

Coastguards rescue 150 fishermen from forest robbers' den

UNB, Bagerhat

Members of Bangladesh Coastguard (BCG) rescued 150 abducted fishermen busting a den of forest robbers in Machar Point area of the Sundarbans under Mongla upazila on Friday night.

Lieutenant Commander Mostafizur Rahman, staff officer (operation) of BCG, Mongla (West Zone), told the news agency that when the fishermen, on their way to Dublar Char, reached Bhadrar Khal area of the Sundarbans in the afternoon, a gang swooped on their trawler.

The robbers looted valuables from the trawler and

picked up the fishermen, 150 in number, and took them to their den.

On information, a team of BCG launched a drive in the area, raided deep forest at night and rescued the fishermen along with a trawler.

The robbers, however, managed to flee the scene sensing the presence of the Coastguard personnel.

The rescued fishermen hailed from different areas of Bagerhat and Khulna districts.

Earlier, on Wednesday night, armed robbers kidnapped around 50 fishermen along with three fishing trawlers and looted valuables following an attack in

the waters off Patharghata coast.

The kidnapped fishermen hailed from different villages in Bagerhat Sadar upazila.

District Fishermen Trawler Owners Association sources said, the armed gang swooped on around 20 trawlers and kidnapped over 50 fishermen along with three fishing trawlers -- FB Golapful, FB Sandhani-2 and FB Nurbanu -- in Sonarchar area, 120 kilometre south-east of Patharghata upazila.

The gang looted valuables including fishes and fishing nets worth about Tk 10 lakh.



PHOTO: STAR

BACK IN THE WILD: This dolphin, carried around 50 kilometres by tidal water from the Bay on October 30, had got trapped in a big ditch in Chhoto Feni River on the border of Feni Sadar and Dagonbhuiyan upazilas under Feni district. For 10 days, the gracefully agile creature amused hundreds of visitors from different places with its artistic feats like jumping out and diving in quick succession. Officials from the local administration, forest and fisheries departments, and public representatives, who earlier arranged guarding of the aquatic mammal, finally got it netted, carried to the estuary and released into the wide water yesterday.

Teachers on indefinite strike as IU reopens

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

No academic activities were held at the Islamic University (IU) yesterday as the teachers refrained from attending classes since morning to press home their demand for removal of vice-chancellor, pro-vice chancellor and treasurer.

The IU reopened yesterday after a 28-day vacation of Eid-ul-Azha and Durga Puja.

"We will not return to classes till the removal of VC Prof M Alauddin, Pro-VC Prof Kamal Uddin and Treasurer Prof Shahjahan Ali as they are the key factor for the ongoing deadlock," Islamic University Teachers' Association (IUTA) president Prof Yakub Alisaid.

Earlier, in an executive committee meeting in the morning, the IUTA took the decision to go on an indefinite work abstention.

A stalemate has been prevailing at the university since September 8 following the appointments of 132 teachers and staffs against 76 posts.

On September 7, a syndicate meeting

gave the approval for the appointments.

Later the association blamed the aforementioned three for their involvement in the 'illegal recruitment.'

In the face of the crisis, the academic activities came to halt on September 8 while the admission test for 2012-2013 slated for November 15 became uncertain.

On October 3, the IUTA declared the trio unwanted for the ongoing deadlock and placed a six-point demand which included cancellation of all 'illegal' recruitment and judicial inquiry into the recruitment process.

On October 16, the representatives of IU unit of Bangabandhu Parishad met Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif when he visited Kushtia and urged him to take an immediate step to resolve the crisis.

On October 23, the University Grants Commission formed a 3-member probe body to investigate the allegations against the IU administration.

A vested quarter backing UPDF, alleges Larma

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council (CHTRC), yesterday blamed 'a vested quarter' in the government for backing anti-peace treaty organisation United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) to hinder full implementation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) peace accord.

Popularly known as Santu Larma, Jyotirindra, also president of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), was addressing a meeting on the occasion of 29th death anniversary of Manabendra Narayan Larma.

PCJSS organised the memorial meeting at the hall room of District Shilpakala Academy in the town yesterday.

"Manabendra Narayan Larma organised our people and sacrificed his life for establishing the rights of indigenous people in the region. Dreams of the late leader will be fulfilled if the peace accord is implemented fully," said Santu Larma.

Terming Dipanker Talukder, state minister for CHT affairs ministry, and Bir Bahadur Ushoi Shing, chairman of CHT Development Board, as corrupt and opportunist, he said, "How could they say that the peace deal is almost fully executed?"

"Fourteen years have elapsed after the signing of the peace deal. But I don't see any remarkable development about the execution of the



Santu Larma

peace treaty. However, the government has done some tasks, such as withdrawal of 35 makeshift security camps with troops from hills and handing over a dozen of government departments to hill district councils (HDCs).

"UPDF is conducting destructive activities in hills and has made common people hostage to them. It is the first and foremost obstacle in the way to full execution of the deal. All sorts of anti-peace elements needed to be uprooted for paving the way for a successful implementation of the accord," said Santu Larma.

Dr Manik Lal Chakma, former chairman of Rangamati Hill District Council, was the chief guest at the meeting presided over by Gunendu Bikash Chakma, president of PCJSS, district unit.

Ushatan Talukder, member of CHTRC, Prakriti Ranjan Chakma, convener of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, CHT chapter, Bijoy Ketan Chakma, Madhabi Lata Chakma, Sunirmol Talukder and Bidhayak Chakma addressed the meeting, among others.

10 injured as BCL, JCD clash at BAU

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

At least 10 activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were injured at Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) when the two students' organisations locked in clashes on the campus yesterday.

Of the injured, three belonging to JCD were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital (MMCH). They were identified as Maruf Gani, 25, vice-president of BAU JCD unit; Reazul Islam Reza, 23, JCD's international affairs secretary at BAU and Rafiqul Islam Rifat, 22, a member of BAU JCD unit.

Campus sources said, after the end of BAU admission test for the current session, JCD brought out a procession on the campus at noon, welcoming the newcomers.

When the procession reached Kamal-Ranjit market point, a group allegedly of BCL attacked on the procession, leading to clashes which left at least 10 activists of both organisations injured.

Of the injured, the rest seven belonging to BCL were treated at BAU health centre. Contacted, Jasim Uddin, secretary of JCD BAU unit said that the BCL men attacked on their 'peaceful' rally with sticks and injured three leaders.

However, Rafiquzzaman Emon, secretary of BAU BCL, alleged that JCD and Shibir, with the supports of outsiders, attacked on their rally organised to welcome the admission seekers, leaving seven BCL men injured.

34TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

Magura Jubo Dal factions hold separate programmes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Internal feud in Magura Jubo Dal deepened further as two rival groups yesterday held separate rallies and processions in the town, marking the 34th founding anniversary of the organisation.

The conflict in the district unit of Jubo Dal, the youth front of opposition BNP, surfaced anew after the central body dissolved the committee led by Alamgir Hossain on May 29 this year and formed a convening committee with advocate Washikur Rahman Kallol as convener.

Angered by central committee's decision, the supporters of Alamgir, equipped with bombs and sharp weapons, launched an attack on

their rivals at the party office in June, leaving joint convener Abu Sayee al Mamun, local Jubo Dal leader Mahbub Alam Tipu, and district Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal district unit Joint Secretary Kutubuddin Rana seriously injured.

Following the incident, Jubo Dal central high command dissolved the convening committee on July 20 to avert further incident. Since then the district unit has been running without leadership.

Yesterday, Alamgir-led faction took out a procession in the town and then held a meeting in front of the residence of Iqbal Akhter, a leader of Magura BNP rival group. Several thousand Jubo Dal men joined the rally with Alamgir Hossain in

the chair.

The other faction led by advocate Washikur Rahman Kallol staged its rally on the premises of Magura BNP office at Shaheed Mintu Road. Chaired by Rafikul Islam Dipu, youth affairs secretary of BNP district unit, the rally was addressed, among other, by Washikur Rahman Kallol, Mahbub Alam Tipu and BNP district committee leaders.

The internal feud in the Jubo Dal district unit surfaced in October last year over celebration of the founding anniversary of the party. Two groups—one led by Alamgir Hossain and the other by advocate Washikur Rahman Kallol—held separate programmes in the town.

2 die after inhaling gas in septic tank

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Two construction workers died and another fell seriously sick after they inhaled toxic gas inside a septic tank in Haluaghat upazila headquarters yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Abdur Razzaq, 25 and Abdul Ahad, 35, of Gubrakura village in the upazila.

Another worker, identified as Amirul Islam, 30, was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Police said, the three workers were cleaning a septic tank of a newly constructed building, owned by Iftekherul Islam Masud, headmaster of Haluaghat Girls High School, at around

12.30pm.

Abur Razzaq entered into the septic tank first. As there was no response from him after sometime, Ahad got into it. Finding both of them silent, Amirul also entered the septic tank and found them dead, said Musfiqur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Haluaghat police station.

Hearing the scrambling of Amirul, other workers rushed to the spot and rescued him in critical condition, said the OC. He was rushed to MMCH.

Razzak and Ahad died of suffocation and Amirul fell sick after inhaling toxic gas, said the OC.

Police recovered the bodies with the help of local people and sent those to MMCH morgue for autopsy.

SNIPPETS

Newsman injured in attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

A journalist was injured in an attack allegedly by a local Awami League leader in Kalkini upazila yesterday morning. Khairul Alam, Kalkini correspondent of Bangla daily Prothom Alo, is now undergoing treatment at the upazila health complex. Kalkini press club secretary Shahidul Islam said, recently a number of reports were published in newspapers on test relief (TR) corruption, land grabbing allegedly involving the municipality AL president Delware Hossain Dulal. Angered, Dulal along with his supporters obstructed the agents at Bhua Ghata from selling papers at around 8:00am. When local newsmen went to the paper stand they came under the attack, said Shahidul, adding that Khairul sustained injuries in his head.

16 rescued from traffickers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) rescued 16 people from Sadipur border yesterday while they were being trafficked to India. The victims, including four women and two children, hailed from different areas of Bhola, Narail and Gopalganj districts. Acting on a tip-off, a BGB team raided the area in the morning and rescued the 16, from the border point, said Subedar Badsha Mia, in-charge of Benapole BGB camp. However, none was arrested.

Train derails in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

Train movement on two routes -- Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Sylhet -- was disrupted for over three hours yesterday as a train derailed in Comilla Sadar Dakkhin upazila. Railway sources said, two wheels of a compartment of a Dhaka-bound container-laden train from Chittagong veered off the track near Bijoypur at about 11:30am, snapping rail communications between the capital and the two districts. However, no causality was reported. Train movement on the routes resumed at about 2:45pm as a relief train from Laksham rushed to the spot and rescued the derailed train.

Strike paralyses land ports

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Export and import through Sonamsjid land port here remained suspended since yesterday morning due to a strike enforced by lorry drivers and labourers in the Indian side of Mohodipur land port in Maldah in Paschim Banga. A gang of robbers blocked the Maldah-Mohodipur land port road beaten up a few lorry drivers and snatched their money and mobile phone sets on Friday night. At that time the goods laden trucks were coming to Mohodipur land port from different areas in India. Protesting the incident, Indian lorry drivers and labourers of Mohodipur land port called strike from Saturday morning.



PHOTO: STAR

Rohonpur rail station in Gomostapur upazila under Chapainawabganj district, serving as a trade route to neighbouring India and Nepal, hardly gives the impression of an international transit point as haphazardly set up shops spoil the environment, even cover the signboard that marks the station.

Girl trampled to death by elephant in Bandarban

UNB, Bandarban

A newly-wed girl was trampled to death by a wild elephant at Combonia village in Naikhangchhari upazila on Friday night.

The deceased was identified as Khadiza Begum, 15, wife of Mohammad Harun of the village.

Witnesses said, a herd of wild elephants stormed into the village at about 11:30 pm.

At one stage, one of the elephants swooped on Harun's house and trampled Khadiza to death.

Harun and his mother-in-law Anwara were slightly injured while they were fleeing their house.

Several hundred banana plants were damaged by the herd of elephants.

INSTITUTE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND VULNERABILITY STUDIES UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA

Admission to Fifth Batch Post Graduate Diploma and Certificate Programme in Disaster Management, 2012

Applications are invited from candidates in prescribed form for admission into the Six Months Post Graduate Diploma in Disaster Management (PGDDM) and Five Weeks Post-Graduate Certificate Programme in Disaster Management.

Eligibility for Admission: Admission is open to individuals, either Bangladeshi or foreign nationals, who have at least Bachelor Degree with honours or its equivalent from any recognized university or at least a four year graduation degree from any recognized institution, such as medical college/university, engineering university/college, agricultural university/college, defense college etc., or master degree with graduation in pass course. No individual with only graduation in pass course degree, or having third division/class at any level is eligible to apply. Individuals in the field of environment, disaster and allied development areas with practical experiences and who are currently in service are encouraged to apply. The Institution is supported by CDMP-II, Spain, Ethiopia and U. K. based University and Voluntary Organizations through collaborative agreement.

Duration of the Program: The duration of Diploma Program is of six months and Certificate Program is for five weeks which include comprehensive and multidisciplinary class teaching, assignment, field based research, presentation, comprehensive assessment and graduation.

Application for Admission: Prescribed application form for admission and other required materials should be collected from the office of the Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies, University of Dhaka, between 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Saturday to Friday only from **10 November, 2012 to 09 December, 2012.**

Submission of Application Form: The filled-in application form along with three attested passport size photographs, and attested copies of certificate and marks sheet of all examinations from relevant institutions must be submitted to the Office of the Institute of Disaster and Vulnerability Studies by **09 December, 2012.**

Contact Address: Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies, Ground Floor, Room No. 1059, Arts Building, University of Dhaka. Tel: 9661900-73, Ext. 6599. Phone: 01721-455388, 01726344444. Email: idmvsdu@gmail.com, dola786@gmail.com.

Director
Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies
University of Dhaka, Dhaka-1000.

C-1387