

Tribals, settlers in Dighinala clash: 15 houses torched

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachari

At least 15 houses were torched during a clash between Bangalee settlers and tribal people at Boalkhali in Dighinala upazila of Khagrachari district yesterday.

Police and witnesses said the clash started at noon when unidentified gunmen fired gunshots towards a truck carrying the members of Bangalee Sangram Parishad who were returning home from a protest rally at Dighinala.

The Sangram Parishad organised a rally protesting the killing of VDP commander Osman Gani. Gani was gunned down by tribal terrorists in Khagrachari on May 14.

Soon after the incident, Bangalee settlers and tribal people locked in a clash that continued for more than 30 minutes. Being informed, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

During the clash, unruly people from both sides set at least 15 houses ablaze.

Additional police forces were deployed in the area.

According to a late night report, the district administration has imposed Section 144 in Dighinala Upazila for an indefinite period.

Local sources said the tribal people from different places converged at upazila headquarters in the evening and laid a siege to UNO office. They also attacked some shops and set fire to a house at Hanapara.

DESA crash programme delayed Power disruption will persist

RAZIUR RAHMAN

Sufferings of the city dwellers due to power supply disruption and low voltage is likely to continue at least for the next two months due to further delay in implementation of a number of DESA projects under its crash programme.

DESA had a plan to ensure 'better quality' power supply in the city by mid-March last. But it is yet to implement major components of the programme which include installation of two new 132 KV transmission

lines and capacitor banks.

DESA's plan followed directives from the Prime Minister's Office. After the directive, PDB is not going for any load shedding in case of DESA since beginning of this summer.

With increasing demand for power in the city, 'line overloading' remains a major problem in DESA's power transmission and distribution system.

DESA will have options after installation of its Tongi-Ulon-Bashundhara and Siddhiganj-Maniknagar trans

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Evasion of value-added tax

Community centre, 3 cinemas at Dhaka Cantt fined

RAFIQ HASAN

The customs and VAT authorities fined three cinema halls and a community centre at Dhaka Cantonment Tk 25,000 each for evading value-added tax and not submitting tax returns.

The military and paramilitary-run recreation and community centres, which have been fined, are: Sagorika Cinema hall, Garrison Cinema hall, Sainik Club Cinema hall and Senakunja community centre. Bangladesh Navy runs the Sagorika Cinema hall and Bangladesh Army the other three establishments.

According to sources in the National Board of Revenue (NBR), the customs authorities also served a final show-cause notice on Garrison auditorium at Ghatail Cantonment in Tangail, asking its representative to appear before the personal hearing.

The fines would be counted as an additional amount of the payable duties and taxes.

The sources said the fines were imposed on the cinema halls unilaterally, as no representative appeared before the customs hearing even after being asked several times.

Assistant Adjutant General (project) Ekhlasur Rahman, however,

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The dumb girl gets a shelter at last

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finally, the dumb girl who spent almost a year in jail for no reason was taken to a shelter home on Thursday.

Save the Children UK in Bangladesh took the seven-year-old girl to its centre from the government vagrant home at Mirpur in the city for her rehabilitation, said a press release.

Earlier, the girl was shifted to the vagrant home from Dhaka Central Jail recently after a magistrate's court allowed it.

She was virtually a prisoner in the name of 'safe custody'. A report on the plight of the girl was published in The Daily Star on April 28.

Narayanganj Bandar police had picked up the dumb girl from a local road on May 27 last year for 'suspicious movement' and detained her.

Police said Kabir had given a stolen rickshaw to Nasir for selling it. Nasir Nasir sold it but did not pay the money to Kabir.

Mother of the victim filed a case with Pallabi thana but none was arrested till last night.

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Jubo League leader stabbed to death in Rajshahi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

One Jubo League leader was stabbed to death at village Girigram under Raninagar upazila of Naogaon district on Wednesday night.

The victim was identified as Sakhawat Hossain, 32, General Secretary of Jubo League Bargachha union under the same upazila.

Police quoting statement of his relatives said a group of people stormed into the house of Jubo League leader and stabbed him indiscriminately. He died on the spot.

The younger sister of the victim, Jharna, was also injured in the attack.

A murder case was filed with Raninagar thana. Police arrested one Zaeeda, 45, wife of Muhammad Ali in connection with the murder.

Police informer murdered in Mirpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A police informer was stabbed to death by two miscreants at a ghat for country boats in the city's Mirpur area on Thursday night.

The victim, Nasir, 25, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

The gang attacked him near a slum on Road No 4 at about 9 pm. One of the alleged killers was identified as Kabir.

Police said Kabir had given a stolen rickshaw to Nasir for selling it. Nasir Nasir sold it but did not pay the money to Kabir.

Mother of the victim filed a case with Pallabi thana but none was arrested till last night.

Buddhadev sworn in as CM: 15 new faces in 48-strong cabinet

SAKYASEN MITRA, Kolkata

"The people of West Bengal have given us a clear mandate. They are politically conscious. Before the election, they had two options to choose between peace and development and lawlessness and violence. They have shown what they prefer. The Left Front is grateful to them for their choice."

This was stated by the newly elected West Bengal Chief Minister, Buddhadev Bhattacharya, at a function at the Writers Building, seat of the state government.

Earlier, the Chief Minister along with his 48 member council of ministers was sworn in by West Bengal Governor Virendra Singh at a function at the Raj Bhavan.

Sources in the ruling party said, unlike in previous governments, Bhattacharya has decided to have a separate ministry of information and technology.

As usual, the Chief Minister and most of his colleagues took oath in Bengali. However, there were quite a few ministers who took oath in either English or Hindi.

There are 15 new faces in the Left Front government this time. Portfolios will be allotted after Monday.

The Cabinet includes Ms. Nandarani Dal, who won in Keshpur constituency with a margin of over one lakh votes in Midnapore district and Susanta Ghosh who had a margin of over 80,000 votes in Garbeta constituency.

These two constituencies had gained prominence because of clashes between activists of Trinamool Congress and the CPI(M).

Meanwhile, the debate over allotment of portfolio to Subhas Chakrabarty is still on. Chakrabarty held sports and transport ministries in the last Left Front government. This time he will have to give up the Sports

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Veteran communist leader Jyoti Basu (R) greets Buddhadev Bhattacharya (L) before the latter was sworn-in as Chief Minister of West Bengal at Raj Bhavan (Governor House) in Kolkata yesterday.

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New e-mail, fax(news)

The Daily Star requests its readers and contributors to note the changed e-mail addresses:

Editorial section- dseditor@gononet.com

News section- dsreport@gononet.com

New fax no (news)- 8126154.



The body of Haris Khan, allegedly tortured to death while in Tongi police custody, was taken to the DMCH morgue yesterday for autopsy.

Boy 'tortured' by police dies at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenaged boy who was allegedly tortured by Tongi police on Wednesday night died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on Thursday night.

The victim was identified as Haris Khan, 15, son of Jamir Uddin Khan.

Sources concerned said Sub-Inspector Sattar and ASI Shah Alam picked him up from in front of Anarkali cinema hall while he was going to his sister's house nearby in a bi-cycle Wednesday morning.

The policemen took him to the thana and severely beat him, charging him with attempted snatching.

Critically injured Haris was first sent to Tongi General Hospital. As his condition deteriorated, he was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Wednesday.

Haris died at DMCH at about 8:30 pm on Thursday. The body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

Hospital sources said there were marks of blood clot in different parts of his body.

During an investigation yester

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A year after Shipu murder No headway as 3 prime accused are abroad

SHAIKH NAZRUL ISLAM

None of the three prime accused in the sensational Iftekhar Ahmed Shipu murder could be arrested even in one year after the killing.

Sources concerned said they had not only managed to escape arrest but also left the country and are now staying abroad.

Three other accused were however arrested.

Three gunmen shot dead Iftekhar Ahmed Shipu, 38, a mobile phone trader at UAE market in the city's Banani area on the night of May 24 last year. Manager of Shipu's phone shop was also injured in the incident.

Younger brother of Shipu, Istaque Ahmed, filed a murder case with Gulshan thana accusing six persons and the case was later transferred to the Detective Branch (DB) of police on June 6.

The gunmen were mentioned as principal accused.

The prime accused are Ziauddin Ahmed Jewel, son of ruling party lawmaker from the city's Mirpur area Kamal Majumder. Naimuzzaman

Jubur, son of a Director of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB), and Shafiqul Islam.

The other accused are Joy Hasib, Arif Ahmed Sagar and his brother Kazi Sharif Saikat. They were arrested.

Chargesheet against all the six accused were submitted on October 2.

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Iftekhar Ahmed Shipu

CMCH revives dengue surveillance body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A dengue scare has prompted Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) authorities to revive its Dengue Surveillance Committee and take up preparedness programmes to face the situation in the event of spread of the deadly infection, hospital sources said.

But the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) is yet to wake up and launch an effective anti-mosquito drive to destroy Aedes mosquito, carrier of dengue virus.

Admission of a dengue patient to CMCH about two weeks ago created the scare.

The 12-member committee headed by Prof Sultanul Alam held a meeting for three days. Another meeting is likely on May 21 to launch a training programme for doctors and create public awareness, the sources said.

The committee was formed during the dengue onslaught last year but it went into 'hibernation' when spread of infection tapered off.

CMCH authorities have readied six units under its medicine and paediatrics departments and attached trained doctors to those for treatment of dengue patients.

Talking to this correspondent Prof Alam said "We are well prepared to tackle dengue related cases. We have collected kits, a blood separation machine and medicines.

"We have taken all necessary steps after receiving instruction from the health ministry and are activating all our people here", Prof Alam said.

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An Israeli police inspects the scene of a suicide attack outside a shopping mall in the Israeli town of Netanya yesterday. At least six people were killed and over 70 injured in the blast.

AP, NETANYA (Israel)

An Islamic militant with explosives strapped to his body yesterday blew himself up at the entrance to a shopping mall as a security guard tried to block him. The blast killed six people, including the bomber, and wounded more than 70.

The Islamic militant group Hamas claimed responsibility for explosion that reverberated through Netanya, sending up a large cloud of black smoke over the center of the city. It was the third bomb attack this year in the city.

Israel used warplanes yesterday for the first time since the eight-month-old Palestinian uprising began in September, bombing the West Bank cities of Nablus and Ramallah with F-16 fighters, killing at least six, a senior Palestinian security source in Gaza told AFP.

Yesterday's explosion went off at about 11:30 at the entrance to the Sharon Mall, a huge glass-and-concrete complex.</