms & conditions) of each section can be purchased together at Tk 300/- (three hundred) only (non-refundable) from the office of the undersigned during office hours from 08.01.98 to 14.01.98. Tk 1000/- (one thousand) as earnest money (refundable) for each section separately should be submitted with the tender in favour of the Assistant Director (KD), Women Assistance Programme Project, Chittagong. But original copy of (1) Income Tax Certificate, (2) Bank Solvency Certificate, (3) Trade Licence, (4) Experience Certificate, (5) Character Certificate of the contractor concerned should be produced before purchasing tender schedule and terms & conditions. Otherwise, tender schedule will not be supplied. Attested photocopy of the certificates should be submitted with the tender. The tender committee reserves full rights to accept or reject any tender.

NB: Work order will be issued to the accepted tenderer in each group subject to receipt of fund & grant.

Md. Selim Chowdhury
Assistant Director (KD)
Directorate of Women Affairs
Women Assistance Programme Project
House No-353, Road No-14
Block-B, Chandgaon R/A, Chittagong

DFF-29157-24/12
G-20

Eastern Cables Limited
Patenga, Chittagong

International Tender Notice

(বেদনৃতিক নিরাপত্তা ও দীর্ঘস্থায়ীত্বের জন্য আন্তর্জাতিক মানের ইস্টার্ন কেবলস ব্যবহার করুন)

Sealed offers with 1% earnest money are invited by Eastern Cables Ltd, Patenga, Chittagong for supply of undermentioned materials on C&F(C) Chittagong Liner term basis:-

Tender No & Date	Description of materials & Qnty	Cost of tender documents	Date of opening	Source of finance
1. EC/PUR/F-103	XLPE Compound Qnty — 32 Tons	Tk 500.00	18.1.98	Any untied source/Grant/Credit/Cash/Wes/etc.

d.t.1.98

Tender documents will be available during working hours on Cash Payment (non-refundable) from the following offices:

- Cash Section, Eastern Cables Ltd, Patenga, Chittagong.
- Cash Section, BSEC, BSEC Bhaban, 102, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka.
- Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong, GD-9

Land dispute 7 held with firearms from North road

A group of miscreants fired gunshots and exploded cocktails in the city's Dhanmondi area yesterday morning allegedly to take control over a piece of land by creating panic in the locality.

Meanwhile, police arrested six persons with firearms and ammunition from the North Road and later arrested another person who allegedly backed them.

According to police, the arrested were identified as Siddique, 18, Motaleb Hossain, 29, Sohel, 23, Jasimuddin, 24, Asif, 24, and Moselhuddin, 28. A sawn-off rifle, two revolvers and four round of bullets were recovered from them.

Acting on the arrested person's statement police arrested one Shamsul Karim who allegedly hired them to gain control over a plot, police added.

Witnesses said the group of at least twenty armed young men entered the locality exploding crackers and firing gunshots at Bhutergoli at about 10:30 am.

Being informed a team of Dhanmondi police, led by Inspector Obaidul Haque, went to Bhutergoli area at about 11 am.

The gang of criminals and police exchanged gunfire for some time, police said.

At one stage the gang members tried to flee away. Some of the attackers managed to leave the scene through narrow lanes while some others took shelters in some residences to hide.

However, there was no report of any casualty during the incident. A case was lodged with Dhanmondi Thana in connection with the incident.

SPGRC hails Pak govt decision to repatriate 5,000

Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) hailed the decision of Pakistan Government to repatriate 5,000 stranded Pakistanis from Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at a meeting of Rabita Trust on December 26.

The SPGRC expects that the repatriation process will start very soon for implementing the decision and it will continue till repatriation of all 2.38 lakh stranded Pakistanis living in Bangladesh, says a press release.

Meanwhile, leader of Stranded Pakistanis Nasim Khan has congratulated Justice Mohammad Rafique Tarar on his assumption of the office of President of Pakistan.

One runover by truck in Sylhet

A middle-aged man was run over by a speeding truck at Alamgaria on Sylhet-Jakiganj road in Sadar thana on Sunday, reports UNB.

Police sources said Fazlu Mia, 35, son of Shishu Sheikh of village Uttar Baushi in Sarishabari thana of Jamalpur district, met his tragic end while crossing the road.

Post-mortem of the body was performed at Osmani Medical College Hospital and a case was filed with the Kotwali thana.

Another report adds: Six students of a picnic party were injured seriously by some miscreants at Majoritula area in the town on Monday.

Police said a gang of miscreants boarding in a microbus suddenly attacked the bus carrying the students of Tajpur College in Balaganj thana who were returning from Jalong after picnic.

The hoodlums beat up the students, snatched their money and two cameras and damaged their vehicle.

A case has been filed with the Kotwali thana.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of AHMA Matin, eminent businessman and industrialist, will be held today after Asr prayers at the residence of the deceased at 11/18, Block A, Mohammadpur in the capital, reports UNB.

He died in the city on Thursday after a prolonged illness.

All friends, relatives and well wishers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani.



Prof Talukder Moniruzzaman addressing a seminar on 'Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord: Constitutional and Security Perspective' jointly organised by the Institute for Comprehensive Security Studies at the VIP Lounge of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday.

Speakers tell seminar CHT peace agreement lacks constitutional basis

Speakers at a seminar yesterday opined that the Chittagong Hill Tracts peace agreement signed between the government and the Parbatya Chhatragam Janasanghati Samity (PCJSS) lacked constitutional basis.

They were also critical of the provisions of the accord for what they said that accord had exposed the hilly region to a vulnerable position in terms of security of the region as well as the "mainland".

Some of the speakers also urged the President to call a roundtable on the issue taking people from all walks of life to reach an acceptable solution.

The Institute for Comprehensive Security Studies (ICSS) and the SAARC Society jointly organised the seminar at the VIP lounge of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday morning.

Presided over by Prof. Talukder Maniruzzaman of the Political Science Department of Dhaka University, the seminar was addressed by Ataus Samad, Sadek Khan, Major General (ret) Syed Mohammad Ibrahim, Bir Protik, Prof. Abtab Ahmed, Prof. M Shahiduzzaman, Brig (ret) Mashuk Ahmed Chowdhury, Nazim Habibuzzaman, Dr Abdur Rob, Ferdous Hossain, Barrister Mahbub Uddin Khokon and Syed Kamal Uddin.

Ataus Samad in his speech discussed the constitutional aspects taking it in broader and narrow senses. In board sense, he said, the signing of the treaty may be considered a half-step towards the solution of crisis provided democracy is practised in the country for establishment of which we have fought the War of Liberation.

Sometimes in future situation might arise in which the unitary character of the state would have to be changed. Ataus Samad said adding "with the increase of population the local government would have to be entrusted with the responsibility of administering law and order."

In the narrower interpretation, Ataus Samad said, the accord was written carelessly and some provisions of the accord which made provisions for making new laws amount to ignoring the jurisdiction of the parliament in making laws.

The parliament is the only authority to pass laws, how could the ten members of the National Committee on CHT predict that the laws would be passed as directed by the accord, Ataus Samad questioned.

The recently signed treaty has virtually blocked the way for any sort of consensus which, Ataus Samad said was spirit of the 1972 constitution.

Beside the CHT there are also other small national entities as for example the Monipuri in Sylhet, and they have their own cultural heritage and history, he said adding these entities were not given recognition in our constitution.

Referring to security perspectives, he said that there were two types of security concerns — one international and the other being external. If there is any crisis in India that must affect the security of Bangladesh, he said.

The multinational companies are more powerful than the governments in these days, and when they would think they need to go to a particular area they try to destabilise that area which we should bear in mind, Ataus Samad said.

Sadek Khan said that the recent CHT agreement gave recognition to a terrorist clearly by passing the solution made by the 1989 conference. He said that racialism has been given firm basis by this accord.

He said that the accord has affected Article (1) of the Constitution which says that the Republic of Bangladesh would be a unitary one. It is a kind of treason if the people who are entrusted with the duty of protecting the constitution violates the provisions of the constitution.

Barrister Mahbub Uddin Khan narrated the constitutional and legal aspects of the agreement. He said that the treaty was signed in violation of Articles 145(1), (2) relating to the power of making contracts of the government, Article 121 which enumerates the provisions regarding right of votes of the citizen, Article 6 which relates to citizenship, Article 36 relating to freedom of movement, Article 43, Article 31, Article 42(2) Article 56. He said that as per the constitution the PCJSS could not be a party to an accord signed with a government of Bangladesh.

Syed Mohammad Ibrahim in his speech described the security aspects of the agreement. He argued in favour of keeping the ten cantonments already there in the CHT intact.

Prof Abtab Ahmed said that signing an agreement with the insurgents of the CHT literally amounted to recognising a mini state. The signing of the agreement is a clear violation of the article 145 of the constitution. He said the tribal people as argued by the supporters of the agreement are not the real backward section of the people of the country.

The signing of the agreement has opened up the possibility of Indian aggression, he said. The government is not mandated to sign such an agreement, he said.

FEMA report reveals UP polls held during Dec 27 to 31 last year was generally peaceful

The last week's polling in the Union Parishad elections were generally peaceful in overwhelming majority of the polling stations with enthusiastic participation of the voters including female. The polls also witnessed scaled down violence and manipulation in several unions. During the week two persons were killed and many injured in election related violence. But clashes, gunfire, forcibly taking away ballot boxes and papers and booth capturing marred the polls in several stations, some leading to postponement of polls.

This was revealed in the fifth interim report of the Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) on the just concluded Union Parishad elections based on the preliminary observations of its poll monitors in 138 Union Parishads under 17 thanas of 15 districts. The report covers the period between Dec 27 to 31 last year.

At the Rampal High School polling station in Rampal Union under Munshiganj sadar thana, Munshiganj the supporters of rival chairman candidates exchanged crackers, cocktails and gun shots, forcibly took away the ballot box, set it on fire and threw it into the nearby pond. Polls of this centre was consequently suspended. Similarly, the polls at the Brojogini Government Primary School centre in the same union was suspended owing to terrorist attack at 2.30 pm. In Fulpur thana of Myensing district polls were also suspended at Dhalia Kandi centre in Tarakandi Union and at Kamaria Bazar Government Primary School centre due to forcibly taking away ballot box and disturbances created by the supporters of a certain chairman candidate. At the Rashidpur Government Primary School centre in Bashikpur Union under Laxmipur sadar thana the supporters of the chairman candidate (Pineapple) while stuffing the ballot box at gun point were caught red handed by the TNO on mobile duty, but afterward set them free. The supporters of the said candidate then fired shots at the centre and ultimately polls of the centre was suspended.

Vote counting at the centre at Talukdar Para Government Primary School was suspended at 8:30 pm as a group of miscreants forcibly took away the ballot boxes and papers. Police fired eight round shots and injured several persons.

At the Sardar Para Government Primary School centre in Rampal Union under Munshiganj sadar thana 300 voters could not exercise their right to franchise due to alleged manipulation resorted to by the polling officials who declared at 2:30 pm that 95% votes were cast. Similar incident occurred at the Goalbhangri Government Primary School and Banajuri School centres in Jali Union under Gheor thana of Munshiganj district where many voters could not cast vote due to misprint of names in the electoral roll.

65-km new road in Bandarban & Rangamati dists

The government has taken up construction of about 65-kilometre new road in Bandarban and Rangamati districts at an estimated cost of Taka 78 crore to be completed in four years, reports BSS.

The work of construction will start from next month, local R and H Department official sources said yesterday.

According to sources, the 44.22-km long road from Chimbuk to Thanchi thana sadar will link Bandarban and 20-km long road from Marisha to Baghaichhari Thana sadar will link the Rangamati district.

HERE and THERE

Centre for Human Excellence

An innovative non-profit organisation named Centre for Human Excellence (CENCE) has been formed with the mission of human resources development in Bangladesh through its programme and activities. Against the backdrop of huge unemployment situation in Bangladesh, CENCE will initiate and implement various projects geared toward developing professional and entrepreneurial skills in young people so that they are better prepared to face the challenges of the 21st century Bangladesh, said a press release.

Commencing activities on Jan 1, CENCE will pursue its projects under the following seven integrated programmes. Entrepreneurship and Self-employment Programme (ESP), Leadership Education and Access Programme (LEAP), Women in Management Programme (WMP), Consumer Rights Programme (CoRP), Assistance and Initiatives for the Disadvantaged (AID), International Studies and Exchange Programme (ISEP), and University-Industry Linkage Initiatives (UNILINK).

A 15-member executive committee of the organisation has been recently formed with Dr A K Mohammad Ali as Chairman and Quazi Mahmud Ahmed as president. Those interested to know more about the organisation are requested to contact at the following office address: Road # 3, House # 10, Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1205.

Asiatic Society

The 46th founding anniversary of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh was held yesterday in the auditorium of the Society, reports BSS.

Eminent educationist, former secretary and fellow of the Society Dr A M Sharafuddin delivered the founding day lecture on "Facing the 21st century: The environmental dimension".

In his lecture Dr Sharafuddin said, the Earth's atmosphere is gradually warming up and by the next century, its effects will spell disaster for the low lying countries like Bangladesh.

He said, the advanced industrialised countries are responsible for about 80 per cent of the increased carbon dioxide emission over the past two centuries.

Dr Sharafuddin said by the year 2100 there would be a one metre rise of the sea level on the coast of Bangladesh submerging about one-sixth of the land area. He also said, the present efforts at environmental management need to be expanded and strengthened manifold if we are to avert a possible environmental catastrophe looking ahead of us in the 21st century.

Presided over by the president of the Society Prof Wakil Ahmed, the function was addressed among others, by the General Secretary of the Society, Prof Akmal Hussain and Dr Nazma Khan Majlis.

3 killed in poll related clashes in Jhenidah

Three people were killed in several poll related clashes in Shaikakupa thana of the district during the Union Parishad election held in last month, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Harunur Rashid (35) of village Ragutia, M Manirul (32) and Mahfuz (20) of village Rainagar.

According to police, Harun succumbed to his injuries at Jhenidah Sadar Hospital, Mahfuz at Khulna 250-bed hospital and Manirul at Dhaka PG Hospital.

Three separate cases were lodged with the police.

According to another message, an old man was run over by a speeding bus near a bus stand in the town on Sunday.

According to witnesses, Nani Biwas (70) of Kaliganj thana while crossing the road met the tragic accident. The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy and a case was filed with the police.

One killed, 15 hurt in polls-related clash in Sirajganj

An election-related clash at village Garamashi Nutan Para in Belkuchi thana of Sirajganj district yesterday left a young man dead and 15 others injured, reports UNB.

Abdullah, 22, was stabbed to death by his rivals, police said.

Four injured were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital and Belkuchi thana health complex in critical condition. Others were released after first aid.

Police and witnesses said the clash began at about 12:15 pm when the supporters of a chairman candidate attacked their rival group following disputes over the UP election.

A case was filed with Belkuchi thana.

The election was postponed at Garamashi Government Primary School centre due to violence and later rescheduled for January 8.

New committee of Keraniganj Press Club

M Saiful Islam of Weekly Jinzira and M Abu Taleb of the Banglar Bani have been elected president and general secretary respectively of Keraniganj Press Club, reports BSS.

The biennial election of the club was held yesterday.

According to a club press release, the 19-member committee for 1998-2000 includes, senior vice president M Salahuddin (Priyo Bangla), vice presidents: Shaifiq Chowdhury (Deshbani), Rafiq Ahmed (Daily Sangbad), Azad Hossain Sumon (Ajker Kagoj) and Kalim Shantu (Lalsabuj), assistant general secretaries: Abdul Gani (Janakantha), Abdul Majid (Janata) and MA Matin (Bangla Bazar Patrika), treasurer, Shaikh Mufazzur Rahman Uz-zal (Daily Samachar), organisng secretary Delwar Hossain (Sangram), publicity secretary Sultan Ahmed (Bartaman Bangla) and office secretary Abdul Bashir (Capital News).

The executive committee members are H Amin (Ajker Kagoj), Razu Ahmed (Daily Khabar), Sumon Shaha (Bhorer Kagoj), Delwar Hossain (Muktakantha) and M Mintu (Daily Abirhabab).

Dr Mohiuddin Farooque honoured posthumously

Dr Mohiuddin Farooque has been nominated for the Biographical inclusion in the prestigious International Directory of Distinguished Leadership by the American Biographical Institute, reports UNB.

The Governing Board of the Institute posthumously nominated Dr Farooque, Founder Secretary General of the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), for his outstanding contribution to the society.

He has been selected for this distinguished award amongst a few selected men and women of this decade, said a press release.

Dr Farooque has recently passed away at National University Hospital in Singapore while he was undergoing treatment.

PUBALI BANK LIMITED HEAD OFFICE ESTABLISHMENT DEPARTMENT 26, DILKUSHA COMMERCIAL AREA, DHAKA.

TENDER NOTICE FOR COMPUTER PAPER

Sealed Tenders are invited from bonafide manufacturers/dealers to supply 1300 Boxes perforated fanfold continuous Computer paper as per Tender Schedule. Tender schedules, specifications & samples will be available on payment of Tk. 500/- (in the form of payment order favouring Pubali Bank Ltd. Head Office) from Establishment Department (12th floor of the Head Office Bank Building) during office hours. No tender schedule will be sold on the tender opening day.

Quotations will be received up to 11-00 A. M. on 14.01.1998 and will be opened on the same day at 11-15 A. M. (in presence of the tenderers, if any).

For any unavoidable circumstances, if the quotations can not be opened on the schedule date, the same will be opened on the following working day at the same time.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation without assigning any reason.

ABDUL HANNAN BHUIYAN
DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER