

Jubo League men fell roadside trees

Protest by locals goes unheeded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Jubo League men felled ten roadside trees in Aditmari upazila of the district on Thursday and Friday despite strong protest by locals.

District council yesterday filed a case with Aditmari Police Station, accusing Jubo League upazila unit President Azizul Islam Chanu and Organising Secretary Asadunnabi Hira of illegal felling of trees along Aditmari-Mohishkhocha Road, police said.

Being informed by locals on Thursday afternoon, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Rezaul Alam Sarker went to the spot and seized two felled trees. He asked the labourers not to cut down anymore trees and left the spot.

But Jubo League leaders took away the seized trees on Thursday night and felled eight more trees on Friday, ignoring UNO's order. The felled trees include mahogany, jackfruit and neem.

Locals said as they tried to prevent the labourers from cutting down the trees, the Jubo League leaders told them that the district council had sold the trees to them at an auction.

Local people said they again brought the matter to Aditmari UNO



PHOTO: STAR

Workers hired by Jubo League men fell a tree beside Aditmari-Mohishkhocha road in Aditmari upazila of Lalmonirhat district on Friday. Nine other trees also fell prey to such callous act on Thursday and Friday.

on Friday, but he did not take any further step in this regard, saying that he was under political pressure.

"I have informed the administrator of the district council about felling of the roadside trees by a group of local musclemen without any documents," the UNO said, adding that the administrator will take necessary action against the offenders.

Aditmari Upazila

Jubo League President Azizul Islam Chanu told this correspondent that the district council recently sold 23 trees to them through an auction. "We felled only eight of the 23 auctioned trees," he added.

Yunus Ali, head assistant of Lalmonirhat district council, said no auction was held and no office order was issued to cut down the trees. The presence of a district council official is a

must during felling of any auctioned tree, Yunus added.

Contacted, District Council Administrator advocate Motiar Rahman said they have lodged a case with Aditmari Police Station, accusing two people of felling roadside trees. "I have sent a letter to Aditmari OC, asking him to seize the felled trees and arrest the persons involved," the district administrator said.

Trader killed, another 2 kidnapped

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A fruit trader was murdered by criminals in Brahmanbaria while two rice traders were kidnapped in Gaibandha on Friday.

In Brahmanbaria, a fruit trader was killed at Bodairkandi village under Banchharampur upazila on Friday night.

The deceased was identified as Mahub Mia, 25, of the village, our correspondent reports.

According to family, hospital and police sources, one Shamim, 28, a night guard of Banchharampur Islami Hospital, called him out of the house at midnight. From then, his mobile remained off and he was out of contact. After a while, a patrol police team found him in a severely injured state near Bodairkandi Bridge.

He was admitted to Nabnagar upazila health complex where he succumbed to his injuries after sometime.

Away in Gaibandha, two rice traders of village Magura in Gobindaganj upazila were abducted by criminals on Friday.

However, one of them was found in unconscious state on Friday and admitted to Gobindaganj health complex, reports our correspondent.

Police said rice traders Rafiqul Islam, 35, of village Magura and Rafiqul Mia, 45, of village Khalshi in Gobindaganj upazila went to Shatibari market in Rangpur district on Thursday afternoon for procuring rice.

Police on Friday found Rafiqul Mia at Tengamagur on Dhaka-Natore road, but the other trader is still missing, said Delwer Hossain, OC of Gobindaganj police station.

Rafiqul was in unconscious condition till yesterday afternoon, he said.



Over 1000 tortoises seized

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized 1002 tortoises from the Benapole frontier on Friday afternoon.

The tortoises were being smuggled into Bangladesh from the neighbouring India, Sher-e-Alam, commander of Putkhali camp of Jessore BGB 26 Battalion told this correspondent.

He said, acting on a tip-off, BGB personnel raided Putkhali village and recovered them from some abandoned bags. The tortoises are worth about Tk 2 lakh, he added.

Sensing our presence, the smugglers fled the scene, Sher-e-Alam said.

BGB handed over the tortoises to Jessore Forest Department officials yesterday morning.

District Forest Officer (DFO) Saidur Rashid said, they could not identify the varieties of the seized tortoises immediately.

"We will send the tortoises to our head office at Ban Bhaban soon for details," he said.

Tortoises are smuggled into Bangladesh from India and sent abroad for sale at high rate, the DFO added.

Buses on indefinite strike in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Transport owners and workers yesterday went on an indefinite strike on 11 internal routes of the city to press home their demands including banning of illegal human haulers like Nasimon and Karimon.

The routes are Babuganj, Banaripara, Swarupkathi, Gournadi, Agoiljhara, Mirganj, Hijla, Muladi, Pirojpur, Uzirpur and Dhamura.

They also threatened to enforce the strike on long-distance routes from Monday if the demands were not met by today (Sunday), said Aftab Hossain, president of Barisal District Bus Owners' Association.

The strike began at 6:00am, causing immense sufferings to the passengers. Barisal District Bus

Owners' and Transport Workers' Associations jointly called the strike after holding a meeting on Friday morning.

At the meeting, the speakers alleged that different types of battery-run three wheelers like tomtom, nasimon, mishuk, alpha-mahendra and a few four wheelers like pickup, minibuses, even some trucks are plying the streets without any registration, fitness certificate and route permit.

Due to the situation, buses, which have been plying legally, are facing passenger crisis, they said.

The leaders of the associations placed the matter before the district and police administration several times but the authorities did not pay any heed to the problem even after giving an ultimatum until July 26, said the speakers.

9 kidnapped Rangamati men freed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Nine villagers who were kidnapped on Wednesday from Lorchharamukh in Bandukbhanga union under Sadar upazila were set free yesterday.

The kidnapers freed them at about 3:00pm, police said.

"They all were released unhurt and reached home safely," said Barun Kanti Chakma, chairman of Bandukbhanga union parishad (UP).

Earlier, an armed gang waylaid the nine villagers at Lorchharamukh and picked them up at gunpoint at about 7:30am on Wednesday when they were going to the district headquarters. The criminals took them to an unknown place in the deep forest.

A victim said they could not identify the kidnapers.

One killed as followers of 2 Narsingdi pirs clash

A CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

A man was killed and at least 20 others were injured in a clash between the followers of two pirs (religious leader) at Kacharikandi village under Raipura upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Khoka Mia, 35.

Abdul Baten, officer in-charge (OC) of Raipura police station said there was a longstanding feud between the followers of Charmonai pir and Kashimpur pir over religious orientation system.

In a sequel to the dispute, the clash ensued following an altercation between two groups around 11:00am in the morning.

Both the groups, equipped with home made lethal weapons, attacked each other, leaving Khoka Mia dead on the spot and injuring 20 others.

On information, police rushed in and brought the situation under control around 2:00pm.

Of the injured, Shahid Mia, Ejaj Mia, Kabir Hossain, Kamola Begum, Al-Amin, Kamal, Abdul Bari, Shah Alam, Helal

Mia, Omar Ali, Sadek Mia, Nazrul Islam, Haris Mia and Hanufa were rushed to Raipura upazila health complex and Narsingdi Sadar Hospital while the others took treatment at different private clinics.

Meanwhile, police arrested at least 25 people including Rafiq, Abul Kashem and Nurul Islam in this connection.

Khoka's body was sent to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was lodged with the police station.

Girl rescued, trafficker jailed for two years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A mobile court here sentenced a human trafficker to two months' imprisonment on Friday.

Earlier Rangpur Kotwali police arrested Laizu Begum, wife of Akkas Ali, of Kachu Mohioswalar intersection area of Sahebganj in the city.

They also rescued a 9-year-old girl of Ashratpur in the city from Rangpur Railway station area.

Police and locals said Laizu tactfully abducted the girl, a student of class three at Aser Hossain Memorial Registered Primary School,

from her house and took her to Rangpur Railway Station area and took away her gold chain.

Locals held them on suspicion and informed police. Later police arrested Laizu and rescued the girl.

When produced before the mobile court of Shariful Islam, additional magistrate of Rangpur district and also magistrate of Rangpur mobile court 1 and 2 on Friday afternoon, the court sentenced the woman to two months' imprisonment after hearing details of the case.

The convict was then sent to Rangpur Central Jail.

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