

People take oath to protect Jhau trees on Teknaf sea beach

Tk 10,000 reward announced for arrest of miscreants

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Several thousand people from five villages of Cox's Bazar yesterday took oath to protect Jhau (tamarisk) trees on Teknaf sea beach as police organised rallies to create awareness in this regard.

Ten rallies were organised by Teknaf Police Station at Katabunia, Kochubunia, Noyapara, Khurermukh and Koanchhory villages adjacent to Teknaf sea beach under Sabrang union for creating public awareness against felling of Jhau trees.

"Thousands of Jhau trees on Teknaf sea beach and adjacent villages were felled down. Though forest department is responsible for protecting the trees, we cannot sit idle. From now on we will protect these trees unitedly," said Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Teknaf Police Station Jamal Uddin Chowdhury while addressing a rally at Kochubunia.

He said police organised the rallies after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had ordered the arrest of people involved in felling the trees following reports published in The Daily Star and the Prothom Alo.

The OC requested people to inform police station about the people involved in felling the trees and announced a reward of Tk 10,000 for catching the miscreants red handed.

As the speakers delivered their speeches urging people to come forward in protecting the Jhau trees, they raised their hands and took oath to provide information to police about the culprits.

"Sheikh Hasina has ordered to protect the Jhau trees while those involved in felling the trees are the influential people of her party. Now we want to have her order implemented," said Amir Hossain, a farmer of Bachubunia village.

The rallies were also attended by SI Mahabur Rahman, local journalists Nazir Ahmed, and businessmen Zafar Ahmad and Farid Alam.

Members of Rab, Police and BDR recovered 7000 cut down Jhau trees on September 12.

Earlier, miscreants felled down at least 30,000 trees from the beach.

Police and BDR till now have arrested eight people in connection with the felling of trees while the forest department has filed a case with Teknaf Police Station against 40 people.

S Arabia gives Tk 2cr for Baitul Mukarram Mosque

METRO DESK

Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Dr Abdullah Bin Naser Al-Busairi handed over a cheque for Tk 20,292,265 to the representative of the company Siddiqui and Partners at his office recently to complete the extension work of the southern side of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in the city.

The payment was the 9th installment of the second part of the project since the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz ordered earlier to give a donation of about 4,361,000 US dollars, says a press release.

The embassy hopes that this extension will be opened soon as a gift of the government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to the brotherly people of Bangladesh.

This donation is coming as a result of excellent bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries as well as an endeavour of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz and Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to develop relations in all fields, added the release.

College student electrocuted in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

A college student was electrocuted at Chhoto Bazar in Netrakona yesterday.

The dead was identified as Nuruddin Khan Tommo, 18, son of Nurul Islam Tapan and a first year student at Netrakona Government College.

Sources said Tapan came into contact with live electric wire at about 10:00am while walking on the roof of his house.

He was rushed to Netrakona Sadar Hospital where the on duty doctor declared him dead.

5 extortionists held in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police arrested five alleged extortionists from remote villages under Faridpur upazila in Pabna on Thursday night.

The arrestees are identified as Shakhwat, Uzzal, Rekon of Par Faridpur village and Mansur and Latif of Gopalnagar village.

Police said that the alleged criminals demanded Tk 50,000 toll from Abul Kalam, a businessman of Rautnagar village in Faridpur upazila. When the criminals went to take the money, police arrested them. They were sent to jail, police said.

Security guard strangled in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A security guard of a private bank was strangled at Moulvipara in Khulna yesterday.

Police recovered the body of Chayan Molla, a security guard of United Commercial Bank Limited (UCBL) Khulna branch, from the bedroom of his residence at about 4:45am.

He was alone since his two wives and children had gone to Kushtia on Tuesday to celebrate Eid there.

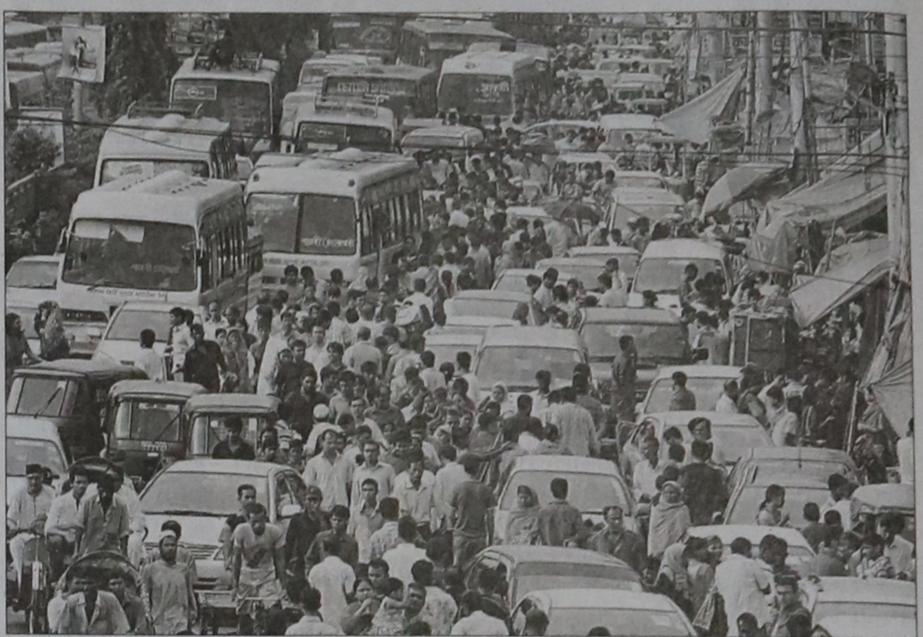
Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the eighth death anniversary of Prof Abdul Jalil, a Language Movement veteran and former principal of Noakhali gov. University College, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at Noakhali Al-Arafah Islami Academy and Masjidul Aman at Khilgaon in Dhaka.

Prof Abdul Jalil Education Club will hold a memorial meeting at Principal Abdul Jalil Auditorium, Noakhali Govt. University College, on October 24.



Though the city heaves a temporary sigh of relief from phenomenal traffic congestion yesterday because many people left for their village homes to enjoy their Eid vacation, the vehicles on the road in front of Gauchhia Market jostle for space due to the gathering of Eid shoppers as well as haphazard car parking.

Two bodies recovered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two bodies were recovered in separate incidents at Rampura and Kamalapur Railway Station in the city yesterday.

Sub-Inspector of Rampura Police Station Monir Hossain said they recovered the floating body of Russell, 23, from a ditch beside WAPDA Road at West Rampura at around 2:30pm.

He said Russell broke into a house at West Rampura on Thursday evening. As locals chased Russell sensing his presence, he jumped into the ditch to save himself from the mob.

In another incident, a railway staff found an unidentified passenger aged about 45, lying unconscious on the seat of the Noakhali Express at Kamalapur Railway Station at around 8:30am.

He took the man to the railway hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Railway sources alleged that the man might have been a victim of Aggayan Party.

Tension mounts as BSF kills 2

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Tension prevails at Tetulia border under Panchagarh district as Indian Border Security Force (BSF) fired shells indiscriminately into Bangladesh territory on Thursday evening killing one Indian national.

According to BDR sources the deceased was identified as Md Jayedul Islam, 43, a resident of Darjeeling district.

Jayedul was hit by bullet when he entered into Bangladesh territory and he was rushed by BDR men to Tetulia health complex where he died the same night.

BDR sources at Panchagarh 25 Battalion quoting villagers said the BSF fired at least 120 bullets towards Bangladesh territory on Thursday evening without any provocation.

Md Ashrafur Islam, a villager of Mominpara at Tetulia border area, said the BSF fired bullets at Tetulia-Puratan-Bazaar, Zianagar, Mominpara

and Siddique Nagar villages forcing the local inhabitants to move to safer places.

When contacted Md Abdul Zabbar, company commander of Tetulia BDR Camp, said the BDR has lodged strong protest with the BSF against firing of bullets without any provocation.

The panicked villagers have started returning to their homes, he added.

A flag meeting was also held at the border yesterday to diffuse the tension.

Meanwhile, the BSF men at 57 Bhimpur camp in Dinajpur district returned the body of a Bangladeshi national after holding a flag meeting on Thursday night. He was gunned down on Thursday morning according to BDR sources.

The deceased was identified as Azizar Rahman, 35, son of late Nilbor Rahman of Bhaighar village under Birampur upazila.

With this killing, the BSF gunned down at least five people at different border points since September 12.

Swine flu vaccines to fall short: WHO

AFP, Geneva

The World Health Organisation warned yesterday that the annual production of swine flu vaccines is expected to fall well short of the 4.9 billion doses that it had earlier forecast.

Production "will be substantially less than 4.9 billion" doses, WHO spokesman Gregory Hart told journalists.

Some 25 pharmaceutical laboratories had indicated that weekly production is lower than 94 million doses currently, he said, adding that current clinical trials indicate that a single dose is sufficient to offer immunity against the A(H1N1) virus.

In May, the WHO had forecast a weekly output of 94.3 million doses if full scale vaccine production was launched.

The shortfall was also highlighted in a statement issued by WHO chief Margaret Chan, who said that "current supplies of pandemic vaccine are inadequate for a world population in which virtually everyone is susceptible to infection by a new and readily contagious virus."

Australia's population to boom by 2049

AFP, Sydney

Australia's population will explode by almost two-thirds in the next 40 years, posing an economic threat to the nation that is as serious as climate change, the treasury minister warned yesterday.

Wayne Swan said that as the country's average age grows, government spending will have to pick up, leading to lower real GDP per person.

He said surging birth rates as well as rising immigration will see the population jump 65 percent to 35 million by 2049, an upgrade of seven million from previous forecasts.

The number of young and working-age people would grow by 45 percent. But the senior population would double and the number of elderly people would expand four-and-a-half-fold.

"Along with climate change, this is the most important challenge we face," Swan said.

However, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd welcomed the news, saying it meant Australia had a bright future.

Swan said the ratio of retirees to working-age Australians would drop to 1:2.7, from 1:5 currently, and careful environmental and infrastructure planning would be required to support the boom and ageing of the workforce.

"Population ageing will lead to slower economic growth in the form of declining real GDP per person... and will lead to an increase in Australian government spending per person," Swan said.

"Together these factors (pose) very substantial fiscal pressures."



The CNG gas cylinder (circled) of a passenger bus suddenly falls off the bus on the Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge at Postogola in the city on Thursday, creating panic among the passengers.

Man killed by nephew

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cnauabganj

A man killed his uncle following a quarrel at Sheikhtola village in the district yesterday noon.

The victim is identified as Alamgir Hossain, 50.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Sadar Police Station Ahsanul Haque said the victim's goat damaged the lemon plants of his nephew Abdul Karim, which led to exchange of heated words.

At one point, Karim chopped his uncle indiscriminately with a spade, killing him on the spot.

Police arrested Karim, and his mother Amena Begum, 60, from the spot.

Two killed in road crashes

METRO DESK

Two people were killed in separate road accidents in Barisal and Comilla yesterday.

Our correspondent in Barisal reports: A minor girl was killed and four others were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Barisal road at Joyosri under Uzirpur upazila in Barisal yesterday.

The dead was identified as Rimy, 7, daughter of Abbas Howladar.

Police said the accident occurred when motorbikes of Brac Kashipur branch manager Abbas Howladar and Amanatganj branch manager Faruk Hossain collided head-on with a microbus, leaving Rimy dead on the spot. Abbas and Faruk along with their family members were going to their village homes by two bikes.

A correspondent in Comilla adds: One person was crushed under wheels of a speeding bus in Madaiya area on Dhaka-Chittagong highway under Chandina upazila in Comilla yesterday.

The dead was identified Haridas Vaktha, 32, an NGO official.

Police said the accident occurred at around 8:00am when a Chittagong-bound passenger bus hit Haridas while he was crossing the road.

One killed as rival groups clash over control of temple

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

One person was killed in a clash between two rival groups over controlling a temple at Bhatgaon village in Auliapur union under Sadar upazila here yesterday.

The victim was identified as Fulbabu, 27, brother of Prafulla Chandra, president of Rashik Roy Jau temple, at Bhatgaon village.

Puja Ujjapan Parishad leaders and locals said a group of followers of International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) stormed the house of Prafulla by breaking its door and grilles in the morning and attacked the members who were staying there, leaving 15 people injured.

Of them, Jagashwar, 28, Motilal, 50, and Fulbabu were admitted to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital.

As their condition deteriorated, they were rushed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital where Fulbabu succumbed to his injuries around 3:00pm.

General Secretary of District Puja Ujjapan Committee advocate Indranath Roy said the ISKCON followers of the district came to the temple on August 2 and started staying there.

Worker dies in fall from rooftop

UNB, Gazipur

A construction worker died after he fell down from the rooftop of a four-storied building at Konabari in Sadar Upazila yesterday.

The worker, Morshed, 30, fell off the rooftop at about 3:30pm while working, witnesses said. He died on the spot.

Later, the police recovered the body.

there. "First, we thought that they came here to observe Puja or perform kirtan. But after a month when the temple committee asked them to leave the place, they ignored," he added.

Later, the ISKCON followers declared a Darmashabha at the temple on September 4 and wanted to establish a branch of ISKCON there, he said.

The Puja committee sought justice from the deputy commissioner and held a meeting with him to resolve the matter without any bloodshed.

They also informed police to tackle the situation and freed the temple peacefully.

But the administration and the police failed to maintain peace in the area.

Contacted, Officer-in-Charge Sohrab Hossain told this correspondent that additional police were deployed at the temple.

A tense situation is prevailing in the Hindu community between the followers of ISKCON and traditional Hindus.

Man found dead in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

An employee of an insurance company was found dead at Birampur in Dinajpur early yesterday.

The victim, identified as Md Mostakim Billah, 35, was a staff of Popular Life Insurance Company.

Police said they recovered the body from Phulbari-Nawabganj highway at 4:30am today with several marks of injuries on his head.

Police are suspecting that the miscreants murdered him on Thursday night and left the body on the roadside.

Businessmen fined Tk 6.72 lakh

BSS, Rajshahi

Mobile courts of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) fined Tk 6.72 lakh against 11 dishonest businessmen in three northern districts in last two days, says a BSTI release here yesterday.

According to the sources concerned, as part of the drive against adulteration in food items and cheating of consumers in weight, measurement and quality, the mobile courts conducted hectic raids in a number of food manufacturing factories and consumer shops including grocery, food and confectionary in Rajshahi, Bogra and Sirajganj districts.

The court found 11 of the shops guilty of manufacturing, possessing and selling of substandard and adulterated foods and subsequently fined a total of Tk 6.72 lakh against those on the spot.

WEATHER TODAY

Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:58pm today and rises at 6:46am tomorrow.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 23 degree at Comilla.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.7	27.0	83	83
Chittagong	31.5	26.2	82	82
Rajshahi	34.3	26.5	90	80
Khulna	33.5	27.6	77	84
Barisal	32.5	25.7	82	80
Sylhet	27.6	24.3	99	70
Cox's Bazar	33.0	26.4	80	88