

OUTLAWS ACTIVE AGAIN IN GANGNI OF MEHERPUR 8 brick kiln owners held hostage for illegal tolls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Outlaws have become active again in Gangni upazila of Meherpur district and are putting pressure on brick kiln owners to pay them illegal tolls within the deadlines.

Cadres of outlawed of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddho) faction demanded Tk 18 lakh from eight brick kiln owners in the last four days from Sunday to Wednesday, said one of the owners, seeking anonymity.

The outlaws also gave the owners a 10-day deadline to pay the money. Otherwise, they threatened to kill them, he added.

One of the owners of Biswas Brick Kiln said, "We have two brick kilns--

Biswas-1 and Biswas-2. The gang demanded Tk 5 lakh from us," he added.

The outlaws demanded Tk 3 lakh from Samata, Ekata and Satata brick kilns each and Tk 2 lakh from Joynal and Bamundi brick kilns each, said the owners.

They said one Raju, identifying himself as regional leader of PBCP Janajuddho phoned the brick kiln owners and asked them to pay the money within the deadlines.

On Wednesday night, Janajuddho cadres came to Bamundi Brick Kiln and wanted to know the whereabouts of its owner Kamrul Islam.

As the labourers failed to give information about the owner, the outlaws

severed the tendons of legs of labourer Mahirul, 40, and beat up five others-- Sumon, 35, Kabil, 25, Rustom, 45, Hasu, 31 and Bakkar, 22.

Mahirul is now undergoing treatment at Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital.

The brick kiln owners are trying to negotiate with the Janajuddho cadres and some of them have already gave them the money as demanded, said a relative of a brick kiln owner.

Contacted, Officer-In-Charge (OC) of Gangni Police Station Golam Mustafa said he was not aware of the matter and no such complaint was lodged with the police station as of yesterday.

13 Shibir men arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jhenidah*

Police arrested the district president and 12 other activists of Jamaat-backed student front Shibir on Wednesday night from Basundhara student's mess in Beparipara area of the district town.

The arrestees are district Shibir president Sheikh Shahjalal Hossain, activists Masud Rana, Shafiur Rahman, Shamsul Haque, Jahangir Alam, Shafiqul Islam, Mujahidul Islam, Tito Mizan, Atikur Rahman, Maruf Hossain, Shahjahan Ali, Samiul Islam and Zillur Rahman.

Sadar police station SI Munir Hossain said, on Wednesday at around 7:30pm, some activists of Chhatra Shibir were holding a meeting at Beparipara mess.

On information, activists of Chhatra League attacked them, damaged furniture and kept them confined to the room.

Police went to the spot and arrested 13 Shibir activists and brought them to the Sadar police station.

Later they were arrested after Chhatra League activist Insar Joarder filed a case against them on charge of attacking BCL men.

District Chhatra League general secretary Biswasit Saha said, the Shibir activists of Arappur area on Tuesday afternoon attacked some KC College students including Chhatra League activist Insar Joarder.

Following the incident, the activists attacked the Shibir mess, police said.

Denying the allegation Shibir president Shahjalal Hossain said that the BCL men attacked them after a party meeting without any provocation. Five Shibir men were injured, he said.



PHOTO: STAR

CALLOUSNESS UNFORGIVABLE! This brick field, set up about 150 yards from Takimuddin High School and adjacent to Koira upazila health complex in Khulna district, has continued operation for the last nine years, thanks to the indifference of authorities concerned.

Brick field near health complex, school

'Undisturbed' for last nine years

QUAZI AMANULLAH, *Khulna*

Believe it or not, a brick field, set up about 150 yards from the upazila health complex and a high school, has continued its operation for nine years.

Set up in 2003 beside Takimuddin High School at Jaigirmahal village in Amadi union under Koira upazila of Khulna district, the brick field named Messers Amir Ali Bricks poses health hazard to under treatment patients at the upazila health complex and students and teachers of the school.

Environment of the populous area is also affected.

The brick field owner, Amir Ali Gayeen, present chairman of Amadi Union Parishad, claimed that he had set up the brick field on three acres of land after getting 'green signal' from the Department of Environment (DoE) office in Khulna.

"So, the question of health hazard and environment pollution due to running of my brick field does not arise here," said the brick field owner, also president of the union unit of ruling Awami League.

On the other hand, Medical Officer of

Koira Upazila Health Complex Dr Shujat Ahmed said the brick field should be shifted as soon as possible as its smoke and dirt cause health hazard to patients, especially those with cardiac problem and children.

"I applied in writing to the authorities concerned several times during the last one year for removing the brick field that is being run in defiance of relevant environment rules," Dr Shujat said.

"Black smoke emitted from the chimney of the brick kiln is creating respiratory problem both for teachers and students as they have to inhale it for hours during the class time," said Md Anwarul Huq, headmaster of Takimuddin High School.

The brick field has been running since 2003 in the populous area violating the relevant rules of environment department, he said.

"I never permitted the UP chairman to run the brick field violating rules. Legal action will be taken against brick field owner in case of violation of the relevant rules," Dr Tarun Kanti, director of the DoE, Khulna, told this correspondent a few days ago.



PHOTO: STAR

Cross sections of people join a human chain standing in the knee-deep water of Rampal channel connecting Mongla-Ghashiakhali navigation route yesterday demanding steps to maintain normal flow of the watercourse.

SNIPPETS

Pirates kidnap 10 fishermen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Pirates belonging to notorious Mukul Bahini of the Sundarbans kidnapped 10 fishermen for ransom on Wednesday from Kalirkhal under Mongla upazila of Bagerhat district. The pirates also took away a fishing trawler of the fishermen. Three fishermen who managed to escape from fishing trawler said the pirates have threatened to kill the kidnapped fishermen in case of failure to pay Tk 2 lakh ransom by Sunday.

Birds rescued from poachers

UNB, *Bagerhat*

Detective Branch (DB) of police rescued 55 migratory birds from the clutches of a group of poachers at Hadaerhat bazaar in Sadar upazila on Wednesday and later the birds were freed. Acting on secret information, a team of DB police raided the bazaar in the morning. Sensing police presence the poachers fled the scene leaving the birds behind. Later, the team freed the birds in the afternoon.

Two houses gutted in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangpur*

Two houses were gutted at Najirdaho village of Teesta Char in Kaunia upazila on Wednesday night. Goods and valuables worth Tk 5 lakh were burnt in the fire that originated from a burning candle. Owner of the houses are Md. Monsur and Wahed Ali. Family members and local sources said, about 10pm on Wednesday fire broke out from the house of Md. Monsur and it spread to Wahed Ali's house within minutes.

9 shops fined in Thakurgoan

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgoan*

A mobile court fined nine shops including restaurants, bakery, cosmetic and grocery at Ruhea and Dholerhat bazars under Sadar upazila on Wednesday afternoon for adulteration of foods, unhygienic atmosphere and for keeping date expired and substandard items. The mobile court led by executive magistrate Munira Pervin, realised Tk 25,000 from the shops of two bazars. In Ruhea Bazar, Ruhea Mouchak Hotel and Restaurant and Awalin Hotel and Restaurant were fined Tk 5,000 each, Jibon Chanachur and Khan Cosmetics Tk 3,000 each, Madina Bakery and Aminul Islam's grocery shop Tk 2,000 each. In Dholerhat Bazar, Rafiqul Islam's fertiliser shop was fined Tk 2,000, Anonya Prashad Hotel and Restaurant Tk 1,500 and Golam Ashraf's grocery shop Tk 1,000.

4 robbers held in 2 dists

UNB, *Brahmanbaria*

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police in separate drives arrested four alleged robbers from Narayanganj and Kishoreganj districts on Wednesday and Tuesday. The arrestees were identified as Aman Ullah, 35, of Dairadi village of Arahajar upazila of Narayanganj, Yakub Ali, 30, of Chhotobalapur village in Narsingdi district, Faruk Hossain, 30, of Abdullakhandi village and Milan Mia, 22, of Panishar village in Sarail upazila of Brahmanbaria. Rab-9 of Bhoirab camp said they raided Dairadi and Chhotobalapur villages in the afternoon and arrested Aman, Yakub and Faruk in a robbery case. The same team arrested Milan Mia from Dairakandi Bazaar in Kuliachar upazila of Kishoreganj on Tuesday.

Save dying Rampal channel, demands human chain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Several hundred people yesterday formed a human chain standing in knee-deep water of silted Rampal channel to press home their demand for immediate steps to keep the flow of the channel normal.

Organised by Coastal Development Partnership (CDP), a non governmental organisation, teachers, lawyers, leaders of different political parties, journalists, students and cultural activists participated in the programme.

Existence of Rampal

channel connecting Mongla-Ghashiakhali navigation route is now at stake for siltation and sediment that falls every day on its bed.

The channel was excavated in 1974 to ease the communication between Mongla sea port and the other parts of the country. It is also the main way of communication between Khulna and Noapara river port of Jessore district.

Participants of the human chain urged the government to re-excavate Rampal channel and remove all dams on the canals linking to the channel as soon as possible.

MADHABKUNDA WATERFALL

Two jailed for sexually harassing visitors

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two youths were jailed on charge of sexual harassment of women visitors at Madhabkunda waterfall in Baralekha upazila of Moulvibazar district on Tuesday while a stalker was sentenced to six months' imprisonment in Dinajpur town on Wednesday.

Following allegations made by some visitors, a mobile court led by Baralekha Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Syed Md Aminur Rahman launched a drive in Madhabkunda area at around 11:00am and arrested two staff of a digital colour lab while they were editing objectionable photos of some women visitors, reports our Moulvibazar correspondent.

The court sentenced the two staff of the lab to

two years rigorous imprisonment for their involvement in immoral acts and also fined them Tk 10,000 each, in default they are to suffer another two months in jail.

The convicts are Moinul Islam, 18, and Fakrul Islam, 19, of Gournagar village in Dakkhinbag union of the upazila. The mobile court also seized CDs, some objectionable photographs and a computer from their possession.

There are allegations that some criminals, identifying themselves as guides urge the women visitors to enjoy beautiful scenery of the area from top of the hillocks adjacent to the waterfall.

They take them to the top of the hillocks and often try to harass them sexually and secretly take shots of such attempts.

Normalcy returns to 2 hill dists

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Normalcy has returned to two hill districts where ethnic violence flared up centring the murder of a Bangalee settler.

The settlers carried out attacks on indigenous communities at Baghaichhari upazila in Rangamati and Dighinala upazila in Khagrachhari Wednesday after the hacked body of Abdul Sattar, 29, was found.

Son of Idris Ali from Muslimpara village at Dighinala, Sattar used to transport people on his motorcycle. He went missing Tuesday evening and his body was found near Duitila under Baghaichhari the next morning.

Nayem Uddin, officer-in-charge of Baghaichhari Police Station, informed The Daily Star yesterday that the motor-

Follow-up

cycle was found at the Bangalee neighbourhood near Baghaichhari College and it was unregistered.

Many Bangalees earlier insisted that some indigenous people murdered Sattar to take away his bike.

However, Section 144 was still in force at Baghaichhari yesterday with additional police and BGB personnel deployed, reports our Rangamati correspondent.

Rangamati Deputy Commissioner Sourendra Nath Chakraborty and Superintendent of Police Masood Ul Hasan visited the upazila and held talks with leaders of indigenous people and Bangalee settlers.

Jatindra Lal Tripura, chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Refugee Affairs Taskforce, Khagrachhari Deputy Commissioner Anisul Haque Bhuiyan and SP Abu Kalam Siddique also met local leaders at Dighinala.

In Wednesday's unrest, Chigonmilla Chakma, 43, was beaten to death and her husband Jiten Chakma was injured by settlers while the two were going to Baghaichhari from Dighinala in the morning.

All the injured were undergoing treatment at Khagrachhari Adhunik Hospital, adds our Khagrachhari correspondent.

According to sources, some five indigenous people have been killed, 100 injured and some 630 houses burnt down on several occasions after the Awami League-led grand alliance took office.

Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Limited Tongi, Gazipur, Bangladesh		
শ্যাপটপ মানেই দোস্তেল		
Invitation for Tender by TSS		
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Posts & Telecommunications
2	Procuring Entity Name	Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS) Limited
3	Procuring Entity District	Gazipur
4	Invitation for	Tender Goods (Single Lots)
5	Invitation Ref No	TSS/GM(P&C)/Proc/AAL/2/2011-12
6	Date	15/12/2011
7	Procurement Method	NCT Open
8	Budget and Source of Funds	Own Funds
9	Tender Package No.	Proc/AAL/2/2011-2012
10	Tender Package Name	Procurement of Automatic Laptop Assembling and Ageing Line
11	Tender Publication Date	16/12/2011
12	Tender Last Selling Date	04/01/2012
13	Tender Closing Date and Time	05/01/2012, 12:00 hrs.
14	Tender Opening Date and Time	05/01/2012, 15:00 hrs.
15	Name & Address of the Office(s)	Address(s)
	-Selling Tender Document(Principal)	DGM(P&C), TSS, Tongi, Gazipur
	-Selling Tender Document(Others)	Company Secretary, TSS, GPO Bldg., Room no 7, 1st floor, Dhaka
	-Receiving Tender Document	GM(P&C), TSS & Company Secretary, GPO Bldg., Room no 7, 1st floor, Dhaka
	-Opening Tender Document	TSS Conference room
16	Eligibility of Tenderer	Any national/international firm having satisfactory record of supplying, installing and commissioning similar equipment
17	Brief Description of Goods or Works	Automatic Laptop Assembling and Ageing Line and Dual Air Shower, Anti-static Floor Mat
18	Brief Description of Related Services	On-site training during installation and warranty of spare parts
19	Tender Document Price	BDT 2000.00 or USD 30.00
20	Name of Official Inviting Tender	A. A. Md. Moyashir
21	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	General Manager (Plant & Commercial), TSS
22	Address of Official Inviting Tender	TSS, Tongi, Gazipur
23	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel: +880 2-9813105, Fax: +880-2-9812700, Mob: +8801550151080, e-mail: aamoyashir@gmail.com
24	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders	