

# Road blockade by indigenous people begins in Khagrachhari

## Call to recover land of hill people from 'outsiders'

A CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

An indefinite blockade of Khagrachhari-Mohalchhari-Rangamati road, called by Zilla Nagorik Committee and Jumma Janagon Forum, began in the district yesterday.

Both the bodies of the local indigenous people enforced it demanding withdrawal of Bangalees from the land of hill people at Gamaridala, Etchhari in Kamalchhari union and Khagrachhari Sadar union.

The local political organisations, PCJSS and UPDF extended support to the programme. All kinds of vehicles stopped movement causing sufferings to people in Rangamati, Mohalchhari and Khagrachhari.

However, there was no untoward incident as police and army were on alert.

Local sources said more than 30 Bangalee families are now building houses on the land of indigenous people.

Leaders of the forums Perachhara Union Parishad (UP) chairman Biva Bashu Dewan, Khagrachhari Sadar union chairman Babu Priti Bindu Dewan, Headman Babu Druva Ranjan Dewan, Nagorik Committee Secretary Santushita Chakma (Bakul) JSS Khagrachhari unit Secretary Rosomoy Chakma earlier on February 6 met with Deputy Commissioner Md Humain Kabir and urged him to take necessary action . They urged him to recover land from illegal occupiers and stop leasing of land to outsiders.

The Bangalee settlers informed this correspondent that they have legal documents of land.

PROBE REPORT  
Paikgachha OC accused of poaching deer in Sundarbans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Enamul Huq, officer-in-charge (OC) of Paikgachha police station of Khulna district has been accused of entering the Sundarbans on January 19 along with 35 persons including his family members and two BNP leaders without prior permission from authorities concerned of the Sundarban Forest Division (SFD). The accusation was made in the probe report submitted to the Conservator of Forests, Md Altaf Hossain.

It has been alleged in the report that OC Enamul Huq during his Sundarbans trip poached nine deer with the help of his men at Kashiabad police outpost in Koira upazila. He took policemen of the outpost with him on pretext of arresting criminals from the forest.

When asked, Khulna Range DIG Noor Mohammad told this correspondent that action will be taken against OC Enamul Huq after having probe report of the Forest Department.

OC Enamul, who allegedly entered the Sundarbans also without any permission from his superior officers, refused to comment, when asked about the probe report.



PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Road digging near the Laldighi Maidan in Chittagong city goes on defying a ban on such work in the daytime. The authorities do not care even to warn the pedestrians or protect them from risks.

# 4 lathe workshop owners held as JMB suspects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Detective Police in a drive Thursday midnight arrested four owners of lathe workshop from their houses in Khulna city suspecting them as JMB cadres.

The drive followed confessional statement of Ataur Rahman Sunny, younger brother of Shaikh Abdur Rahman.

The arrested were identified as Md Abbasuddin of Momata Engineering' Mirza Wadudalias Hanif of Al-Amin Engineering, Shaikh Abu Zafar of Murad Engineering and Nazir Ansari of Lions Engineering, all situated at Khulna Power House Road. They were sent to court on Friday. A petition was submitted yesterday to CMM court praying

to take the arrestees on remand for 10 days.

Ataur Rahman Sunny disclosed in his statement under Section 164 CrPc that he came to Khulna in 2002 and worked in one of the lathe workshops for sometime.

Sunny further told the court that he had learnt how to make gun during training period in the said lathe workshops.

When asked, Deputy commissioner (HQ) Akbar Ali of Khulna Metropolitan Police said AC of Detective Branch Zahur Chowdhury has been sent to Dhaka to obtain a copy of Sunny's confessional statement.

'We have to reconfirm Sunny's statement about involvement of four arrestees in JMB activities', said Akbar Ali.

# Four get life for killing child

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A court here on Tuesday sentenced four people to life term imprisonment for killing a child after abduction on June 23 in 2002.

The convicts are Noor Banu, 16, daughter of Zafar Alam, Gias Uddin, son of Bacha Miah, Enamul Haque, 30, and Zohora Khatun, 60.

They killed Jidan Das, 6, son of Mrittuonjoi Das of Digorpankhali village in Chakaria upazila.

# Garpara Ashura programme ends

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A 10-day Ashura programme ended at Garpara Imam Bari Darbar Sharif here on Friday.

The programmes included 'Marsia', 'Matom', 'Milad Mahfil and discussion on the lives and sacrifices of the Imams (R) who embraced martyrdom in Karbala for the cause of justice.

In observance of Ashura, a five-kilometre 'Tazia' procession was also brought out in the town. Darbar Sharif Peer Shah Mokhlesur Rahman Pannu led the procession.

# Bid to extract rock from quarry with banned machine

## Locals resist cine star Dipzol, his men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The people of Panchagarh district have resisted a bid of cine star Monowar Hossain Dipzol to extract rock by using 'banned' drill dredger machine.

Although Dipzol and his men suspended their work in face of agitation, it was apprehended that they might come again and start their work. In such a situation a fierce clash may occur any moment.

Sources said, cinema villain Dipzol came to Tentulia recently with documents from the Ministry of Mineral Resources to take lease of a rock quarry in the name of one Khandker Obaidur Rahman.

At noon on Thursday, Dipzol went to the site at Vojonpur village with his big group, comprising people from both Dhaka and Panchagarh, to extract rock with banned drill dredger machine from the Dahuknadi riverbed.

At that time local people protested the bid as the government had banned extraction of rocks

with heavy drill dredger machine to protect ecology.

In face of local people's resistance, Dipzol and his men retreated but they threatened to come again saying, they have permission from the authorities.

Sources said, Dipzol purchased six acres of land in the area only to stockpile extracted rocks.

Local people organised a protest meeting at Vojonpur intersection. Speakers in the meeting vowed to resist Dipzol's bid to extract rocks at any cost. Former Vozonpur Union Parishad (UP) chairman presided over the meeting.

In response to local people's prayer to protect environment and following reports in national dailies, the government had banned rock extraction in the Panchagarh district with heavy drill dredger machine.

But it remained a mystery as to how could anybody obtain permission of the concerned ministry to extract rocks inspite of the government ban.



PHOTO: STAR

ED Brandt, managing director of Haripur Power Limited, also a donor to the Diabetic Society, Nilphamari, assisted by local lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor, distributing warm clothes among the beneficiaries of the society at a school in the district town on Saturday.



PHOTO: STAR

A human chain was formed near the Bibir Pukur in Barisal town yesterday protesting earth-filling of the historic pond.

10X8