

Landless evicted to rehabilitate landless!

A CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

About 300 people of 65 families, most of them belonging to Hindu and indigenous communities, have been evicted from a 10-acre government land in Mostafapur union in Parbatipur upazila for a rehabilitation project for the landless.

The eviction at Baradal village took place on Wednesday.

This correspondent along with a group of newsmen visited the area yesterday and on Thursday and talked to some of the victims,

now under the open sky in nearby areas. All the evicted people are poor and landless.

They said they had been living in the government land for about 40 years. On Wednesday, about 150 people led by Mostafapur Union Parishad chairman and BNP leader Samsuddin Mondal swooped on their houses. They also looted some of houses and forcibly evicted them from the area, saying that a rehabilitation project for landless people will be built there.

The eviction at Baradal village took place on Wednesday.

This correspondent along with a group of newsmen visited the area yesterday and on Thursday and talked to some of the victims,

They also claimed that a Magistrate and some policemen were present when the eviction took place.

They alleged that they were not given any prior notice to leave the area. But some musclemen of the UP chairman threatened them earlier to vacate the lands, they alleged.

The evicted families include those of Bara Harish, Nikhil, Mrinal, Shubash, Dhalu, Dut Kumar, Shotosh, Khargo, Dhannajoy, Parash, Debendra,

Dizen, Manik, Butha, Kali Pada Abinash, Choita, Ratan Singh, Atul, Bablu, Dulal, Jithu Murmu, Raban Kisku, Balu Maddi, Shufal Maddi and Sulza Maddi.

When contact, UP chairman Samsuddin Modal told this correspondent that every thing was done as per an order from the Deputy Commissioner's office. The government lands will be used for an Abashan Prokolpa (rehabilitation project) where about 150 homeless families will rehabilitate.

When contacted, Dinajpur

Deputy Commissioner Shurut Jaman said he has asked Parbotipur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Sharifuddin Ahmed to visit the spot. He said there is a plan for a rehabilitation project on the land.

Parbotipur UNO Sharifuddin Ahmed, when contacted, said he visited the spot and talked to the evicted people. He said he will take steps to arrange a shelter for them.

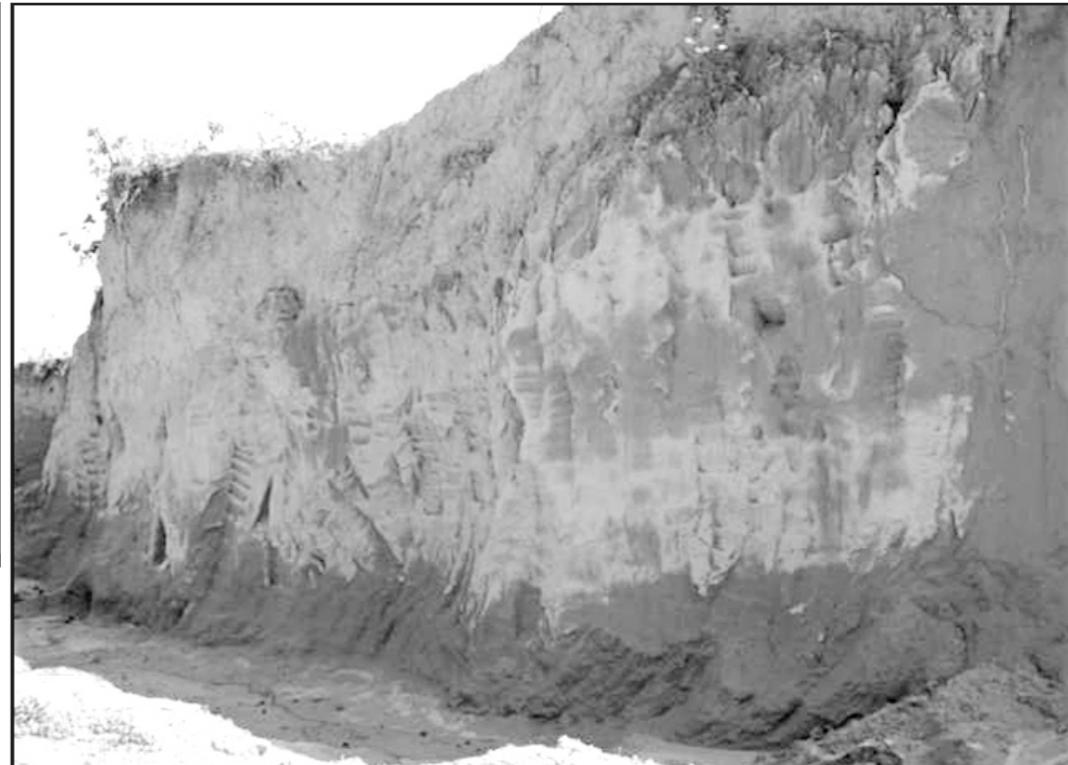


PHOTO: STAR

A ravaged hill on the Srimangal-Shayestaganj roadside at Shatgaon in Moulvibazar district after earth-cutting.

WEDNESDAY'S ATTACK BY JANAJUDDHO

Another BNP leader dies in Chuadanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtha*

Another Chuadanga BNP leader, Zillur Rahman, 32, injured in Wednesday's attack died at Chuadanga Sadar Hospital on Thursday.

Earlier, Noor Ali, vice-president of Chuadanga district BNP and general secretary of Chuadanga Union Parishad Association (UPA), died from injuries in the same attack. He was also chairman of Sangkarchanda Union Parishad in Chuadanga Sadar upazila.

Janajuddho faction of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) claimed responsibility for the killings.

In protest against the killings,

ruling BNP observed a half-day hartal in Chuadanga on Thursday and demanded removal of Chuadanga Police Superintendent Md. Sarwar and officer-in-charge (OC) of Sadar police station Nazrul Islam Mollah.

On Thursday, thousands of leaders and activists of ruling BNP brought out protest rally in Chuadanga town.

In a statement local BNP joint secretary Sardar Ali Hossain criticised the district police authorities for their negligence in duty and demanded removal of the SP and the OC.

Police could not arrest any of the killers till yesterday.

Janajuddho, in a statement

signed by its 'regional leader' Dipok Roy, faxed to local daily Mathabangla office claimed responsibility for the murders. It said they have been murdered to "avenge the killings of their party men in so-called 'crossfire' launched by the four party alliance government".

The outlawed party said Noor Ali was a 'social enemy' and threatened of more such killings in the southwestern region of the country.

A case was filed with the Sadar police station in connection with the murdered.

When contacted, Assistant Police Superintendent (ASP) of Chuadanga circle Jotindranath Poddar said they are trying to nab

the killers. In another incident, Janajuddho cadres shot dead their 'rival' at Changamari village in Gangi upazila in Meherpur district Wednesday night.

The dead was identified as Maniruzzaman alias Lalu, 38.

Janajuddho, in another statement faxed to local newspapers, claimed responsibility for the killing and said Lalu was a police informer.

Police said Janajuddho men stormed into the house of Lalu at about 9.30 pm and called him out. They took Lalu on a road and shot him, killing him on the spot.

Police said Lalu was also a cadre of Janajuddho and accused in several criminal cases.

Search for Bidisha's account in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

A search is going on to find out any bank account of Bidisha, former wife of Jatiya Party chief H M Ershad started in Khulna on Wednesday.

The search began after a directive from the Bangladesh Bank authorities, said a deputy general manager (DGM) of a state-owned bank here on condition of anonymity. Government needs her bank account in connection with a case filed with Gulshan Police Station recently under Money Laundering Act.

No case can be filed against anyone unless and until the court is provided with full and concrete documents along with clearance from the Bangladesh Bank, said an informed source.

Because of mistake by a police officer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

A young man was illegally confined in Jessore Kotwali Police Station for over 60 hours for a mistake of a town sub-inspector (TSI).

Family sources said TSI Siraj arrested Golam Mustafa of Bejpara Taltala area in Jessore town on Friday morning. When asked, Siraj told Mustafa's parents he was arrested in connection with a court conviction in a criminal case. The police officer became furious when they told him there is no case against Mustafa for which he would be convicted.

Later, it was confirmed after a thorough investigation that it was another Mustafa who was wanted following a court verdict.

There is nothing wrong in our action, Jessore Kotwali Police Station OC Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal said. It happened because of similarity in name, he said.

42 acid attacks in Dinajpur in 2 years

A CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

Forty-two cases of acid attacks have been recorded in the district in last two years.

This has been disclosed at a meeting titled, 'Create Mass Awareness Among People' held at Dinajpur Press Club on Monday.

The Acid Survivors' Foundation (ASF) organised the meeting presided over by Press Club president Chitta Ghosh.

The speakers of the meeting stressed on creating mass awareness among people against acid violence.

Dinajpur deputy commissioner (DC) Md Surut Zaman was present at the meeting as chief guest while Dinajpur Nagarik Committee convener Mirza Anwarul Islam was present as special guest.

The DC lauded the role of ASF to combat acid violence. He assured his all-out help to stop acid violence in the district.

V-SAT to be set up at RUET

RU CORRESPONDENT

A sophisticated V-SAT will be set up at Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (RUET).

The decision was taken in a special Syndicate meeting held at its conference room on Monday.

RUET vice chancellor Prof Dr AFM Anwarul Haque presided over the meeting.

A decision to set up a modern PABX was also taken at the meeting.

Among others, Rajshahi University vice chancellor (VC) Prof Dr Altaf Hossain, Kushtia University VC Prof Rafiqul Islam, Prof Dr Faruque Ahmed of BUET, chairman of Advanced Development Technologies SM Anwar Hossain, Rajshahi education board chairman (in-charge) Prof Enamul Haque, Prof Rezaul Karim Talukder, attended the meeting.

Hill cutting threatens environment, forests

Road block from landslide feared in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Moulvibazar*

Indiscriminate hill cutting in different areas of Moulvibazar district, particularly in tea garden areas and reserve forests is destroying forest resources and the ecology.

With the onset of monsoon, this will accentuate landslides, which will block roads. Landslides often claim lives.

But it is going on unabated despite protests by environmentalists and local people in many areas.

Sources said some organised syndicates are involved in the business. They sell earth used for filling up low lying areas and marshy lands.

As per law, hill cutting is prohibited. But the unscrupulous people

'manage' some people in the administration and continue the illegal act.

Though hill cutting is illegal, trucks or tractors carrying earth from hills to different areas is now a common sight in Moulvibazar. The administration plays a role of a silent spectator, sources concerned said while talking to this correspondent.

There are more than 100 tea gardens in Sadar, Rajnagar, Kulaura, Juri, Baralekh, Kamalganj and Srimangal upazilas of the district. Most of the garden areas are very rich in forest resources. But these are being destroyed only due to indiscriminate hill cutting. Landslides often block roads in the areas.

Contractors come to an area and engage their men in cutting earth from hills, saying they have bought the earth and have taken permission from the authorities, the local people said.

Rakub manager ignores Artha Rin Adalot order

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Nilphamari*

The Dimla branch manager of Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (Rakub) is still in service ignoring an order of 'Artha Rin Adalot' judge issued two months ago.

Judge Md Samsuzzaman issued a directive to the general manager (GM) of Rakub on April 23 to take action against branch manager Abdur Rahman for alleged involvement in various irregularities in the bank. The irregularities were detected while he was verifying a case proceeding filed by Rakub for realisation of loan of a client.

The 'corrupt' bank manager appeared before the court on Tuesday and begged pardon.

While contacted on Sunday, Rakub zonal manager ATM Mostafa Kamal said strong action would be taken against the aforesaid manager after the June closing period. 'If necessary cases will be filed against him', he added. He further said he had already formed a one-member probe team with senior principal officer (SPO) Tohidul Islam as the committee head to investigate into the irregularities and corrupt activities of the branch.

However, the loan defaulter, Abdul Mannan, son of Abul Kasem of Baburhat village in Dimla informed the court he had repaid a portion of his loan and possessed the bank receipt. But the bank authority did not enter it in the bank ledger and 'defalcated' it, he said.

The bank also demanded interest against the loan which he had already paid, Mannan said. His claim was proved to be true by the court. The court directed the bank authorities to submit the corrected position of defaulter's account. The court also directed Mannan to repay rest of the loan.

Meanwhile, thousands of people brought out a procession and besieged the branch on Monday. They handed over a memorandum to Dimla upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) Md Mezbahu Alam. They complained of various corrupt activities in the branch and harassment by a section of its officers and employees. The UNO assured his best effort to remove corruption from the branch.

Backyard orchards planned in CHT

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bandarban*

The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Affairs Ministry has taken up a project to help people raise 'backyard orchards and forestry' in the three hill districts.

Sources in the ministry said the decision was taken to create self-employment and preserve the biodiversity in hills, affected by repeated Jhum cultivation.

The project will encourage hill people to go for orchards and vegetable cultivation in same lands instead of destroying forests every year for Jhum cultivation, a tradition

Eviction drive on DND dam stops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Narayanganj*

An eviction drive to remove illegal structures from Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra (DND) embankment and surrounding areas has been stopped after three days of its launching following alleged resistance by about 50 land grabbers.

They have established unauthorised industries on the land, local people alleged.

The drive was initiated by Sadar upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) Faiz Ahmed on June 15 in a bid to remove water-logging from the area.

About 150 small shops and houses of poor people built illegally on the land were demolished in the three days.

However, many illegal factories built on the Post Office Road and in



Tk 1 cr touchstone statue recovered

A CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

A touchstone statue weighing 20 kilogram worth about Tk one crore was recovered by Dinajpur DB police Wednesday night.

Tipped-off, DB police raided the house of one Jamal Uddin in Shighazani village in Birgonj upazila and recovered the statue. Jamal Uddin was not present at his home.

Police later said the statue was kept there for smuggling. Jamal Uddin could be a member of a statue smugglers' gang.

A case also filed with Birgonj police station accusing Jamal Uddin.

AL rally attacked: 5 hurt in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Manikganj*

Five Awami League (AL) activists were injured by the ruling party activists in an attack on a party rally held here on Thursday.

The rally was organised to mark the 56th founding anniversary of the party.

The injured persons are Ratu, Kalu, Khokon, Zia and Rahman.

Party sources said they were injured when they were coming to attend the rally held at Sabis Auditorium in the town.

AL leaders condemned the attack and urged the party leaders and activists to oust the BNP-Jamaat coalition government.

Former district unit president of the party Moslem Uddin Khan (Habu Mia) presided over the rally. Among others, party's youth and sports affairs secretary Dewan Shafiq Arefin Tulul, district senior leaders Gazi Kamru Huda Selim, Meer Anwar Hossain Ratan, Abdul Mazid Photo and Dipak Ghosh addressed the rally.

More 26,000 digital phones in Sylhet division by December

RAJAT KANTI GOSWAMI, *Moulvibazar*

More 26,000 digital telephone connections will be given in Sylhet city and in 31 upazilas in Sylhet division by December.

Construction of telephone exchange buildings and installation of lines are going on in 21 upazilas and will be completed by this time, sources in Bangladesh Telephone and Telegraph Board (BTTB) in Sylhet told this correspondent recently.

They said 2000 digital telephone connections will be given soon from Alampur telephone exchange in South Surma upazila and another 1000 from Tajpur exchange in Balaganj upazila.

Installation of 4500 digital lines under Taltola exchange in Sylhet city is expected to be completed by next month, they said.

More 25,000 lines will be given from Shibgonj exchange in Sylhet city and the work is going on in full swing