

Land-grabbers after Uttara Lake now

JULHAS RIPON

Some influential people are reportedly plotting to gobble up a large section of the embankment of Uttara Lake in the city.

According to the local residents, they have noticed a group of strangers touring in Pajero jeeps coming to the spot at road No. 20 of Sector No. 3 of the Uttara Model Town at the dead of the night and measuring the land of the embankment of the lake.

The local residents, who saw the gang gauging the embankment several nights on the spot in the last three weeks, said that the strangers identified themselves as businessman and members of the ruling party. These men also mentioned their intention of getting approval of their possession of the embankment from the Rajuk authority.

While visiting the spot yesterday, this correspondent found that the spot was actually an embankment of the lake and no way plots could be allotted to the aspirants.

Incidentally, during the visit, three people came to the spot in a private car, evidently the 'the mid SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



A partial view of the Uttara lake and the land which land grabbers now want to secretly gobble up allegedly in connivance with some Rajuk officials.

PHOTO: STAR

Flood rages in city, water recedes elsewhere

UNB, Dhaka

More low-lying areas around the capital are likely to be inundated in a period of 24 hours till 6:00am today as the Buriganga, Turag and Tongi Khal continued to rise further, the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said yesterday.

However, floods in other parts of Dhaka district along with Rajbari, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Shariatpur and Madaripur districts will improve during the period following further recession of the Padma.

The flood situation in Kurigram, Rangpur, Bogra, Gaibandha, Sirajganj, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Pabna, Mymensingh and Tangail will also improve further as Brahmaputra-Jamuna receded at all points and recession is likely to continue.

According to an FFWC bulletin yesterday, the Surma at Kanaighat and the Kushiya at Amalshid and Sheola monitored over 24 hours registered fall to improve the flood situation in this region.

On the other hand, the Turag at Mirpur, Tongi Khal at Tongi and Buriganga at Dhaka recorded further rise.

Out of 46 monitoring points, 13 recorded rise, 31 registered fall and SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



With flood water lapping everywhere in the low-lying Nandipara area on the outskirts of the Dhaka city, residents have taken refuge on boats.

PHOTO: STAR

Mugger admits killing CID man

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Mugger Mohammad Liton Sardar, arrested for killing CID inspector Mohammad Nazrul Islam in the city on July 26, gave confessional statement to a metropolitan magistrate yesterday.

After recording the statement at his chamber, Magistrate Jagannath Das Khokon sent Liton to Dhaka Central jail.

In his statement Liton said he and three members of his gang -- SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Law Commission advice ignored

ZAYADUL AHSAN

The government is yet to act on Law Commission recommendations towards protection of innocent people from harassment in the name of law.

Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) empowers police to arrest anyone on suspicion while Section 167 allows them to take a detainee on remand to make divulge information.

Moreover, as per the infamous Special Powers Act (SPA), 1974, the government can send anyone on detention, regardless of how flimsy the charge is.

However, successive governments have abused these legal provisions to harass their political opponents

and also innocent people.

Police pick up innocent individuals on suspicion under Section 54, get remand order from the lower courts under Section 167 and torture them in the name of obtaining information. The nature of interrogation is usually dictated by the bribe amount.

On the other hand, the government uses the SPA as a political weapon to detain its opposition leaders and activists for indefinite period without any specific ground.

Such detentions have more often than not been declared illegal by the High Court Division.

The civil society organisations and the human rights SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

SB ordered to give Shahriar Kabir back his passport

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM's) Court, Dhaka yesterday directed the authorities concerned to return Shahriar Kabir's passport seized by special branch (SB) of police in connection with a seditious case against the writer-columnist.

Magistrate Jagannath Das Khokon directed the investigation officer (IO) of the case and officer-in-charge of storehouse (Malkhana) in the CMM's Court, Dhaka to execute the order without delay.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

DCC to manage waste at community level

Mayor accepts The Daily Star -BUET recommendations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will undertake a pilot project on community-level solid waste management, involving ward commissioners and civil society.

The project will focus on construction of community transfer stations at three municipal wards, yet to be specified. The DCC will manage the stations with technical assistance from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

The decision came following a delegation of four members from the BUET Centre for Environmental and Resource and The Daily Star met Mayor Sadek Hossain SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Khoka yesterday.

"We will start construction of the stations immediately. Lessons learnt from the pilot projects will be used to spread community-level waste management to other areas and eventually to all the 90 wards," Khoka later told The Daily Star. "I believe this is a good initiative and we would definitely support such an idea."

The delegation met the mayor to place the five-point recommendation, put forth recently at a roundtable on management of solid waste and storm-water drainage, held under the banner 'Make Dhaka Liveable'.

An action plan to implement the recommendations

Mysterious PID handout

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An officially approved handout scrapping August 15 as the National Mourning Day was cancelled in less than two hours of its release.

The government confirmed this yesterday just 13 days after the cabinet took the decision to cancel all state programmes to commemorate the death of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Yesterday's handout stated that the official observance of the SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

Wazed Miah hospitalised

UNB, Dhaka

Noted scientist Wazed Miah, husband of opposition leader Sheikh Hasina, was admitted to a local hospital as he fell sick yesterday evening.

Wazed Miah was rushed to Shikder Medical Hospital at 7:30pm as he complained of heart problems.

Rivals kill 6 toll collectors in Bandarban

UNB, Bandarban

At least six tribal people were reportedly shot dead by their rivals in remote Baidyapara area of Roangchhari upazila Saturday night.

The tribesmen, allegedly involved in extortion, were picked up by masked gunmen at the dead of night and taken to the bank of river Sangu where they were gunned down.

SP Shamsul Alam who visited the spot along with DC Hafizur Rahman Bhuiyan yesterday made this statement about the killings quoting local people.

Villagers of this isolated area identified both the groups as "tribal extortionists" and said they found two bodies on the riverbank while saw the rest floating downstream the river with their waists tied with chains.

"As all the deceased were suspected extortionists and unknown to the locals, they didn't try to recover the bodies," according to a spot account of the carnage.

Another local source claimed that at least eight people were killed in the shootout.

Police suspected that the slayings might have taken place over establishing "absolute supremacy" for extortion in the area.

Taking advantage of the absence of road communications, tribal criminal groups turned the area, though just 15 kms off the hill district headquarters, SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

13 killed as wave of attacks rock Israel

AFP, Jerusalem

Palestinian militant factions launched a wave of bloody anti-Israeli attacks yesterday, with a bus blown apart in northern Israel, three killed in a Jerusalem shooting spree and a rash of other strikes, including a failed sea-borne assault by a frogman.

Thirteen people were killed in the attacks from the far north of Israel, where a suicide bomber blew apart nine people on a packed bus, to an attack on coastal Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip in the south, in which an armed Palestinian frogman was shot dead.

The massive eruption of violence appeared to be the bloody vengeance threatened by all Palestinian factions after an Israeli air killed the military chief of the main Islamist group Hamas and 14 other people, nine of them children, on July 22.

It also withered hopes that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon might meet with two new Palestinian ministers seen by Israel as moderate alternatives to Yasser Arafat.

Hamas blew up yet another Israeli bus early yesterday, killing nine people as a fireball ripped the vehicle apart near a Jewish shrine close to the town of Safad, north of Lake Galilee. Another 50 people were injured, several of them seriously.

Police said the blast was almost certainly the work of a suicide bomber, though little evidence remained of the perpetrator's body.

Bodies draped in blankets lined the grass verge at the roadside rest area close to the tomb of rabbi Simeon Bar Yohai, a revered Jewish religious figure.

Government spokesman Avi Pazner said Israel will fight "without mercy" against the perpetrators of the latest attack in the 22-month-old Palestinian SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Govt trying to buy latest fighters: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said her government was trying to procure some latest fighter planes and equipment at the soonest for the Bangladesh Air Force to enhance its defensive strengths.

She said despite resource constraints, these necessary purchases should be made in view of the country's geopolitical and strategic importance and its role in the UN peacekeeping operations on global plane.

The prime minister, who also holds the defence portfolio, informed the airforce officers that

the government made arrangements to send manpower and equipment from the Air Force soon to install an aviation and airfield support unit in the UN mission.

In this connection, she cited the laudable role of the Air Force as well as the armed forces of Bangladesh in the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission.

Addressing a function at the Falcon Hall of Bangladesh Air Force here in the afternoon, she, however, reminded that only addition of latest technology is not enough for acquir SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Aug 5		6-40 pm
Aug 6	5-29 am	

Prayer Timings		
August 5		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-45	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation