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REGD. NO. DA 781 • VOL. XX No. 60 • DHAKA MONDAY MARCH 15, 2010 • CHAITRA 1, 1416 BS • RABUL AWAL 28, 1431 HJRI • 28 PAGES PRICE: Tk 10.00

www.thedailystar.net

50 more trees felled in Srimangal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The timber trader, who on Saturday felled over 100 trees at Kailin Punji in Srimangal, continued with the act by cutting down at least 50 trees at a betel leaf enclosure of Khasia community in the area yesterday.

M/s Salim Timber and Traders embarked on wiping out the trees after a High Court bench gave the go-ahead to cut 3,550 trees.

The trader resumed chopping down yesterday morning at the enclosure that locals call Paan Jum, Bably Talang, a

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15 wounded in BSF firing

Villagers flee for safety as over 1,000 gunshots traded on Jaintapur border in Sylhet; offensives after Delhi meeting shock BDR chief

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh Rifles and the Indian Border Security Force traded gunfire for around three hours yesterday after the latter crossed the Jaintapur border in Sylhet and shot at the locals.

At least 15 villagers were injured in the BSF firing, reports our staff correspondent from Sylhet.

The border troops from either side fired over a thousand shots, forcing the villagers to flee their homes, said witnesses.

The skirmish took place a day after BSF intruded into Bangladesh, dug bunkers and retreated following a flag meeting.

Only three days back, the Indian frontier force assured their Bangladesh counterpart of

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"ILLEGAL VOIP TRADE" 5 high-ups of Dhaka Phone picked up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BTRC and Rab personnel early today picked up five high-ups of Dhaka Phone, a private land-line phone company, on charge of running illegal VoIP business in the capital's Banani.

The joint drive, led by BTRC Senior Assistant Director Zian Shah Kabir, was conducted at the main switching centre and head office of the company at Rupayan Tower at Banani.

Rab and BTRC officials declined to give any detail of the drive.

They however said the company used 20 RIMs round-the-clock for the last few months.

Infighting kills BCL leader

1 missing, 3 hurt as Jessore factions clash again

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

The convener of Jessore sadar upazila unit Chhatra League was hacked dead in an attack allegedly by rival group yesterday, a day after the organisation's district council was suspended following a factional feud.

With almost all the shops and businesses shut, panic spread through the town in the evening following the death of Ripon Hossain alias Dada, also a candidate for the general secretary post of the district unit Bangladesh Chhatra League.

Selim, a fellow activist who was with Ripon during the incident, has been reported missing.

Meanwhile, police yesterday filed a case against 500 unidentified people, following Saturday night's fight between two BCL factions.

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Petrol pump owners, staff observe strike

Threaten indefinite strike from Apr 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The owners and workers of petrol pumps and tank-lorries who observed a half-day countrywide work abstention yesterday threatened to go on an indefinite strike from April 10 if their 13-point demand is not met by that time.

People suffered a lot as many private car and buses had to wait in queue at filling stations during peak office hours in the capital.

"We will have no other

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

CHT LAND SURVEY Govt to hold talks with all organisations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will hold talks with all organisations of Bangalee settlers and indigenous people by April 15 in Rangamati to start a land survey in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Land Minister Rezaul Karim Hira told parliament yesterday.

"We'll go there and hold meetings to resolve all disputes through consensus and start the land survey," the minister said in reply to a query from BNP lawmaker Amzad Hossain.

He said the land survey commission headed by a retired judge had already been formed to that end.

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Nights in forest, days at roadside

This is how ethnic people spend their time since unrest

PINAKI ROY back from Baghaichhari

Several hundred indigenous hill people were waiting near the Gangaram Mukh passenger shed, built by the law enforcers for local residents.

Now it is the only structure still standing in the area, since the recent ethnic violence in Baghaichhari of Rangamati burnt to ashes all other structures including houses, schools, clinics, temples, and churches. Even the health workers were immunizing children under a roadside tree.

All hills near that road through Kasalong Reserve Forest now lay barren. No house or big tree can be seen on them.

Local Adivasis said all big trees were cut down first for building the road, then for setting up a law enforcers' camp, followed by razing of the remaining trees by Bangalee settlers.

The indigenous people were waiting by the passenger shed for relief that was being distributed among the violence affected people by an NGO.

Minoti Chakma from Retkata village was among a group of

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Health workers at Gangaram Mukh in Khagrachhari vaccinate infants in the open, as almost all the health centres in the area were destroyed in last month's hill violence. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

BNP lawmakers visit CHT today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A BNP parliamentary party team will today visit the areas of Khagrachhari and Rangamati districts which came under violent attacks between January 19 and March 12.

The team led by opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque will visit affected areas of Baghaichhari in Rangamati and Khagrachhari Sadar to talk with the indigenous people and Bangalee settlers.

"We will visit the Chittagong Hill Tracts and will submit a report before our chairperson on return," Farroque told The Daily Star on Friday.

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