

FILLING OF JORAPUKUR WATER BODY

BR inspection team leaves spot 'in face of threat'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A Bangladesh Railway (BR) team that visited filled railway water body Jorapukur in Saidpur municipality on Tuesday returned quickly after alleged threat by the men of local ward councillor Akhtar Hossain Feku.

"We faced adverse situation during our visit to the spot. We went to know the present condition of the water body to inform the parliamentary standing committee on railway, which is scheduled to have a meeting on August 12," said Mostaq

Ahmed, railway divisional estate officer of Pakshi division in West Zone of BR, who along with assistant estate officer Ohidunnabi visited the spot.

This is the first visit of a railway team after local lawmaker from Saidpur Shawkat Chowdhury, also whip of opposition in parliament, inaugurated the illegal filling work on June 14.

By this time 85% of the water body has been filled up and an eidgah has been made there.

"Within five minutes of our reaching the spot, ward councillor Akhtar

Hossain Feku, who is guiding the filling work on behalf of Shawkat Chowdhury, went there on a speeding motorbike and made a hard brake just in front of us," Ohidunnabi told this correspondent at local railway officers' club on Tuesday afternoon.

"Asked by the councillor, we told him our identity. Then he arrogantly asked what we wanted there. A number of his men also gathered there. One of them mockingly said that we should be given cold drinks while another suggested giving us something

hot to make us leave the place," said the railway official.

"Despite the threatening message, we performed our duty quickly before leaving the place," he said.

The team measured the filled area, talked to people, and took several photographs there, locals said.

Contacted, ward councillor Akhtar Hossain Feku said, "I didn't say anything dishonourable to the team members. I told them politely that the place was filled to make an eidgah as locals were demanding it for long."

DAMAGED BY LIGHTNING STRIKE JULY 13

Chirirbandar telephone exchange still inoperative

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Correspondence through fixed telephone of state-run Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd (BTCL) has remained suspended since the digital sub-exchange in Chirirbandar upazila under the district went out of order due to a lightning strike on July 13.

There are 146 fixed phone connections, including 32 for different government offices in the upazila. Other connections are with educational institutions,

banks, and non-governmental organisations.

Official correspondence with government offices in and outside the upazila is suffering since the exchange went out of order on July 13, said Md Aminul Islam, assistant commissioner (Land), now performing additional duty as the upazila nirbahi officer of Chirirbandar.

"We repeatedly requested the officials of BTCL office in Dinajpur and for immediate repair of the exchange, but it has remained dysfunc-

tional," Akhtar Hossain, a subscriber under the exchange.

Md Ali Azam, divisional engineer of BTCL in Dinajpur, said, "The exchange got damaged in a lightning on July 13 and my office informed high officials of the matter. The spare parts are not available in Bangladesh. The local service under the exchange will be restored by Tuesday while we have to wait until getting the spare parts for resumption of the full service."

BSF returns cattle trader's body

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The Border Security Force (BSF) of India yesterday evening returned the body of a Bangladeshi cattle trader who was shot dead at a border point of Panchbibi upazila in Joypurhat on early Tuesday.

BGB officials of Joypurhat-3 Battalion said the BSF members returned the body through Koria border at around 7.30pm. BGB members later handed over the body to the relatives of the deceased through police.

Cattle trader Razu Ahmed, 28, of Joypurhat was shot dead at Nandail border. Later the BSF members took the body inside Indian territory.



PHOTO: STAR

Indigenous people brought out a procession in Chapainawabganj town yesterday, demanding immediate arrest of those who beat up and raped an indigenous woman leader in Gomostapur upazila of the district on Monday.

Torture, rape of indigenous woman leader spark protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Indigenous people brought out a procession in Chapainawabganj town yesterday, demanding immediate arrest of those who beat up and raped an indigenous woman leader in Gomostapur upazila of the district on Monday.

Jointly organised by Jatiya Adivasi Parishad and Adivasi Chhatra Parishad, several hundred people joined the procession and paraded the main streets. They later submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner (DC) and held a protest rally in front of the DC's office.

Rabindranath Soren, president of Jatiya Adivasi

Parishad central unit, Bimol Chandra Rajoar, organising secretary of the unit, Dilip Pahan, general secretary of Chapainawabganj unit of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad, Sushen Kumar, Rajshahi unit general secretary of the parishad, Bhabogut Tudu, general secretary of Uttar Banga Adivasi Forum, Manik Roy, president of Chapainawabganj district unit of Adivasi Chhatra Parishad, and Hemanto Mahato, president of Adivasi Chhatra Parishad Rajshahi University unit, addressed the rally.

The speakers strongly condemned the incident and demanded arrest of the culprits. They also threatened to launch a tougher agitation programme in the

northern districts if the criminals were not arrested immediately.

On Monday noon, a gang of 30/35 criminals demanded Tk 3 lakh from the president of Jatiya Adivasi Parishad Chapainawabganj unit when she along with her labourers was planting aman seedlings on her land at Zinapur village under Parbatipur union of Gomostapur upazila.

As the indigenous woman leader, also the member of Parbatipur Union Parishad, refused to pay heed to the demand, the gang members swooped on the leader and beat her. They also attacked the labourers, who managed to flee the scene.

The victim alleged that

three of the gang took her to one side of the farmland and raped her while others took away her power tiller, two bullocks and a shallow pump machine.

She filed a case with Gomostapur Police Station on Monday night, accusing 18 named and 14/15 unnamed people. The indigenous leader was admitted to Gomostapur Upazila Health Complex on the day and shifted to Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital early Tuesday.

Sub-Inspector Mominur Rahman, also the investigation officer of the case, said police arrested three of the named accused yesterday and the day before from Zinapur village. They are Ziaul Karim, Azizur Rahman, and Anisur Rahman.

3 murders in Panchagarh, Thakurgaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Police recovered the body of a 'missing' man from a pond at Toreya Munshipara village under Atway upazila in Panchagarh yesterday noon.

The deceased was identified as Soiful Islam, 50, son of late Fohim Uddin of the same village.

Police and locals said, Soiful was missing from Tuesday night. At one stage, Soiful's body was found, with his hands and legs tied up in a pond yesterday afternoon.

In Thakurgaon, police recovered the body of a vegetable trader hanging from a tree yesterday noon at Jagdal Colony village in Baliadangi.

The deceased was identified as Md Bachchu Hossain alias Setu, 60.

Meanwhile, a mentally challenged boy was strangled on Monday mid-night at Haripur Bazaar in Haripur upazila.l.

5 Bangladeshis

FROM PAGE 16 clashes between the two forces.

They were working at a water purification plant and their bodies have been kept at Abu Selim Hospital in Tripoli.

The dead are: Jahangir Manir of Narsingdi, and Mohammad Milon of Jessore, said a foreign ministry press release, quoting the Bangladesh Embassy in Tripoli yesterday.

The ministry, however, could not say the exact circumstance in which they were killed. It could not name the injured person either.

At least 13 Bangladeshis have been killed in such clashes since February this year, according to the embassy officials.

Last week, the government suspended exporting manpower to the trouble-torn North African country for safety reasons.

Besides, the Bangladeshis staying there have also been advised to remain alert and avoid conflict zones.

Currently, over 45,000 Bangladeshis are working in various sectors of the country.

But they are in fear as Libya has recently become unsafe and volatile due to conflicts among different groups.

JHALAKATHI COURTS

Shortage of judges hampers trial proceedings

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, Jhalakathi

Shortage of judges hampers trial proceeding of 9,650 civil and criminal cases pending with Jhalakathi district judge and magistrate courts, much to the sufferings of around one lakh people related with the under trial cases, said Abdul Mannan Rasul, public prosecutor (PP) of Jhalakathi.

District and Sessions Judge Shahidullah Bakaul and Additional District and Sessions Judge Kiron Sankar Halder were transferred to

Dhaka on January 16 and June 23 respectively while Md Abdul Halim, who joined the post of district and sessions judge on July 1 this year, went to one month's leave after three days of his joining, said court sources.

The revision petitions of women and children repression cases cannot be filed in absence of the district and sessions judge, said Abdur Rashid Shikder, a senior lawyer in the district.

Chief Judicial Magistrate KM Shamsul Alam was

transferred to Dhaka on July 23 last year, after that no judge joined the post, informed the administrative officer of Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court.

"Judges are often unwilling to get transferred to Jhalakathi as JMB men bombed to death two judges in 2005 and later killed Jhalakathi PP Haider Hossen, who conducted the murder case against the criminals," said an official of the District and Sessions Judge's Court, seeking anonymity.

CRIMINALS RUIN HOPES OF POOR MORIUM



PHOTO: STAR

Landless Morium Begum yesterday cries on the pepper field that was destroyed by local criminals on Saturday night. Her ultra poor husband took lease of two bighas of land and planted pepper at Madhupur village in Sadar upazila of Jhenidah. But the incident dashed all her hopes. "How will we repay the loan?" a weeping Morium posed the question. She also could not cite any reason for this criminal act. Till yesterday, police could neither arrest nor identify any of the culprits.

Measuring Resilience in Bangladesh

Request for Proposal (RFP)
Study on Climate and Disaster Vulnerability Index
Reference: RFP-BD-2014-044



UNDP Bangladesh is seeking proposals from qualified Consulting Firms/ NGOs/ Research institutions to conduct a study on **Climate and Disaster Vulnerability Index** that can measure the resilience of vulnerable populations in relation to climate change and natural disasters in Bangladesh.

The scope includes:

1. Finalizing the Climate and Disaster Vulnerability Index (CDVI) through a participatory process involving beneficiaries, government agencies and other stakeholder organizations.
2. Design and conduct a HH Survey and establish a baseline for the CDVI taking a representative sample from vulnerable districts (in regard to climate change and natural disaster) across Bangladesh.
3. Develop sound statistical methodology and tools/MIS to measure vulnerability and resilience at national, district and upazila levels in Bangladesh.

All interested Consulting Firms/ NGOs/ Research institutions may download the Bidding document (RFP) from <http://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/operations/procurement/>

Submission of Proposal: The envelope should state the tender subject mentioned above and the Proposals must be submitted as per the instructions specified in the RFP document by the deadline mentioned below to the **Registry, UNDP Bangladesh**, IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.

The deadline for submission of Proposals is **3.00 PM (Bangladesh local time) on 26 August 2014 (Tuesday).**

A pre-proposal conference will be held to share details and background of the study on **14 August 2014 (Thursday) at 11.00 AM at UNDP Bangladesh Country Office, 12th Floor, IDB Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.**



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WHEN?

- **Application opens:** Friday, 18 July 2014
- **Application closes:** Thursday, 21 August 2014
- **Written Admission Test:** Friday, 22 August 2014
Time: 10:00 - 11:00 am
- **Written Admission Test Results:** Saturday, 23 August 2014
Time: 11:00 am
- **Oral Admission Test:** Friday, 29 August 2014
Time: 10:00 am
- **Final Results of the Admission Test:** Saturday, 30 August 2014
Time: 11:00 am
- **Admission & Course Registration of Intake-2:**
 - **Merit List:** 30 August 2014 - 12 September 2014
 - **Waiting List:** 13 September 2014 - 20 September 2014
- **Orientation & Class Commencement:** Friday, 12 September 2014

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