

Felling of 8 Royal Palm Trees remains mystery

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Barisal

Eight century-old Royal Palm Trees of Caribbean origin were felled in Bandh Road area of the city in the last one week as authorities paid no heed to protests from the citizens.

The trees were the remaining ones from hundreds of the impressive species adorning the city since the British period.

Earlier on Monday, labourers in presence of Barisal City Corporation officials cut down the upper portions of those trees, causing their virtual death, locals said.

During a visit to the spot on Saturday afternoon, this correspondent saw labourers felling down the giant trees.

"City corporation officials employed us to do the work for per head Tk 300 a day," said Rustam, a labourer.

Mutalib Hossain, executive engineer, and Swapan, staff of the power supply section of BCC, said Power Development Board (PDB) installed 33KV power distribution lines close to those trees. Later PDB told us to fell them for safety of the lines during stormy seasons, they said.

ATM Tarikul Islam, executive engineer, Division-2 of West Zone Power



PHOTO: STAR

Two workers engaged in sawing a felled Royal Palm Tree on Embankment Road of Barisal city on Saturday as authorities arranged cutting down eight such century-old trees of Caribbean origin, setting a good example of utter callousness about the history and heritage of the city.

Distribution Company (WZPDCO) of PDB, however, denied giving any instruction by PDB to cut down those rare trees.

He said the power lines concerned are under the jurisdiction of Division-1 of the company.

On the other hand, Azizul Huq, executive engineer of WZPDCO Division-1, said that there was no 33 KV line under their jurisdiction.

About 125-140 years ago, the then British rulers

planted hundreds of Royal Palm Trees, imported from Caribbean and South American regions, on both sides of the Embankment Road, Sadar Road, College Road and other important areas of the city for beautification and environmental purposes as British administrative officials lived there, said renowned environment activist Dwijen Sharma.

"In course of time only a few of those impressive trees

maintained their existence in Barisal city. Lastly they have met tragic end," he added.

Condemning destruction of the historic palm trees, Dr Mizanur Rahman, member secretary of Barisal Nagorik Samaj, said, "The Royal Palm Trees became part of the city's tradition and heritage. Those who are responsible for their extinction must be punished for violating related laws."

Two tragic deaths

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Lalmoinihat

A woman was beaten to death allegedly by the family members of a boy who died when a tree cut by the woman fell on him at Durgapur village in Aditmari upazila yesterday.

The deceased are Sumon Islam, 7, son of Yusuf Ali and Lipi Begum, 24, wife of Atiqul Islam of the village.

Quoting locals, Mahfuzur Rahman, officer in-charge of Aditmari police station, said the tree fell on Sumon and five others, leaving the boy dead on the spot when Lipi and her mother-in-law Asima Khatun were cutting down the tree beside their residence in the morning.

"The incident occurred when the boy was playing there", the OC added.

As the news spread, the family members of the boy rushed in, tied Lipi with a tree and beat up her mercilessly, leaving her dead on the spot.

On information, police recovered the bodies and sent those to Lalmoinihat Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Asima Khatun said they had asked the boys to leave the place when the tree was being cut down. Everyone followed it but Sumon, she said.

Two murder cases were filed with the police station. Police would start investigation after receiving post mortem reports, said the OC.

3 commit 'suicide'

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two college students and a freedom fighter allegedly committed suicide in Jessore and Satkhira districts on Saturday.

A college student and a freedom fighter allegedly committed suicide in separate incidents in Jessore on Saturday.

The deceased were identified as Chandan Das, 17, son of Gurupad Das of Bejpara area of the town and freedom fighter Osman Ali, 65, of Kashimpur village in Sadar upazila.

Kotwali police quoting family members said Chandan's father scolded him at night for not giving attention to study. Later, being offended, he committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling fan of his room at midnight.

In another incident, one Osman took pesticides following a brawl with his wife Sakhina Begum. He was rushed to a local hospital where he died at 10:30 pm on Saturday.

In Satkhira, a college student allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at village Taltala in Sadar upazila on Saturday night.

The victim was identified as Jahanara Khatun, 19, daughter of Md Shawkali Ali Mollah of the village, reports our correspondent.

Quoting local people police said, Jahanara, a first year student of Honours course at Satkhira Government College, took poison in the evening following a family feud.

The victim's parents took her to Satkhira Sadar Hospital in critical condition where she died at about 11.30pm.

THE DAILY STAR-ROBI ENGLISH FAIR



PHOTO: STAR

Two students take part in a 'role play' while judges put evaluation marks during the English language fair held at Amlapara High School in Bagerhat town yesterday.

Kids from six more schools participate

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Students of six schools in different districts yesterday took part in English language fairs held under English in Schools programme jointly organised by The Daily Star and mobile operator Robi.

Over 200 students of Chittagong Government High School, Haji Mohammad Mohsin High School and Shah Waliullah Institute in Chittagong city took part in the English language fair held at the auditorium of Haji Mohammad Mohsin High School, reports our Chittagong correspondent.

"Being an international language, English is very important for us. I think such fairs will help our students to overcome the fear of learning the foreign language," said Abdul Latif, headmaster of Haji Mohammad Mohsin High School, in his address as chief guest.

The fair saw screening of globally renowned movie 'The Lion King', quizzes on vocabulary and moral lessons, extempore speech and role play.

Students also entertained the audience by reciting poems, telling jokes and singing songs. Later, prizes were distributed among the winners of different events.

Our Natore Correspondent reports: The premises of Damdama Government Girls' High School in Singra upazila under the district assumed a festive look during yesterday's English language fair organised under English in Schools programme.

Afsar Ali, headmaster of the school, inaugurated the fair at 3:00pm.

After screening of Lion

day's English language fair organised under English in Schools programme.

About 200 students of the school, their teachers and family members participated in the fair titled 'Safollo Ashbei' (success is a must).

M o h a m m a d Maniruzzaman, an English teacher of the school, inaugurated the fair.

The Lion King was screened, followed by quizzes on vocabulary, extem-

King, a globally renowned movie, the students participated in spot quiz, vocabulary test, one-word question and quick questions -- all based on the movie.

Selected students also took part in extempore speech on different topics and role play.

The school students also formed an English language club.

Our Bagerhat Correspondent adds: An English language fair under English in Schools programme was held on the premises of Amlapara School in the town yesterday afternoon. Around a hundred students from the school took part in the programme that included presentation of The Lion King, question and answers on the basis of it, situation-based question-answer, role play, extempore speech etc. Later prizes were distributed among the winners.

Aiming to promote English language learning among school students across the country, The Daily Star in cooperation with Robi undertook English in Schools programme in 2009.

Adcom Ltd is the creative and event partner of the fairs.

Under the initiative, each of one thousand schools selected from 64 districts of the country receives three complimentary copies of The Daily Star five days a week.



Farming stops due to BSF objection

UNB, Sylhet

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) obstructed the farmers who were cultivating vegetables 1000 yards off Bangladesh land boundary at Padua border in Goainghat upazila on Friday morning.

Locals said, around 25-30 BSF jawans entered inside the Bangladesh territory and asked farmer Sadek Mia to stop working at his vegetable field at about 10am.

At that time, Protappur Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) members went to the spot and decided to hold a flag meeting.

The BGB and BSF later held a flag meeting near border the at about 11am on Saturday.

BGB Company Commander Reaz and Camp Commander Nayek Subeder Nizam Uddin led the Bangladesh team while Maghalay Padua Company Commander Bishnu Dey led the Indian side at the flag meeting.

Commander Reaz confirmed the incident of BSF obstruction. He said the both sides at the flag meeting decided to stop cultivation at the disputed land for maintaining peace at the border.

11 honoured in Gopalganj

BSS, Gopalganj

Eleven eminent personalities including Ajit Kumar Sarker, City Editor of national news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), were honoured here on Friday for their contributions to respective fields.

Naba Diganta Club, a local cultural body, organised the function at SJ Model High School ground marking the Independence Day.

This is for the second time the organisation accorded reception to the worthy people of Maksudpur upazila in the district for their contributions in the liberation war, journalism, sports, literature, agriculture and other fields.

The other award recipients are Idris Hossain Mollah, Majedur Rahman (posthumous), KM Zakir Hossain, Md Iqbal Hossain, Dr Faruque-uz-Zaman, Utpal Kumar, Shariful Islam, Paritosh Paul, Mohsin Mollah and Shah Alam Tutul.



PHOTO: STAR

'Prottoy-71', a sculpture commemorating the Liberation War on the premises of Maolana Bhasani Science and Technology University at Santosh in Tangail saw its inauguration by Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday.

KDA project for flyover at Phulbarigate rail crossing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Khulna

Khulna Development Authority (KDA) has undertaken a project to construct a 450-metre-long flyover at an estimated cost of Tk 150 crore at Phulbarigate rail crossing under Khanjahan Ali police station of the city.

When constructed, this would be the first flyover in 10 districts of Khulna Division in order to resolve the growing traffic jam problem particularly at railway crossings.

According to a KDA survey report, over 2,000 motorbikes, 1000 buses, 800 minibuses, 450 baby taxis,

530 mini buses and 260 pickup vans use this Phulbarigate rail crossing almost every day.

Besides, towns people have to face a loss of around 1000 minutes a day on an average due to suspension of movement of different modes of vehicles at least for five minutes there each time as train cross the point 20 times a day.

KDA sent its first DPP (Development Project Proposal) to the Ministry of Housing and PWD on April 12 last year seeking allocation of Tk 97 crore and 69 lakh.

Later, on July 20 last year,

DPP of the project was again sent to the ministry concerned with some changes as costs for implementation of the project went up.

Work for changing the project are now under process and is expected to be completed by this month.

We have asked for Tk 150 crore for implementation of the 450-metre-long flyover project, said Kazi Sabirul Alam, superintending engineer of KDA.

Chairman of KDA Brig Gen Habibur Rahman Kamal said that the flyover would help free the city from traffic jam and reduce road accidents.

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