

Land allotment a mockery for 19 freedom fighters

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Allotment of 1.5 acres of khas land to each of 19 insolvent freedom fighters at Char Samad in Dasmina upazila has remained only in papers for the last 10 years as the total 28.5 acres of khas land allotted by Patuakhali district administration is under about 10 feet water.

According to existing rule cultivable land should be allotted in such cases.

Following instructions from higher authorities, Patuakhali district administration issued allotment papers for a total of 28.5 acres

of land to the 19 freedom fighters of Dasmina upazila in 2000-2001 fiscal year, said the freedom fighters.

The allotment papers have remained virtually useless for the freedom fighters as the land is under water.

Freedom fighters who got allotment are Mojibur Rahman (plot No 86), Alauddin Mia (plot No 134), Lal Mia, plot (No 137), all of Arozbegi village, Eunus Dewan (plot No 89), Moslem Rari (plot No 121), Abdul Goni (plot No 111), Ali Akbar (plot No 136), Tazmul (plot No 122), Abdus Salam Mojumder (al No 88) of Chandpur village, Abul

Hasem Rari (plot No 110) of Uttar Admapur village, Nur Hossain (plot No 114) of Gachani village, Abdul Gachani (plot No 118) of Char Shahjalal, Abdul Mannan Birpratik (plot No 87) of Ronogopaldi, Nurul Islam (plot No 135) of Dasmina village, Md Eunus (plot No 120) of Bahrapur, Shahabuddin (plot No 109) of Kharizabetagi village, Abdul Khaleq Howlader (plot No 115) of Khalisakhali, Abdul Khaleq Khan (plot No 112) of South Auliapur, Kamal Rani Das (plot No 116) of Lakhmipur village under the upazila.

Md Mojibur Rahman died while others are pass-

ing days amid economic hardship.

"We received only allotment papers but no land. We feel neglected and dishonoured for such allotment. We earlier submitted several prayers to the higher authorities concerned to pay attention to the matter but to no effect," said Abdul Mannan (Birpratik).

When contacted, Dasmina Upazila Nirbahi Officer Ajmol Hossain said, "I was not here when the allotment was given. I heard the matter. We are trying our best to allot fresh and cultivable land to the freedom fighters after cancellation of previous allotments."



PHOTO: STAR
The district administration allotted 28.5 acres of land at Char Samad in Dasmina upazila of Patuakhali district for 19 insolvent freedom fighters of the area but all they got are only papers as the land is under about 10 feet water.

Robbery in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A robbery was committed at Hingazia village under Brahminbazar union of Kulaura upazila on Wednesday night.

The robbers decamped with 50 tolas of gold, \$450 and 28 thousand taka in cash from the house of Numan Ahmed Chowdhury, owner of Bonoful and Churny at the village.

Police and family sources said, a gang numbering about 12 broke open the iron grill and doors of the house at about 3:00 am. They fastened the house owner along with his brother Abul Kashem Chowdhury with rope and confined women members inside a bathroom. Then the robbers decamped with the booty.

Contacted, Kulaura police station officer in charge (OC) Md Iqbal Hussain confirmed the incident saying a case has been filed in this connection.

Earlier on Tuesday night, another robbery was committed at the house of one Leonardo Boby Alexander at Dakshin Shahpur village under Moulvibazar Sadar upazila.

Robbers chopped Boby with a sharp weapon. Later they fastened him and his wife Angela Alexander with a rope, broke an iron safe and took away 10 tola gold ornament, two cell phone sets and Tk 20 thousand in cash from there.

A case has been filed in this connection with Moulvibazar Model police station.

Human chain in Jessore

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

A human chain was formed in front of Jessore Press Club yesterday demanding implementation of the integrated Agriculture Rehabilitation Programme in the district.

People from all walks of life joined the hour-long programme that began at 11:00am.

A rally was also held at the venue where Deputy Director of Agriculture Extension Department Abdul Hakim, President of Ulashi Sreejani Sanga James LD Rozario, Executive Director Azizul Haque Moni and advocate Samsur Rahman spoke.

Later, a memorandum was submitted to the prime minister through the deputy commissioner.

BAU Germ Plasm Centre develops 48 fruit varieties

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The Germ Plasm Centre of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) has been playing a significant role in the country's fruit sector by developing new varieties of delicious fruits.

The centre has so far developed 48 varieties of fruits including local and foreign varieties while many small and marginal farmers have brought their fortunes by cultivating those varieties, said the officials of the centre.

They said a team of 40 fruit scientists and students led by Prof MA Rahim have been working actively to develop new varieties of fruits since 1990 under the financial support of Swiss Agency for Development and Coordination.

The new varieties include mango, guava, strawberry, fig, lemon and plum. All the varieties have been registered under the Ministry of Agriculture from 2006 to 2010.

There is a huge demand of local varieties of

fruits in and outside the country, said Prof Rahim, head of the team.

Prof Rahim said that the centre has so far sold five lakh saplings to around 35,000 farmers of different areas in the country.

The professor said 4,500 germ plasm samples have so far been collected from 43 countries to develop different varieties of fruits. "Now we are conducting research on 100 fruit varieties," he added.

He said the new varieties of fruits have also created scopes for many educated and illiterate youths to become self-reliant.

Since 1999, the centre has also trained some 25,000 farmers on fruit cultivation, post harvest, nursery management and Integrated Pest Management (IPM). But the allocation from the BAU for doing research work at the center is very inadequate, the officials at the centre said.

"Only Tk 3 lakh is allocated annually for research. The centre needs more manpower to gear up its activities," they added.



PHOTO: STAR
This special type of orboroi, a locally produced nutritious fruit, is one of the 48 local and foreign fruit varieties developed by Germ Plasm Centre of Bangladesh Agriculture University in Mymensingh.

BOMBS, ARMS RECOVERED FROM NEAR OFFICE 25 Habiganj BNP men sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police has filed a case against 25 BNP men in connection with recovery of bombs and arms from near Habiganj district BNP office Wednesday night.

The accused include Dr Ahmedur Rahman Abdal, district unit president of Doctors Association of Bangladesh, a pro-BNP organisation, JCD leader Mahbul Alam Manna and Jubo Dal activists Abdul Maleque and Muhibur Rahman.

Manna, Muhibur and Maleque were caught on Wednesday night when police recovered five bombs, two cocktails, a billhook, two daggers and one bottle of petrol from near Habiganj district BNP office.

Police said some BNP and Jubo Dal men were preparing to hurl bombs on a procession brought

out by a faction of local BNP on Wednesday night. As the procession was passing by the BNP office in Muslim Quarter area, three young men tried to fleesensing presence of police.

However, police caught them and seized a bag containing five bombs and two cocktails, which was left by them, police said. Later police recovered a billhook, two daggers and one bottle of petrol from a nearby place.

"Men of the BNP faction led by the former lawmaker Sheikh Sujat Miah attempted to attack the procession of their intra-party rivals on Wednesday night," Habiganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Nirmal Chakravarty said.

Earlier on Tuesday, rival factions led by former lawmaker Sheikh Sujat Miah and district BNP General Secretary and Habiganj pourasava Chairman GK Gous brought out separate processions in the town.

FEB 9 VIOLENCE AT RU Police seek remand for 3 Jamaat-Shibir leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police yesterday sought a 10-day remand for three local leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir for quizzing them at the taskforce interrogation cell (TFIC) in Dhaka.

They are Rajshahi city Jamaat Ameer Ataur Rahman, General Secretary Abul Kalam Azad and Shibir Rajshahi University Habibur Rahman Hall unit President Reazul Islam.

Tofazzel Hossain, officer-in-charge of Motihar Police Station, submitted a petition to the Metropolitan Magistrate's court, saying that police need to interrogate the three leaders for 'properly determining' the role of central Jamaat leaders, including Jamaat Ameer Matuir Rahman Nizami and Secretary General Ali Ahsan M Mujahid, in February 9 violence on Rajshahi University campus.

Metropolitan Magistrate Ziaur Rahman fixed March 21 for hearing on the remand prayer.

The OC said former RCC ward councillor and Jamaat leader Mohammad Gias Uddin and former Shibir president of RU Sayed Amir Ali Hall unit Ekram Hossain gave confessional statements before the court.

They said top Jamaat leaders were in frequent contacts with the Shibir leaders who led the violence on February 9, the OC added.

Faruk Hossain, a Bangladesh Chhatra League worker, was killed and 100 others were injured during the attack launched by Shibir at Rajshahi University on February 9.

Meanwhile, the court granted a three-day fresh remand for Gias Uddin following a separate police prayer for 10 days remand in connection with a case filed by a BCL man who was injured in the attack.

WEDNESDAY'S INCIDENT AT BAU Teachers' ultimatum to arrest culprits by March 21

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Teachers of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) yesterday gave an ultimatum to the vice-chancellor (VC) demanding arrest of the culprits, who were responsible for Wednesday night's clash on the campus, by March 21.

They gave the ultimatum through a memorandum handed over to the VC in the afternoon.

Before handing over of the memorandum, the teachers under the banner of BAU Shikhhak Parishad held a meeting at the gallery of Animal Husbandry Faculty at noon. They threatened a tougher agitation if their demand was not met within the deadline.

Presided over by BAU Shikhhak Parishad president Prof Md Zohir Uddin, the meeting was also addressed by, among others, Prof Emdadul Haque, BAU Proctor Prof Dr Md Shamsuddin, Prof Dr Mansurul Amin, Prof Dr Abdul Moin Miah, Dr AKM Zakir Hossain, Dr Md Moinuddin and Prof Avijit Saha.

Protesting the incident, different student organisations brought out separate processions on the campus yesterday. They urged the university authorities to bring culprits to book immediately.

About 50 people, including assistant proctor, students and police, were injured in an attack by the outsiders over holding a programme marking the birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on BAU campus Wednesday night, university sources said.

Outsiders aided by shopkeepers of KR market on BAU campus wanted to organise a function to celebrate Bangabandhu's birth anniversary without prior permission of the university authorities, sources said.

Being informed, assistant proctor Prof Alamgir Hossain went to the spot. At one stage of altercation, outsiders attacked him as well as the students and employees present there.

Meanwhile, a five-member probe body was formed yesterday to investigate into the incident.

10 hurt as transport workers clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Ten people were injured, four of them seriously, in a clash between workers of buses and CNG-run auto tempos near Bazar Station area in Sirajganj town yesterday noon.

During the clash, the attackers damaged two buses and two CNG-run auto tempos.

Following the clash, movement of vehicles on Dhaka-Sirajganj road came to a halt for about two hours.

The injured were admitted to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital and local clinics in the town. Of them, condition of Md Sumon, 27, Ibrahim Hossain, 29, Mohammad Ali, 25, and Mohammad Joni, 22, was stated to be critical.

Police and locals said the clash ensued between workers of buses and CNG-run auto tempos at around 2:30 pm when an auto-tempo worker lifted a passenger to his vehicle from a bus of Sonar Modina Paribahan. The workers chased and counter chased each others and hurled brickbats. They also damaged two buses and two tempos during the clash that continued for about half an hour.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. A tense situation was prevailing between the workers of both the groups till filing of the report yesterday afternoon.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

1 killed, 10 hurt as fishermen clash

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

One person was killed and 10 others were injured in a clash between two groups of fishermen over fishing in the Meghna yesterday. The dead was identified as Kamal, 15, son of Omar Ali of Raj Rajeswar. The injured are undergoing treatment to Chandpur Sadar Hospital. Locals caught five fishermen for their involvement in the clash and later handed them over to the police. The incident occurred at Laxmimara Char under Raj Rajeswar Union of Chandpur Sadar upazila at around 11:45am. Chandpur river police outpost SI Golam Kibria said the government has declared 100-kilometre stretch of area from Satnol in Chandpur to Char Alexander in Laxmipur as a sanctuary for preserving hilsa and imposed a ban on fishing there for two months, March and April. But the fishermen were catching fish in the area, defying the ban, the SI said.

Man to die for killing wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court yesterday sentenced one person to death for killing his wife. The convict is Badal Mia, 30, of village Sitarampur under Atpara upazila of the district. According to prosecution, Badal set his wife Pushpa Akter afire after pouring kerosene on her body on September 4, 2003. Rupon Mia, brother of Pushpa, filed a case with Atpara Police Station against Badal the following day. After investigation, police submitted a charge sheet against Badal. Judge Mohammad Ekramul Haque Chowdhury, after examining the witnesses, found Badal guilty and pronounced the verdict.



PHOTO: STAR
Locals bring out a procession in Chapainawabganj town yesterday to celebrate start of rail line repair work on Chapainawabganj-Amanura and Rajshahi-Rohonpur routes and Ecne's approval of Second Mohananda bridge.

250-bed hospital at Gopalganj

A CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

A 250-bed general hospital was inaugurated at Gopalganj yesterday. Chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on health and family welfare ministry and local lawmaker Sheikh Fazul Karim Selim unveiled the plaque of the hospital in the morning. Later, Sheikh Selim addressed a function on the hospital premises with Director General of the Directorate of Health Shah Moniruzzaman in the chair.

Fish trader stabbed to death

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

A fish trader was stabbed to death by his friend in Jessore town on Wednesday night. The dead is Ramzan Ali, 22, son of Jahangir Alam of Bejpara in the town. Locals said Ramzan lent Tk 1,000 to his friend Rony, son Samsul Alam of Ansar camp area, a few months ago. They had an altercation over the matter at around about 9:15pm and at one stage, Rony stabbed Ramzan and fled the scene. Ramzan was rushed to Jessore General Hospital where the doctors declared him dead. Locals took out a procession in the town yesterday morning demanding punishment to the killer. A case was filed with Kowitali Police Station.

Sand trader murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A sand trader was killed allegedly by his friend in the town on Wednesday night. The dead is Abdur Rahim Liton, 28, of Naogaon Para. Police recovered the body from a pond near his house yesterday morning and arrested one Rafiul Islam for his alleged involvement in the murder. Rafiul said Liton's friend Badal took him to Liton's house at around 9:00pm, called Liton out of his house and took him to an undisclosed location. Rafiul further said he came to know yesterday morning that Liton has been killed.

8 robbers sent to jail

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

A court here yesterday sentenced eight robbers to 10 years rigorous imprisonment (RI). The convicts are Lal Mia, Sharif, Monir Hossain, Abul Kalam, Shah Alam, Shiru Mia, Abul Hasem and Kanchan Mia. Additional District and Session Judge SM Abdus Salam fined the convicts Tk 5,000 each, in default, they are to suffer two more months in jail. According to prosecution, the robbers stormed into trader Alamgir's house at Purbapara village under Katiadi upazila of the district on the night of August 25, 2001. The robbers took away gold ornaments and Tk 5,000 from the family members at gunpoint. Alamgir filed a case with Katiadi Police Station the following day. Later police arrested two of the gang, Lal Mia and Kanchan Mia, while the are still at large. The remaining six were tried in absentia.

30 injured as bridge collapses

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

About 30 boys and girls, all students of a madrasa, were injured as a bridge collapsed near Laskar Bari at Mohishmari village on Tekerhat-Shimultola-Mohishmari road in Rajoir upazila yesterday.

Of the injured, Lima, 8, Surovi, 5, Rabiul, 10, Sadia, 6, Rifat, 8, Sabbir, 5, Jobaer, 10, Tamim, 8, Nazmul, 12, Dukhu Miah, 5, Nur Alam, 8, and Naim, 12, are undergoing treatment at Rajoir and Tekerhat hospitals.

Witnesses said the bridge collapsed when the students were returning home over the bridge from the madrasa.

Hearing screams, locals rushed to the spot and rescued them.



PHOTO: STAR
This bridge at Mohishmari village on Tekerhat-Mohishmari road in Rajoir upazila under Madaripur district collapsed when around 30 children were crossing it on their way to home from a local madrasa yesterday. With average to serious injuries, 12 of the children were admitted to Rajoir and Tekerhat hospitals while others sustained minor injuries.