

SNIPPETS

Detained 'smugglers' freed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) yesterday detained nine alleged smugglers, including five women, in Hili port area of Hakimpur upazila but they were released by local leaders. Sources at Joypurhat-3 BGB Battalion at Hili check post said, acting on a tip-off, a team of BGB raided a Rajshahi-bound intercity train at about 8:30am and detained the nine along with Indian saris and cumin (jira). Following the incident, several hundred alleged smugglers in the area besieged the check post, demanding the release of the detainees. On information, the leaders rushed in and released them following undertakings from them, said Habildar Md Khorshed Alam of the check post.

Man killed by son

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jamalpur*

A man was killed allegedly by his son over a family feud in Islampur upazila early Sunday. The deceased was identified as Fazar Uddin, 75. Police quoting locals said, Fazar had two wives and had been living in two villages. His first wife Kamola Begum was in Krisnapur and second wife Umme Hany in Malomganj. A few days ago Fazar gave some land to his second wife and her son Rukan Uddin. As Fazar gave land also to his first wife, Rukan Uddin locked in an altercation with his father on Saturday evening. At one stage he hit his father with a stick, leaving him critically injured. Fazar died on the way to the health complex.

Clinic vandalised

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*

A group of agitated people vandalised furniture, ambulance, signboard and apparatus of Surjer Hasi clinic at Hazipara in the municipal area yesterday. Clinic and police sources said, two youths came to the clinic to hire its ambulance on Sunday mid-night for taking a patient to Sadar Hospital. But the authorities failed to give the ambulance as its driver was absent. The people became agitated as the patient died at night on way to the hospital. Later a group of local people attacked the laboratory of the clinic yesterday morning.

One killed in Narsingdi clash

A CORRESPONDENT, *Narsingdi*

A man was killed and 10 others were injured in a clash at Anantarampur village in Sadar upazila on Sunday night. The deceased was identified as Jamir Ali, 50, of the village. Locals said former UP member Newaz Ali and his rival Alamgir was at loggerheads over establishing supremacy in the locality. As a sequel to the enmity, the supporters of Alamgir attacked the men of Newaz in the afternoon. Later, the both groups equipped with lethal weapons, including spears, attacked each other at about 7:30pm, leaving Jamir dead on the spot and 10 others injured. On information, police recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy. The injured were admitted to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital.

Schoolboy missing for 12 days

UNB, *Khulna*

A schoolboy remained missing for the last 12 days since July 11 in the city. The victim was identified as Fazle Rabbi, a student of Class X at Khulna Zila School and son of Jamirul Islam and resident of Achhia Manzil at Abu Khan Lane in the city. Family sources said, Fazle Rabbi went out of the house around 5pm on July 11 and since then remained missing. They suspected that unknown criminals kidnapped the boy. A general diary was lodged with Sadar PS in this connection.

Motorcyclists fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

More than 50 motorcyclists were fined at a single point of a road in the district town yesterday just for not having valid documents of the vehicles. Besides, Tk. 18,440 was realised as fine from them. Md. Mobarak Hossain Parvez, executive magistrate at Dinajpur deputy commissioner's office, conducted the operation in front of the DC office from around 11.00am to till 2.00pm.

Toxic waste of dyeing plant pollutes croplands, poses health hazard

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR
TOPU, *Pabna*

Untreated chemical waste from a dyeing factory at Loshkarpur, a densely populated area in Pabna municipality, is not only causing serious environmental degradation but also posing health hazards.

Despite repeated appeals by the residents to relocate the plant outside the residential area, 'Toha Dyeing Factory', one of the largest in the district, has been operating here for the last 18 years.

A huge volume of untreated liquid toxic waste is poured everyday outside the factory, spreading an unpleasant smell in the air. The chemical waste slowly drains its way to the nearby Ichhamati river, polluting its water.

"According to the environmental law, a dyeing factory must set up effluent treatment plant inside the factory. After treatment, the liquid waste can be drained out from the factory," Md. Saifullah Talukdaer, deputy director of the Department of Environment (DoE) told this correspondent.

"Dumping untreated chemical waste into river is

illegal," he said. Continuous flow of chemical waste causes immense sufferings to the villagers. Students and teachers of Pabna Homeopathic College (PHC) adjacent to the factory also complain of unbearable stench that disrupts academic activities. "The toxic water discharged from inside the factory contaminates our

ponds and threatens our fish farming and crops, especially when it rains," said Md Golam Mostafa, a resident of the village.

"Teachers and students of PHC are exposed to the pollution to a higher degree as the waste accumulates very close to it," said Mostafa, also a lecturer of the college. He said the college authorities requested



PHOTO: STAR

Department of Environment (DoE)." Councilor Ashraf said, adding that Pabna municipal authorities have already built a concrete drain beside the factory and the construction of another drain to facilitate release of the liquid waste from the factory is underway.

When this correspondent tried to talk to Md Abul Hossain Shuvra, one of the owners, he reacted sharply, brushing aside all allegations.

Md Ataur Rahman Sachchu, another owner, claimed they are just doing a harmless activity by washing and dyeing threads.

"Waste does not remain stagnant anywhere on its way to the river, so there is no scope of pollution," Sachchu said.

Officials of DoE Rajshahi zonal office at Bogra said the department gave the approval years ago with a few conditions that included setting up of waste treatment plant inside the factory.

"If the factory does not fulfil the conditions, it must be punished for its offence," Md Saifullah Talukder, deputy director DoE Bogra office, said.



PHOTO: STAR

Logs of felled trees and marks of cutting on the trunks bear testimony to the mindless tree felling in the compound of Jouta-Olipura Government Primary School in Bauful upazila of Patuakhali. The chairman of the school managing committee has been sued for the illegal act.

INCIDENT OF TREE FELLING

Headmaster sues school's managing body chief

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Patuakhali

Headmaster of a school in Bauful upazila under the district has filed a complaint with Bauful

police station against the chairman of the school managing committee (SMC) on charge of illegally felling trees on the school ground.

Mamun Gazi, chairman of Jouta-Olipura Government Primary School, with the help of his men started cutting trees on the school ground on Friday, said Abdur Razzak, headmaster of the school, and police.

A team of journalists from Bauful reached the area at noon and saw that a group of woodcutters already felled a rain tree and a chambole tree. They were preparing to cut eight more trees including seven rain trees and one chambole on the same ground.

The woodcutters said Mamun Gazi employed them to cut the trees on daily wage basis.

"Mamun Gazi started looting the trees, although we forbade him to do so," said Mojibur Rahman, local UP member.

Asked about the matter, Mamun Gazi claimed that he took lease of the school ground from the SMC in 1999 for 60 years and then he planted those trees.

He, however, did not reply when asked whether he had any lease document in favour of his claim.

Headmaster Abdur Razzak said, "As the SMC chairman started cutting trees on the school ground illegally, I submitted a written complaint to the upazila education officer in this regard and following his advice, I filed a complaint with Bauful police station on Friday afternoon."

Md Lutfor Rahman, Bauful upazila education officer, said, "Nobody arranged lease of the school ground, as it is a government property."

"We have stopped cutting of trees on the school ground. We will take lawful action after proper investigation," Julfikar Md Gazzali, OC of Bauful police station, said.

Local influential people loot trees from college compound

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Pabna

Criminals felled and took away 15 mahogany trees from the ground of Khidirpur Technical and Business Management College in Atghoria upazila under the district on Saturday.

"A gang of local influential people led by Md Abdul Kader cut down 15 trees on the college ground Saturday morning. Then they took the logs to a saw mill in the same village," said Md

Shahinuzzaman, principal of the college.

"The felled trees were 15 to 18 years old. If the criminals are not punished, they may do similar act again as there are around 40 other trees on the college campus," he said.

A petition was filed with Atghoria police station on Saturday and police visited the college yesterday.

"We have seized the logs of the felled trees from the saw mill. There is a dispute over land between the accused and the college

administration," said Md Monirul Islam, officer in charge of Atghoria police station.

Principal Md Shahinuzzaman, on the other hand, said, "The college authority had bought the land in 2003 and so, none can cut the trees on the college land without the authorities' permission. We also got the land measured by an amin but the accused [Kader] did not raise any objection then. Now they are trying to create confusion about the matter."

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We feel proud for the achievement and express heartiest congratulations to our Hon'ble Managing Director for his outstanding role in the healthcare sector of Bangladesh

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