

A project for landless about to make an FF's family landless

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A martyred freedom fighter's family has lost most of their 2.5-acre government allocated land at Char Ganga in Galachipa upazila of Patuakhali district as the upazila administration has occupied it for a rehabilitation project.

Under the project on 10 acres of land, the upazila administration illegally occupied the land of the freedom fighter's family, ignoring a *status quo* order issued by the court, says a probe report of Patuakhali district administration.

Abdul Khaleq, then working as a signalman in the then East Pakistan Rifles, was killed by Pakistan occupation army during the Liberation War and the gazette issued by the Ministry of Liberation War

Affairs on June 15, 2004 mentions him as a martyred freedom fighter.

After Khaleq's death, his wife Sajeda Begum with her son and two daughters took shelter at his father's house as Khaleq was a landless man.

After independence, the then government gave 2.50 acres of land to Shamim, son



Martyred freedom fighter Abdul Khaleq

of late Khaleq at Char Ganga under Galachipa upazila and it was recorded in 1997-79 fiscal year with kabuliat deed No 445. Crops produced on the land served as earning source of the poor family.

Meanwhile, Galachipa upazila administration undertook a project to rehabilitate landless families on 10 acres of land in 2006-07 fiscal year and 1.50 acres of land belonging to the martyred freedom fighter's family was occupied for the purpose.

Protesting the matter, Shamim on January 14 in 2007 submitted a written allegation to Patuakhali deputy commissioner (DC) who asked Galachipa upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) to take necessary action after investigation.

As no step was taken, the

victim submitted another allegation to the Patuakhali DC on April 24 in 2009 with recommendation of ASM Feroz, whip of Jatiya Sangsad, also lawmaker from Patuakhali-2 (Baufal).

The DC again instructed the Galachipa UNO for necessary action but to no effect.

Following a case filed by Shamim, the Assistant Judge's Court in Galachipa declared illegal occupation of his land for the project and issued a permanent status quo in this regard.

Neglecting the court order, the upazila administration completed the project and built eight barracks to rehabilitate 80 landless families there.

After getting the court's judgment, the DC asked additional deputy commissioner (ADC) Md Shah Alam Sarder to investigate the matter. The ADC submitted his report to the DC on July 28 this year, saying that the demand of the martyred freedom fighter's family is valid.

"We want to get back the land that the government allocated for us. We also demand legal steps against the people responsible for occupying our land," said the martyred freedom fighter's wife Sajeda Begum, now living at her son-in-law's (daughter's husband) house at Boga Bazar under Bauful upazila.

The victim family has sought the prime minister's intervention to get solution in the matter.

When contacted, ADC Shah Alam Sarder said, "We have already asked the Galachipa UNO to take steps to solve the problem."



PHOTO: STAR

INNOVATIVE CHEATING! A section of unscrupulous traders insert marbles through the gills of hilsa to make the popular and now pricey fish weigh more.

Novel way of cheating hilsa lovers Marbles being inserted in the fish to increase weight

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A hilsa supplier in Barisal has been sued for hoodwinking customers by inserting marbles through the gills to increase weight of the popular fish that is selling for high prices in the market now.

Mosharrif Hossain, owner of fish exporting firm Sayem Traders on Port Road in Barisal city, filed the case with Barisal Kotwali police station on Tuesday against hilsa fish supplier

Zakir Hossain, said Shaheduzzaman, officer in-charge of Barisal Kotwali police station.

The novel way of cheating came to light as Dr Sayem, a city resident, purchased five hilsa from Port Road wholesale market on Tuesday and found some marbles weighing nearly 500 grams inside three of the fishes after cutting those at his house, said Anwar Hossain Babu, assistant fishery officer of Barisal.

Following the allegation, police

and officials of the fisheries department rushed to the spot and seized two more hilsa with marbles inside.

They also detained two fish traders from the spot. But they were released after the case was filed against Zakir, Anwar added.

Preliminary investigation revealed that a section of unscrupulous suppliers have been using the unfair means to artificially increase the weight of hilsa fish to make exorbitant profit.



PHOTO: STAR

The family members of martyred freedom fighter Abdul Khaleq are passing time amid fear of losing their last shelter as a rehabilitation project at Char Ganga in Galachipa upazila of Patuakhali district has already occupied most of their 2.5 acres of land.

Erosion devours homesteads of 70 families in 3 hours

A CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Jamuna river devoured homesteads of about 70 families at Shashariabari Khan Para of Pathorshi union under Islampur upazila within a span of three hours on Tuesday.

Many erosion victims hurriedly shifted their houses, cattle and other belongings to safer places while others took shelter on roads under the open sky.

Pathorshi UP Chairman

Hashmot Ali Khan said the river suddenly turned violent and started eroding at Shashariabari Khan Para at 9.00am on Tuesday which continued till 12 noon.

Homesteads of Mati Mia, Bhedu, Gafur, Faruk, Shahin, Wadud, Zahur Ali, Altaf Hossain, Abdul Mazid were devoured by the river within the period.

The erosion-hit people were totally unprepared for the sudden erosion which threw them into severe trouble to shift their

houses and belongings to safer places, said Hashmot Ali Khan.

Among the victims -- Wadud, Jahur Ali, Altaf Hossain, Abdul Mazid, Fulechha Bewa and Rahima Begum took shelter on Molomganj-Shahshariabari road of the union.

They told this correspondent that they become helpless as Jamuna all of sudden started eroding their homesteads at 10.00am. They somehow

saved some moveable property from erosion.

Contacted, Executive Engineer of Water Development Board Shamsul Karim said the homesteads on the bank of the channel of Jamuna often fall victim to erosion because of heavy water-flow during monsoon.

Asked about steps to stop the erosion, he said dumping of GO sand bags will start soon in the affected area to bring the situation under control.



PHOTO: STAR

Erratic Jamuna River suddenly turned violent on Tuesday morning, devouring homesteads of about 70 families at Shashariabari Khan Para of Pathorshi union in Islampur upazila under Jamalpur district within three hours.

BCL men muscle in on tender deals, beat officials

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists vandalised the room of the executive engineer of Public Works Department (PWD) in Sirajganj and assaulted an upazila project implementation officer in Feni over tender issues yesterday.

Our Sirajganj correspondent reported that police arrested town Chhatra League

convenor Saidul Islam Babu on charge of ransacking the room of PWD Executive Engineer Md Noor Islam for not awarding the BCL leader a tender illegally.

Babu was arrested in Dhangora area of the town soon after filing of a case by the engineer with Sadar Police Station under the Speedy Trial Act against the BCL leader and his accomplice Rashedul Hasan. Rashedul has gone into hiding.

After the incident, all officers and

employees of the PWD office observed work abstinence yesterday demanding punishment to the accused.

In the case statement, Executive Engineer Noor Islam alleged that BCL leader Saidul Islam Babu along with his accomplice Rashedul Hasan entered his office room at around 1:45pm and asked him to give him the tender of a project. "As I refused to meet the demand, they hurled abuse at me and ran-

sacked my room," he stated in the statement.

A correspondent from Feni adds: Parashuram upazila BCL activists yesterday assaulted Project Implementation Officer (PIO) Iqbal Hasan and confined him to his office room, bringing allegations of wrongdoing in lottery of a tender involving Tk20 lakh against him.

Being informed, UNO Arif Ahmed Khan and Officer-in-Charge Nizamuddin rushed to the spot and rescued the PIO.

SNIPPETS

JFCL resumes production

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Jamuna Fertiliser Company Limited (JFCL), the country's largest urea producing factory, resumed its production yesterday after five and a half months of closure. The state-owned company with a daily production capacity of 1,700 tonnes was shut on March 26 for an indefinite period due to gas crisis. After getting gas supply on September 5, the factory resumed urea production on September 12. But production was again suspended at around 10:30am on Tuesday due to low gas pressure, company sources said.

Fire kills woman, daughter

UNB, Jessore

A female worker and her minor daughter were burnt to death as a fire broke out at a hut at Rubdia Bazar in Kotwali PSTuesday night. The deceased were identified as Sufia, 35, a worker at an yard for processing paddy and her three and half month old daughter Koyely. Police said the fire originated from the ashes of an oven at about 11:30pm at the yard, owned by rice trader Satyan Raha. Sufia and her daughter, who were asleep at the adjacent hut, were burnt alive.

Farmer hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Criminals hacked a farmer to death in Dighinala upazila of the district Tuesday night. On information, police recovered the body of Bimol Chakma, 45, son of late Nagorak Chakma, from Jamini Karbaripara in the upazila around 9:30pm, said Sahadat Hossain, officer-in-charge of Dighinala police station. Quoting family members, police said a gang of at least six criminals called Bimol out of his Jamini Karbaripara residence around 8:30pm and hacked him to death.

Man killed over land dispute

UNB, Mymensingh

A man, who was critically injured by his rivals over land dispute Tuesday night at Kashiarchar village in Gouripur upazila, died at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) yesterday morning. The deceased was identified as farmer Majibur Mia, 40, of the village. Police quoting locals said, there was a long standing dispute between Majibur and neighbour Bachchu Mia over the ownership of a piece of land. On Tuesday, Bachchu Mia along with his supporters attacked Majibur and his men when they went to take possession of the disputed land, leaving Majibur and two others critically injured. The injured were rushed to the MMCH where Majibur succumbed to his injuries at about 6am.

Nasima set afire allegedly by couple dies at hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Nasima Akter finally succumbed to her burn injuries at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) on Tuesday night.

A couple allegedly set their neighbour Nasima on fire after pouring kerosene on Sunday night at Joypura village under Sombhag union in Dhamrai upazila.

Police arrested Shafiqul Islam, 30, son of Abul Hossain of Joypura village and Shafiqul's wife Rawshan Ara, 25, from their house on Monday for alleged bid to kill the girl.

Police said, Shafiqul developed an illicit relation with his colleague Nasima about one and a half years ago. The couple tried to kill her as she became pregnant by Shafiqul.

Severely injured Nasima, 25, was admitted to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital on Sunday.

On information, Sekendar Ali, investigation officer of the case, went to



Nasima Akter

the hospital yesterday and made the inquest report.

The magistrate, however, could not take her statement, the SI said.

The hospital authorities handed over the body to the father of the victim on completion of autopsy at DMCH the SI said.

Officer in-charge of Dhamrai police station Jahangir Hossain said Nasima of Laxmipur village under Raipura upazila of Narsingdi district was a worker at a cycle making factory.

Rois Mia, father of Nasima filed a case with Dhamrai police station against the couple on Sunday, he said.

2 outlaws killed in gunfight

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Two operatives of outlawed parties were killed as two rival groups from two villages of Rajbari and Magura locked in a fierce gunfight early yesterday.

Quoting locals, Faruque, a sub-inspector of Sreepur police station of Magura, said the gunfight ensued between the members of Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF) and Sarbahara Party (Bidhan Bahini) around 1:30am.

The outlaws of the GMF and Bidhan Bahini traded gunfire from Agpatora village in Baliakandi upazila of

Rajbari and Char Maheshpur village in Sreepur upazila of Magura.

A waterbody separates the two villages.

Two outlaws -- Chand Mohan, 'regional leader' of the GMF, and Shahidul, 42, a member of Bidhan Bahini -- died on the spot during the one-hour gunfight.

Chand Mohan was a resident of Agpatora village while Shahidul hailed from a village in Sreepur upazila.

On information, Baliakandi and Sreepur police recovered the bodies of Chand Mohan and Shahidul from the two villages.