

59 poppy fields destroyed along Myanmar border

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Bandarban

Bangladesh army in a drive on Sunday destroyed 59 poppy fields in remote Boromodak area of Thanchi upazila of the district.

A joint team of the army, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and police conducted the drive in 'unguarded' Panjhiri, Bulu Para, and Laikrejhiri areas adjacent to Myanmar border and also inside the Sangu reserve forest of the district.

The team first chopped down the plants on more than 14 acres and later destroyed those by setting ablaze, sources said.

Chittagong Area Commander Major General Sabir Ahmed, BGB Chittagong Area Commander Brigadier Gen Ahmed, Bandarban Regional Commander Brigadier Gen Md Sayeed Siddiki, Bandarban Hill District Council chairman Kwe Shwe Hla, Deputy Commissioner K M Tariqul Islam, and Superintendent of Police Devdas Bhattacharya were present during the drive.

Army Alikadom Zone Commander Lieutenant Colonel Md. Alamgir Kabir led the drive.

The operation that started on January 22 will continue for 14 days till February 5.

Bandarban Regional Commander Brig. Gen. Md Sayeed Siddiki said, cross-

border drug syndicates engaged the indigenous people to cultivate poppy on their land in remote areas near the border.

Local sources said, a permanent army camp is required in the 'unguarded' bordering area while indigenous people should be given alternative work so that they do not indulge in poppy cultivation.

Local people living



A poppy field in Bandarban



PHOTO: STAR

Joint forces set fire to poppy plants, used to produce drugs like opium and heroin, after destroying 59 fields in remote Boromodak area of Bandarban along Myanmar border on December 12, 2013.

across the borders in Bangladesh, Myanmar and India have been cultivating poppy with the support of cross-border syndicates for the past 12 years, as poppy fetched

higher profits than other crops grown on their hard-to-reach land, they said.

People of the areas urged the government help them avoid poppy cultivation

and asked for better ways for a living.

Every year joint forces launch operations in the area to destroy poppy fields.

Poppies are used for producing opium and other

35 including 15 cops hurt as AL, BNP clash in Feni

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

At least 35 people, including 15 policemen, were injured during a fierce clash between the activists of Awami League and BNP at Parashuram upazila headquarters in the district yesterday.

Police and locals said the activists of the upazila units of the two parties sided with two rival groups over a land dispute at Madhugram village in the upazila yesterday. Following an alteration over the issue, they also chased each other.

As upazila BCL President Nihad Majumder hurled abusive words at BNP men sitting at their office over the incident at around 11:00am, they swooped on Nihad and beat him up.

As Nihad ran towards the upazila complex, AL and BCL men, who were staying there, came forward and locked

in a clash with the BNP activists. The clashing groups hurled brick chips at each other and made chase and counter chase, leaving at least ten people from both sides injured. Four motorbikes on the premises of the upazila complex were vandalised during the clash.

At around 1:30pm, AL, BCL and Jabo League men attacked the upazila BNP office, prompting the activists of the party to retaliate.

At least 17 people, including Abu Taleb, BNP candidate for the upazila chairman post in the upcoming elections, Alamgir Hossain, general secretary of upazila unit of BNP, and Mostafa Khokon, local BNP leader were injured.

Police rushed to the spot, fired rubber bullets and tear gas shells to

bring the situation under control.

Sub-inspector Badrul Kabir, 37, and Assistant Sub-Inspector Amir Hossain, 25, are among the injured policemen. They sustained injuries while AL and BNP men were hurling brick chips at each other.

Abu Taleb, Alamgir Hossain and Mostafa Khokon were sent to Dhaka while other injured BNP men admitted to private clinics. The injured AL and BCL men are undergoing treatment at the upazila health complex.

Protesting the attack on BNP men at Parashuram upazila headquarters, Feni district unit of the party will enforce a daylong hartal in the upazila today. District BNP General Secretary Ziauddin announced the programme yesterday evening.

It was a drama, not abduction!

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Khagrachhari

The driver of battery run three-wheeler, Mohammad Abu Tahar, 28, who was allegedly abducted by criminals, said on Sunday that it was nothing but a drama and he did that just for some money.

He said, he did the job as his friend Monir Hossain promised to give him Tk 50,000 for that and in a planned way went into hiding on Friday and sent an abduction message to his family members over cell phone.

He disclosed this at a press briefing held at the office of Khagrachhari Police Superintendent in presence of SP Sheikh Mohammad Mizanur Rahman, Additional SP Joynul Abadin and officer in-charge of Khagrachhari Sadar Police Station Mohammad Mizanur Rahman.

Earlier, acting on a secret information, police located Abu Tahar in Natunpara area under Mairiranga upazila of the district on Sunday night. They arrested him and on the basis of his statement arrested Monir Hossain and Hallal on the same day.

The procession was held as part of a campaign over the second phase upazila elections at Bousi Bazar, locals said.

The gang bludgeoned him in the head and hand, hit with iron rods and also stabbed him with sharp weapons, leaving him critically injured.

Later, they dumped him beside a road at Dhabadar village in the upazila.

Critically injured, Sujan was rushed to Jamalpur General Hospital by local people and later shifted to Meymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) around 9:30pm as his condition deteriorated.

He succumbed to his injuries at the MMCH around 11:00pm, the OC said.

Jubo Dal leader stabbed allegedly by AL men dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A Jubo Dal leader, who was injured critically in an attack allegedly by rival AL men in Sharishabari upazila on Sunday afternoon, died at Meymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) the same night.

The deceased was identified as Sujan Khan, 32, a convening committee member of Bhatara union unit of Jubo Dal and son of Chan Khan of Bhatara village.

Officer in-charge of Sharishabari police station Kamrul Ahsan said, Sujan came under attack at Bousi Bazar around 5:00pm while returning home after a Jubo Dal motorbike procession in the area.

Parashuram upazila BNP office in Feni district was vandalised during a clash between the activists of Awami League and BNP yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

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Robbery accused 'commits suicide'

UINB, Narsingdi

An arrestee accused in a robbery case allegedly committed suicide in police custody under Shibpur upazila yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mohsin Mia, 35, son of Sultanuddin of Baroigaon village in the upazila.

Mizanur Rahman, officer in-charge of Shibpur police station, said the law enforcers arrested Mohsin from his home on Sunday midnight for his alleged involvement in a robbery at Everest Cable Industries in the area, which took place on February 1.

He was kept in police custody where he was found dead early yesterday, said the OC.

Police said Mohsin took his life by strangulating himself with his muffler.

However, father of the deceased claimed that his son was an innocent farmer and accused police of beating him to death in custody.

The body was sent to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Woman held for 'kidnap attempt'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police in a drive arrested a woman for alleged attempt to kidnap a schoolgirl on the Mujib Road in Sirajganj district town on Sunday afternoon.

The arrestee was identified as Rita Khatun, 20, daughter of Sanwar Hossain of the town.

Another woman, Shapla, 20, daughter of Shah Alam of Sadar upazila was also arrested. But she was later freed for lack of evidence.

Officer in-charge of Sadar Police Station Habibul Islam said, the two women -- Rita and Shapla -- were held for attempt to kidnap Asha, a Class IV student of Haimobala Girl High School and daughter of Abdus Salam of the district town, on her way back home from school around 5:00pm.

As Asha raised alarm, local people rescued her and caught the two on the spot.

Police went to the spot and arrested the two women.

But they later freed Shapla for lack of sufficient proof while Rita confessed to her involvement in the incident, the OC said.



PHOTO: STAR

A ravaged shop at Beltali Bazar in Nilphamari Sadar upazila still bears testimony to the widespread vandalism by Jamaat-Shibir activists on the night of December 12 last year.

JAMAAT-SHIBIR ATTACKS IN NILPHAMARI

Tk 750 per head relief for victims, finally!

EAM ASADUZZAMAN,
Nilphamari

Over one and a half months after vandalism and arson attack by Jamaat-Shibir and BNP men in three unions of Nilphamari Sadar upazila, Tk 750 per head relief has appeared as a mockery to 194 victims of the barbarities committed on December 12 and 14 last year.

These people belong to Beltoli, Kachari Laxmichap, Dubachuri villages under Laxmichap union, Polashbari and Toronbari under Palashbari union and Ramganj Haat and Tupamari villages of Tupamari union.

After making list of the real victims, the amount of money was allocated for their rehabilitation and the UNO distributed it yesterday, said Asad Mia, project implementation officer of Sadar upazila.

On the night of December 12, activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student front Islami Chhatra Shibir vandalised and torched a number of houses, shops, and warehouses mostly belonging to Hindus and activists of ruling Awami League (AL) in the upazila.

They went into an orgy of destruction, apparently in reaction to the execution of Abdul Quader Molla, assistant general secretary of Jamaat, by a special tribunal in Dhaka, on charge of crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War.

On December 14, Jamaat-Shibir and BNP activists attacked the motorcade of local lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor (now minister for cultural affairs) at Ramganj Haat in Sadar

upazila that led to the killing of five people.

The attackers also vandalised some houses of Hindus and AL activists in Ramganj and Tupamari villages that day.

Noor was then returning after visiting the affected people of December 12 attack and distributing aids to them.

After getting Tk 750 as

relief, Chandra Babu, 45, a big trader of Kachari Laxmichap Bazaar, said, "I lost things worth Tk 8-10 lakh in the attack. Now what will I do

with this meagre aid?"

"The miscreants set fire to 180-200 mounds of harvested paddy worth Tk 1.2 to 1.3 lakh on my house yard but I received only Tk 750. It's an irony," said Shayam Charan Roy, 62, former chairman of Laxmichap union parishad, also union president of AL.

Nilphamari Deputy Commissioner Zakir Hossain said he has brought the matter to the notice of higher

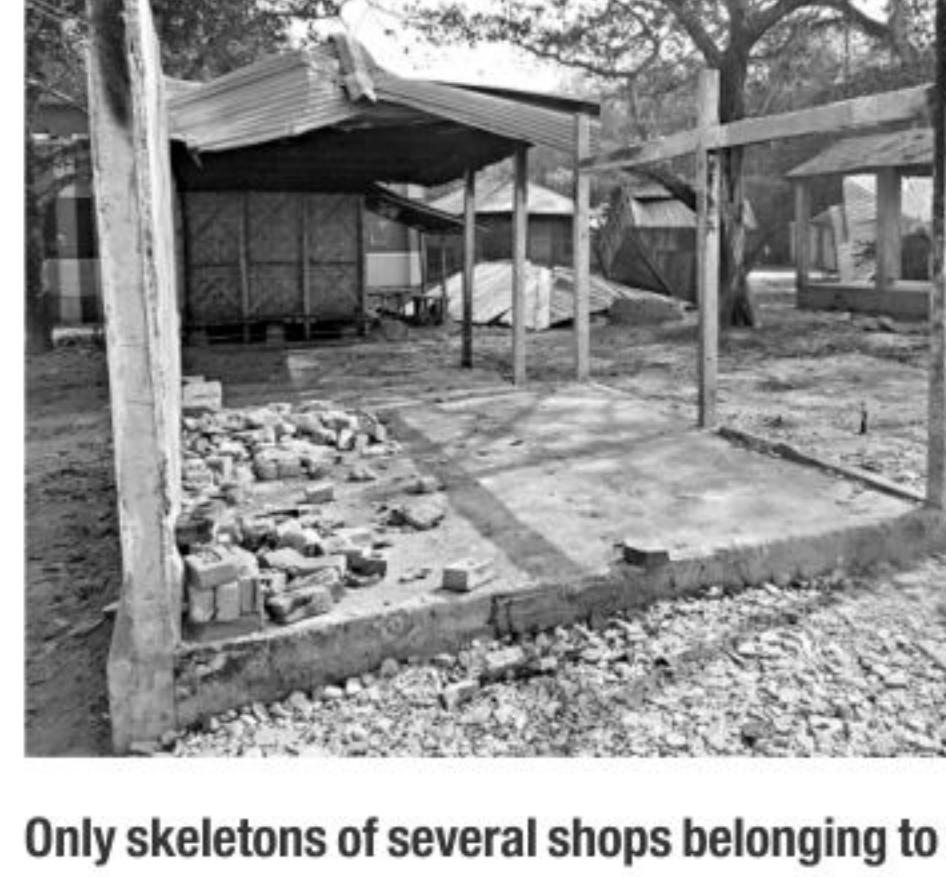


PHOTO: STAR

Only skeletons of several shops belonging to Hindus remain after the frenzied attack at Kachari Laxmichap Bazar.



Notice of Postponement

All proceedings of 2(two) auction notices published under section 12(3) of Artharin Adalat Act-2003 in the dailies "The Daily Star" and "The Daily Prothom Alo" both dated 23.01.2014 in respect of the borrowers namely NorthPole BD Limited and NorthPole CEPZ Limited are hereby postponed due to unavoidable circumstances.

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