

## Jubo League men attack houses in Barguna

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Barisal

A group of Jubo League (JL) cadres, who were hired by a disputed land claimer, attacked and looted the house of his opponent yesterday.

The JL cadres also slaughtered a cow of the victims and arranged a feast at Ultakhali village under Amtali upazila of Barguna district.

Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Amtali Police Station, told The Daily Star over phone that two families of Golam Mustafa Howladar and Salam

Zomaddar have been locked in a land dispute since long.

Salam hired JL cadres led by Moazzem Hossain, upazila JL president, to take control of the disputed land.

Accordingly a group of JL cadres riding on 15/20 motorcycles attacked the house of Mustafa and took the possession of the disputed land.

But being failed to enter the brick-built house of Mustafa the cadres looted cash and other valuables including documents of properties from the house of Sona Mia Howladar, brother of Mustafa.

The attackers also slaughtered a cow of Mustafa and arranged a feast on the spot in open daylight.

The OC was also assaulted by the miscreants when he visited the place at about 3:30pm.

When contacted, upazila Awami League President G M Delwar refused to make any comment on the atrocities of JL cadres and told this correspondent that he visited the spot with other party leaders to compromise the matter.

Acknowledging the facts, Barguna Police Super Siddique Tanzilur Rahman told The Daily Star that police brought the situation under control with the help of AL leaders and escorted the victims to police station.

## Govt to buy 100 buses for BRTC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is set to buy 100 new buses for the Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC).

Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain yesterday approved the 'Notification of Tender Award' to the supplying organisations who would purchase the 52-seated 100 buses, which will ply the city roads, at the cost of Tk 33 crore, sources in the ministry said.

The buses would be handed over to the BRTC authorities within two or three months, they added.



National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports brings out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the police action on a precession of the committee on Wednesday.

## MISAPPROPRIATION OF RICE

# UP chairman forced to buy rice for VGF cardholders

A CORRESPONDENT,  
Madaripur

Mostafapur union parishad (UP) chairman in Madaripur was forced to distribute rice among 500 Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) cardholders on Thursday after they laid siege to the UP Bhaban on charges of selling a major portion of rice.

The VGF cardholders brought an allegation of mis-

appropriation against UP Chairman Kazi Abul Bashar.

The chairman, however, was compelled to buy rice from the marketplace under pressure and distributed them among the cardholders.

Sources said Bashar, who is a Rakan of Jamaat, drew 20 metric tonnes of rice for distribution among 2,000 VGF cardholders on Wednesday, but distributed the food grains to 1,200 people only.

The next day, the stock of rice ran out after distribution of the rice among only 300 people, which prompted the remaining 500 cardholders to stage an angry demonstration in the afternoon.

The agitating people then

laid siege to the UP Bhaban when the chairman was in the office. Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

The chairman finally purchased 17 sacks of rice from the marketplace and distributed the rice among the 500 cardholders.

The recipients alleged that from the beginning, they were given rice eight to nine kilograms, but under the social safety-net programme, each cardholder is supposed to get 10 kilograms of rice.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Siddique Rahman said he has already issued a notice asking the UP chairman to show cause within seven days.



Students of ABC School plant a tree on the school premises in the city as part of 'DHL Volunteer Day' programmes on Thursday.

## BNP leader sued for war crimes in Habiganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A case for war crime was filed against a BNP leader in Habiganj district on Thursday.

Md Arju Miah, 60, of village Jalsukha under Ajmiriganj upazila filed the case against BNP leader Abul Fazal Talukder and his companions.

In the case, Arju alleged that as members of Rajakar Bahini the accused attacked his house and took away valuables from there on November 14, 1971.

Besides, they helped Pak army in killing a valiant freedom fighter Jagat Jyoti Das, chief of 'Das Bahini', at Kaiair bil area on November 16.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Sadique Rahman asked the officer-in-charge of Ajmiriganj Police Station for taking legal action in connection with the complaint.

## DHL Volunteer Day observed

METRO DESK

DHL, a leading logistics company, observed the 'DHL Volunteer Day' in Dhaka on Thursday, says a press release.

The 'DHL Volunteer Day', a community outreach programme involving over 15,000 employees across Asia Pacific, Africa, Europe and Latin America, is aimed at encouraging the spirit of volunteerism among the DHL employees.

Over 30 staffs actively participated in the daylong volunteering programme at the ABC School, a primary school for the unprivileged children, at Bashundhara Residential Area in Dhaka.

The programmes included vaccination for the school children, distribution of uniforms, art competition and tree plantation.

Mustaque Ahmed, managing director, DHL Global Forwarding Bangladesh, said, "We, at DHL, believe that our employees are the main strength of our organisation. Every single employee, both individually and collectively, can play an important role in the betterment of the society."

"People are the greatest resource of any business. As a company, we can create a positive impact and I am confident that our team here will play a role in enriching the communities in which we live in," said Stanford Tabarias, general manager, DHL Supply Chain Bangladesh.

## FF family harassed for extortion

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Lalmonirhat

A freedom fighter and his family members are being harassed by some local miscreants for extortion in Lalmonirhat.

Nuh Alam Khan of Apon Gram village has been asked by the miscreants to pay them Tk 2 lakh in toll.

As Nuh refused to pay, the gang members identifying themselves as Awami League men assaulted him physically on Tuesday last.

He also alleged that the miscreants led by Babu Manju are also abusing them whenever they go out of their house.

Nuh retired as custom traffic inspector of Chittagong port on May 11 of this year.

He filed a written complaint about the incident with Sadar Police Station on Thursday noon but it was not

recorded as a case due to unknown reason.

"As my case was not recorded I, along with my family members, am feeling insecure and the miscreants may attack us again at any moment," Nuh told this correspondent.

On the other hand local people alleged that Nuh beat the Imam of local mosque Maulana Mozammel Haque when he went to his house on Monday for a donation.

Mozammel is now under treatment in sadar hospital.

When contacted, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Lalmonirhat Sadar Police Station Foyezur Rahman said he will take necessary action after investigating the complaint filed by Nuh.

The OC said there is also a written allegation against Nuh who had allegedly assaulted the Imam and it will also be investigated.

## CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUE

# Role of media lauded

BSS, Dhaka

A senior official of UN climate change convention lauded the role of the media in turning complicated climate jargon into useable information product, making them understandable for local people.

"On climate issue, we generate a lot of information and some are very much complicated for common people to understand," said Festus Luboyera, programme officer of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

"So, I am very excited to see that a group of people plays role in turning the information into product so that people can use the information," he said.

Festus was addressing the concluding session of the three-day 18th Congress of Asia-Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists (APFEJ) and 5th Meeting of World Water Forum of Journalists (WWFJ) with the

theme 'Reaching Copenhagen Climate Summit and Beyond: Role of Media' at the National Press Club in the city on Thursday.

He said without media's active and innovative role across the world to transform the jargons into communicable messages, the information would only be preserved in files and directories.

The three-day congress concluded with adopting the Dhaka declaration, in which the APFEJ and WWFJ committed to undertake activities to make the role of media much stronger in addressing the issues with regards to climate change in future.

With Chairman of APFEJ and Secretary General of WWFJ Qamrul Islam Chowdhury in the chair, the function was addressed by former climate negotiators of Bangladesh in the UNFCCC Qamar Munir and Mohammad Reazuddin and newly elected secretary general of APFEJ Navo Joyti Thakuria.

## Muggers active around banks

FROM PAGE 16

Simultaneously they are trying to crack down on criminals at their village homes, he said.

The muggers who swoop on bank clients mostly hail from Comilla and Barisal districts and stay at residential hotels in the capital, he added.

They have already identified six such gangs, each having at least eight muggers on average.

DB sources, however, said law enforcers are yet to trace out the gangs of muggers involved in recent 10 incidents of mugging.

Nasir, the assistant commissioner, said earlier muggers used to rob people inside banks. They applied distraction technique; they just grabbed the money and ran away.

But in recent times muggers have used motorbikes and firearms while snatching and very often they succeed in

evading the law enforcers.

After a transaction of a large sum of money informers inside the bank inform the gang members waiting outside on motorbikes. As the client comes out they follow him and at a convenient place they snatch the money at gunpoint, he said.

The muggers generally do not commit the crime near the bank, as law enforcers in both uniform and plainclothes are deployed in and around the city banks. So the special team of DB set up their check posts at the strategic points in the capital, he said.

For instance, he described an incident of mugging when two muggers snatched Tk 6.32 lakh from employees of the Benevolent Textile Services in Ramna area on July 27.

During the incident the muggers on a motorbike followed the employees who

drew the money from the Motijheel branch of Standard Chartered Bank and were heading towards Moghbazar. The muggers stopped them in Ramna area and snatched the money at gunpoint.

Bank client sources said some criminals also deceive traders and businessmen through forging bank pay orders.

A gang cheated an engine oil company of around nine-lakh taka through a fake pay order on July 16 in Gulshan.

The business firm filed a case with the Gulshan Police Station in this connection.

According to the case statement a fraud received 30 drums of engine oil worth over Tk 8.73 lakh against a pay order of Sonali Bank but while the pay order was sent to Baridhara branch of Sonali Bank it said the pay order was fake.

## IMF sees global recovery

FROM PAGE 16

"Greater clarity in communicating policy intentions to the public is also essential to shore up confidence," he said.

Strauss-Kahn was due to travel to London later Friday for a two-day meeting of finance chiefs from the Group of 20 developed and developing countries in advance of a September 24-25 summit in the northeastern US city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The global recovery, Strauss-Kahn said, would likely be "relatively sluggish," with unemployment continuing to rise through next year.

"A jobless recovery remains a risk. Having so many people out of work has significant economic costs, ranging from lower private demand to a decline in potential growth if structural unemployment

risers," he said.

"The social consequences are potentially even more worrisome."

Regulatory reform momentum was lackluster, he noted, urging countries to avoid "complacency" as financial markets improve.

"The reform effort is not proceeding as quickly as is necessary to address the problems raised by the crisis," he said.

The IMF managing director addressed concerns about the international monetary system and the dollar's role as the world's reserve currency in the wake of the financial crisis.

Critics have noted the role of the dollar may have been "undermined" by US economic and financial troubles, he acknowledged.

"Note, however, that the US dollar actually strengthened

during the crisis. In my view, this reflects the dollar's status as an unrivaled safe haven asset," said Strauss-Kahn.

Recent proposals have called for the creation of a new world reserve currency, possibly based on the IMF's composite currency, the SDR, or special drawing rights.

"Another possibility, and perhaps the least unlikely alternative, is for a multi-reserve currency system to emerge, with currencies like the euro, the yen and even the renminbi (Chinese yuan) serving as co-equal anchors," Strauss-Kahn said.

The IMF chief said the 186-nation institution could do more to support the international monetary system, suggesting its financial resources base "could be increased further."

## Khaleda, Delwar at odds

FROM PAGE 16

Standing committee by the chairperson. Names of Abdullah Al Noman, Selima Rahman, and Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury are also being discussed, they added.

The leaders however ruled out the possibility of replacing Delwar as the secretary general, since he led the party through the recent emergency regime, which was a rather harsh period for the party. They also think the ongoing reorganising process might be hampered if the secretary general is replaced right now.

"We are carrying out a huge reorganisation of the party across the country. All necessary changes to the top level should come through the national council which will be held by the end of this year," a standing committee member said.

Meanwhile, the standing committee finally agreed in principle to announce the Dhaka city committee with Sadeque Hossain Khoka at its helm, which might be finalised on Saturday, said a few senior leaders. Delwar however is strongly backing Mirza Abbas for the post, prompting Khaleda to be annoyed, as she did not like the secretary general's strong siding with any contestant, they added.

The sources said the secretary general wanted to appoint some controversial leaders to some key posts in some important units, but failed due to strong opposition from other senior leaders who have the chairperson's blessings.

"It's unfortunate that some leaders, whose images are not good at all, are getting support from the secretary general, while party workers want to see good organisers in the leadership," a senior leader told The Daily Star on Tuesday.

There is also a disagreement between Khaleda and

Delwar regarding restoring leadership privileges of the emergency period 'party reformists', the sources said.

The chairperson already had meetings with 'reformist' leaders like Maj (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, Dr Osman Faruk, and Sadeque Hossain Khoka, while Delwar has been campaigning relentlessly against restoring the 'reformists' as party leaders.

Dhaka and Manikganj

district committees however might be announced soon after the chairperson's return from her overseas visit scheduled for sometime next week.

Khaleda, also the leader of the opposition in parliament, is scheduled to go to Saudi Arabia, the sources said. They also hinted that she might go to London and Bangkok as well during the trip abroad, for seeing her ailing sons, but could not confirm it.

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