



Two of the seven tourist spots-Meghla Lake at the entrance to Bandarban town and Shailo Propat (waterfall) in Sadar upazila of the district – declared by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism.

# LGED removes 'wrongly written' signboards

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and Nilphamari municipality authorities have finally removed all the signboards that were inscribed with wrong naming of the country at different construction sites in the town.

It happened yesterday after a report headlined 'so callous, so careless,' was published in this regard in The Daily Star.

The report printed on Page-12 of the national daily yesterday accompanied a photograph taken from near the local PDB office that shows a signboard of the LGED men-

## Follow-up

tioning 'Government of Republic Bangladesh' instead of 'Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh'.

Such signboards were put up at construction sites where different damaged roads are being renovated or reconstructed under 'Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement (Sector) Project, phase-II' of the LGED.

LGED empowered local municipality to implement the Tk 2.25 crore project, mostly aided by foreign funds.

Seeing the report yester-

day morning, Rezaul Karim, deputy project director (DPD) of Urban Governance and Infrastructure Improvement (Sector) Project in Dhaka, asked the executive engineers of local LGED and municipality to remove the signboards immediately and replace them with the correct name of the country, said LGED and municipality sources.

Sirajul Islam Sarker, executive engineer of Nilphamari municipality, said, "The signboards with wrong information have been removed as per the direction from the DPD. Those will be set up soon



PHOTO: STAR

The signboard (inset) with inscription of wrong naming of the country beside the PDB office at Sabujpara in Nilphamari town gets removed yesterday, thanks to the good sense of the authorities following a newspaper report on the matter.

# 92pc workers

FROM PAGE 20

As many as 63 percent of the surveyed victims said injuries like amputations, paralysis and severe pains in the body have stopped them from going back to work.

Moreover, 92 percent have reported of being deeply traumatised, with more than half experiencing insomnia and trembling from loud sounds. Some said they were even scared to walk into a building or an enclosed room.

The ActionAid released the survey report in London yesterday. The survey came as the Bangladesh government along with the global alliance of trade unions continue to negotiate compensation for survivors and families of the deceased.

The report also reveals that the victims are facing severe financial difficulty. More than half of the surveyed said they had mounting debts and over 90 percent said they had no savings due to low wages before the factory collapse.

Only one company, Primark, has given Tk 15,000 each to 3,300 workers. The government has also given Tk 22 lakh each to 777 people, around one-third of the victims and their family members.

"While corporations sit on their hands, the victims of the Rana Plaza disaster are in urgent need of medical and psychological support, as well as the financial means to feed and care for their families," said Farah Kabir, ActionAid's country director in Bangladesh.

The report quoted 21-year-old Naznin Akhter Nazma, who was pregnant when pulled out from the rubble and lost her husband in the collapse.

"I heaved a sigh of relief when the doctor said my unborn baby was OK, but now I am worried that I can't provide for my child. I haven't had any compensation. My rent is five months overdue and soon shopkeepers will stop giving me credit for food," Nazma was quoted as saying.

Of the 2,297 people surveyed over phone, 1,509 were survivors and 788 family members of those who died. All 2,421 survivors and families of the 1,133 deceased could not be contacted due to change of cellphone numbers, ActionAid states in the report.

## AL office

FROM PAGE 20

around 5:00am, said Nasiruddin, inspector (investigation) of Banani Police Station.

The office and its valuables were gutted completely before locals rushed there and put the blaze out, he said.

But police could not confirm if the fire was set accidentally or intentionally.

The offices of AL and Jubo League came under attack a day ahead of the BNP-led 18-party alliance's rallies in four cities, including Dhaka, today.

On Saturday the Dhaka Metropolitan Police had slapped ban on rallies, meetings and processions in the capital from 6:00am the next day.

After Dhaka, an indefinite ban on all kinds of political gatherings was imposed in Chittagong, and several other cities.

Security has been beefed up across the country and as part of it border guards had been deployed in Chittagong, Dhaka and Narayanganj yesterday.

However, the BNP was yesterday given the permission to hold a rally in the capital's Suhrawardy Uddyan today at 2:00pm.



PHOTO: STAR

## 7 tourist spots in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

The government has declared seven places in two upazilas of the district as reserved tourist spots.

The seven spots are Meghla, Nilachal and Prantik Lake at the entrance of the district town, Buddhist Pagoda known as golden temple at the suburb, waterfall and Chinbuk peak beside Chinbuk-Thanci road and Mirinja hill in Lama upazila, said a recent circular of The

Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism.

The seven spots comprising around 272 acres of land have been made special reserved area for the sake of development of the places and stop unplanned development there, it said.

The government initiative aims at protecting the areas from any activities detrimental to tourism and checking unplanned construction in the picturesque spots, said Bandarban Deputy Commissioner KM Tariqul Islam.

The region comprising the country's highest landscape full of greenery is inhabited by eleven indigenous peoples having variegated cultural traditions and so, the government should take development steps without causing any harm to the local characteristics, said members of the civil society in the district.

People related to the tourism industry in the district expressed hope that the government step will help to flourish the sector in the district.

## BSF picks up cattle trader

Body found on no-man's land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) picked up a Bangladeshi cattle trader near Ratnai border under Baliagangi upazila early yesterday.

The detainee is Anwar Hossain, 18, son of Sahiruddin of Mridhaborti village under the same upazila.

Sector Commander of Thakurgaon Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Colonel Iqbal Hossain told this correspondent over cell phone that BSF personnel of Sonamoti Camp of 21, BSF Battalion caught Anwar inside Indian territory of Ratnai border at about 12:30 am while he was returning home from India with five cattle.

In the morning, BGB sent a letter to BSF asking it to return the Bangladesh youth.

In Benapole, Jessore, police yesterday recovered the body of a man from the non-man's land near the border check-post, reports our Benapole correspondent.

The dead was identified as Kamruzaman Sardar, 55, son of Abdul Aziz of Fakirhat upazila in Bagerhat district. His body was found hanging from the branch of a tree.

Locals alleged that BSF members might have beaten the man to death and later hung his body in the no man's land. There was marks of injury in the body.

Lt Col Matiur Rahman, commanding officer of 26-BGB Battalion, however, denied any involvement of BSF members in the incident.

## 3 siblings among 4 to die for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A court here yesterday sentenced four people, including three siblings, to death for killing a farmer in 2004 over a land dispute.

The District and Sessions Judge's Court also acquitted two others as the allegations against them were not proved.

The four convicts, present at the court, were Susen Mallik, Dipanakar Mallik and Subhash Mallik, three sons of Bipin Mallik and Dilip Mandal, son of Kalipad Mandal, of Kharasambal village under Sadar upazila in the district.

According to the case statement, Kalachand Mallik, son of Sudhir Mallik, of the same village went missing

from his own shrimp enclosure on February 27 in 2004.

The following day, locals found his body in a nearby canal and informed the police who recovered the body.

Shobha Rani Mallik, sister to the deceased, filed a murder case with Bagerhat Model Police, accusing the aforesaid four and other unnamed persons of the killing following a land dispute.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Kazi Mofizul Islam, investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted charge sheet against six including the four convicts on August 2 in the same year.

Judge SM Solaiman examining the fourteen witnesses handed down the verdict.

## 11 get life for taking away microbus killing its driver

UNB, Sylhet

A court here on Wednesday sentenced 11 people to life term imprisonment for snatching a microbus killing its driver in Srimangal upazila of Moulvibazar district in 2010.

The court also fined each of the convicts Tk 20,000, in default of which they will have to serve one year more jail term.

They were identified as Soleman Patwari Monti, vice-chairman of Barura upazila of Comilla, his cohorts Azam Khan, Zubayer Hossain, Abdus Shahid, Shah Alam Sumon, Shamim Miah, Zohur Ali Prokash Kalu, Roman alias Rubel, Alauddin, M Salauddin and M Shahjahan.

Of them, Monti, Zubayer, Azam, Alauddin and Sumon were tried in absentia.

Judge Dilip Kumar Debnath of the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Sylhet handed down the punishment to the 11 and acquitted four others.

Court sources said, 15 people, including the convicts, hired a microbus from Srimangal microbus stand for going to Dhaka on September 27, 2010.

Since then, there had been no trace of the microbus and its driver.

Ten days later, the driver, Mohsin Ali, son of Yunus Miah of Sunaigarh village of Srimangal, was found dead in Ragananda rubber garden in Chunarughat upazila of Habiganj district.



PHOTO: STAR

**SMALL MATTER, BIG PROBLEM:** This culvert on Shantiram-Belka Road in Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha district collapsed a year ago, snapping communication between two unions and the upazila headquarters. The authorities concerned are yet to take any steps to reconstruct the culvert.

### BALA MIAH 'TORTURE'

# Tangail truckers threaten to go on indefinite strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

District truck workers' union yesterday threatened to go on an indefinite strike from November 4 if the law enforcers responsible for 'torturing' union leader Bala Miah were not punished by November 3.

The union leaders issued the ultimatum from a rally held in front of the deputy commissioner's office in the morning.

Addressing the rally, the speakers said though the truckers and workers observed a 48-hour strike in the district from October 20 to press the demand, district police administration didn't take any steps in this regard.

"If our demand is not met by November 3, we will go for non-stop strike in the district from the following day," the union leaders said.

Later, they submitted memoranda to the deputy commissioner and the superintendent of police, demanding punishment to the law enforcers, who 'tortured' Bala Miah.

Tangail Truck Union President Bala Miah was allegedly beaten by a group of plainclothes policemen at Ashekpur Bypass area in the town on October 5.

After the incident, district police officials claimed that a team of law enforcers chased Bala when he was realising illegal toll from vehicles on the highway.

At one stage, Bala fell to the ground and broke his hand, they added.

Contacted, Police Superintendent Saleh Mohammed Tanvir said they are investigating the October 5 incident.

## SNIPPETS

### Transport workers block road

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Transport workers blocked roads for two hours on different routes in the town yesterday causing immense sufferings to the commuters of different routes. Sources said, on the day at about 12:15 pm, bus driver Nazmul beat up three wheeler driver Dulal after an altercation over giving side to vehicle on Thakurgaon-Gorea road near Gorea Bus Stand in Sadar upazila. As the three-wheeler drivers gathered in Thakurgaon bus stand area, demanding punishment to the bus driver, the transport workers immediately blocked Thakurgaon-Panchagarh road at bus stand and Thakurgaon-Bliadangi road at Art-gallery intersection keeping buses haphazardly on the roads. After two hours they withdrew the blockade when police gave them assurance to investigate the matter.

### 26 illegal travellers held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Members of Coastguard arrested 26 Bangladeshi nationals from Teknaf bus stand area yesterday while they were trying to go to Malaysia illegally. They also held three brokers-Sona Ali, 45, Abdur Rahman, 32, and Md Jahed, 32. Lt Dewan Rafiqul Awal, station commander of Teknaf Coastguard, said acting on a tip-off, they raided the area around 5:00pm and arrested them. The arrestees hailed from Jessore, Chuadanga, Natore, Meherpur, Kurigram, Sirajganj and Narayanganj districts. The arrestees were later handed over to Teknaf police station, said Rafiqul.

### Scuffle on BAU campus

BAU CORRESPONDENT

A pro-BNP teacher of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) scuffled with a Chhatra League leader on the campus over a trivial matter yesterday. The clash took place at 12:30pm when a motorbike carrying Aminul Islam Selim, vice president of Mymensingh town unit BCL, hit Prof Abul Hashem, general secretary of BNP backed 'Sonali Dal' of BAU, while he along with some other teachers was standing in front of the university administration building. At this, Dr Abul Kalam Azad, also a pro-BNP teacher, and Selim engaged in an altercation over the incident. At one stage of altercation, Azad slapped the BCL leader, said university sources. Refuting the incident of slapping, Azad said he only tried to save the teachers from Selim, an outsider.

### AL leader hurt in attack

UNB, Sathkhira

A local AL leader was injured in an attack allegedly by Jamaat-Shibir men at Khetrapara in Kolaroa upazila on Wednesday night. The injured is Shafiqul Islam Mali, president of AL Joynagar union unit and former chairman of Joynagar union. Shah Dara Khan, officer in-charge of Kolaroa police station, said a group of Jamaat-Shibir men swooped on Mali and stabbed him with sharp weapons in the area while he was returning home from Saraskati Bazar at 10:30pm. Mali was admitted to Kolaroa Upazila Health Complex in critical condition.

### Pabna criminal jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A court here yesterday sentenced a local criminal to life imprisonment in an arms case. The convict is Md Abdur Razzak, of Kashinathpur village in Santhia upazila. Additional district judge Munshi Md Moshir Rahman pronounced the verdict. According to the prosecution, Rab arrested Razzak along with a shutter gun and five bullets at Nurdah village in Ataikula upazila on October 6, 2009. A case was filed with Ataikula police station in this connection. Sub-inspector Md Mamunur Rashid later submitted a charge sheet accusing Razzak in the arms case. Razzak is also accused in three murder cases, said court sources.

### Smuggled clothes seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized a huge quantity of Indian smuggled clothes worth Tk75 lakh from Sadipur border in Benapole of Jessore early Tuesday. Being tipped off, a team of the border guards conducted a drive on the border in the early hours and seized 25 bales of smuggled Indian cloths, said Abdul Mannan, camp commander of 26 BGB Battalion. However, the smugglers fled the scene sensing the presence of the BGB members. The market price of the seized cloths would be Tk75 lakh, said the commander.