

Stop land grabbing by false documents

Indigenous people urge govt for urgent steps

OUR CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabganj.

Indigenous people of Gomostapur upazila under Chapainawabganj district have made allegations of harassment and repression on them by the land grabbers.

Leaders of indigenous people of Dighori, Pargana, Baisi Parishad, Lahanti Akhra Forum, Adivasi Samonnya Parishad and Jatiyo Adivasi Parishad made the accusations at a press conference at Chapainawabganj Press Club on Saturday.

They alleged the land grabbers have been harassing them by filing false cases. Not only that, when anybody comes forward to help the victims, the land grabbers threaten him of dire consequences, they added.

Indigenous leaders of Chapainawabganj Corneleus Murmu, Motilal Toppo, Jaoharlal Ekka, Bichitra Tirpi and Shirish Khalko were present.

Giving an example of harassment, the indigenous leaders said one Sirajul Islam

of Lebudanga village under Radhanagar Union in Gomostapur upazila came under bomb attack at the same village by some unidentified criminals on the night of April 29. Sirajul's father-in-law Golam Rabbani filed a case with Gomostapur Police Station the following day against two innocent indigenous people.

Without finding the real culprits, police had sent the two indigenous people to jail custody, they alleged.

They told the press conference that Sirajul grabbed 2.14 acres of land of Sunil Keoar of Telipukur village by making a false document. He and his men threatened indigenous leaders Jaoharlal Ekka and Motilal Toppo with death on May 10 as they went to Chapainawabganj jail to meet one of the two accused.

This correspondent could not contact Sirajul Islam despite several attempts over mobile phone.

Our Mymensingh correspondent adds: The indigenous leaders of Mymensingh region have demanded that

the government form separate land commission to solve their land problems.

The raised the demand at a workshop on 'Problems over land of indigenous people of Mymensingh region and its remedy' at the auditorium of Zila Shilpakala Academy yesterday noon.

Influential people have already grabbed the land of many adivasi families by making false documents and they are still active, the indigenous leaders alleged.

They urged the government to immediately form a land commission to settle their land disputes.

Over 100 indigenous leaders from Mymensingh, Tangail, Sherpur and Netrokona joined the workshop jointly arranged by Joyenshahi Adivasi Samaj Kalyan Sangstha, Achik Michik Society, Hajang Mata Rashimoni Kalyan Parishad, Dhalu Adivasi Unnayan Sangstha, Indigenous People Development Services, Society for Biodiversity Conservation and CARITAS.



Nor'wester lashes 20 villages in different upazilas of Lalmonirhat districts early yesterday, damaging over 1,000 thatched and tin-roofed houses and injuring at least 10 people. Photo shows a damaged house at Mohishkhocho village under Aditmari upazila.

10 hurt as nor'wester lashes 20 villages

Houses, crops damaged in Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

At least 10 people were injured as nor'wester lashed over 20 villages in the district early yesterday.

About five hundred thatched and semi-pucca houses and different crops especially maize on vast areas were damaged in the storm.

Several big trees and electricity poles were uprooted. The whole district remained without electricity for 10 hours from 2:00 am to 12 noon yesterday.

The injured are Hosne Ara Begum, 40, her daughter Hasina Khatun, 10, Nur Hossain, 35, Karim Uddin, 27, at the Mohishkhocho village of Aditmari upazila, Zamir Ali, 38, Mofizul Islam, 28, Milon Miah, 30, at Mostafi village of Lalmonirhat Sadar and Samina Begum, 35, Monowara Bewa, 55, Shamsul Miah, 42, of

Sindurna village of Hatibandha upazila.

They sustained injuries due to fall of tree branches and house collapse. Most injured were admitted to local health complexes, locals said.

The worst affected villages are Mostafi, Kheda Bag, Selim Nagar and Mohendra Nagar of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, Mohishkhocho, Sarpukur and Kamlabari villages of Aditmari upazila, Sindurna and Goddmari villages of Hatibandha upazila, said district administration sources.

Our Correspondent in Brahmanbaria reports: Ali Newaz, 45, was killed by lightning at Champaknagar village under Bijoy Nagar upazila of the district yesterday.

According to an eye-witnesses, lightning struck him as he was working at a field near his home during storm.

Darsul Quran Foundation officials held for cheating

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Five officials of Darsul Quran Foundation including its chairman AJM Yusuf Akand and director (education) Tamanna Safia was held on Saturday on charge of cheating job seekers.

Manikganj Sadar police arrested them following a cheating case filed by one Ayub Ansary.

The other arrestees are-- Sanaul Ashraf, Mahmudul Hasan and Moshir.

Darsul Quran Foundation, an NGO based on Islam, got registration from the Ministry of Commerce on May 18 in 2009. After getting registration the foundation set up its head office at Mymensingh and later it shifted the office to Gazipur.

Police Superintendent of Manikganj Sheikh Muhammad Maruf Hasan told this correspondent that the organisation took Tk 1.5 crore from 1200 people of 11 districts promising to give them jobs. They took Tk 7.8 lakh from 26 people of Manikganj district, he added.

Deposition of PWs not held in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A court here yesterday could not take deposition of prosecution witnesses in the case filed under Explosive Substances Act following grenade attack on former British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury near the shrine of Hazrat shahjalal (RA).

Additional District and Sessions Judge-V Md Belayet Ullah deferred the date for recording statements of the prosecution witnesses to June 30 as the prime accused Huji chief Mufti Abdul Hannan could not be produced before the court. However, the four other accused in the case were produced in the court.

Three people were killed and 70 others, including Anwar Choudhury, injured in the grenade attack after Juma prayers on the premises of the mosque beside the shrine on May 21, 2004.

After the incident, two cases (one for murder and another under Explosive Substances Act) were filed.

In the murder case, Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal awarded death penalty to Mufti Hannan and two others on December 23, 2008.

Abducted youth rescued, 1 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Police rescued an abducted youth from Harinakundo upazila in Jhenidah yesterday and arrested a man in this connection.

Arrestee Sanwar allegedly abducted Tuhibur Rahman, son of Shajahan Ali of Charpara village under Alamdanga upazila in Chuadanga district on Saturday night.

Officer-in-charge (OC) Jahangir Alam of Harinakundo police station said, expat Tuhibur recently came to Bangladesh from Saudi Arabia after a few years.

On Saturday midnight a group of criminals abducted him from his house for Tk five lakh ransom and took him to Taherhuda village of the upazila.

Fugitive JMB man arrested

A CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Police arrested a fugitive JMB cadre, who was sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment in an arms case, in Noldanga upazila of Natore on Saturday night.

Acting on a tip-off, Noldanga police raided Jagodishpur Bariahati village at around 11:00pm and arrested Biplob, a close aide to Bangla Bhai, at his house.

Police said Biplob, son of Dr Shahadat Ali of the village, also wanted in a number of criminal cases, including two for murder.

Officer-in-Charge of Noldanga Police Station Obaidul Haq said Biplob was earlier sentenced to 18 years imprisonment in an arms case.

Besides, two cases were filed against him with Bagmara and Noldanga police stations for killing two people in 2004, the OC said.

Two get life for rape, murder

BSS, Rangpur

Two people have been sentenced to life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) and fined Tk 50,000 each, in default, to suffer RI for five more years for rape and murder of a woman in Nilphamari.

Additional District and Sessions Judge of Nilphamari M Ansar Ali handed down the verdict in a crowded courtroom on Thursday.

The convicts are Kamrul Islam, 33, son of Ibrahim Ali and Jewel Hossain, 35, son of village Chengmari Baroghat under Jaldhaka upazila.

According to the prosecution, the convicts, both masons, raped their female colleague Shefali Khatun, 35, wife of Amir Ali who has been missing for eight years.

Due to extreme poverty, Shefali had to become a mason to earn livelihoods in absence of her husband for a long time.

As Shefali fell pregnant and the matter became known to others, Kamrul and Jewel tactfully called her out of her house on March 23 in 2005 in the afternoon. They slaughtered her and threw the body in the Charalkata river under Kochua union in Sadar upazila of the district.

The then OC of Nilphamari Sadar police station Sohrab Hossain recovered the body on the next day and filed a murder case in this connection following an autopsy.

The OC arrested the two suspected masons and they admitted committing rape and killing Shefali during interrogation.

Later, the OC, who was also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted charge sheet against the two accused.

After hearing of the case, the court found the two guilty and pronounced the verdict on Thursday.

Additional Public Prosecutor of Nilphamari and senior advocate Akshay Kumar Roy appeared for the state while senior advocate Nurul Ahsan Helal defended the accused.



Police seize books on 'Jihad' raiding the residence of Sheikh Omar Farruk, chief coordinator of Chittagong region's Hizbut Tahrir, in the city's Khulsi area yesterday and arrested Nazmul Haq Tanmoy (inset), a member of the banned outfit.

Transport strike in Rangpur

Passengers suffer as bus links with Dhaka, 7 dists remain snapped

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Bus services between Dhaka and seven northern districts came to a halt yesterday morning as transport workers of Rangpur enforced an indefinite strike demanding increased wages.

Hundreds of Dhaka-bound buses from Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat districts got stranded at different points of Rangpur, causing immense sufferings to the passengers.

The buses that left Dhaka for the northern districts on Saturday night also got stuck at modern point of the district.

Secretary of Rangpur Motor Sramik (workers) Union Abdul Mojid said they had earlier

urged the owners to increase wages of the drivers and conductors of the buses that run on Rangpur-Dhaka routes, but to no effect.

"We have enforced the strike as our seven days' ultimatum expired on Saturday. The strike will continue until the demand for wage hike is met," Mojid said.

Secretary of Rangpur Bus Owners Association Moshir Rahman Ranga said they have nothing to do with the matter as most of the owners of these buses are from Dhaka.

Ranga, however, termed the strike 'unjustified' and asked them to withdraw it immediately.

Rangpur deputy commissioner held a meeting with the leaders of transport worker yesterday noon. But the meeting failed to yield positive results.



Buses lie idle at Rangpur bus terminal as transport workers enforce an indefinite strike yesterday to press for wage hike.



Toxic mangoes seized from Silimpur wholesale market in Ishwardi on Saturday being destroyed in Pabna town yesterday.

1200 kg toxic mango seized, destroyed

Fake oral saline factories fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A mobile court in a drive yesterday seized over 1200 kg toxic mangoes from Silimpur Bazaar in Ishwardi upazila Saturday evening.

Additional District Magistrate (ADM), Pabna Md Emam Uddin Kabir led the drive aided by the members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and Detective Branch of Police.

At Silimpur wholesale mango market the team found a huge quantity of green mangoes being contaminated with chemicals in the godown in order to prematurely ripen them and make them look ready for consumption.

The team seized over 1200 kg such mangoes from the godown of Md Rabon Ali and Md Alal in the market.

The accused traders how-

ever managed to flee the scene.

The mobile court also fined another mango trader Md Riazu Alam Tk 10,000 for the same offence.

The team took the toxic mangoes to the district headquarters and destroyed them in presence of locals at about 10:00 am yesterday.

In Benapole, Rab personnel on Saturday recovered 30 maunds of mangoes while being mixed with toxic carbide in Beltola area under Sharsha upazila, reports a correspondent.

Rab also arrested four people from the spot. The arrestees are Abdul Malek, Abdus Salam, Mahub and Kabirul.

Rab said, acting on a tip off, they raided the wholesale mango market and recovered the mangoes from the shop of Malek.

The team raided Safe Food Products and Nectar Food - where fake tasty saline was being produced.

The team fined the owners Tk 200,000 and instantly realised the amount from them.

Emam Uddin Kabir, who led the joint team said the factory owners did not take any permission from the authorities concerned to produce saline.

BSTI, Rajshahi Division's Deputy Director Alauddin Hossain said the factories were being illegally run without any chemist to test their products.

More over, the saline was being produced with improperly distilled water in dirty places.