



Logs from date trees are kept for burning on the premises of a brick kiln in Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah.

Mindless date tree felling for burning bricks

According to Jhenidah Nazir Office, there are 26 registered and 126 unregistered brick kilns in the district

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Date trees have been declining fast due to its random use in the brick kilns of the district, thanks to the authorities’ ignorance of the matter.

Huge number of trees are being felled indiscriminately for burning bricks in the brick fields, but local administration remains silent in this regard due to some unknown reasons, said locals.

If the situation goes unbridled like this, the trees will be extinct one day, they said.

Contacted, the Department of Agricultural Extension (AED) in Jhenidah could not give detail statistics of date trees. But a large number of trees are being felled indiscriminately for burning bricks in the kilns.

According to Jhenidah District Nazir office, there are 26 registered and 126 unregistered brick kilns in the district.

On a recent visit to some brick kilns in the district, this correspondent found huge quantity of date tress piled up on the each brick kiln premises. The trees are being used as fuel for burning bricks.

Pintu Hossain, manager of HMBM

Brick Kiln in Kaliganj upazila of the district, said they purchase date trees at Tk 75 per maund.

He further said around 30,000 maunds are needed to burn one lakh bricks. A single brick kiln can produce three to four lakh bricks in each season.

Arman Ali, a resident of Enayetpur village in Kaliganj upazila, said they sell date trees at a high price.

Abdur Razzak Nasim, executive director of Swadhin Jibon Paribesh Sangstha in Sirajganj, said trees give oxygen. Birds live on taking date juice in winter. It is very nutritious as well. It also protects people from various diseases.

Apart from this, birds and other animals take shelter on the date trees, said the environmental activist.

Despite repeated attempts, this correspondent could not reach Moniruzzaman, additional deputy commissioner (ADC Revenue) of the district, for his comment in this regard.

At one stage, the ADC switched off his cellphone after a message was forwarded to him.

PHOTO: STAR

Flower farming on rise in Gaibandha’s Sadullapur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Commercial flower cultivation sees a gradual rise in Sadullapur upazila, thanks to the pioneering role of Moklesur Rahman of Tajnagar village in the area.

In 2014, Moklesur bought 25,000 rose saplings from Jashore for Tk 70 thousand and planted it on 22 decimals of lands.

“After five months, I started plucking flowers from the field and sold it for good prices. As the demand increased in local markets, I extended flower cultivation on three bighas of land,” Moklesur said.

His monthly turnover has reached Tk 1.50 lakh and the profit remains over Tk 80 thousand a month in the flowering season.

“Now I receive orders for flowers from different districts including Bogura, Rangpur, Nilphamari,

Joypurhat, Thakurgaon and Kurigram. After sending the items to the destination by bus, I receive the payment on Bkash account,” said Moklesur.

Seeing his success, many other farmers started commercial flower cultivation in different villages of the upazila.

Ashraful Islam, a farmer of Raghobendrapur village, said he started flower cultivation on one bigha of land two years ago and it brings better profit than usual crops or vegetables.

Rose plants give yield for five to seven years, and it needs only a little investment for the cultivation and nursing, he added.

Mostafizur Rahman of Chalknadi village said he cultivated rose, gladiolus, tuberose and ganda flowers on three bighas of land.

“Last year I cultivated tuberose on

one bigha spending Tk 20,000 and got over Tk one lakh from selling the flower. I hope to get similar return from tuberose field for the next two years. I also cultivated gladiolus on 15 decimals of land spending Tk 2,000 and sold the flower worth Tk 30,000 during last three months,” he said.

Nayan Mia, a flower shop owner in Gaibandha town, said earlier they had to collect flowers from Jashore and a portion of it perished on the way.

“But now enough fresh flowers are available in Sadullapur upazila, which can be preserved for a few days,” he said.

At least 25 farmers are currently engaged in commercial flower cultivation on over 35 bighas of land as it is profitable, said Khajanur Rahman, upazila agriculture officer of Sadullapur.



Flower grower Mostafizur Rahman talks to Khajanur Rahman, upazila agriculture officer of Sadullapur in Gaibandha, at the former's gladiolus field of Chalknadi village.

PHOTO: KM REZAUL HOQUE

Two traders stabbed dead in Pirojpur, Netrakona

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A medicine trader was killed in Pirojpur Sadar upazila yesterday while a grocer, who was stabbed by unidentified criminals in Netrakona’s Khaliajury upazila on Friday night, died at a hospital yesterday morning.

Our Pirojpur correspondent reported that, a man was stabbed to death allegedly by his rival over personal enmity in Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased, Kamrul Sheikh, 35, son of Abdul Mannan of Chalisa village, used to run a medicine shop at the village.

Quoting locals, police said there had been a conflict between Kamrul and one Shakil Sheikh, 32, son of Altaf Sheikh of Shatbekutia village, over some personal issues.

Meanwhile, deceased Kamrul’s brother Masud Sheikh claimed that Shakil had been demanding extortion from Kamrul for the last couple of months.

As a sequel, Shakil went to Kamrul’s

medicine shop around 10:00am yesterday and stabbed him with a knife indiscriminately before fleeing the scene, police quoted witnesses as saying.

Locals rescued injured Kamrul and took him to Pirojpur District Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

“Kamrul died due to excessive bleeding,” Dr Arif Hasan, on duty doctor at the hospital said.

Sub Inspector (SI) of Sadar Police Station Jafrul Hasan said they have recovered the murder weapon from the spot.

They were trying to find the motive behind the murder, the SI said, adding that, Shakil went into hiding soon after the murder.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to the hospital for autopsy.

Away in Netrakona, a grocer, who was stabbed by unidentified criminals in Khaliajury upazila on Friday night, succumbed to his injuries at Mymensingh Medical

College Hospital (MMCH) yesterday morning, reports our Mymensingh correspondent.

The victim, Tanvir Mia, 30, was son of Abul Bashar of Noorpur Boali village in the upazila.

Quoting the deceased’s family members, Officer in Charge (OC) of Khaliajury Police Station ATM Mahmudul Haque said some pedestrians found Tanvir lying beside a road with severe stab injuries around 8:00pm on Friday night and informed his family members.

Being informed, family members rushed to the spot and took injured Tanvir to Madan Upazila Health Complex, from where he was referred to MMCH the same night.

He died at the hospital around 7:00am yesterday.

Tanvir, father of two children, went out of his house to buy groceries for his shop from a local market, police quoted family members as saying.

They were investigating the murder incident, the OC added.

Teenage girl gang-raped, three arrested

Man held for trying to rape minor girl in Pirojpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Police yesterday claimed to have arrested three youths in connection with a case filed for gang-rape of a 16-year-old girl in Sreemangal upazila on Friday night.

The arrestees were identified as Mintu Mridha, 25, Hari Mohan Mal, 30, and auto-rickshaw driver Kabir Mia, 28.

Police detained them from different areas of the upazila yesterday afternoon after mother of the victim filed a case with Sreemangal Police Station accusing three people the same morning. Officer in Charge (OC) of the police station Abdus Salek said.

According to the case statement, the victim girl, who used to work as a domestic help at a house in Dinajpur, came to visit her home in Sreemangal about two weeks ago.

The girl along with her boyfriend went to visit Badhyabhumti area on Friday evening where some youths started following them.

While they were returning home on a battery-run auto-rickshaw, two youths boarded on the same vehicle in guise of passengers.

At one stage, the two culprits, with the help of the auto-rickshaw driver, tied the victim’s boyfriend with ropes, dragged the girl to a nearby bush and raped her there before fleeing the spot.

Later, locals rescued her and admitted her to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital.

In Pirojpur, member of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-8) yesterday arrested an elderly man from Nesarabad upazila in connection with a case for attempting to rape a minor girl on Friday.

The arrestee, Ashraf Ali, 55, who runs a tea-stall, is a resident of Kharabag village in the upazila.

Earlier, father of the 11-year-old victim filed a case with Nesarabad Police Station against Ashraf Ali under Woman and Child Repression Prevention Act yesterday morning.

According to the prosecution, Ashraf took the girl, a Class III student at a local primary school, inside his shop and tried to rape her when she went to his tea-stall on Friday noon.

After returning home, the girl disclosed the matter to her parents, who took her to a hospital for treatment, the same afternoon.

2 held with 30 gold bars

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) arrested two suspected smugglers with 30 gold bars from Boroachra village under Benapole Port Police Station yesterday.

The arrestees were identified as Iqbal Hossain, 32, son of Abdur Razzak, and Omor Faruk Roni, 34, son of Ajijul Munshi of the village.

Lt Col Salim Reja, commanding officer of 49 BGB Battalion, said acting on a tip-off, the border guards caught the duo while they were trying to intrude into India through the bordering village at noon.

The estimated value of the gold weighing around three kilograms was Tk 2.17 crore, he said.

The arrestees were later handed over to the police station and a case was filed in this connection, said the police official.



Amid rising worry over the spread of coronavirus in China and several other countries, a health official checks a child with a handheld digital thermometer at Burimari land port in Lalmonirhat's Patgram upazila, left, while similar check-ups are being conducted at Sonamasjid land port in Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj. The arrangement of examining travellers through the land ports, however, is meant for identifying the suspects as there is no thermal scanners at the important sports.

PHOTO: STAR

