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RUBBER PLANTATION

Land grabbers attack, evict 9 Marma families

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Land grabbers have vandalised and looted valuables at the homes of nine Marma families. It was aimed at forcing them to leave in order to grab their land to make a rubber plantation there.

On April 2, the families left their Sapmara Jiri Marma Para village in the district's Naikkhanchhari upazila after their homes were attacked on March 28, 29 and 30.

The indigenous farming families have taken refuge at Daiya Baper Para and Narishbunia Para, about eight kilometres from their homes.

They claimed that ruling party men and Rohingyas were helping the land grabbers to occupy their land.

"We have left our village following threats from the land grabbers and criminals," said Fo Aung Marma, chief of Sapmara Jiri Marma Para village.

Mong Hla Prue Marma, one of the victims, told The Daily Star that criminals had beaten them up and threatened their lives.

At least 14 Chak families fled their village last year due to similar circumstances.

Mongthoi Hla Marma, headman of Alikkhong mouza, alleged that indigenous people of six other villages -- Long Gadu Chakpara, Kamimukh Tripurapara, Bakhkhali Dhung Kiaungpara, Hatir Dat Jiri Chakpara, Hili Jiri Tripura Para and Longkai Marmapara -- are also under threat.

He alleged that Awami League leaders Alam Majhi, Abdul Jabbar, Jafar Alam and Shah Sirajur Rahman were helping rubber plantation owners to grab the land.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



The ravaged home of a Marma family at Sapmara Jiri Marma Para village in Naikkhanchhari of Bandarban. Influential land grabbers have evicted several indigenous families there and vandalised their homes.

PHOTO: SANJOY KUMAR BARUA

ROHINGYA REPRESSION

Obama warns Myanmar

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

US President Barack Obama warned yesterday that ethnic and religious conflicts could move Myanmar in a "very bad direction."

Obama praised the "courageous process" of political reform taking place in a country formerly led by a military junta, but warned that democratisation after years of repression brought its own perils.

"Myanmar won't succeed if the Muslim population is oppressed," Obama said at a "town hall" meeting during a visit to Muslim-majority Malaysia.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

AL suffers from inertia

Could not hold councils at 62 out of 73 organisational districts in last 5 years

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Incomplete district-level councils and slow pace in recruitment of new members, among other issues, show how the ruling Awami League has been suffering from organisational inertia.

In the last five years, the party could hold councils to only 11 of its 73 organisational districts. Interestingly, it held two central councils during that time.

After the triennial central council on July 24, 2009, the AL had decided to hold councils to all the 73 organisational districts immediately. But even after the central council of 2012, it failed to complete forming its grassroots committees.

Of the 11 districts that saw councils, the Dhaka

city unit is yet to have its committee announced even after more than a year. Besides, committees for the Chittagong, Sylhet and Rangpur city units of the party have been announced from the central AL without any elections being held.

The last and the present central committees could hold councils for Rangamati, Bandarban, Khagrachhari, Dhaka city, Chittagong (North), Feni, Barisal district and city, Dinajpur, Lalmonirhat and Kurigram.

As for the inclusion of new members, the AL took an initiative in February 2010 by enrolling Sajeeb Wazed Joy, son of AL chief Sheikh Hasina, as a primary member in Rangpur. That move, however, did not go far in its organisational districts. Nobody

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Student shot dead in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

An HSC examinee was shot dead during a fight between people of two villages in Sirajganj municipality area yesterday.

The victim, Md Alkama, 16, was the son of Ismail Hossain of Puthiabari in Sirajganj.

He was returning home around 7:00pm when the villagers of Atapara and Boubazar villages were locked in a fight using firearms and other weapons in Puthiabari in one of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Abdullah warns over Kashmir

Says If India becomes communal, Kashmiris wont remain with it

PTI, Srinagar

Indian Union Minister and National Conference President Farooq Abdullah yesterday said communalism is not acceptable to the people of Kashmir and they will not remain with India if the country becomes communal.

"Pray to God to save us from communal forces so that we can move forward. India cannot become communal. If it becomes communal, then Kashmir will not remain with India. Communalism is not acceptable to Kashmiris," Abdullah told a poll rally at Khanyar in old city here.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



An official notes down the serial numbers of fake Indian rupees worth 6.40 crore at Shahjalal International Airport yesterday after the notes were discovered at the airport's cargo handling section.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

No more MPO listing

Muhith questions qualities of many educational instts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is considering not including any new non-government educational institution under the monthly payment order (MPO) scheme as a large number of them are fake, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said.

"We won't extend the MPO facilities. No new school will be brought under the scheme as it has been destroying the secondary school system," he said at a pre-budget meeting with the chairmen of parliamentary standing committees yesterday.

The minister, however,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

TESTIMONY OF WAR CRIMES

Mir Quasem set up torture centres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

War crimes accused Mir Quasem Ali had led the setting-up of several camps in Chittagong for torturing and killing pro-liberation people and he must take responsibility for all the crimes committed there as a commander of Al-Badr force, the prosecution argued yesterday.

On the first day of their closing arguments, the prosecution said his force, Quasem, keeping links with the Pakistan

army, had directly taken part in committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

Prosecutors Zead Al Malum and Sultan Mahmud Simon tried to establish their claims by citing verbal and documentary evidence. The prosecutors, however, faced several questions from the International Crimes Tribunal-2 and could not give direct answers on several occasions.

The 61-year-old Jamaat-e-Islami central

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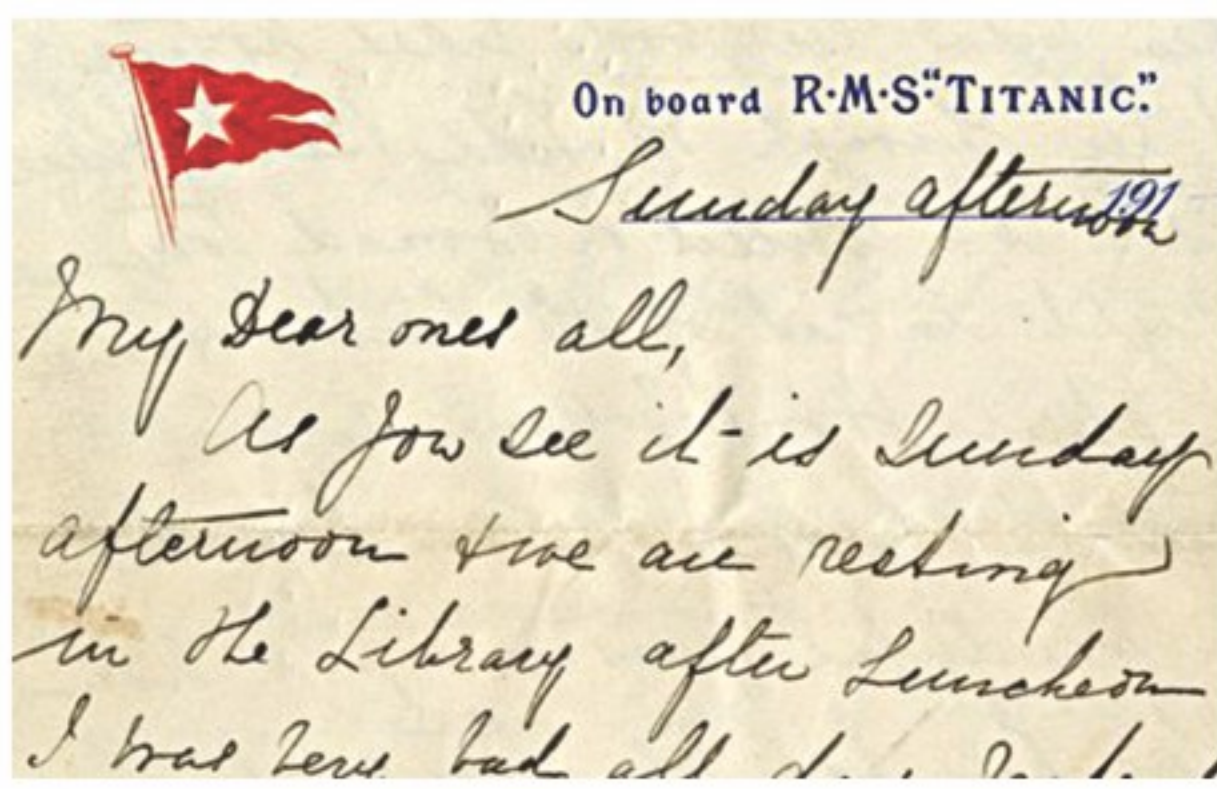
Titanic letter sells for £119,000

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE


The last letter known to be written on the Titanic has been sold for £119,000.

It was written by second-class

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



The Daily Star



Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think it was justified for BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul to claim that the govt is destabilising the country's garments industry?

Yes

58%

No

42%

TOTAL VOTES: 243

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with the BNP's allegation that the government is involved in the abduction, forced disappearance and extrajudicial killings of the opposition activists?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

Rs 6cr fake Indian notes recovered

Found in untagged luggage at airport cargo hold

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A consignment of forged Indian currency notes of Rs 6.40 crore was recovered at Dhaka Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport yesterday less than two months after the arrest of a smuggler of such fake currencies in the capital.

Tipped-off, a team of customs intelligence searched the airport's cargo section

around noon and recovered the Indian currencies.

Those have been brought here from Pakistan in a Qatar Airways cargo flight, said Nur-e-Alam Siddiqui, assistant superintendent of police in the Armed Police Battalion.

"We found six bundles of Indian currencies with the same serial number. This made us suspect that these are fake," said Moinul

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Book Review page could not be published today. It will, however, be there next week. We regret the inconvenience caused to our readers.

PRAYER TIMING

April 28

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-29	6-34
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



ATC-P branded as Katalyst, a Swisscontact project, is pleased to announce the launching of the Fertiliser Recommendation Software (FRS) scheduled to be inaugurated by the Honourable Minister, Begum Matia Chowdhury, MP, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, on April 29, 2014.

FRS is now available at www.frs-bd.com

We extend our sincere thanks to all concerned officials and organisations who have been involved in the process.