

Villagers fleeing homes in fear

They worry of further violence after 8 killed in Bandarban 'shootout' between armed groups

MONG SING HAI MARMA

Over 400 indigenous people of six villages have been fleeing from their residences ever since eight people were killed during a "shootout" between two armed groups at Rowangchhari upazila in Bandarban on Thursday night.

The villages are -- Prang sa Khamtang para, Paying khyang khamtang para, Kha mong khyang khamtang para, Kya plang para, Pan khyang para, Zur va ram para and Ronin para.

Police said United People's Democratic Front and Kuki Chin National Army, the military wing of Kuki Chin National Front (KNF), were engaged in the gunfight on Thursday night over establishing supremacy in the hills of Khamtang Para and nearby areas.

The people fleeing belong to the Bawm and Kheyang communities of Rowangchhari and Ruma upazilas. They took shelter in schools and different organisations' offices at the upazila headquarters.

All eight deceased belong to the Bawm community, according to locals.

Sang Kung Bawam, 40, is one of the

villagers who took shelter at a primary school in Rowangchhari along with her four daughters and elderly parents-in-law. Her husband Zahim Bawm, 45, is one of the eight victims.

"My husband was a carpenter. He was not involved with any criminal gang. But the criminals killed my husband without any reason," she said.

"How will we survive? How will my daughters continue their education?" she grieved.

The people fleeing belong to the Bawm and Kheyang communities of Rowangchhari and Ruma upazilas.

Of her four daughters, the eldest studies at Bandarban Government Women's College and the youngest is three years old.

Many of the escapees, said they had to leave their cattle and household utilities behind.

Local administration and people's representatives have kept distributing food and clothes among the people, said Khorshed Alam, UNO of Rowangchhari.



PHOTO: TITU DAS

With no harnesses to protect them from a sudden fall, two workers cling precariously to a towering signboard to repair it. What's saving them from a dangerous drop is the trust in their skills and the strength of their grip. This photo was taken in Barishal city's Ruptali area recently.

ATTACK ON JOURNO Two accused held in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Ctg

Rab-7 in a drive arrested two accused of a case filed over assaulting a journalist and throwing him off the roof of a two-storey building in Chattogram's Chandanish upazila for his report on hill cutting.

The arrestees are -- Md Alauddin, 35, and Md Faruk, 26. They were held from Kamalapur Railway Station in Dhaka.

Rab 7's Chandgaon Camp Commander Major Mehedi Hasan said, "After the attack, the criminals fled to Dhaka and were staying in Badda and other areas. They had their phones switched off. On Monday noon, they tried to leave Dhaka, but we traced down their location and held them from Kamalapur."

"During primary interrogation, they admitted to attacking the journalist. We will interrogate them further once they reach Chattogram," he said.

In the case statement, Shukkur, father of the attacked journalist Ayub Miraji, alleged that his son became the target of a vested group for his report on hill-cutting in Dohazari area and informed the local UNO and assistant commissioner (land) about the matter.

Ayub, who is Chandanaish correspondent of national daily Janobani and local daily Shangu, is currently undergoing treatment at Chattogram Medical College Hospital.

Hill cutting continues despite legal action

Environmentalists, locals blame councillor who is accused in three cases filed by DoE

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

Destroying parts of a hill, Zahurul Alam Jasim, a councillor of Chattogram City Corporation, has built a primary school in the city's Akbar Shah area.

He has also made some plots, cutting the hill, and sold them to low-income people. "I bought a plot from the councillor for Tk 3 lakh two years ago. Now, I'm building a house on this plot," said a land buyer, seeking anonymity.

As seen by our correspondent, right now, he is cutting three hills, which he claims to be his. However, without permission from relevant authorities, one cannot even cut their own hill. No such permission was issued for Zahurul.

This is not a one-off offence. The councillor has reportedly cut many other hills in the area and made large plots in the last seven years.

Following all this, Department of Environment (DoE) filed three cases against Zahurul and his wife for destroying hills. Zahurul is the joint convener of North Pahartali ward of Awami League.

In January, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), was attacked by the councillor's followers while she was trying to inspect a site to confirm hill cutting in Akbar Shah, according to eyewitnesses.

After the incident, Rizwana filed a case against Zahurul with Akbar Shah police station.

Meanwhile, locals complained against Zahurul to Chattogram deputy commissioner and DoE for cutting hills in December last year.

Shafiqul Islam Khan, a local environmentalist, said Zahurul started cutting hills in 2014, and this activity is mainly managed by his associates.

But Zahurul denied everything and said political opponents are trying to frame him.

"I was elected as an independent candidate in the last CCC election and won as a councillor. My opponent, who was the candidate nominated by Awami League, has falsely accused me of cutting hills after losing the election. I have complained against them to the party's high command," he claimed.

Earlier, Bela filed a petition in the High Court against the ongoing hill cutting in the area in 2015. In this petition, DoE, deputy commissioner and Zahurul were made defendants.

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ZAHURUL ALAM JASIM
Chattogram city councillor

In the petition, it was alleged that 10 acres of hills have been cut in North Pahartali Mauza of Akbar Shah area.

"A coordinated investigation into hill cutting in Akbar Shah is underway. Based on the investigation report, we will take legal action against the culprits," said Mia Mahmudul Haque, deputy director of DoE, Chattogram.

There were 200 hills in Chattogram four decades ago. Of those, 120 have already disappeared, according to a research paper of Chittagong University's forest and environmental science department,

conducted by Dr Khaled Mesbahuzzaman, a teacher of the department.

CCC 'CUTTING HILL' TO MAKE ROAD

A hill in Beltalighona area of Akbar Shah has reportedly been razed under the direction of Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) to make way for a road. A landslide occurred at the site on Friday, which killed one and injured three.

During a recent visit to the area, this correspondent found authorities constructing the 1-kilometre road by cutting the hill that spans across Beltalighona to Baitul Aman Jame Masjid.

On Friday, a part of the hill adjacent to Agrani Housing collapsed onto the under-construction road.

In February, before the accident, a mobile court -- led by Assistant Commissioner (Land) and Executive Magistrate of Kattali Circle Omar Faruk -- inspected the site, and a man was sent to jail for illegally cutting the hills. The court instructed others to stop cutting hills as project authorities of CCC did not have environmental clearance.

Besides, DoE sent a letter to CCC authorities to inquire into the construction. CCC, however, has not yet responded to that letter, said DoE's Mahmudul.

According to CCC data, the road-construction project has a budget of Tk 2.68 crore and is financed by Asian Development Bank.

CCC Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury on Friday admitted that the road was being constructed on the slope of the hill.

"We didn't know that the road was being constructed by cutting hills. However, an accident has occurred, and the inquiry committee is probing the incident. We will issue further instructions based on the inquiry report," said Sheikh Mohammed Towhidul Islam, chief executive officer of CCC.

SCBA VANDALISM

24 pro-BNP lawyers get bail in case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail to 24 pro-BNP lawyers in a case filed over vandalism and attempted murder of lawyers at an iftar mahfil organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association on April 6.

They have been granted bail for 12 weeks or till submission of the police report, whichever is earlier, in this case.

The High Court also asked the accused lawyers to surrender before the lower court concerned during this period in connection with the case.

The HC bench, led by Justice Md Iqbal Kabir Lytton and Justice AKM Rabiul Hassan, passed the order following a bail petition filed by the 24 lawyers.

Earlier in the day, the accused petitioners, including AM Mahbub Uddin Khokon and Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal, appeared before the HC bench seeking bail.


Senior lawyer AJ Mohammad Ali appeared for the petitioners during hearing of the petition, while Deputy Attorney General BM Abdur Rafell opposed the bail petition.

Md Robiul Hassan, administrative officer of SCBA, lodged the case on April 9 with Shahbagh Police Station in Dhaka against 50 to 60 persons, including 24 pro-BNP lawyers.


In the case, names of 24 lawyers, including Khokon and Kazal, who were the candidates for the posts of president and secretary in the Supreme Court Bar Association election held on March 15 and 16 from the pro-BNP lawyers' panel, have been mentioned.

In the case statement, it is mentioned that the accused, along with some outsiders, entered the two hall rooms of SCBA, where an iftar mahfil was organised, with a procession chanting slogans in the name of fugitive convict Tarique Rahman and Jamaat-e-Islami.

They also scratched the banners containing the name of the chief justice, vandalised the chairs and tables and created a chaotic situation, according to the statement.



বাংলাদেশ কৃষি গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট
Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute
সংগ্রহ ও ভান্ডার শাখা
গাজীপুর।



কৃষিই সমৃদ্ধি
Office Ph : 49270140, 5350
E-mail : dd.procure@bari.gov.bd
younusali.bari@gmail.com
web site : www.bari.gov.bd

Memo no: 12.21.0000.073.01.618.22.6657 Date : 04 April 2023

e-GP: Tender Notice No.31(2022-2023)

e-Tender is invited in the e-GP system Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following goods. Details are given below:

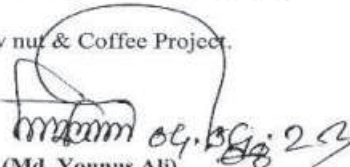
Sl No	Package no.	Tender ID & Ref No	Description of goods	Tender Documents Last selling (Date & Time)	Tender Closing date & Time	Tender Opening date & Time
1.	PN : GD-04	813493 & IRN : 618	Laboratory Equipment 02 (Two) Items.	25.04.2023 12:00	25.04.2023 13:00	25.04.2023 13:00

The interested persons/firm may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd to get the details of the tender.

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, Registration in the National e-GP system portal is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP Help Desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Project Name: Research, Development and Extension of Cashew nut & Coffee Project.


 (Md. Younus Ali)
 (BARI0663)
 Deputy Director (In-Charge)
 On behalf of Director General

GD-658



বাংলাদেশ কৃষি গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট
ভূমি ও ইমারত শাখা
Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute
Gazipur-1701



কৃষিই সমৃদ্ধি
Tel: 49270077
E-mail : se.building@bari.gov.bd
Web: www.bari.gov.bd

Memo No. 12.21.0000.010.41.468.20.1291 Date: 09.04.2023

e-Tender Notice

Tender is invited through National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of following works:

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Tendering method	Description of works	Online (e-GP System) tender publication date & time	Online (e-GP System) tender closing date & time
1.	812159	OTM	Land development work under Development of Canona type Rapeseed Variety for Cultivation between T.Aman and Boro Rice at RARS, BARI, Jamalpur	04-Apr-2023 11:00	18-Apr-2023 12:00

This is online tender, only e-Tender will be accepted in National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copy will be accepted. Registration is essential to submit e-Tender. Fees have to be deposited for downloading the tender documents from e-GP Portal through any registered bank. For further information please contact e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Project Name: Development of Canona type Rapeseed Variety for Cultivation between T.Aman and Boro Rice

Engr. Md. Ferozur Rahman
 Superintending Engineer (In-charge)

GD-663