

Grabber occupiees forestland, sells a portion to another

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

A few people have occupied 51 decimals of forestland at Chhoto Rauta mouja under Domar forest range in the district allegedly through preparing fake documents. Visiting the spot under Domar municipality on Sunday, this correspondent saw bamboo fencing around the land full of trees and signboards inscribing the names and addresses of Nazma Begum, and Solaiman Ali group, claiming ownership of 13 and 38 decimals of forestland respectively.

Solaiman Ali allegedly sold a portion of the occupied land to another person who made a brick-built house on it.

The then Pakistan government during the middle of last century acquired 2,803 acres of land in Domar and Dimla upazilas to create forest and varieties of trees including acacia (akashmoni), eucalyptus, garjon, babla, neem, jackfruit, mangoes, arjun, cane, and bamboo were planted there, said sources in Domar forest range.

But in 2010, Solaiman Ali group and Nazma Begum claimed ownership of 38 and 13 decimals of forestland in plot No 3010 under Chhoto Rauta mouja, showing two registration documents, said Abu Bakkar Khan, ranger of Domar forest range.

"The then forest department officials rejected the claim but occupants lodged case at a Nilphamari court claiming that the land is not shown in the government gazette," he said.

Contacted by this correspondent, Solaiman Ali said, "According to CS and SA records the legal owners of the land having plot number 3010 were Monoranjon, Keshob Chandra and late Bhupendra Nath. We purchased the land from them in 2006 and performed mutation at Domar land office."

"Following a case filed by Nazma Begum on behalf of us in 2010, the court granted temporary injunction in



PHOTO: STAR

Land grabbers have put a fence around a piece of forestland in Domar upazila under Nilphamari district and hung a signboard on a tree there, claiming ownership of the land belonging to forest department.

favour of us. And so, we have fenced our area," he added.

Sources, however, said forest officials concerned did not move the case properly and they did not even bring before the court the fact that the disputed land was part of a living forest.

Meanwhile, Ram Niwas Agorwala, secretary of Domar crematorium committee, on March 20 lodged a complaint with the mayor of Domar municipality, saying that Solaiman Ali group and others occupied plot num-

ber 3010 (aforesaid disputed land) although the land belong to the crematorium and there is genuine deed document regarding the matter.

"Monoranjon, Keshob Chandra and late Bhupendra Nath had plot No 2010 registered in favour of the crematorium in 1988 as their late father had verbally donated the land long ago," he mentioned in the complaint.

According to an understanding between the forest

department and the crematorium committee a couple of years ago, forest department got possession of plot No 3010 to plant trees there while plots No 3008 and 3009, which actually belong to the forest department, are used for temporarily keeping the bodies before burning at the nearby cremation ground, said Ram Niwas Agorwala.

"We shall file case against illegal occupant Solaiman Ali and others if our rights are not protected," he added.

LAND DISPUTES Man killed in Bogra, 50 hurt in Kishoreganj

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A fertiliser trader was killed over a piece of disputed land at Barahi village in Dupchacia upazila of Bogra early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mizanur Rahman Liton, 30, son of late Atraj Pramanik of the village, reports our correspondent.

Police and family sources said there was a long standing conflict between Liton and his cousin Saiful Islam over the land.

As a sequel to the conflict, a gang allegedly led by Saiful Islam attacked Liton with sharp weapons, leaving him dead on the spot when he was returning home from his shop at 12:00am.

The body was sent to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Riaz Ahmed, officer in-charge at Dupchacia police station.

Liton's brother Julfikar Ali filed a murder case with the PS accusing nine identified people.

Of the accused, Mohammad Bayejid, 25, Mozammel Hossain, 32, and Akram Uddin, 46, were arrested, said the OC.

In Kishoreganj, over 50 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups over a piece of disputed land at Kamaria village in Katiyadi upazila yesterday, reports a correspondent.

Police and locals said there was a longstanding conflict between two groups-- one led by Bolu and another by Siraj-- of the village over the land.

The clash took place when the supporters of Bolu, who went to the land, were resisted by their rivals at around 10:00am.

Of the injured, Rahima, 27 and Haresa, 40, were rushed to Kishoreganj Sadar Modern Hospital in critical condition.

Police arrested one Mizan, 40, Sujon, 35, and Phul Mia, 32, in connection with the incident, said Emdad-Ul-Haque, officer in-charge at Katiyadi PS.



PHOTO: STAR

One of the tin-roofed houses damaged by nor'wester at Gumerchar village under Bakshiganj upazila of Jamalpur district. The storm ravaged over 400 dwelling houses in three upazilas of the district on Wednesday night.

NOR'WESTER LASHES 4 DISTRICTS Man killed, hundreds of houses damaged

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Nor'wester lashed Jamalpur, Sherpur, Rangpur and Moulvibazar districts on Wednesday night, leaving a man dead and damaging over 1300 houses.

Our Jamalpur correspondent reported that a man was killed and at least 400 dwelling houses were damaged as violent storm swept through eight unions of Sadar, Bakshiganj and Dewanganj upazilas at around 7:30 pm.

The deceased was identified as Shahjahan Mia, 36, son of Chhadu Mondol of Gumerchar village under Nilokkhia union of Bakshiganj upazila. Shahjahan died in house collapse Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Debashish Nagsaid.

The seven others affected unions are Merurchar, Sadhurpara and Kamalpur under Bakshiganj upazila; Lakkhichar under Sadar upazila; and Bahadurabad, Paramrampur and Charamkhawa under Dewanganj upazila.

The storm accompanied by hail and rain damaged Irri-boro paddy, uprooted a good number of trees and

electric poles in the storm-hit areas.

Palli Bidyut Samity reinstalled the electric polis and restored power supply in Sadar and Dewanganj upazilas at noon yesterday. Employees of the samity are working to restore power supply in the affected areas of Bakshiganj upazila, said General Manager Reza Ullah Khan of Palli Bidyut Samity.

In Rangpur, Nor'wester damaged over 500 thatched and tin-roofed houses in Pirgachha upazila. The storm-hit villages are Char Shibdeb, Char Purba Haguria Hashim, Jadu Laskar, Annadanagar, Petvata, Sath Dargah, Kaliganj and Damur Chakla villages, reports our correspondent.

Besides, the storm uprooted tress and damaged Irri-boro paddy and other crops at the villages.

Contacted, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) AKM Sarwar Jahan they have already sent a list of the affected families to the district administration.

In Moulvibazar, Over 200 thatched and tin-roofed houses were damaged by a violent storm in Kamolganj and sadar upazilas on

Wednesday night, according to our correspondent.

Rail services on Sylhet-Dhaka and Sylhet-Chittagong routes remained suspended for six and an half hours as trees uprooted by storm fell on railway tracks in Lawachhara area.

Banugachh Railway Station Master Afzal Hossain said trees fell on rail tracks at different points, disrupted train on the routes for over six hours from midnight on Wednesday.

Train service on the routes resumed at around 6:30am, he added.

Our Sherpur correspondent adds: Storm lashed 15 villages of Sadar and Sribardi upazilas of the district around 8:00 pm on Wednesday, damaging over 300 dwelling houses and injuring at least 15 people.

The injured were admitted to Jamalpur General Hospital and upazila health complexes. The storm, which lasted for an hour, also damaged Irri-boro paddy and other crops at the affected villages. It uprooted trees and electric poles, disrupting power supply to the upazilas for eight hours from 8:00pm.

ACC starts probe into alleged corruption by BRUR VC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday launched a probe into the alleged corruption by Abdul Jalil Miah, vice chancellor (VC) of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR). Abdul Karim, deputy director (DD) of ACC, Rangpur office, went to the university in the morning following filing of a case in Dhaka on charge of corruption, nepotism, autocracy and misuse of power against the VC a few days ago.

According to the charges, the VC appointed at least 435 teachers, officials and employees without prior permission of the University

Grants Commission (UGC). VC Jalil Miah was asked to submit report within seven days in this regard, said the DD of ACC.

Contacted, the VC however, refuted the allegations.

Meanwhile, the High Court (HC) has issued an interim injunction on the suspension order of six teachers and officials of the university for three months.

The HC told the university authorities to explain why the suspension order would not be declared illegal and asked them to submit reports within four weeks in this regard.

The court issued the injunction on Tuesday after the suspended teachers and officials filed a writ petition

against the suspension order.

On April 18, the authorities temporarily suspended four teachers and two officials, who were agitating for the VC's resignation, alleging his violation of rules and regulations.

The suspended teachers are Associate Prof RM Hafizur Rahman of mathematics, Assistant Prof Abu Sayeed Md Wadudur Rahman of Bangla, Assistant Prof Apel Mahmud of accounting and information science, and Lecturer Omar Faruk of Bangla.

The officials are Assistant Registrar Aminur Rahman and the university central library Assistant Director Mamdudur Rahman.

Two youths shot dead by gunmen in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Armed criminals shot dead two young men in Jurgachhari area of Laxmichhari upazila in the district on Wednesday.

The deceased were identified as Monaiya Chakma, 23, son of Sukramoni Chakma of Dakkhin Suknachhari area and Shantimony Chakma, 22, son of Ananda Chakma of Jurgachhari area in the upazila.

Police quoting locals said, a gang of four opened gunshots on Monaiya Chakma and Shantimoy Chakma around 08:30pm on Wednesday in Jurgachhari area and managed to flee the scene by motorbikes.

Monaiya died on the spot and Shantimoy succumbed to injuries on the way to Chittagong Medical College Hospital, said officer in-charge of Laxmichhari police station Mohammad Kamrul Hassan.

The bodies were sent to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital for autopsy, he said, adding that they are yet to know the exact reason behind the killing.

Locals identified Monaiya as a member of Laxmichhari unit Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samiti (PCJSS) and suspected that the incident might be a sequel to rivalry over establishing political supremacy in the region.

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