

Chemical fertiliser used to treat drinking water!

3 Gaibandha municipality staff suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Three employees of Gaibandha Municipality were suspended on Friday for allegedly using ammonium sulphate in drinking water at a treatment plant.

Local people caught the employees, Nur Hossain, Modhu Mia and Hafizur Rahman Hiru, while they were using chemical fertiliser in water instead of aluminium sulphate at the water treatment plant at Masterpara in the town. They were later handed over to local councillor Motiur Rhaman Liton.

Anwarul Hasan Sabur rushed to the spot and suspended the three staff.

Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) set up two water treatment plants--one in Masterpara and the other in Khakasharif areas--in the municipality in 1988 with Tk 6 crore grant provided by Japan's government to supply safe drinking water to townspeople.

The PHED handed over the plants to Gaibandha Municipality for operation and maintenance in 1999.

"We have lodged a complaint with the mayor recently as water supplied from the plant looked dirty

and smelled bad, but to no effect," said town dweller Hafizur Rahman.

The employees do not carry out the instruction of the municipal authorities. They rarely use bleaching powder and aluminium sulphate for treating water at the plant, said the ward councillor.

As residents of the area, including children, often fall sick, using the contaminated water, many of the consumers cut off water supply connections, said locals.

"The matter is being investigated and corrupt employees will face the music," said Mayor Anwarul Hasan Sabur.



Mayor of Gaibandha poursava on Friday visits water treatment plant at Masterpara in the town where ammonium sulphate, meant for croplands, was used to treat water.



Sand lifting continues in the Padma although the monsoon rain has started filling the dried up riverbed with water. The photo was taken from Dargapara in Rajshahi last week.

7 Indians handed over to BSF

BDR arrests 13 Bangladeshis

STAR NATIONAL DESK

BDR handed over seven Indian nationals to BSF yesterday and arrested on Friday 13 Bangladeshis while returning from the neighbouring country without valid documents.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) yesterday handed over seven Indian nationals to Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on completion of prison terms, reports our Chapainawabganj report.

The Indians were arrested by the law enforcers for intrusion. They are Govinda Mondal, 22, son of Pabitra Mondal of Mohongonj village under Raninagar police station, Khalilur Rahman, 47, son of Sefatullah Mondol, of Charmajardia under same PS, Sudhir Mondol, 37, son of Bholanath Mondol of the same village and PS, Kalpana Mondol, 40, son of Kuber Mondol of Mohongonj village of same PS, Abdus Salam alias Babu, 36, son of Abul Kalam of Budhurpara of the same PS, Shahidul, 21, son of Chamatkar of Tikkipara and Mohammad Zaim, 22, son of Khazim of the same village under Zolongi PS of Murshidabad in West Bengal.

Didarul Alam, Jailor of Chapainawabganj District Jail said, prison terms of seven Indian citizens have been completed recently in Rajshahi Central Jail.

Later, Rajshahi Central Jail authorities sent them to

Chapainawabganj District Jail on June 20. On completion of formalities, the BDR men handed them in presence of jail authority and police to BSF through Sonamajid border yesterday noon.

Earlier, the law enforcers arrested them from different bordering villages in Rajshahi.

In Benapole, Jessore, a BDR patrol team arrested 13 Bangladeshis as they returned to country from India illegally early Friday, reports UNB.

BDR sources said, they were pushed back through Ghiba border late at night. Following a top-off, the border guards raided that area and arrested them for returning to the country without valid documents. They were later handed over to Benapole port police.

The arrestees were identified as Selim Mollah, 42, Abu Hossain, 65, Sukkur Ali, 48, Abul Kalam Azad, 30, Amir Sheikh, 25, Monir Hossain, 27 and his son Momin, 6, Mosharraf Hossain, 22, Mohammad Ali, 60, Muntaz, 65, Miraj, 30, Zafar Mia, 25, and Alal Mridha, 30. They hailed from different districts of the country.

The arrestees said, they were working in different parts of India illegally since long but in the face of stringent police action against the intruders recently they returned to the country with the help of some Indian manpower brokers and BSF men.

Illegal tree felling stopped

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Local people led by an Awami League (AL) leader stopped a Jubo League leader's act of illegal tree felling on the premises of Kamalapur Primary Teachers Training Institute (PTTI) in Alamdanga upazila under Chuadanga district on Friday.

Abdur Rashid, an influential leader of Alamdanga upazila unit of Jubo League, bought 37 trees including several dead ones on the premises of Kamalapur PTTI for Tk 65,500 in an open auction held on June 17, sources said.

An auction committee headed by Alamdanga Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Abdus Salam conducted the auction process.

Abdur Rashid, also former president of Chuadanga district unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League, engaged labourers to cut the trees on June 25 although no official order was issued by that time. The official order was issued on July 1.

In a couple of days, Rashid's labourers felled three live trees (worth Tk 3 lakh) that were not among the 37 trees under auction.

As local people came to know the matter,

they went to the spot and protested the act. They also informed PTTI Superintendent Abul Kalam Azad of the matter but no action was taken.

On Friday, locals led by Abdur Razzak, general secretary of Awami League unit of Ward No-2 under Mominpur union parishad in the upazila, prevented the labourers from tree felling and submitted written allegation to the UNO about the matter.

"I have already stopped their cutting trees and formed a three-member committee headed by Alamdanga upazila Vice Chairman Delwar Hossain to investigate the matter. I will take stern action after the committee submits report tomorrow [Sunday]," UNO Abdus Salam said yesterday.

Other members of the probe body are upazila Primary Education Officer Ashrafur Islam and PTTI Superintendent Abul Kalam Azad.

"I paid the auction money on June 23. What will I do if they (authority concerned) make delay to issue official order?" Rashid said yesterday over phone.



Locals gather at the field of Kamalapur Primary Teachers Training Institute in Alamdanga upazila of Chuadanga district to stop illegal tree felling by men employed by a local Jubo League leader.

One shot dead, 3 hurt as pirates open fire

A CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

One person was shot dead and three others were injured by pirates in Fulbari Char area on the river Jamuna under Belkuchi upazila of the district at about 9:30 pm Friday.

The dead and the injured were followers of the Pir (religious leader) of Enayetpur. Dead Rubel Hossain, 22, was son of Joynal Abedin of Mongaldi village under Sherpur district headquarters.

Two seriously injured were admitted to Enayetpur

Khwaja Yunus Medical College and Hospital Friday night. Another was released after first aid.

Officers-in-charge of Jamuna Bridge West and Belkuchi police stations led by additional police superintendent Delwar Hossain visited the spot.

Those who received bullet injuries are Lal Miah, 35, son of Suruj Ali of the same village and Abdur Rashid, son of Fazal Ali of Harinda village.

Police said a boat carrying 80 devotees of Enayetpur Pir was coming from Sherpur to

Enayetpur in the district at night.

When the boat reached Fulbari Char, the robbers waiting in ambush in another boat attacked the boat of the devotees.

The pirates failed to board the boat of the devotees in the face of resistance.

At one stage when the devotees attacked the boat, the pirates opened several rounds of bullets injuring four of them.

Rubel was taken to Enayetpur Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Another abduction for ransom in Chuadanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Criminals on Friday night demanded Tk 2 lakh ransom for release of a Chuadanga businessman.

Mawla Mondol, 45, a raw material trader at Khaskarra village in Alamdanga upazila was abducted the day before.

According to police, criminals went to the house of Mawla at about midnight on Thursday, introduced themselves as cadres of an outlawed party and demanded Tk 5 lakh from him.

As Mawla refused to pay the amount, the gang picked him up at gunpoint and took him to an unknown place.

On Friday night, an unknown caller phoned Mawla's daughter Roksana and demanded Tk 2 lakh for release of Mawla.

The criminals also warned not to seek police help if they want to see Mawla alive.

Police said no case was filed but they are trying to rescue the abduction victim.

Earlier on June 21, criminals

stormed into the house of one Tushar Ali at the same village at night and abducted him.

Tushar was an expatriate who returned from Malaysia recently.

Criminals demanded Tk 2 lakh ransom from the family of Tushar. Police failed to rescue Tushar but his family members bought his freedom on June 23 for Tk 80 thousand.

On June 27 midnight, criminals went to the house of Mohammad Ali at Tiorbila village, adjacent to Khaskarra village and demanded Tk

50,000 from Ali.

Ali was a poor farmer.

As he failed to comply with their demand the gang took him to a nearby field and chopped him indiscriminately.

Ali is now undergoing treatment at Chuadanga Sadar Hospital.

Contacted, officer-in-charge (OC) of Alamdanga police station Sikdar Moshirur Rahman said that they go into action only when anybody comes to them with specific allegation.

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