

Road blockade by indigenous people begins in Khagrachhari

Call to recover land of hill people from 'outsiders'

A CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

An indefinite blockade of Khagrachari-Mohalchhari-Rangamati road, called by Zilla Nagrik 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, Etchhara in Kamalchhari union and Khagrachhari Sadarunion.

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.

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 Kashiabab police outpost in Koira upazila. He took policemen of the outpost with him on pretext of arresting criminals from the forest.

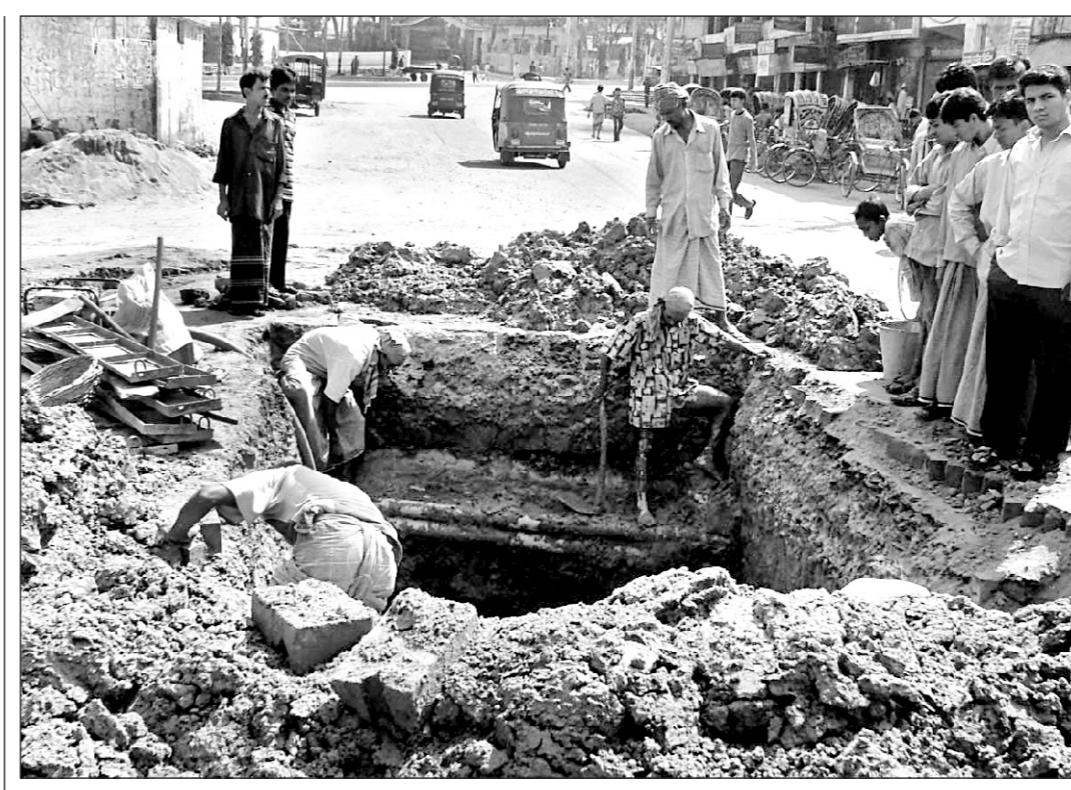
When asked, Khulna Range DIG Noor Mohammad told this correspondent that action will be taken against OC Enamul Huq after having probe report of the Forest Department.

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

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, Khagrachari Sadar union chairman Babu Priti Bindu Dewan, Headman Babu Druva Ranjan Dewan, Nagrik Committee Secretary Santushti Chakma (Bakul) JSS Khagrachari 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.



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.

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 Mrittunjoji Das of Dighorpankhali village in Chakaria upazila.

Garpura Ashura programme ends

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A 10-day Ashura programme ended at Garpura 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 Pannulu 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.



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