



The local administration on Monday freed Kaicha Beel, a government-owned waterbody in Jagannathbari Mouja of Tangail's Gopalpur upazila, from an illegal occupier. Inset, fish netted from the waterbody is taken to the premises of Nagda Shimla union parishad for distribution among orphans.

PHOTO: STAR

Govt waterbody recovered from illegal occupier

Former president of Nagda Shimla union unit AL occupied a portion of Kaicha Beel and cultivated fish

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Gopalpur upazila administration on Monday recovered a government owned waterbody from illegal occupation by a local Awami League (AL) leader.

Abul Hossain, former president of Nagda Shimla union unit of AL, occupied a six-acre area of Kaicha Beel, a waterbody in Jagannathbari Mouja of Gopalpur, several years ago and continued fish cultivation there, upazila administration sources said.

To take control of the waterbody, the upazila administration demarcated it with red flags six months ago, they said.

Officials also directed Abul Hossain to catch and take away all his fish from the waterbody by one month and not to cultivate fish there further but the latter ignored the directive.

Following instructions from the district administration, Gopalpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Bikash Biswas and Assistant Commissioner (Land) Reza Masum

Prodhan along with a police team went to the spot on Monday.

They arranged netting the fish of the waterbody by local fishermen and brought the fish to the local union parishad (UP) premises by a truck.

They handed over the fish to the authorities of all the 19 orphanages in the upazila and suggested arranging feast for the orphans with the fish, officials said.

Besides upazila officials, M Hossain Ali, chairman of Nagda Shimla UP, Zoynal Abedin, president of Gopalpur Press Club, were present during the fish distribution.

Bulbul Miah, a resident of Mazidpur Orphanage, said they got about 60 kg of different fish including carps and pangas.

UNO Bikash Biswas said, "We have taken control of the government owned waterbody that remained under illegal occupation for years. The netted fish was distributed among the local orphans following rules."

One killed during AL council

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A man was killed and 20 others were injured in a clash between two factions of ruling Awami League (AL) during the council of local ward unit of AL at Debgram village in Rajbari's Goalanda upazila on Monday night.

The deceased was identified as village doctor Rezaul Karim Mollah, 37, son of Mobarak Mollah of Munshipara village.

Locals said there was a longstanding conflict between Hafizur Islam, chairman of Debgram Union Parishad, and Ator Ali, former chairman of the same union parishad, over establishing supremacy in the area. The two are also the activists of Debgram union unit of AL.

As a sequel to the conflict, Md Bokul, son of Hafizur, and Sirazul, son of Ator, locked in an altercation during the council held at Debgram Government Primary School on Monday.

At one stage, the men of the two rivals attacked each other with lethal weapons, leaving at least 21 people from both sides injured. Of the injured, Karim died on way to Faridpur Medical College Hospital.

Karim was one of the relatives of Hafizur.

Hafizur alleged that Ator, his son and supporters killed Karim.

Sirazul Islam said Bokul, son of Hafizur, along with his men carried out the attack and vandalised their houses.

Rabiul Islam, officer-in-charge of Goalanda Police Station, said the clash took place during the council.

Police detained three supporters of Ator Ali from the spot, said the OC.

RAPE OF SCHOOLGIRL

Man gets life term

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Sirajganj court yesterday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment in connection with a case for raping a schoolgirl in May last year.

The convict, Mohammad Lavlu, 48, is a resident of Raipur village in Sirajganj Sadar upazila.

Judge Fazle Khoda Mohammad Nazir of Sirajganj Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-1 also fined the convict Tk 1 lakh and ordered Sirajganj deputy commissioner (DC) to collect the fine from movable and immovable property of the convict and compensate the victim.

Quoting the case statement, Assistant Public Prosecutor (APP) Advocate Anwar Parvez Limon said Lavlu took the victim, a Class VI student at a local school, on May 10, 2018, to his room and raped her.

After the incident, he repeatedly raped the schoolgirl for several days, threatening her not to disclose the matter to anyone.

At one stage, when the victim became pregnant her mother filed a case with Sadar Police Station in this regard, the APP said, adding that after investigation, police submitted charge sheet against Lavlu on October 31, 2018.

MOTUKPUR VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

Legal tangles hamper academic, administrative activities

21 teachers, staffers of the institution are not getting salaries for last 5 months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A bitter strife that ended up in court for the position of acting superintendent of a vocational school in Nilphamari's Domar upazila is hampering the academic and administrative activities of the institution.

Twenty-one teachers and staffs of Motukpur Vocational High School, listed under the Monthly Pay Order (MPO) system, are not getting paid and students complained of irregular classes.

Mesbahul Miskat, who will appear at the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination next year, said, "Classes of our school with 270 students seldom are held."

Another 10th grader Sathi Akhter alleged that the school often goes into recess after the tiffin-break.

Shahidul Islam, one of the 15 teachers of the school not receiving their salaries, said, "It has become very difficult to run our families. We have been living on loans and buying essentials on credit."

He explained that the acting superintendent of their school along with the chairman of the school managing committee (SMC) sign the bill sheet that confirms the salary of staffs and teachers.

"In April and May, we did not get the salary as the SMC chairman refused to sign the bill sheet because of some teachers' attendance issue. Then, from June onwards because of the indecision surrounding the acting super's post, the bill sheets did not get signed," he said.

Hence, upazila accounts department have withheld the salaries of teachers and staffs, he added.

Mentionable, established in 2000, Motukpur Vocational High School, did not have a permanent superintendent since 2003.

Assistant teacher of the school Sadikul Islam alleged that the school managing committee never wanted to appoint permanent supers as the committee's power would decline.

In 2003, Erfanul Islam, 47, was appointed as acting superintendent by the then committee and on December 30, 2015, he resigned from the post.



PHOTO: STAR

Academic activities at Motukpur Vocational High School in Nilphamari's Domar upazila are badly hampered due to legal battle between two acting superintendents -- Erfanul Islam, left, and Abdul Mannan (inset).

"I wanted to be a candidate for the permanent superintendent post as call for application was advertised in mid-December that year," he said.

Accepting his resignation on personal grounds, the then committee headed by Domar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Sabiha Sultana appointed 45-year-old Abdul Mannan as the acting super.

In a letter dated Jan 11, 2016, the UNO asked for the opinion of Bangladesh Technical Education Board regarding this appointment because the second senior most teacher of the school Mohammad Zakaria had refused to take charge and there was another contender for the post of acting super.

Mentioning Erfanul's seniority and qualification, the then inspector of the board in reply admonish senior teachers' unwillingness in accepting the acting super's role and asked the UNO to take steps accordingly.

Meanwhile, the appointment process for permanent super got stalled and on October 16, 2016, Erfanul filed a petition with the managing committee to reinstate him as the acting super but the committee declined his request allowing Mannan to continue.

Three years later, on April 2019, the technical education board under the education ministry's directive wrote to the newly appointed Domar UNO

Umme Fatima to reinstate Erfanul as the acting super.

On June 3, through an executive order the UNO re-appointed Erfanul and directed Mannan to transfer his responsibility over to the former.

Mannan said, he filed a case with a Nilphamari court, seeking injunction against Erfanul's appointment and challenging the UNO's order, and refused to hand over charge until the case is settled. Manan now shares a desk with Erfanul in the office of the acting super.

When contacted, the UNO said, "I have written to concerned authority requesting suggestion and will take action accordingly after getting guideline."



This man introducing himself as Hanif Bangladeshi stands in front of Manikganj Press Club yesterday after handing over a memorandum to the deputy commissioner (DC) of Manikganj as part of a countrywide campaign to raise awareness against moral degradation, corruption and bribery at various levels. Earlier he handed over memorandums to 61 DC offices across the country and made a 1004-kilometre-long foot journey from Teknaf to Tentulia for the same purpose.

PHOTO: ZAHANGIRSHAH

EXTENDED MEET OF THAKURGAON AL

'Expel the ones from Razakar families'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Speakers at an extended meeting of Awami League's (AL) Thakurgaon district unit yesterday urged taking early steps to expel those who entered the party from families of war criminals and Razakars (collaborators of the Pakistan occupation army during the 1971 Liberation War).

AL Presidium Member Ramesh Chandra Sen, also lawmaker from Thakurgaon-1 constituency, attended as chief guest while Abdul Mannan, senior vice-president of district AL, presided over the meeting held at Zila Parishad auditorium in Thakurgaon municipality.

"Party men should resist if anyone from families of war criminals or Razakars want to enter Awami League. Steps should be taken to find out and expel if any such people have already intruded," BM Mozammel Haque, organising secretary of central AL, said in his speech as the main speaker.

He urged the local leadership to make room for dedicated activists in party and asked for completion of councils at ward and union levels within next 15 days.

Several local leaders and activists alleged that a few people belonging to families of war criminals and Razakars are now playing role in district AL's policymaking.

Some people, who acted for BNP-Jamaat's candidates in 2001 national elections, have occupied important positions in the district AL, they said.

Among others, district AL's General Secretary Sadek Quraishi, Vice President Dipak Kumar Roy, and Joint Secretary ASM Golam Farukh Rubel addressed the meeting.

Woman

found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Unidentified criminals stabbed a housewife to death at her house in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased, Jhorna Mondal, 42, wife of Dulal Mondal of Pashchim Gangabordi village, was mother two children.

Locals said the incident occurred yesterday afternoon when Dulal, a mason, and his children were not present at home.

Villagers, spotted Jhorna's body around 2:30pm and informed the police, who recovered the body and sent it to Faridpur Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Sub Inspector (SI) of Sadar Police Station Belal Hossain said victim's body bore several marks of stab injuries on the head, neck and back.

They were trying to find the motive behind the murder and arrest the killers, the SI said.