

Miscreants cut down 400 mango trees

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Local miscreants have felled an entire mango orchard spreading over five bighas (around 1.65 acres) at Shaikupa upazila in Jhenidah Thursday night.

All of the 400 mango trees of different species in the orchard were chopped off while several mounds of mangoes were looted, said orchard owner Amirul Islam of Aruakandi village in the upazila.

Locals said, around 11:30pm on Thursday, they could hear the sound of felling trees from the orchard.

However, none of the locals dared to stop the miscreants in fear of the recent dispute in the area by local AL unit factions, they said.

On May 11, an AL activist named Tulu Shikdar died here in a factional clash between two groups of local AL unit leaders Saidul Mollah and Mokaddes Hossain, said locals and police sources.

Tulu's wife filed a case with the upazila police in this regard accusing 33 including the orchard owner.

Amirul, also brother of Saidul Mollah, said, though he had no involvement with the killing, members of the other faction led by Mokaddes allegedly destroyed his orchard and looted the mangoes.

Meanwhile, police suspect the offense might have been done by a local criminal group led by Osman Ali and Daud Hossain of Aruakandi village, said Officer-in-Charge (OC) Sagir Mia of Shaikupa Police Station.

Following the tree-felling incident, police launched a drive in the area the same night but could not catch any of the miscreants, said the OC.

Amirul has filed a case with Shaikupa Police Station in this connection.



A mobile court seizes the rare animals, stashed for being smuggled from Bangladesh, from a house in the city's Dhanmondi yesterday, inset, also recovers hides of spotted deer.



Wild animals rescued from city house

Three held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of wild animals and hides of spotted deer were seized from a house in the city's Dhanmondi on Thursday night.

Tapan Kumar Dey, conservator of forests at the Wildlife and Nature Conservation Circle in Dhaka, executive magistrate Anwar Pasha of Rapid Action Battalion and ASP Shafiq Alam conducted the drive and also arrested three persons from the house.

The team seized three emus, two silver pheasants, one bali hash, six rabbits, parrots, a star tortoise and hides of two spotted deer from Flat B-1 of House no 27 in Dhanmondi's road no 14A. The arrestees are Mahbubur Rahman, 45, Bithi Akter, 25, and Ahammad Ali, 20.

A mobile court led by Anwar Pasha sentenced Mahbubur to one-year imprisonment and Bithi and Ahammad to six months jail each for violating the Wildlife Conservation Act. They were later sent to jail.

The team said the gang has long been involved in smuggling of rare animals from Bangladesh.

The animals were sent to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park in Cox's Bazar for collection of further evidence and treatment.

RMG worker electrocuted

UNB, Savar

A garment worker was electrocuted in her factory at Rajaghat of Tetuljhara union yesterday afternoon.

Locals said Parvin Akhtar, 32, wife of Jamaluddin of Rangpur district, was an operator at Aman Knitting Factory.

Body identified as of former scientific officer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The youth brought dead to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) by detectives Thursday night was identified yesterday.

The dead, Abdullah Al Mamun, 33, was a former scientific officer of Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute at Savar, according to his cousin Nazrul Islam.

Nazrul along with another cousin Faruk Rahman Ronju identified the body at DMCH.

Ronju said, hailing from Bogra, the victim used to live at Mirpur.

D B Assistant Commissioner Rownok Jahan said a DB team picked Mamun from Taher Automobiles near Film Development Corporation gate around 8:00pm on Thursday.

Mamun was seated in a car along with driver Ayub Ali Pramanik, 40, and another unidentified person as police cordoned the area and asked them to surrender.

Mamun took out a packet of white substance from a pocket of his trouser and swallowed something before police arrested him, she added.

Pramanik got caught, while the unidentified person fled.

Police took Mamun to DMCH where doctors found the victim already dead around 9:40pm.

Reinstate principles of '72 charter

Govt asked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of different political parties, minority and indigenous communities yesterday demanded the government reinstate the fundamental principles of the 1972 constitution and recognise the indigenous people in the charter.

Bangladesh Hindu, Buddha, Christian Oikya Parishad, a platform of religious minority communities and Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, an organisation of indigenous people, floated a joint platform from a rally at the Jatiya Press Club to launch a movement to press ahead their demands.

Speakers at the meeting demanded removal of the words "Bismillahir

Rahmanir Rahim" and dropping of the provision of state religion Islam from the constitution to bring back its original secular spirit since Bangladesh is a multi-religious nation.

The government has decided to amend the constitution following a Supreme Court verdict regarding the fifth amendment. It also formed a parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendment on July 21 last year.

Parliamentary body members have agreed to recognise the ethnic communities in the constitution, co-chairman of the parliamentary special committee Suranjit Sengupta told the rally.

The 1972 constitution had four principles -- Bangalee Nationalism, Socialism,

Democracy and Secularism.

The nature of the state and the government is very communal, claimed Jyotirindrya Bodhipriya Larma, rally's chief guest and chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council.

Rashed Khan Menon, president of Workers' Party of Bangladesh, Mujahidul Islam Selim, general secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh, Pankaj Bhattacharya, presidium member of Gano Forum, Muntasir Mamun, teacher of Dhaka University and Supreme Court lawyers Rokonuddin Mahmud and Amirul Islam also addressed the rally, chaired by sector commander of liberation war Maj Gen (ret) CR Dutta.

Eight 'muggers' among 11 arrested in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 11 people were arrested from the city on Thursday in connection with different crimes.

Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested three alleged arms traders and recovered two firearms from their possession in separate drives.

The arrestees are Manik Miah, Ratan Kumar Das, and Anowar Hossain.

In a drive on Thursday, Rab men caught eight members of an alleged snatchers gang while the gang was preparing to commit a crime in Banani.

A foreign pistol, a press-card and a microbus were seized from the gang's possession during the drive.

Among the arrestees, Hemayet Hossain, was a former BDR member and Ashrafuzzaman, was a former assistant sub-inspector of police.

Other arrestees are Mostofa, 28, Jewel Biswas, 22, Amir Khan, 42, Ruhul Amin, 45, Sona Miah, 55, and Sohel Gaji, 32.

During interrogation, the arrestees said their men, deployed in some bank compounds, informed them if any client withdrew a good sum of money from the bank, said Rab officials over the phone.

Then, the gang in guise of law enforcers would intercept the victim on the road, take them into the microbus and loot their belongings, they added.

New Bishop Moses sworn in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Moses M Costa took his seat as the new bishop of Chittagong Roman Catholic Diocese through a ceremony of fervour and festivity in the port city yesterday.

Archbishop Paulinus Costa and Coadjutor Archbishop Patrick De Rozario of Dhaka Archdiocese conducted the Eucharistic ceremony with the newly appointed bishop in the chair.

A solemn ceremony was held on the Saint Placid's High School premises where many number of Christian devotees, priests, nuns, fathers and brothers thronged from different corners of the country.

Joseph Marino, Vatican ambassador to Dhaka Archbishop, read out the apostolic appointment letter of the newly appointed bishop who took his sit on the Apostolic Chair (cathedral) following this.

The new bishop was greeted to the main altar with a procession of devotees in religious attire singing devotional hymns. Fathers and nuns, holding lighted candles and holy books in their hands, also took part to sing and rejoice.



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Member REHAB



Roundtable

National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE) will hold a pre-budget discussion. Time: 3:00pm, Venue: Cirdap auditorium.

Meeting

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) will hold a view exchange meeting. Time: 12:00pm, Venue: BGMEA Bhaban.

Seminar

Bangladesh Wonders Promotion Foundation will hold a seminar on vote for Sundarbans. Time: 10:30am, Venue: National Museum.

Rally

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpigoshthi Central Committee will hold a rally. Time: 5:30pm, Venue: Jatiya Press Club.

Human Chain

Equitybd will form a human chain. Time: 11:00am, Venue: Jatiya Press Club.

Roundtable

Prothom Alo will hold an anti-tobacco roundtable. Time: 10:30am, Venue: Prothom Alo office.

Human Chain

World Watch Society will form a human chain. Time: 10:30am, Venue: Jatiya Press Club.

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