

SNAPS

Tk 1 cr touchstone recovered

BSS, Thakurgaon

Two touchstone statues worth Tk one crore were recovered from Badeshwari village in Sadar upazila on Sunday. Acting on a tip-off, a police team raided the house of Nurul Islam there and recovered two statues of 'Bishnu' from a ditch near his house. The weight of the statues is 98-kilogram while the length and breadth of the statues are 4 feet by 1.5 feet, and 1 foot by 1.5 feet. A case was filed with Sadar police station.

4 arrested with fake notes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Four persons were arrested and eight fake notes of Tk 500 recovered from Uthali bus stand in Shivalaya upazila on Sunday. Acting on a secret information, Shivalaya Thana police arrested Khalid, Alam, Alim and Rejaul of Paila village in Gheor upazila and recovered the fake notes amounting to total Tk 4,000 from their possession. However, the main criminal Abdus Sattar managed to flee.

'Outlaw' arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

An 'outlaw' was arrested by police from near Palash cinema hall in Kalaroa upazila on Sunday. Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Abul Hossain, 45, son of Yusuf Ali of Deampara village in Tala upazila. On contact, Kalaroa Thana Officer-in-Charge Ishaq Ali told this correspondent arrested Abul Hossain is an alleged activist of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP). He was wanted in connection with several cases including illegal toll collection, snatching and robbery. A case was filed with Kalaroa thana.

Tarek distributes relief in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

BNP First Joint Secretary General Tarek Rahman on Monday visited the flood affected areas in Gaibandha Sadar, Fulchhari and Shaghata upazilas.

During his visit, Tarek called upon the flood victims to face flood with courage and patience. He declared the government has taken adequate measures for post-flood rehabilitation work.

He distributed rice, pulse, edible oil, salt, water-purifying tablet and saline among destitute people in Nutan Bandar, Ghagao, Ruper Bazaar, Ratanpur and Kaohua High School ground.

Former lawmaker Helaluzzaman Talukder, BNP central committee member Saiful Alam, Gaibandha BNP president Hamidul Haque Chhana, Shaiekh samad Asad, Abdul Mannan Sariker, Delwer Hossain Delu, Alamgir Sadullah, Kamrul Hasan Salim, SM Mhbul Totan, Rowshan Ara Farid, Morshed Habib Soheli former JCD leader, Rafiqul Islam Atiq and Belal Hossain accompanied him.

Autorickshaws off Rangamati roads

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Autorickshaws are off the roads in the hill town as their drivers began an indefinite strike Monday in protest against attack on some of them by indigenous college students.

Six drivers were injured, two of them seriously.

Azhar and Siraj were admitted to Rangamati General Hospital with stab injuries and then shifted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Of the rest injured, Mohammed Monjur, 20 and Sumon Chakma, 16 are undergoing treatment at Rangamati General Hospital.

The rampage by the indigenous students began after Sanjoy Chakma, a student, was assaulted by JCD (Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal) activist Hasan on Government College ground.

BSF bars relief drive in 18 Kurigram enclaves

Food, water crisis: Diarrhoea kills 2, afflicts 450

RAFIQUE SARKER back from Kurigram

Rangpur: About 20,000 flood victims in 18 Bangladesh enclaves in Kurigram district are in great misery as Indian BSF is not allowing supplies of food, drinking water and other essentials to them. Bhrunga-mari Upzila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) told this correspondent during a recent visit that the local administration took initiative to send relief materials to 16 enclaves on July 24 and 25 but BSF did not allow them to enter there.

This correspondent visited some villages adjoining the enclaves. The villagers said people in 16 enclaves in Bhrungamari and two in

Foolbari upzila are virtually starving for want of food.

"We are starving", yelled Akbor Ali, standing at Char Mashal Danga enclave just 10 yards from the mainland in Brungamari.

"We are without food and medicine. Please write about us and save our life", shouted Mojibor Rahman from inside Chhit Korla enclave.

Sideway standing Abdur Rouf and Mostafizur Rahman also made similar statements.

They said diarrhoea has broken out but no medical team went there from the mainland.

Abdul Motin, a social worker at Moshaldanga enclave said about 450

people in the enclaves are attacked with diarrhea, but no medical team visited the area.

Momena of Chhit Mostafiz enclave said, "There is none to help the enclave people though they are starving."

Many of the enclave people said lack of work due to flood has aggravated their sufferings. They used to work in India frontier villages, which were also flooded.

Diarrhea killed two children in Chhit Mostafiz enclave in last 10 days. They are Sumi, 6, and Rana, 8.

Water is now receding but most of the houses in the enclaves have been damaged as floodwater was stagnant in the areas for over a week

Rab operation in Barisal soon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) will start operation in Barisal region soon to curb crimes.

The operations would be conducted by the Rab unit-6, stationed in Khulna, sources said here yesterday.

The team is now collecting information about criminals and their godfathers, especially political leaders sheltering them.

The information being collected through different intelligence and security agencies are being carefully scrutinised ahead of the operation, the sources said.

The Rab unit-6 is under the command of Lt. Col. Emdadul Huq. The unit will have 688 personnel and 644 of them have already joined and the rest 150 in under training in Dhaka. They will join soon.

In last three months, at least 17 murders were committed in Barisal district.

Rupsha Thana OC escapes bomb attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A police officer was luckily saved when three hand bombs exploded near his vehicle in front of Bangmara Primary School on Monday

Officer-in-Charge of Rupsha Thana Shahadat Hossain escaped unhurt when the hand bombs exploded a few yards away from his pickup van at 8:35 pm on the day.

Police Superintendent (SP) Habibur Rahman told this correspondent unidentified miscreants threw four bombs aiming at the moving pick-up van where the OC and four constables were on routine patrol duty. There was no electricity in the area during the incident.

However, none was hurt or no damage to property was made, according to the SP.

The incident created panic in the area. All shops were closed down at Bagmara and Rupsha East. All kinds of transport vehicles remained off the roads on Rupsha-Bagerhat-Mongla route. Three platoons of armed policemen were deployed at Bagmara and Rupsha East for launching bloc raids.

Ferry services from Rupsha East to Khulna city were suspended.

All police stations and outposts in the city and the entire district were put on high alert. OCs and other police officers were asked to crack down on listed criminals and check plying vehicles, if required.

Diarrhoea kills 10 in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

At least 10 people died from diarrhoea and 4,000 were afflicted with the disease in the last few days.

Sources in the Civil Surgeon's office said 1,012 people were attacked with the disease in two days from July 31.

Nandail and Dhubaura upazilas are the worst affected where 107 and 227 people have been attacked respectively.

Five of persons who died from the disease are Siraj Ali, 96, Idris Ali, 74 and Rasheda, 28 of Panihari village in Phulpur upazila; Lima, 9, of Malatipur in Muktagacha upazila. One each died in Dhubaura, Nandail and Haluaghat and two died in Gafargoan upazila but their names were not known.

Civil Surgeon office sources said there is no shortage of oral saline, intravenous injection and other medicines.

A total of 158 medical teams are working in the district, said Civil Surgeon Dr Md Ilyas.

The flood claimed 28 people in the district.

'Barisal political leaders killed by outlaws' Sarbahara leader Selim tells police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Notorious outlaw Selim Sharif during interrogation revealed sensational information about political killings, arms looting and other major crimes in the southern region of the country.

He was interrogated by a team of five officers-in-charge of Kotwali, Uzirpur, Babuganj, Gounadi thanas and Detective Branch (DB) police at the Kotwali thana during remand. Selim made statements under Section 161, police said.

An accused in several cases including seven for murders, Selim was arrested from Hotel Raj in Moghbazar in Dhaka city on July 30 by DB police and sent to Barisal. Selim was taken on three days remand in college student Sumon murder case.

On expiry of his remand on Monday, Selim was produced before court here yesterday for fresh remand.

Police said Selim, a member of the notorious Sarbahara group, confessed his involvement in the murders of college student Sumon and freedom fighter Shahjahan in Babuganj, Jubo Dal

leader and Sarbahara cadre Khokon in Gournadi and arms looting from police in Uttara in Dhaka.

Selim said he was initially involved with local Sarbahara Kamrul Group. After Kamrul's killing, he joined the opponent Sarbahara Zia Group.

He said all the political murders were done on orders from the 'party high command'.

Police said, Selim also gave information about murders of Montu Bepari, Union Parishad chairman and Awami League leader Aboni Baroi, Workers Party leader Hiralal and Babulal Shil. But he denied his involvement in the murders.

He claimed that Aboni was a member of Kamrul group, who later joined the Zia group and murdered Kamrul. So Aboni was killed to retaliate the murder.

Selim said he had demanded toll from Hiralal, but was refused.

So Selim had attacked the house of Hiralal, but received severe electric shock from the electrified security fencing around his (Hiralal's) house. Hiralal was murdered after the incident. Police said they suspect that Hiralal was murdered by Selim.

Selim acknowledged his close ties

with major political party leaders in the region and said Sarbahara leaders of Zia group in Gourmadi and Kamrul group in Babuganj supplied him arms after he organised a separate terrorist gang.

But the arms were returned to the suppliers after 'operations' and he possessed no firearm, he said.

Selim told police that Manik of Mankkati, Jalil of Agorpur, Hemayet of Isaldi, Habul and Lalon of Narayanpur were his close associates.

Police suspects that Selim was also involved in robberies at Shikarpur and Torki Bandar.

Selim said constable Golam Dastagir, who was in the police patrol team from which he and his men had snatched arms in Uttara in Dhaka is a brother of Sarbahara cadre Mamun. Mamun helped them establish contact with police, Selim claimed. Constable Dastagir is now in custody.

Later talking to some journalists at the Kotwali thana, Selim however declined divulging all the information to police during interrogation.

Police prepared a statement and tortured him to say that this was his statement, Selim claimed.

ALLEGED ILLEGAL APPOINTMENTS

CUTA prepares to go to court

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong University Teachers' Association (CUTA) will go for legal action against all "illegal appointments" in CU made during past two years "violating the CU Act of 1973".

"We are preparing documents to go to court to challenge appointment of around 54 teachers violating rules", said CUTA General Secretary Prof Dr Gazi Saleh Uddin at a press conference here on Monday.

He claimed that the CU authorities appointed 110 teachers in different departments in the last two years. Of them, 54 were appointed without advertisement in newspaper. This is

violation of Section 11 (4) of the CU Act, he said in a written statement read out at the press conference.

Among others, CUTA President Prof Dr. Nurul Anwar, Vice-president Towhid Hossain Chowdhury, Joint Secretary Abdul Haq, Dean of Social Science Prof Dr. Moinul Islam, former general secretary of CUTA Helal Uddin Nizami, Dr. Gholam Kibria Bhuiyan and Delwar Hossain Arif were present.

The CUTA leaders said they will launch a tougher agitation including indefinite strike to stop such appointments.

The CU is plagued with nepotism and political appointments since the present government took over in 2002,

they alleged. The Vice Chancellor is trying to promote a Jamaat-e-Islami backed teacher at Geography department by violating rules.

He also demanded immediate election of VC Panel through Senate.

The CUTA leaders also informed that the a court in Chittagong on August 31 imposed an injunction on appointment of three lecturers in Economics department as the university authorities failed to give reply before the court by the scheduled time.

Jhalakathi poura polls result canceled Winner candidate loan defaulter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The High Court has cancelled the election of BNP leader Halim Gazi as chairman of Jhalakathi municipality as he was a loan defaulter.

The election was held on May 9.

The verdict followed a writ petition by Awami League leader Afzal Hossain Rana who lost the polls to Halim Gazi.

A Division Bench of the High Court comprising Justice Joynul Abedin and

Justice Sharifuddin Chaklader in a verdict on Sunday declared the polls null and void, according to a fax message received here from Rana's attorney Barrister Md Moksedul Islam.

Halim Gazi was declared elected on May 10. His nearest rival Rana lodged a writ petition on May 22 with the High Court claiming that Halim Gazi was not eligible to contest the polls as he was a loan defaulter and prayed for cancellation of the polls result.

The High Court issued an injunction

on oath-taking by Halim Gazi.

Halim Gazi appealed to the Supreme Court against the HC order. The Supreme Court sent the case back to the HC on July 23 for disposal.

After rearing the case on July 26, the HC Bench declared the election null and void as the winner candidate was not eligible to contest the polls because he was loan defaulter.

When contacted, Halim Gazi said he will appeal to the Supreme Court against the HC order.

Gona Forum General Secretary Pankaj Bhattachariya addressing a rally of aboriginal people at Talki playground in Modhupur on Monday.

Eco-Park project will be resisted, rally in Modhupur told

JAHANGIR ALAM back from Modhupur (Tangail)

Netrakona: Aboriginal people will resist the government's planned Eco-Park in Modhupur forests, speakers said at a big rally held at Talki playground in Modhupur on Monday.

Several thousand aboriginal people from different areas of Tangail attended the rally, addressed by their leaders and representatives of different political parties and organisations.

The speakers said aboriginal people have a different culture but some vested quarters backed by the government are now active to "displace them from their ancestral homes and destroy them in the name of Eco-Park".

They also demanded punishment of the killers of Garo youth Piren Snaal and condemned the arrested of aboriginal leaders.

Gona Forum General Secretary Pankaj Bhattachariya was the chief guest at the rally, presided over by Albert Mankin, Co-convenor of Aboriginal Land and Environment Preservation Committee.

It was also addressed by, among others, Dhaka University teacher

Mejbahuddin Kamal, Bangladesh Adibasi Forum General Secretary Sanjib Dring, Modhupur Upazila Tribal Welfare Association Chairman Uzine Nokrak and women aboriginal leader Rakhi Miron.

Pankaj Bhattachariya told the rally that that Eco-Park project is not for welfare of aboriginal people.

"This is designed for the benefit of minister and their relatives and friends who will get contracts for the project work."

"They will plunder the forest resources", he alleged.

Had the government any plan to do good to the aboriginal people, it would have involved them in the project, he said.

On the contrary, the aboriginal people are being accused in false cases in large numbers, he alleged. Police are now hunting down and harassing aboriginal leaders.

Pankaj said, "One Piren has been killed. If necessary 25,000 aboriginal people will sacrifice their lives but not allow the Eco-Part in Modhupur".

Mejbahuddin Kamal said conscious and peace loving people of the country are with the aboriginal people in their

fight against oppression. Any attempt to displace the aboriginal people from their ancestral abodes will be resisted, he added.

Sanjib Dring said Modhupur forests belong to the aboriginal people and none will be able to displace them from the area or harm them in any way. Any plan for the area must be by them and for them. Otherwise, nothing will be allowed, he added.

Uzine Nokrak called upon the aboriginal people to unite to resist Eco-Park project.

Albert Mankin said that a representative of aboriginal people will meet the Minister for Forest and Environment soon and place some demands. If the demands are not met, a greater movement will be launched.

The rally was held amid tight security by police, who virtually cordoned the venue.

Mankin alleged that police and ruling party men tried to foil the rally by obstructing people from attending it.

But the large gathering has proved that the aboriginal people are conscious of their rights and determined to protect those.

Tk 1 cr toll for Tk 10 cr work!

Rangamati road work suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The road renovation work from Ranirhat to the district town is suspended for about 20 days as extortionists demanded Tk one crore toll from the contractor, it is alleged.

Sources claimed that a gang known as 'town group' backed by a political party based in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) demanded the toll.

The Tk 10 crore work for renovating 26 kilometre road was started in April last year and was scheduled to be completed last month.

Workers are now sitting idle at their sheds, the sources said.

A local sub-contractor is doing the work on behalf of the main contractor M/S Taher and Brothers, a Dhaka-based construction firm, the sources said.

"We have reached an understanding with the group to resume work after payment of Tk 5 lakh", a source close to the contractor said yesterday. "We are now hoping to resume work soon".

Sources in the Roads and Highways (R&H) Department admitted that the project work is stopped but declined to say anything about

the reason.

"The contractor has to spent a huge amount of money to feed 30 to 40 laborers every day without work", an official at the R&H office said.

Earlier, the same group abducted a contractor, Md Abul Hashem, from his K K Roy Sarak residence about one and a half years ago. He was freed after payment of Tk 5 lakh, sources close to Hashem's family had said.

The group also abducted a laborer as a contractor engaged for construction of the Rangamati Stadium did not pay toll. The labourer was freed after toll payment.



PHOTO: STAR

CARE Bangladesh distributing food among the flood victims at Manda Haider Ali School, Dhaka, left, while BMA President and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Vice-Chancellor Professor MA Hadi, distributing relief goods among the flood-hit people of Char Algi Union in Gaforgaon, Mymensingh recently, right.