

# Crackdown on notebooks



Huge guidebooks and notebooks, kept for illegal sale at shops at Andarkilla Market in Chittagong city, were seized and later later burnt down in presence of a magistrate at Firingi Bazar Fishery Ghat yesterday.

*Tk 1cr books burnt in Chittagong and Tk 20 lakh books seized in Jessore*

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Law enforcers seized huge notebooks and guidebooks worth Tk 1.20 crore from two book markets in Chittagong city and a printing press and two bookshops in Jessore town yesterday and on Monday night.

In Chittagong, a mobile court aided by members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized banned notebooks and guidebooks of class-1 to class-X from different bookshops in the city's Andarkilla and Terri Bazar on Monday night and yesterday, reports our staff correspondent.

The law enforcers took the seized books to Firingi Bazar Fishery Ghat yesterday afternoon and burnt them.

Magistrate Khandaker Nurul Haque said they carried out the drives in the two markets taking Bangladesh Book Publishers and Sellers Association Chittagong unit General Secretary Nur Mohammad with them and seized huge notebooks and guidebooks worth around Tk 1 crore.

"We only seized banned notebooks and guidebooks of class-1 to class X," the magistrate said, adding that no one was arrested in this connection and drive against the banned books will continue.

The association leaders in a statement yesterday

alleged that the mobile court seized other books along with the banned ones.

They also requested the law enforcement agencies not to harass the booksellers in the name of drive.

In Jessore, the district administration with the help Rab and police seized over 14,000 notebooks and guidebooks worth around Tk 20 lakh from a printing press and two shops in the town yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a team comprising officials of the district administration, Rab and policemen raided Balaka Printing Press of Hasan Book Depot at Old Kasba in the town at around 10:30am and seized the banned books of class five to class eight from there, according to a correspondent.

Sensing the presence of the team, press manager and employees fled the scene. A case was filed in this connection with Sadar Police Station.

The team then raided Daratana book market and seized 1200 note and guidebooks from two bookstores. It (team) also realised Tk 4000 as fine from the booksellers.

Safina Begum, Assistant deputy Commissioner (education and development) said the drive will continue to stop selling of banned notebooks and guidebooks.



Bushes cover the premises of an impressive hostel building of Bogra Nursing College as the institution is yet to see students' admission two years after construction of academic and residential buildings.

## Big nursing college lies idle for lack of teachers

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

Two years after completion of infrastructure, Bogra Nursing College is yet to start admission of students into Bachelor in Nursing Science and Bachelor in Public Health courses due to lack of teachers and other staff.

There is provision for admission of 125 students including five foreign nationals in each of the two courses every session but the Directorate of Nursing Services (DNS) has not yet taken any initiative to appoint teachers and other staff to run the college, college sources said.

Constructed at a cost of Tk 10.43 crore, several multi-storied buildings including academic building, hostels and staff quarters are lying

unused.

In July 2008, the ministry concerned approved appointment of 74 persons to different posts but the authorities are yet to publish any advertisement for recruitment, said Firoza Begum, acting principal of the college.

"Two teachers including me and four third and fourth class employees have been posted at the college from different districts under an official order of deputation," she said.

A few months ago, DNS Deputy Director (Education) Chhabi Rani Dhar had told this correspondent over cell phone that after completion of staff recruitment by October this year, authorities were likely to publish advertisement for admission.

But the college is yet to see

staff recruitment and student admission.

About two years ago, the Construction Maintenance Management Unit under the Ministry of Health and Family Planning completed construction of several buildings including classrooms with capacity for 360 seats and hostels with accommodation for 250 beds spending Tk 10.43 crore.

Due to shortage of manpower, most of the residential buildings and other establishments like powerhouse are lying uncared for a long time. Many of the entrance roads have been covered with bushes.

Some third and fourth class employees have been engaged only for guarding the academic building and keeping it clean.

## Implement irrigation project, save Barind

*Human chain at Nachole demands*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

People from all walks of life formed a human chain and held a rally at Nachole on Monday demanding implementation of proposed Northern Rajshahi Irrigation Project to save Barind region from adverse effect of climate change.

Leaders and workers of different political parties, professional bodies, NGOs, students, farmers and other people took part in the programme held at the bus stand intersection.

Presided by Vice-Chairman of the Upazila Parishad Abu Taher Khokon, the rally was addressed by Nachole upazila chairman Advocate Sirajul Islam, convenor of Rajshahi Protection Sangram Parishad Jamat Khan, editor of Dainik

Sonali Sangbad Liakat Ali, Proctor of Rajshahi University Golam Sabbir Sattar Tapu, coordinator of BLAST, Rajshahi Advocate Abdus Samad, convenor of Chapainawabganj Committee of the Concerned Citizen (CCC) of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and secretary of Chapainawabganj district press club NSM Mahbubur Rahman Mintu, president of Chapainawabganj district unit of Bangladesh College Teachers Association Principal Saidur Rahman, journalists Anwar Hossain Dillu, Imran Faruk Masum and Hasan Millat, social workers Monimuddowla Chowdhury and Shafiqul Alam Bhota.

The speakers said, due to indiscriminate lifting of underground water through

deep tubewells water layers are going down very rapidly causing a serious threat to the environment and watertable in Barind region, mainly in Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi and Naogaon.

The districts are facing drought like situation. People will not be able to harvest their crops near future. They said expressing deep concern.

The speakers said, on implementation of the project, about 80,000 hectares of land would come under it helping farmers to produce 2.5 million metric tons of extra quantity of paddy.

Dependence on underground water would also remarkably reduce as only river water would be used under the project, they pointed out.

## Girl raped, one held with video footage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police on Monday arrested an official of a pharmaceutical company on charge of recording rape of a college girl and trying to blackmail her by threatening to spread the video footage on the Internet and local market.

Police also seized a video camera and several pornographic CDs including the girl's video footage from the arrestee's possession.

The arrestee, Md Khairul Islam Pathan, 45, area manager of Dinajpur Zone of the company, hails from village Babhatta under Netrakona district.

On Monday night, the victim filed a case with Dinajpur Police Station accusing Khairul Islam and Jhantu, the rapist.

Jhantu went into hiding after police raid at his Dinajpur residence on Monday.

"If we do not get justice, we will commit suicide by burning ourselves," the victim's parents told local journalists at the police station after filing of the case.

About eight months ago, Jhantu, 30, a local cell phone trader, allegedly raped the college girl at the residence of Khairul Islam who recorded the scene with his video camera, police said.

On several occasions, Khairul tried to blackmail the victim into having physical relation with him in the name of returning the porno CDs.

On Monday morning, Khairul called the girl over her cell phone to come to his residence to take the CDs and again proposed physical relation, which she declined.

She sought help of police who arrested Khairul from the residence and seized the porno CDs.

Police yesterday produced the arrestee to court that sent him to jail.



Indigenous people perform traditional dance at the playground of Duboil School in Tanore upazila of Rajshahi district as non-government organisation Brotee arranged a day-long programme to pick up 'researchers' from among the mass people yesterday.

## PCJSS activist murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

An activist of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) was murdered at Boradom village under Dighinala upazila of Khagrachhari district early yesterday.

The dead is Pradip Chandra Chakma, 40, son of Prabhat Chandra Chakma of the village. He was a member of PCJSS Dighinala upazila unit.

Police quoted family sources as saying that a gang of 10 to 15 unidentified assailants called Pradip out of his house at around 1:00am and killed him with sharp weapons.

On information, police rushed to the spots at about 2:00am and recovered the body. Officer in-Charge of Dighinala Police Station Subash Chandra Pal said Pradip might have been killed by rival partymen.

"He was a listed criminal and wanted in three cases filed with Dighinala Police Station," said the OC.

On December 11, PCJSS activist Shanti Kumar Chakma died in a gunfight between two factions of the party in Moner Manush area of the same upazila.

## Trader, engr freed in Bandarban on payment of Tk 6 lakh ransom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Prominent businessman Azizul Haque and deputy assistant engineer Jibon Barua who were abducted from Roangchhari upazila Sunday morning were released at night.

Relatives of the abducted persons said the abductors released them at around 10:45 pm on payment of Tk 6 lakh as ransom.

Police said, a gang abducted them on Sunday morning while they were going to

supervise the on-going work at a construction firm. The abductors took them to remote Baro Para of the upazila.

Sources said, the abductors released Jibon Barua of Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board first.

After getting the full amount of ransom they also released Azizul Haque at night.

Contacted, Azizul Haque expressed his inability to make any comment on the incident.

Bandarban police superin-

tendent Kamrul Hasan confirmed the release of the two yesterday morning, but could not say how much was paid as ransom.

Meanwhile, the eight United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) activists abducted allegedly by the rival Parbatya Chattagram Jano Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) on Friday evening are yet to be freed.

The abductors have been demanding Tk 50,000 as ransom for the release of each of the captives, a UPDF press release said.



A large number of locals join a human chain at Nachole bus stand in Chapainawabganj town yesterday demanding implementation of North Rajshahi Irrigation Project to save the Barind area from desertification. Rajshahi Protection Action Committee organised the programme.

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