

Bank cashier's way of making a fast buck

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

As many as 232 widow allowance receivers have been made to purchase a lottery ticket each while drawing the monthly amount at Rajshahi Krishi Unnayon Bank on BDR Road in Lalmonirhat town.

Shah Alam, cashier of the bank branch, realised Tk 10, price of the ticket titled 'Probin Hospital Lottery - 2013', from each of 232 widow allowance card holders listed under the branch, when they received the monthly allowance of Tk 300 during the last three days.

"I have no knowledge about the said lottery. The

bank cashier gave me a ticket after taking Tk 10 from my widow allowance money. To me, Tk 10 matters as I get only Tk 300 per month," said Feroza Bewa, 68, widow of late Sorbes Ali of Char Khatamari village in Dharla River basin area under Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

Beila Bewa, 67, another widow from the same village, said, "Like this time, the cashier earlier gave us different lottery tickets, taking money from our allowance, when we went to the bank to draw the money."

Debla Moi Rani, 70, wife of late Kali Charon Barmon of Bosti Khatamari village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, also made a similar allegation.

It is a sheer malpractice that a bank employee would have lottery tickets bought by the receivers of widow allowance, which is only Tk 300 a month, said Ashraf Islam, a staff of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila social welfare office.

Bank cashier Shah Alam said, "I gave got 700 lottery tickets for sale from the head office of the bank. I am selling these tickets to the bank clients but I did not force anyone to purchase them."

He, however, said it was a 'mistake' on his part to sell lottery tickets to the widow allowance receivers and he is sorry for the matter.

SNIPPETS

Outlaw shot dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

An alleged outlaw was shot dead at Tamaltola in Sheikhkhari outskirts of the district yesterday noon. The deceased was identified as Abbas Sheikh, 45, son of Golam Sheikh of Sultanpur village in Sadar upazila. He was a former member of outlawed Purbha Banglar Communist Party. Locals said a gang of 7/8 opened fire on Abbas, leaving him dead on the spot when he was having a shave at a saloon in the area at around 1:00pm, said Golam Rahman, officer in-charge at Kotwali police station.

College girl murdered

A CORRESPONDENT, Jhalokathi

Criminals killed a college girl at Timir Kathi in Nalchhity upazila on Tuesday night. Identified as Sharmin Aktar, 21, she was daughter of retired army sergeant Abul kalam. She was a student of philosophy at BM College, Barisal. Police said the gang attacked Sharmin with sharp weapons, leaving her critically injured when she was talking over mobile phone beside her house. The girl was rushed to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College and Hospital where doctors declared her dead. Sharmin might have been killed over love affairs, said Asaduzzaman, officer-in-charge at Nalchhity police station.

Six bombs recovered

UNB, Benapole, Jessore

Police recovered six live bombs from a graveyard at Bezpara in the district town on Wednesday night. According to them, locals found the bombs in an abandoned condition in the area at about 11:00pm. Police however could not ascertain who had kept the bombs there. A team of explosive experts later defused the bombs.

Jamaat leader held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Detective Branch (DB) of Police arrested a local Jamaat-e-Islami leader on Statuin Road in Patgram upazila town on Wednesday night on charge of instructing pickets to make yesterday's hartal success. The arrestee was identified as Abu Hena Ershad Hossain Saju, 50, former president of upazila unit Jamaat. Acting on a tip-off, a team of DB police raided the area and arrested Saju when he and others were planning to make the shutdown success.

C'NAWABGANJ

Cases against 5000 Jamaat, Shibir men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabganj

Over 5,000 Jamaat-Shibir men have been sued on charges of attack on policemen in Chapainawabganj town and Shibganj upazila on Wednesday.

Sub-Inspector Boni Israel of Sadar Police Station filed a case with the police station on Wednesday night, accusing 50 identified and 3,500 unidentified Jamaat-Shibir leaders and activists.

Another case was filed with Shibganj Police Station the same night. Sub-Inspector Abdur Razzak lodged the case against 60 named and 1500 unnamed Jamaat-Shibir activists.

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir swooped on law enforcers at Shibganj Bazar and Shaheed Satu Hall area in the district town on Wednesday afternoon, leaving at least 14 policemen, including the officers-in-charge of Shibganj and Sadar police stations injured.

Police said Jamaat-Shibir men brought out a procession at Shibganj Bazar at around 5:15pm. At one stage, they attacked cops, vandalised some vehicles and set local Awami League office afire. At least 12 policemen, including Officer-in-Charge Zamir Uddin of Shibganj Police Station, were injured in the attack.

JUBILATION OVER SAYEDEE VERDICT



PHOTO: STAR/FOCUS BANGLA
People from all walks of life burst into cheers after the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) -1 pronounced the verdict against Jamaat Naye-e-Ameer Delawar Hossain Sayedee yesterday, sentencing him to death for committing crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War. Photos show processions in 1) Magura town, 2) Bogra town, 3) Jhenidah town, 4) Chandpur town, 5) Munshiganj town, 6) distribution of sweets among Narayanganj townspeople by Jatiya Party men, and 7) jubilation in Dinajpur and 8) Gaibandha towns.



Housing by grabbing river

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Jessore

A housing company has encroached land of the town's river to build a multi-storey apartment building.

Locals here alleged that Apone Houses Limited, a Dhaka-based company, has already set up a tin boundary grabbing at least 20 feet of the Bhairab River.

The company has also demolished the old building

of District Madrasa Shikhhok Samity (a teachers association) there for the purpose.

During a visit to the site recently this correspondent found that the ground work of the apartment project was going on in full swing at Ghope Jail Road for building 'Apone Bhairab Tower.'

The old building at the site was demolished following a deal with the Samity,

sources said.

According to the deal, the land owner will get 40 percent share of the tower while the apartment company will get the remaining 60 percent, they said.

Mujibur Rahman, the purchase officer of the housing company who supervises the work, said "The tin boundary has been set up on temporary basis while the tin-sheds will accommodate

the construction labours."

He said that the main structure of Apone Bhairab Tower will not go beyond demarcation pillar of the river.

Iqbal Kabir Jahid, advisor to Bhairab Bachao Andolan, also politburo member of the Workers Party, said that the encroachers first grab the river land by setting up temporary structure and later build permanent structures on the site of the temporary structure.

None of the encroachers of the Bhairab River have so far been evicted during the period of any government, he said, blaming the district administration for remaining indifferent to the encroachment of the river.

Rather a section of officials of the district administration always helped the encroachers in exchange of bribe, he alleged.

Contacted, Hamidur Rahman, Assistant Deputy Commissioner (Revenue), said that he was not aware of any such incident or allegation.

A team would visit the spot and legal steps would be taken if any individual or company is found grabbing the river land, he said.

People in Sayedee's home dist rejoice his death sentence

HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

People in different areas of Delawar Hossain Sayedee's home district Pirojpur brought out joyful processions after hearing the death sentence of the detained notorious war criminal, also a top leader of Jamaat-e-Islami.

Sayedee, charged with crimes against humanity including murder, rape, loot, arson and forcibly converting Hindus to Islam during the 1971 Liberation War, was awarded the capital punishment as the International Crimes Tribunal-1 found him guilty on several counts.

"We have got proper judgement. Now we demand early execution of the verdict," said freedom fighter Mahbubul Alam, plaintiff of the case for crimes against humanity committed by Sayedee during the Liberation War.

Fazlul Haque Sentu, commander of Pirojpur district unit of Muktijoddha Sangsad, also demanded early execution of the verdict.

Meanwhile, an uneasy calm prevailed in Sayedee's home village Sayedkhali in Zianagar upazila yesterday.

No male member was found at the houses of his two brothers Mostofa Sayedee and Humayun Kobir Sayedee.

Their sister Hawa Begum, who resides at a nearby house, burst into tears after hearing Sayedee's death sentence.

Most of the shops in Zianagar upazila remained closed from the morning.

Many business establishments in Pirojpur district town also put their shutters down as the news of pronouncement of the verdict against Sayedee spread.

A large number of law enforcers including police and Rapid Action Battalion have been deployed at the key points of Pirojpur town and Zianagar upazila to avert any untoward incident, said SM Aktharuzzaman, superintendent of police of Pirojpur.

RANGPUR MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL

Patients suffer for want of safe drinking water

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Patients at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) are suffering from acute crisis of safe drinking water as three tube-wells in the hospital compound have remained out of order for over a month.

While visiting the hospital a few days ago, this correspondent came to know that attendants go to nearby hotels to collect drinking water for their patients.

Patients said as supply water is dirty and smells bad, the tube-wells were the only source of safe drinking water. "We repeatedly urged the hospital authorities to make the tube-wells operational, but to no effect," they alleged.

Supply water is used only for toilets. So, the attendants of the patients have to go to hotels and restaurants outside the hospital everyday to collect drinking water, said relatives of some patients.

Attendants of two patients--Aslam from

Dinajpur and Subal from Nilphamari--said they have been collecting water from the nearby hotels for the last two weeks. "Sometimes the hoteliers refuse to give water or charge money for it. We face serious problem as all hotels beside the hospital remain closed after midnight."

Some patients said they have to purchase water from nearby shops as supply water is not drinkable. "We come to the hospital from other districts to get better treatment and other healthcare facilities, but the authorities concerned have failed to ensure safe drinking water for us," they added.

The patients have requested the hospital authorities to install more tube-wells in the RMCH compound to solve the problem of drinking water.

Contacted, Dr Golam Mostafa, director of Rangpur Medical College Hospital, said the higher authorities are aware of the problem. Steps will be taken soon to resolve the problem, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

The site of the housing project where the developer is set to build a high-rise, encroaching upon 20 feet of Bhairab River near Daratana intersection in Jessore town.