

SYLHET-MEGHALAYA BORDERS

Fresh survey team visits a number of disputed points

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The new survey team, formed for conducting the joint survey of Sylhet-Meghalaya borders, visited some border areas at Tamabil, Naljur and Padua Tamabil yesterday. The joint survey, however, has remained suspended since June 20 as hundreds of people in the border areas raised protest and agitation against what they said 'attempt to hand over Bangladesh lands to the Indians in the name of joint border survey'.

The team for survey of Sylhet-Meghalaya borders has been changed more than once since the authorities took the initiative on December 7 last year.

The new Bangladesh team led by Assistant Survey Officer Ferdous Hossain took over the charge from Assistant Director Dobir Uddin Ahmed, who had worked for the survey in Sylhet borders since May 18.

Earlier another team had worked for the purpose.

Meanwhile, locals under the banner of conscious citizens will form a human chain at Jaintapur upazila headquarters at 3:00pm and at Gowainghat at 11:00am today to lodge protest against the 'bid to hand over lands to the Indians in the name of joint survey on Sylhet-Meghalaya borders'. Human chains were also

formed at the upazila headquarters of Companiganj and at Kanaighat yesterday.

On Monday afternoon, five people sustained injuries as the supporters and activists of the ruling Awami League locked in a clash at a view exchange meeting at Jaintapur upazila auditorium in the presence of deputy commissioner and superintendent of police Sylhet and chairmen of Jaintapur and Gowainghat upazila parishads. Suspended for half an hour due to the clash, the meeting later resumed and continued for an hour.

Sylhet district administration organised the meeting in a bid to pacify the ongoing commotion among the locals who had been protesting the joint border survey.

"The border people were misguided by wrong information. We hope such view help to clear the things. The deadline for border survey is June 30 but there will be another extension to complete the task," Sylhet Deputy Commissioner Abu Syed Mohammad Hashim told this correspondent yesterday.

Although the joint border survey was first scheduled to complete by January 15 this year, the authorities had to extend it thrice.

In the face of protests by hundreds of Bangladesh

nationals on different border areas including Tamabil, Sonarhat, Amswapnapur, Naljur and Dibir Haor during the last two weeks, the survey officials of Meghalaya and Bangladesh had to suspend their job.

Besides, the surveyors had faced much trouble while attempting to survey the lands, attached to the Tamabil International Check post, claimed by the Indians.

Prior to the recent protests by the locals, stalemate prevailed for months as Bangladesh officials could not agree with the Indians over survey points on the adversely possessed lands on different borders in the region.

The Indians were pressing to start survey from different points without any supplementary records and ignoring the existing border pillars, set after 1947.

The survey was hampered time and again since it began on December 7 last year, as the Indian Khasia tribesmen pressed for new points inside Bangladesh territory for the survey.

An uneasy calm has been prevailing on about 20 kilometre border from Sonarhat to Dibir Haor in Gowainghat, Kanaighat and in Jaintapur upazilas as the joint border survey on the adversely possessed lands began on December 7 last year.



PHOTO: STAR

Indigenous people take part in their traditional archery at Rajshahi Collectorate ground during a daylong programme marking 156th anniversary of Santal Revolution yesterday.

Protect our culture, ensure constitutional rights

Indigenous people reiterate demands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Indigenous people here have urged the government to take adequate steps to preserve their history and culture.

They placed the demand while observing the 156th anniversary of Santal Revolution in the city yesterday.

They called upon the authorities to enact laws to protect their culture and language, form a separate land commission and ensure the constitutional rights.

Although the indigenous people live in villages in Godagari upazila, Adivashi Sangskritik Unnayan Sangstha (ASUS) organised the day-long programme in the city yesterday.

The day's programme began with offerings to 'Sidhu and Kanu', the two brothers who spearheaded the Santal revolution. They are well-known among indigenous groups as Santal Hul.

During 1855-57, Santals put up major revolts against the British rule. Some two million people, mostly Santals and farmers were killed in the movement.

Marking the occasion, the indigenous

people brought out a colourful procession in the city's Laxmipur area which followed a cultural function at Nanking Darbar Hall. The cultural programmes included traditional Santal dance and drama.

In the traditional bow and arrow competition held among 24 Santal men at the district collectorate field, Hokna Murmu became first while Sushil Murmu, Anil Hasda, and Ganesh Hasda secured second, third and fourth places.

At noon, information commissioner Prof Sadeka Halim attended a discussion in the city as the chief guest.

She said indigenous communities are falling behind due to illiteracy and lack of their own political identity.

Fourteen newly elected UP members belonging to indigenous communities were honoured with crests at the discussion.

At the discussion, the speakers urged the government to observe the day at state level and to ensure rights of indigenous people and protect their land and culture.

They said the indigenous people are deprived of their rights despite their sacrifices and role in the country's Liberation War in 1971.

SNIPPETS

6 bombs recovered

UNB, Chuadanga

Six 'powerful' bombs were recovered from Darshana municipality area in Damurhuda upazila yesterday. None, however, was arrested in this connection. Acting on a tip-off, a team of police raided 'Sweeper Patti' and recovered the bombs, which were kept in a polythene bag, from under a tree in an abandoned condition at noon.

Sec 144 in Pabna

UNB, Pabna

Local administration imposed Section 144 in Faridpur upazila headquarter here yesterday morning as two factions of BNP announced programme at the same venue same time as part of central programme. Zahurul Islam Bakul, president of Faridpur upazila unit of BNP announced a rally at the Pura market premises at 5:00pm while Abdul Hakim, general secretary of the same unit of BNP, called a separate rally at the same venue at same time.

Ducks die in Netrakona

UNB, Netrakona

Several thousand ducks died of an unknown disease in different villages in Madan upazila of the district in the last seven days till Monday. Local people said ducks of many farms in eight unions died within 24 hours of being attacked by the disease. They alleged that although they have informed the matter to local livestock office they are yet to take any measure.

Tree plantation

PRESS RELEASE

YKK Bangladesh Pte Ltd., a Japan based zipper manufacturing company located at Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ), yesterday began tree plantation in Tangail. As part of corporate social responsibility (CSR), the YKK yesterday observed the "YKK Fastening Tree Plantation Day" and opened the tree plantation programme at Ghoria High School at Kalihati. Managing Director of YKK Kosuke Miimi inaugurated the programme while Yuji Yamase, director and Masud Karim, general manager of the organisation were.

2 held with porno CDs

UNB, Sylhet

A team of Rab-9 arrested two youths along with 185 porno CDs and computer equipment in separate places in the city on Sunday evening. The arrestees are Md Zahed Ahmed, 20, of Rupia village of Balaganj upazila and Khorshed Alam, 24, son of late Abdul Hai of Fenibil village of Sunamganj upazila. Rab sources said, acting on a tip-off, a special team of the elite force arrested Zahed along with 175 porn CDs from Khan CD Centre at Mansion Market in Taltola area. Another team arrested Khorshed from the same area with 10 porn CDs and computer equipment from a shop named Shandhani Mobile Servicing and Music Corner.



Turbulent Padma has devoured at least 27 business set-ups and 30 houses at Bhagyakul in Sreenagar upazila of Munshiganj district during the last eight to ten days, right, locals desperately try to protect Bhagyakul Bazar from the erosion.



PHOTO: STAR

UP POLL-RELATED VIOLENCE

Over 100 hurt, 22 houses vandalised in districts

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Over 100 people were injured and 22 houses damaged in UP election-related violence in Brahmanbaria, Noakhali and Munshiganj districts yesterday and on Monday night.

Our Brahmanbaria correspondent reported that the supporters of an elected member and a defeated member candidate clashed at Birashar village in Natal Union of Sadar upazila yesterday on Monday night, leaving at least 50 people from both sides injured.

Police quoted local people as saying that the supporters of member-elect Badal Mia and defeated candidate Md Rajob Ali locked in an altercation on Monday night over Natal Union Parishad election held on June 25.

At one stage, the supporters of the two attacked each other, leaving 20 people from both sides injured. The rival

groups equipped with bombs and lethal weapons again clashed yesterday morning, injuring at least 30 people and damaging 22 houses at the village.

The injured people are undergoing treatment at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital and private clinics.

In Noakhali, election-related violence in Dharmapur Union of Sadar upazila left at least 50 people injured on Monday night.

According to our correspondent, the supporters of BNP backed chairman aspirant advocate Abdur Rahman and independent chairman candidate Monjurul Ahsan Monju clashed over electioneering at Bhatirtek Choumohani Bazar.

Independent chairman aspirant Monjur's supporters brought out a procession at the bazar at around 9:00pm. When they reached in front of Abdur Rahman's election office, some of the processionists

hurled brick chips at the office, leading to clash between the two rival groups.

At one stage, the supporters of Awami League supported chairman candidate Md Mostafa joined with Monjur's men, vandalised Rahman's election office and six motorbikes.

At least 50 people from both sides were injured during the clash that continued for until 11:00pm. Of the injured, 40 are undergoing treatment at Noakhali Medical College and Hospital while the rest given first aid.

In Munshiganj, at least eight people were injured in a post-poll incident in Imampur Union of Gazaria upazila yesterday.

Rivals attacked Liakat Ali, 65, supporter of a UP candidate at Baghaikandi village, leaving him seriously injured. They also beat up Torab Ali, Abu Mia, Lalu, Bachchu, Shaheed, Fazal and Babu as they came to the rescue Liakat, reports UNB.

Youth beaten to death just for a cellphone set

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A youth was beaten to death for allegedly stealing a cellphone set yesterday.

The youth was identified as Kabir, 28, of Bashbaria village under Galachipa upazila.

Police and locals said, a cell phone went missing from the house of Ruhul Amin Gazi, a retired police constable of Bashbaria village on Monday night.

Suspecting that Kabir took away the phone set, Ruhul Amin and his nephew Kamal called the youth from his house.

First they beat up Kabir

at Ruhul Amin's house. As Kabir denied his involvement, Ruhul Amin hung the youth from the branch of a banyan tree and continued beating him.

Kabir died on the spot and Ruhul along with his nephew fled the scene.

Being informed, Nazrul Islam, SI of Galachipa police station, rushed to the spot and sent the body to Patuakhali morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile local people brought out a procession in the area, demanding immediate arrest and punishment to Ruhul Amin and his nephew Kamal.

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