



PHOTO: STAR

A tree at Kalitala in Dinajpur town is thronged with bats that are seen in large numbers in the northern districts. The flying mammal, acting as a carrier of nipah virus, especially through date juice in winter, caused the death of five people and affected several others who recently drank the infected juice.

# Now tree felling fest by UP member and co

Over 100 roadside trees cut down in Narail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail

A union parishad member and his men cut down at least 100 roadside trees in Baoisona union under Kalia upazila of the district in the last two weeks.

Locals told this correspondent yesterday that Sahadat Hossain, a member of Baoisona Union Parishad (UP) in collusion with UP Chairman Mohammad Forkan Molla and local LGED staff felled at least 100 trees along Boisona-Nolamara-Jugania road and sold them to others.

Md Nazrul Islam, 60, of Baoisona village said member Sahadat and his men felled some roadside trees in presence of Golam Kudus, an employee of Kalia LGED office, a week ago. "Sahadat told me that he bought the trees at an auction at Kalia LGED office and sold them to others," Nazrul said.

Mukul Hossain, 32, a farmer of Dumuria village under Baoisona union, said he saw Sahadat member and Syed Mollah, a timber trader of the area, and their men cutting down the roadside trees five days ago.

Muradul Islam, a member of Ward No 3 of Baoisona Union, said a gang of criminals felled the trees and took them away. He declined to say anything more.

An employee of Boisoona union land office, seeking anonymity said UP member Sahadat, Chairman Forkan and upazila LGED office staff were involved in felling the trees. "Though Naragati Police Station is only 5-km off the spot, police did not take any action," he added.

Refuting the allegation of his involvement, UP

Chairman Forkan said he knew nothing about such heinous act. Despite several attempts, this correspondent could not talk to member Sahadat as his cellphone remained off.

When asked, upazila LGED Engineer Giasuddin said no auction was held at upazila LGED office. Unidentified criminals felled 23 roadside trees and took them away, he said, adding that he filed a general diary (GD) with Naragati Police station in this connection.



PHOTO: STAR

Remains of tree trunks bear testimony to the recent felling and plundering of around 100 trees worth Tk 10 lakh along Kalia-Chapali-Jugania road in Baoisona union under Kalia upazila in Narail district. A union parishad chairman and a member allegedly did the heinous act in collusion with a few LGED staff during the last two weeks.

# Rail barricade for express train

OUR CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabganj

Locals put up barricades on rail tracks at Rohonpur Railway Station under Gomostapur upazila of Chapainawabganj district yesterday morning demanding 'Mohananda Express' train service from the station.

A Rajshahi-bound local train, which was scheduled to leave Rohonpur station at 7:15am, remained halted at the station for six hours, causing sufferings to the commuters.

The Mohananda Express train runs between Chapainawabganj and Khulna via Amnura.

Rohonpur people had long been demanding the express train service from Rohonpur instead of Chapainawabganj. To meet the demand, Railway West Zone on January 26 sent a letter to Rohonpur station, saying that Mohananda express train will run between Rohonpur and Khulna from February 3.

As locals did not see the express train at Rohonpur station yesterday morning, they became agitated and put up barricades on rail tracks.

Gomostapur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Sajjadul Hasan, Gomostapur

Upazila Parishad Chairman Khurshed Alam Bachhu and Rohonpur municipality Mayor Golam Mostofa reached the spot at around 1:00pm.

They assured the locals that they would immediately sit with the railway authorities to discuss the issue. Following the assurance, the agitating people withdrew the barricades at around 1:30pm.

Contacted, Railway West Zone sources said they are taking necessary arrangements to introduce the express train service on Rohonpur-Khulna route.

# Deed writers in Sylhet confine sub-registrar for demanding bribe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A few deed writers yesterday kept the sub-registrar of Sylhet Sadar confined to his office for two and a half hours as he allegedly demanded bribe from them.

Police later freed the sub-registrar, Gazi Abu Hanif, and escorted him out of the office at 4:30pm. Hanif was also temporarily relieved of his duty.

Mainul Islam, general secretary of the Sylhet divisional chapter of Deed Writers Association, alleged that Sub-Registrar Gazi Abu Hanif yesterday declined to sign a few deeds, although those were prepared and produced before him rightly.

As he demanded Tk 5,000 for each power of attorney and Tk 10,000 to one lakh for sale deeds, the deed writers locked in a heated exchange with the official, Mainul said.

At one stage, the writers supported by clients kept him confined. On information, district Registrar Anwar Hossain brought police who freed the sub-registrar and arranged his departure from the office.

The district registrar also brought Sub-Registrar Ahsanul Habib from Jaintapur upazila who registered the pending deeds yesterday.

Contacted, Anwar Hossain, district registrar of Sylhet, termed the matter as an incident of 'misunderstanding'.

He declined to elaborate on the alleged demand of bribe by Sub-Registrar Gazi Abu Hanif.

Asked about the matter, Hanif denied the allegation against him.

He claimed that he did not sign the deeds as some irregularities were found there but the deed writers tried to create trouble in the office.

# Students ransack polytech instt in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Students of Patuakhali Polytechnic Institute ransacked their academic building and residence of the principal on Thursday noon.

Earlier, over a hundred students brought out a procession to realise their four-point demand including amendment to Polytechnic Act, 2010 on the campus.

At one stage, they threw brickbats and ransacked the academic building, vandalised its windows and residence of the principal.

During the attack, the general students ran helter-skelter for safety.

On information, a police team from Patuakhali police station rushed to the campus and brought the situation under control.

We are boycotting our classes since Tuesday as

part of the countrywide programme, said a student.

Contacted, engineer Zakir Hossain, principal of the polytechnic institute said that the students, at a meeting in the evening, assured him that in future they would observe all their programmes peacefully on the campus.

# Tigers kill four in 3 days in Sundarbans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Tigers killed at least four people on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in the Sundarbans in Khulna and Satkhira districts.

The dead were identified as Khalilullah Gazi, 32, son of late Sattar Gazi of Mathbari village, Rahmat Ali Gazi, 60, son of late Mohor Ali Gazi of Sathalia village and Abdul Majid, 35, son of Abul Kalam Biswas of Kalna village under Koira upazila in Khulna and Kawser Ali Moral, 52, son of Mohammad Ali Moral of Jatindranagar village in Shyamnagar upazila of Satkhira.

On Monday at 3.00p.m. bawali (woodcutter) Rahmat Ali was killed by a tiger near Nalbunga canal of the forest. Forest guards recovered his body at about 5:30 p.m. on the same day from deep forest.

The second death occurred on Tuesday morning when Khalilullah Gazi was attacked by a tiger

while cutting golpata leaves of a tree near Marki canal in the Sundarbans.

At 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, bawali Abdul Majid was killed in the same area by a tiger. His body was recovered in evening by forest guards from inside the forest.

Three separate UD cases were filed in this connection with the Koira Police Station.

Sundarbans DFO Zahiruddin said a tiger attacked Kawser and dragged him inside the deep forest while he was catching crabs with the permission of the Forest Department at Babkhali canal on Tuesday evening.

On information, Forest Department members rushed to the spot and recovered his body.

Zahiruddin said that the tigers have become aggressive more than before because of losing their habitats due to mindless felling of trees, increase of poachers and severe food crisis.

# Bid to set Pabna BNP leader's house on fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Locals foiled an alleged attempt to set fire to the residence of Engineer Habibur Rahman Tota, general secretary of the newly formed Pabna district unit of BNP, at Shibrampur in the town on Wednesday night.

Tota claimed that unidentified criminals threw petrol on the corridor and set fire. Family members with the help of locals extinguished the blaze, he said.

The BNP leader said he was busy with organisational activities in another area of the town during the incident. District BNP president KS Mahamud condemned the attack on the house and demanded immediate arrest of the persons involved.

Immediately after the incident, police visited the spot. "Attackers tried to set

the house on fire," officer-in-charge of Pabna Sadar Police Station said. No case was filed with the police station as of filing of this report at 3:00pm yesterday.

Four Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) men were injured as unidentified criminals attacked Abhoynagar upazila BNP office in Jessore district on Wednesday night, reports our Benapole correspondent.

The injured are Noapara unit JCD General Secretary AI Mohiuddin Bappi, Organising secretary Akhter Qureshi Pappu, and JCD activists Niamul Haque and Moshtaque Ahmed.

Party sources said a gang of criminals attacked the local BNP office when some JCD and BNP leaders and activists were holding a meeting there at around 9:00pm.

The attackers beat up the JCD and BNP men and ransacked the office.

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