

80 trees axed to avenge protest at land grabbing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Criminals felled 80 litchi and mango trees at an orchard of Borogachha village in Phulbari upazila under Dinajpur district allegedly to avenge protest at land grabbing.

"I planted around 80 mango and litchi trees on 1.25 acres of paternal land about four years ago. But I found all the trees cut when I went there to nurse them on Sunday," said Md Masud, son of Abul Hossain of Borogachha village.

A case was filed with Phulbari police station yesterday regarding the incident accusing 12 peo-

ple including Amzad Hossain, son of late Azgar Ali of the same village.

"Amzad Hossain recently occupied 1.13 acres of my land. As I protested the matter, Amzad got angry and he along with his musclemen axed the trees to take revenge," Masud said.

The criminals also beat up Masud as he cried for help after he found the trees of his land axed. Later locals rescued him.

Local alleged that Amzad and Mostafizur Rahman Dulal are the ringleaders of at least 25 land grabber groups of the area.

And recently they

grabbed many arable lands of different people in the area, including 1.3 acres of land of Abdul Aziz, said the villagers.

Admitting several incidents of land occupation, Amzad said, "The land belonged to us. But Masud's father Abul Hossain grabbed at least 49 acres of land through forging the land documents many years ago. I am just recovering our land and have already regained 11 acres land from different people."

Mostafizur Rahman Dulal one of alleged ringleader of land grabbing groups of the village also claimed that he and his

men are recovering grabbed lands from people.

Asked about the tree felling, Amzad said, "Masud did the act to harass me."

Md Abdul Hossain, father of the orchard owner Masud, said, "I bought the land and cases are pending with court regarding the matter. The truth will be prove in the court."

"Following a case, we have started investigation. Action will be taken upon completion of the investigation," said Monjur Rahman, officer in charge of Phulbari police station.

Tension is prevailing in the area over the tree felling incident.



PHOTO: STAR

SAVAGE VENGEANCE! Criminals felled around 80 litchi and mango trees at this orchard in Borogachha village of Phulbari upazila under Dinajpur district allegedly to avenge the orchard owner's protest at land grabbing.

Get united for full autonomy in Chittagong Hill Tracts

UPDF chief urges Santu Larma on front's 13th anniversary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF) President Prosit Khisha yesterday urged Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) chief Jotirindra Bodhipriyo Larma alias Santu Larma to join united movement for ensuring the rights of the deprived hill people in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

In a press statement

issued on the 13th founding anniversary of UPDF, an anti-CHT peace treaty organisation, he urged stopping fratricidal clashes between the two rival organisations of the ethnic people in CHT.

"The peace deal is not enough. Full autonomy is the permanent solution for Chittagong Hill Tracts," he said

Criticising the government's 'controversial' role

to the hill people, he demanded annulment of the 15th amendment of the constitution and ensuring constitutional rights of the hill people in CHT region.

He also demanded fair judgment for all the incidents of tyranny and violence and killings of ethnic people in the region and ensuring the basic rights of hill people on land, language and education.

He warned of boycotting

all the national programmes if the demands are not met.

UPDF celebrated its 13th founding anniversary in Khagrachhari town and different upazilas of the district yesterday with various programmes including hoisting of party flag, placing wreaths at the slain party men's temporary mausoleum, discussions and children's processions.

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Cops obstruct BNP processions in 2 dists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

BNP lawmaker Mozahar Ali Prodhan, also president of Joypurhat district unit of the party, was hospitalised as he fell to the ground during a chase and counter chase between party activists and law enforcers yesterday.

The chaos erupted when BNP leaders and activists led by Mozahar Ali brought out a procession at around 11:00am as part of their national programme yesterday.

As the procession reached Pachurmora in Joypurhat municipality, police intercepted.

A wrangle between the activists and police led to a chase and counter chase in the area. Shortly afterwards, the lawmaker fell to the ground and his fellows took him to Joypurhat Modern Hospital.

BSF hands over 11 Bangladeshis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) handed over 11 Bangladeshi nationals to Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) yesterday evening.

The returnees are Jafar Hossain, 30, Abul Hasem, 28, Jubayer Hossain, 23, Mosiul Rahman, 25, Aaj Hossain, 20, Ayub Ali 20, Abul Hossain, 22, Younus Ali, 24, Faridul Islam, 26, Amin Hossain, 21 and Abdul Karim, 26 of Coxes Bazar, said BGB check post camp Commander Afzal Hossain.

Members of costguard arrested the 11 in Andaman while they were being trafficked to Malaysia in 2008, said Afzal.

Following the incident, the victims were sent to jail.

BGB received the men at about 5:30pm and handed them over to Benapol port police.

Youth jailed for stalking

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A mobile court sentenced a young man to three months' imprisonment for stalking a college girl at Haroa village in Baraigram upazila on Sunday.

The stalker is Md Manik Hossain, 21, son of Siddikur Rahman of the village.

Witnesses said Manik used to tease the girl on her way to college for long.

On information, police arrested the stalker from the spot on Sunday night and produced him before the court led by Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Saiful Islam who penalised the youth.

10 injured as rival groups clash in Sylhet

UNB, Sylhet

At least 10 people were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers at Tobolpur village in Bishwanath upazila on Sunday afternoon.

Police said one Makhles Miah and Afroz Ali engaged in an altercation over a trivial matter a few days ago. As a sequel to the altercation, the two local influential men along with their supporters attacked each other in the afternoon, leaving 10 people from both sides injured.

Of the injured, Babul Miah, Raihan Ahmad and Arosh Ali were admitted to Osmani Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

THRILL OF SUCCESS



PHOTO: STAR

GPA-5 achieving primary terminal examinees of Barisal Government Girls' High School (top), Blue Bird School and College in Sylhet (middle), and Comilla Modern High School are jubilant over their glorious success at the first public examination.

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