

Jt border survey stumbles again

Indian border people resist teams

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Indo-Bangla joint survey of the Sylhet-Meghalaya border has stumbled again.

Bangladesh survey team members could not go ahead with their job on the Protappur-Padua border in the face of resistance by the Indians on the fourth day of the resumption of the work yesterday.

"Our survey men tried their best to run the job but failed," said Additional Deputy Commissioner, Revenue, Sylhet Ahmed Shamim Al Razi, who is coordinating the survey work.

There was also a discord with our people with the Indian survey team over the survey line and points on Protappur-Padua frontier, he added.

Asked about the fate of the survey on Protappur border, he said that the matter would now be brought to the notice of

higher authorities, including the department of survey and the ministry of home affairs.

The official informed that the survey team went to the border at about 10:30am yesterday. But they could not reach the adversely possessed lands (APL), close to the border pillar 1271, in the face of resistance by Indians. Waiting for over two hours they had to come back, he said.

A survey team member said, "we waited near the troubled lands for over two hours but could not reach the spot as the BSF did not allow us. It happened for the fourth day yesterday", he added.

Sources said, over 200 acres of land are under Indian possession for long on the said border. The BDR and BSF locked in several clashes and traded thousands of gunshots during the last few years. In 2001, BDR captured a part of the area,

but they had to retreat later. The border people are opposing the survey as they fear that the lands would be handed over to the Indians in the name of joint survey.

The joint survey on the APL on the said borders was suspended on several occasions since 20 June in the face of protests by border people at different points. However it resumed 13 July after the administration held several view exchange meetings with the locals to allay their fear.

The officials told the locals that the survey is being held to resolve problems, not to hand over their lands to Indians.

However, the locals demanded that the joint survey must be done in a transparent way.

Started on 7 December last year, the joint survey was to be completed by 15 January. However, the time was extended several times with the last one till 30 June.



Picturesque sea beach Kuakata gives a deserted look as the tourist spot fails to attract visitors, especially during the ongoing rainy season, due to bad condition of the road leading to it.

PHOTO: STAR

Dull season at Kuakata Rains, bad road condition to blame

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Kuakata tourist spot is experiencing a dull season due to the rainy season.

Hotels, motels, restaurants in the sea beach give a deserted look as businesses lack customers.

The road condition has added to the situation.

Bad condition of 14 kms of the road out of total 22 linking Kalapara and Kuakata discourages tourists. The road is badly damaged and risky for all vehicles. Heavy rains have now created large potholes on the road surface and rendered it unusable.

Construction work of the bridge on Hazipur and Kalapara rivers is yet to begin while the ferry terminals go under water during high tide especially during full moon and new moon disrupting communication further.

Kuakata is a unique beach as the sun can be seen both rising and setting there. To enjoy nature's beauty, a good number of tourists from home and abroad visit Kualata every year.

In the rainy season, natural scenes become more attractive in the areas and tourists can visit the spot to get rid of monotony.

But over a hundred residential hotels, motels in the area are now suffering from tourist crisis.

Habibur Rahman, manager of Nilanjona, a residential hotel in the area, said, "We have 39 rooms in our hotel and not even five were booked a day in the last few days."

"We have to spend minimum Tk 1.5 lakh as maintenance cost but income remains below Tk 50 thousand per month", he added.

"Many booked our rooms over phone from Dhaka and other places. They cancelled the bookings and returned home after reaching the risky damaged part of the road", the manager added.

"This is a common tale for all residential hotels here", he remarked.

Ruhul Amin, owner of a restaurant in Kuakata said, "Not even 10 customers visit my place a day. If the situation continues it will be difficult to run our business."

"Whenever a government comes to power, it promises to develop Kuakata and its road communication but forgets it in no time", Ruhul Amin added.

Meher Laboni, a housewife of Savar area in Dhaka who was visiting Kuakata said, "The trip from Pakhimara to Kuakata is very risky. The road is in so bad shape, I do not know how we will go back."

"Government should take immediate steps to ensure smooth journey to Kuakata from Dhaka and other parts in the country to make tours safe and enjoyable", Laboni added.

UPDF enforces roads, waterways blockade in CHT

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Pickets attacked private and army vehicles in Khagrachhari yesterday, the first day of two-day roads and waterways blockade enforced by United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) across the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

Anti-CHT peace treaty UPDF was demanding repeal of the 15th amendment to the constitution and constitutional recognition to the indigenous people.

In Khagrachhari, an army unit was shifting from Mohalchhari zone to Chittagong in the morning, reports our correspondent.

When the motorcade of some 20 vehicles reached Guimara Budumpara in Matiranga upazila at about 9:45am, picketers threw brick chips, damaging one of the vehicles, said Swapan Kumar, officer-in-charge of Guimara police station.

On information, police went to the spot and picked up four people, he said adding that none was injured during the attack.

Major Hasan of Khagrachhari Brigade confirmed the incident.

Additional police have been posted at different points of the district while mobile courts are patrolling the town to stop untoward incidents.

No long-distance transport left the district yesterday

since the blockade began at about 6:00am. However, a number of night coaches from Dhaka arrived at about 7:30am under police escort.

A night coach of SA Paribahan that reached the town early in the morning was damaged as pickets pelted brick chips on it.

In Rangamati, unknown criminals fired several blank shots near Ghara army camp on the Rangamati-Chittagong road under Kawkhali upazila during the blockade, reports our correspondent.

However, none was injured, said Shayamol Kanti Barua, officer-in-charge (OC) of Kawkhali police station.

At Batbunia under Kawkhali upazila, security personnel dispersed a procession that was brought out by pickets at noon.

In Bandarban, two pickets were held during the blockade programme near Meghla tourist centre on Bandarban-Chittagong road. They were later handed over to Kotwali police, Bandarban police said identifying them as Hiaching Marma, 15, and Aungsathuai Marma, 16.

Before enforcing the blockade, UPDF staged demonstrations, organised human chains and held rallies in the three hill districts to press home their demand.

Teenage girl murdered after rape

UNB, Barguna

A madrasa student was murdered after rape at Chhoto Vajjora village in Bamna upazila early Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as Jenny Akhter, 15, a class VIII student of Cholakavanga Darus Salam Rashidia Dakhil Madrasa and daughter of ex-army man Motaleb Hawlader of the village.

Family members said Golam Jisan Hayder alias Tapu, 22, son of upazila Awami League vice president and local UP member Golam Hayder Hemayet Mridha, used to sexually harass Jenny on her way to madrasa.

At this, Jenny's parents stopped her studies two months ago and arranged her marriage with a neighboring young man which was schedule to be held on next Friday.

Hearing the marriage news of Jenny, Tapu sneaked into her room late at night and raped her. Hearing the hue and cry, when her mother tried to rescue Jenny, Tapu beat her mercilessly.

At one stage, Tapu dragged Jenny outside the house and strangled her.

Police arrested Tapu's father Hemayet Mridha, mother Maksuda Begum and uncle Selim Master on Tuesday night.



Company Name change

NOTICE is hereby given that Nor Pearl Knitwear Limited has changed its name to Brandix Casualwear Bangladesh Limited by passing a Special Resolution of the Company.

The former name of the company : Nor Pearl Knitwear Limited

The new name of the company : Brandix Casualwear Bangladesh Limited

Registered office : Plot no 61-71, Comilla EPZ, Comilla, Bangladesh.

By Order of the Board,
Brandix Casualwear Bangladesh Limited