



PHOTO: STAR

A tree trunk burns at a hillock in Lawachhara under Kamalganj upazila of Moulvibazar district, right, remains of a cut down tree lie at a nearby hillock that also saw fire allegedly set by tree plunderers at night on Friday and Saturday.

Fire at 3 Lawachhara hills destroys trees

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Fire incidents at three hillocks of Lawachhara under Kamalganj upazila in Moulvibazar district have burnt trees and plants on about 50 acres of land.

On Friday night, fire originated at a rubber garden at Teroghar hillock in Lawachhara and it was followed by another fire at Baghmara hillock after a few hours, locals said. On Saturday night, another fire incident took place at 'segun and jarul garden hillock', also in the same area.

The fires ended on Sunday. Local people alleged that the forest department did not take any step to

douse the fire despite being informed shortly afterwards while Forest Department (wildlife) sources said the three hillocks are not under Lawachhara Reserve Forest.

Taking opportunity of the fire incidents, a gang of criminals plundered teak trees worth lakhs of taka from the spot, locals said.

"A few criminals backed by local Awami League leaders are plundering valuable trees from Lawachhara in broad daylight. The fire incidents on Friday and Saturday might be pre-planned acts by miscreants who tried to vanish the marks of plundering," a prominent person in the area requesting anonymity

told this correspondent over phone.

"The three hillocks where fire incidents occurred are not under Lawachhara Reserve Forest. The fire possibly originated from burning cigarettes," AKM Azharul Islam, range officer (wildlife) of Lawachhara Reserve Forest, said.

However, departmental action will be taken after investigation into the incident as the area is near Lawachhara Reserve Forest, said Mullah Rezaul Karim, assistant conservator of forest (wildlife).

Kamalganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Prokash Kanti Chowdhury said he will an investigation into the matter.

Naogaon hospital upgraded, services downgraded

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, from Naogaon

Treatment seekers are being deprived of health care facilities as the 100-bed Naogaon Sadar Hospital is beset with various problems including shortage of doctors and nurses, accommodation problem and inadequate supply of medicine.

Fifty-six of the 150 posts at the hospital have been lying vacant for long, hospital sources said.

"We are running the 100-bed hospital with the facilities of a 50-bed one. The authorities concerned were informed about the problems earlier," said Civil Surgeon Dr Md Asheque Hossain.

The hospital was upgraded to a 100-bed one from 50-bed several years ago but it has seen hardly any improvement in facilities for over 26 lakh people in the district.

The hospital serves 150 indoor patients on an average daily against the arrangement for 100, sources said.

The post of resident medical officer is vacant while only 23 doctors are now serving against 42 posts, sources in the civil surgeon's office said.

Only two senior consultants against the posts of 10, four junior consultants against 11 posts and three medical officers against 17 posts are working at the hospital. Only 12 nurses are now working at the hospital although there are 35 posts, hospital sources said.

Accommodation problem forces a good number of patients to stay on the floor or leave the hospital before



BCL activists vandalise principal's office

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A group of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists vandalised the office room of Mahtab Uddin Degree College principal in Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah yesterday noon.

Sources said BCL activists led by its college unit convener Bakul ransacked principal's room and threw a chair at him around 12:00pm after principal Mahbubur Rahman slapped a student on the campus.

The principal slapped the student as some students were gossiping with a girl student in front of the principal's room without attending classes, sources said.

During the attack, the BCL men damaged glasses of windows and tables.

The principal said the BCL activists often disturb female students of the college and vitiates the college environment.

BCL college convener Bakul denied the allegation and alleged that the principal often uses filthy words for any simple reason.

A seriously injured man receiving intravenous saline lying on the floor beside a staircase while his relatives wait for doctors at Naogaon Sadar Hospital recently.

completion of treatment.

Md Kazam Sarker, 70, of Uttargram village under Mohadevpur upazila in the district, was brought to the hospital for treatment in an unconscious state on March 7 evening but he was kept on the floor due to accommodation problem.

Doctors attended the

patient after 14 hours of his admission to the hospital, alleged his relatives.

Supply of medicine at the hospital is too inadequate for the large number of patients.

Sometimes patients' attendants are seen to do cleaning work as there is also acute shortage of sweepers.

Villagers beat dead young expatriate

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Mob on Sunday night beat dead an expatriate youth on charge of theft at Maligaon village under Gondharbyapur Uttar union of Hajiganj upazila.

Police recovered the body of Abdur Rashid, 22, yesterday noon and sent it to Chandpur Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Police also arrested two people including a union parishad member suspecting their involvement with the incident.

The arrestees are Habibur Rahman Bablu, 40, a member of ward no 6 and a shopkeeper Lokman, 28.

Quoting locals UP chairman Ali Akbar Sheikh said, a theft was committed at a house at Deshganga village under Gondharbyapur Dakkhin union five days ago.

Angry people of Uttar union beat up Abdur Rashid Sunday night suspecting his involvement.

At one stage mob tied Rashid inside a shop near Maligaon bridge. When some people went to the shop to rescue Rashid they found him dead.

Chairman Ali Akbar Sheikh said, Rashid came to his village home two weeks ago.



PHOTO: STAR

Local people put up a barricade at Jhowdanga on Sathkira-Jessore road in Sathkira Sadar upazila for three hours from 10:00am yesterday protesting suspension of construction work of the road at Jhowdanga and Tujalpur for the last one week.

36 more sued in Bagerhat on war crime charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Thirty-six more alleged collaborators of Pakistani occupation forces were sued on war crime charges in Morrelganj upazila of Bagerhat district on Sunday and the day before.

Md Emdadul Huq of Chaprhi village under the upazila filed a petition case with the Court of Senior Judicial Magistrate Md Rakibul Islam on Sunday against 22 people for killing his father and eight other members of the family during the Liberation War.

The 22 accused are Nura Sikder, Khokan Didar, Karim Didar, Siddik Sheikh, Idris Sheikh, Asmat Didar, Satter Sheikh, Janab Ali Khan, Sultan Khan, Rashid Khan, Khoka Khan, Akber Sheikh, Ukuluddin Sheikh, Rustom Molla, Yunus Ali Didar, Jalil Sheikh, Afsar Didar, Moked Didar, Sahadat Sikder, Habib Sheikh, Akbar Ali and Rafiqul Islam Babul.

The complainant in his petition stated that the accused shot dead his father and eight other members of the family in front of their house on May 26, 1971 for helping the freedom fighters.

Later, the accused looted gold, money and other valuables from the house and set it on fire, the complainant said.

The judicial magistrate asked the officer-in-charge of Morrelganj Police Station to record the case after proper investigation.

On Saturday, Morrelganj Police Station recorded a case against 14 alleged razzakars following a court order issued on February 14.

Sakander Ali Howlader, son of Shafiquddin Howlader of Dakkhin Sutarali village filed a petition case against the 14 accused with Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court, Bagerhat, on February 14 for killing brother Shahjahan Howlader, also a

freedom fighter, on April 24 in 1975.

The accused are Habib Howlader, Abdus Sattar Khan, Abdul Mannan Khan, Babu Khan, Abdus Salam Mridha, Siddiquur Rahman, Hatem Ali Howlader, Akkas Ali, Zulfikar Howlader, Dildar Fakir, Shaheb Ali, Mizanur Rahman, Rashid Howlader and Mujibar Khan.

The court took the case into cognizance and asked the Morrelganj police to record it as a regular case.

In the case statement, the complainant said the accused gouged out two eyes of his brother Shahjahan and later beat him dead at the house of Habib Howlader, one of the accused.

"The accused killed my brother as he took part in the liberation War in 1971," the complainant further said.

Earlier, more than 40 other alleged collaborators were sued in several cases in Bagerhat in the last few weeks.

15 injured as clashing Jubo League men blast bombs

A CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

At least 15 people were injured in bomb explosions as Jubo League rivals clashed at Kutuberhat in Senbag upazila of Noakhali Sunday afternoon.

Police arrested three Jubo League activists -- Hanif, 30, Faruk, 22, and Amir Hossain, 23, in this connection.

Police said there had been a long standing conflict between the Mirza-Mostafa group and Milon-Farhan group over establishing supremacy in the area.

Supporters of Milon-Farhan group hurled 4-5 bombs on the rivals during a chase and counter-chase in the afternoon.

Thirteen Jubo League workers and two passersby were injured during the bomb attacks.

Of the injured, three were admitted to Senbag upazila health complex while two to Begumganj health complex.

In Lalmonirhat town, at least four Motor Sramik League (MSL) activists were injured as two rival groups clashed over collecting toll from trucks at Mission intersection on Sunday morning.

The injured are Saidul Islam, 32, Shahanot Ali, 35, Dudu Miah, 42, and Shahjahan Ali, 30, reports a correspondent.

Sources said, MSL leader Nuru Miah's group had been collecting toll from trucks under the banner of District Truck and Tank Lorry Bandobastokari Samity at Mission intersection.

At this, the rival group led by Pulin Chandra attacked Nuru group in their office.

The workers of Pulin group occupied the office and barred Nuru group from entering the office.

Nuru Miah claimed his group was leading District Truck and Tank Lorry Bandobastokari Samity through election in legal way.

But Pulin Chandra denied the allegation and said his men prevented the Nuru Miah group from collecting toll illegally.

ELEPHANT SENT TO SANCTUARY



PHOTO AND STORY BY RAJAT KANTI GOSWAMI.

Moulvibazar forest staff put this elephant on a truck at Juri upazila headquarters yesterday to send it to Dulahazra Safari Park in Cox's Bazar.

Forest officials and employees seized the elephant, owned by one Sona Miah of Longla village under Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar, on March 6 while it was carrying logs plundered by a gang of criminals from Kadamchhara forest

under Juri upazila.

Amir Ali, mahout of the elephant, however, managed to flee during the drive.

Forest department filed a case with Juri Police Station against Sona Miah and Amir Ali.

According to forest officials, elephant petting without permission of the authorities concerned is a punishable offence and Sona Miah does not have such permission.

BCL drives Shibir men out of Carmichael College

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A Shibir cadre was stabbed while four others were injured by brickbat as the activists of Chhatra League (BCL) attacked the pro-Jamaat students yesterday and drove them out of Carmichael College.

Of the injured, condition of Shibir activist Obaidur Rahman was reported to be critical.

Eyewitnesses said, the BCL activists brought out a procession on the campus around 12:30 pm to greet the newly admitted students of undergraduate courses.

As the BCL procession ended, Shibir leaders and activists gathered nearby to bring out a separate procession to welcome the freshmen.

When the pro-Jamaat student front was

about to start the procession, the BCL activists attacked them and drove them out of the campus.

President of Carmichael College unit Shibir Al Amin Hasan claimed that BCL leaders and activists with the help of outsiders created a reign of terror on the campus. They attacked Shibir men without any provocation, he said.

On the other hand, BCL convener Abdullah Khan Nannu alleged that Shibir brought hired cadres to the campus to foil BCL procession but the general students of the college drove them out of the campus.

Principal of the college Abdul Wadud Bhuiya said a huge number of police have been deployed although the campus returned to normalcy.

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