

# Allow sugar mills in private sector

## Business leaders in Rangpur, Kurigram demand

RAFIQUE SRAKER from Rangpur

Business leaders in Rangpur and Kurigram have urged the government to allow setting up of medium scale cane-based sugar mills in the private sector in northern districts.

Talking to this correspondent, a number of prospective entrepreneurs showed interest to set up medium scale cane-based sugar mills in the area, now barred by industrial law.

They said there is great prospect for private sector sugar mills in the region, known for growing high quality cane suitable for sugar production.

The districts are traditionally known for growing sugarcane because soil and climate in the region is suitable for this commercial crop.

Sugar mills in the region under the Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (SFIC) incur around Tk 50 crore losses every year due to alleged corruption, mismanagement, excess manpower and lower

rate of production.

These problems can be overcome easily by private sector, they said.

Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President Mostafa Azad Chowdhury said the government recently allowed the private sector to set up 'refinery sugar mills'. But cane-based sugar mills are not allowed.

To set up refinery sugar mills, entrepreneurs will have to import raw materials from Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand, he added.

"Such a decision will not benefit the people and the country,"

Senior Vice President of RCCI Jahangir Alam said recurring losses by mills under the SFIC might have prompted the government to take such a decision.

"Rangpur Sugar Mills at Mahimaganj has been closed down and Shyampur Sugar Mills in Rangpur is facing lay-off in the wake of continuous loss."

According to records with the Department of Agriculture

Extension (DAE), about two lak hectares of land in eight northern districts are suitable for sugar cane cultivation.

Farmers in the region cultivated sugar cane in large quantities some years back.

But the areas under cane cultivation shrank drastically as they could not get fair price of their product because of losses by sugar mills.

Many of the farmers gave up profitable sugarcane cultivation and switched over to other crops.

Citing example in Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia, Azad said, alongside state owned mills, private sector sugar mills produce huge quantities of sugar in those countries and earn foreign exchange.

"We do not understand the logic for not allowing private sector sugar mills," he said.

Mostafa Ahmed, an Executive Committee member of RCCI, expressed the optimism that medium scale sugar mills in private sector will be profitable. This will also benefit thousands of farmers

and employ as many people, he said.

An official of Shyampur Sugar Mills on condition of anonymity disclosed that the country's 14 sugar tonnes of sugar this year, which would be about 50,000 tonnes less than the target.

Huge quantities of sugar lies unsold in mills because of smuggling of cheaper Indian sugar. Production cost could be lesser in private mills, which would reduce the smuggling, he said.

Abdul Aziz, president of Kurigram Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said about six lak tonnes of sugar are imported annually.

If government allows setting up of cane-based sugar mills in the private sector, import can be reduced, he said.

Aziz also said private sector sugar mills are operating profitably in Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore where labour costs are higher than in Bangladesh.

### Abducted college girl not yet rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police could not yet rescue college girl Nusrat Aman Tanni, 20, kidnapped on Thursday from Jhenidah town allegedly by some JCD (Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal) activists.

The kidnappers intercepted her rickshaw at Bananipara area of the while he was going to a coaching centre, whisked her into a microbus and sped away, her father Prof. Nazrul Haq told this correspondent yesterday.

He said he has filed a case naming the culprits but police could neither arrest the criminals nor rescue his daughter.

"They are not doing anything despite repeated requests," he said.

Earlier, at a press conference at Jhenidah Press Club on Friday, Prof. Nazrul Islam alleged that her daughter was kidnapped by Abul Basahr alias Basi, organising secretary of Jhenidah JCD and General Secretary (GS) of Jhenidah Government K.C. College Student Union Sangsad and his party associates. The associates include JCD activist Rana, Liton, Milton and Russel. Both Nusrat and Basi are first year honours students at Jhenidah K.C. College.

Prof. Nazrul said Nusrat had cried for help but none dared to come forward as the kidnappers are known criminals in the town and possess arms.

Nusrat's family said Basi often teased her at college.

Some local people this correspondent talked to in Bananipara said they saw the microbus speeding towards Jessore road.

When contacted, Sadar police said they are trying to trace the girl and nab the abductors.

Some leaders of ruling BNP said the incident has created anxiety among party men in the district.

### BNP activist held with pistol

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Muladi police on Sunday arrested a BNP activist named Masum Sarder, 22, on Sunday.

A pistol with four rounds of ammunition were recovered from him while he was moving suspiciously near Islamia madrasah in the Upazila Sadar.

According to police, factional clashes occurred between Mira and Dhali group of local BNP on November 30.

Masum, a member of Mira group was injured and admitted to Muladi hospital which he had left the hospital without permission of doctors in the morning on the day.

## 'Crossfire' kills 18 in Kushtia in 6 months

### 'Top criminals' prefer captivity to freedom

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Eighteen listed criminals were killed in 'crossfire' with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police in six months in the district.

At present, panic of 'crossfire' gripped the criminals following killing of a top outlawed leader of Biplobi Communist Party (BCP), Mokbul Hossain alias Mafiz on November 30. Kushtia police caught him when he came to surrender in court. He was killed in 'crossfire' that night. He was an accused in 40 cases including 11 murder cases.

Meanwhile, 30 arrested 'top criminals' in the district now prefer jail to stay outside. They asked their lawyers to abstain

from making any move for bail.

Lawyers told this correspondent, relatives told them not to move any bail petition, according to detained criminals' direction.

"They (criminals and their relatives) were requesting us, even a few days back, to move bail petition for release," told a senior lawyer in Kushtia court, preferring anonymity.

According to Kushtia police, 27 out of 30 criminals detained in Kushtia jail are 'listed criminals' and accused in at least seven to 20 different cases including murders. Seven of them are heads of different 'Bahinis'. They possessed many firearms which were not

recovered during their arrest, according to police.

According to jail sources, 19 criminals were arrested in connection with arms cases, 23 in murder cases and 31 in both murder and arms cases.

Sources close to criminals told The Daily Star they came to know that the law enforcers had a plan to eliminate infamous criminals.

Sources in police told this correspondent on condition of anonymity, despite so many cases against them, criminals usually bail out from captivity. It is better to kill them than to give them more opportunities to kill people, they added.

## Barisal DITE ransacked again by admission seekers

### Three-day agitation programme begins today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Agitated admission seekers on Sunday ransacked the Diploma Institute of Textile Engineering (DITE) here for second time within a span of three days.

They brought out a procession and held a meeting on the campus demanding immediate approval and admission in the second shift. They announced a three-day programme of human chain today, road blockade tomorrow and hunger strike on December 16.

The meeting was presided over by Sayeed Hossain while it was addressed, among others, by Wahidur, Anuj, and Mizanur.

They ransacked 'class' rooms,

students' union office, locked the library, laid siege to teachers and staff, forced students to abandon classes and broke the boundary wall of the institute.

Hearing a news of postponement of admission procedure to open second shift in the institute, agitated admission seekers ransacked the DITE on December 9 for the first time.

The admission procedure started in September.

Eighty candidates were selected for admission, according to their SSC result.

After publication of the list of selected candidates on October 10, the higher authorities all on a sudden postponed the admission procedure on October 17.

## Minor girl raped, killed in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A minor girl was raped and killed at East Chandkati village under Dhulia union of Baulal upazila in Patuakhali on Friday.

The victim is Nargis Akter, 11, daughter of Alauddin Mia, also a student of class three.

Her body was recovered from Rabir Bazar area near the house of Salam Munshi on Saturday. Police recovered the body with the help of Union Parishad chairman of Dhulia and sent it for post-mortem.

Nur Muhammad, Officer-in-Charge of Baulal Police Station and Khalilur Rahman, Union Parishad Chairman of Dhulia told this correspondent, the victim set for her maternal uncle's house at the same village in the evening. But she did not return home at night.

Firoza Begum, mother of the victim lodged a murder case with Baulal Police Station accusing Baset, Pavel and Masum.

According to police, Baset might be the main accused of the case. Police arrested Masum, an associate of Baset.

### SNAPS

#### 20 kg hemp recovered, four held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Nabinagar thana police arrested four drug smugglers and recovered 20 kilograms of hemp from their possession at Lohori village in the upazila on Sunday. The arrested persons are Farook, 32, son of Bazi Member of Pana village in Kasba; Monir, 20, son of Abdul Haji; Alam, 38, son of Hannan Mia and Salah Uddin, 25, son of Abdur Rahman. They were going to Dhaka from Kasba in a taxi with the hemp. On information, a police team led by Nabinagar thana OC Md. Rezaul Karim nabbed them on the highway. The were sent to jail hajat and a case was lodged, police said.

#### Shortage of teachers in two Patuakhali colleges

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Academic activities in two government colleges here are being hampered due to shortage of teachers. According to official sources, three out of six posts of professors, two out of 15 posts of associate professors, seven out of 22 posts of assistant professors, 17 out of 37 posts of lecturers, seven posts of demonstrators in five departments including one post of librarian and physical teacher are lying vacant in Patuakhali Government College. Two posts of associate professors, five posts of assistant professors, seven posts of lecturers, three posts of demonstrators and nine out of 24 posts of third class employees are lying vacant in the Government Women's College. Accommodation problem has been attributed to shortage of teachers.

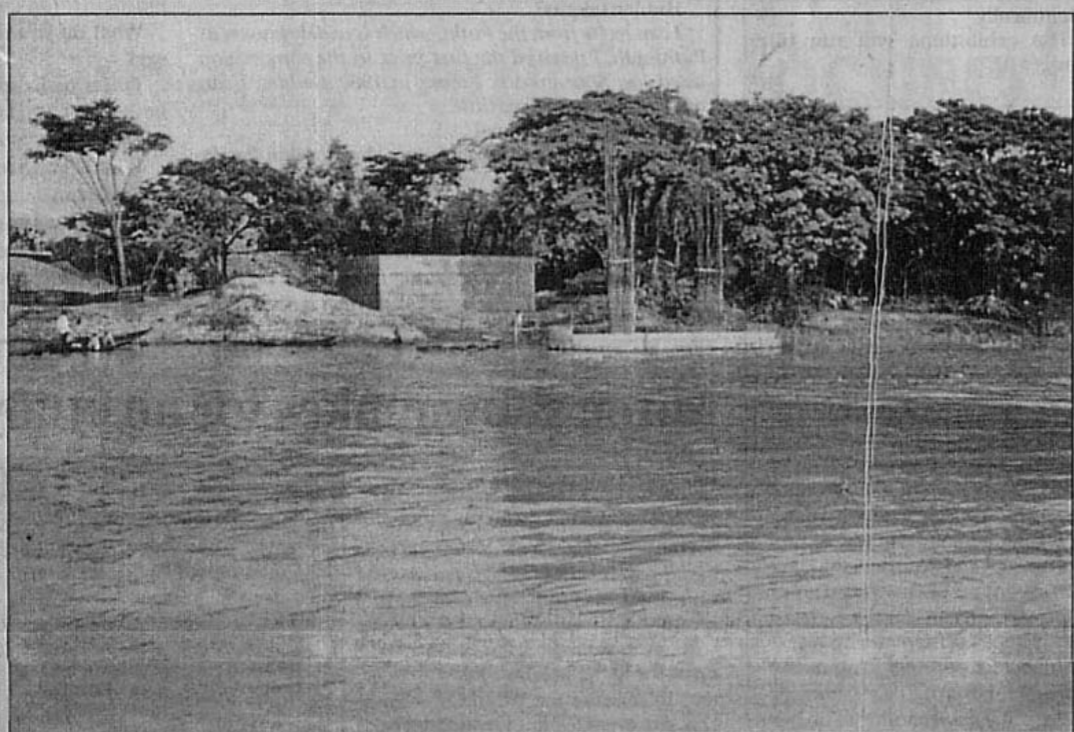


PHOTO: STAR

Oblivious of people's suffering... Nobody knows when construction of the bridge at Sheikhpur on the Arial Kha river on Madaripur-Dhaka highway will resume. The work is stopped for about three years for lack of funds, officials say

## Killings in bomb attacks rise in Jhenidah

### 6 including police ASI and BNP leader killed in 6 months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Killings in bomb attack by miscreants have increased in Jhenidah district.

At least six persons including a ruling party leader and an ASI (Assistant Sub-Inspector) of police were killed in the six months, according to police and newspaper reports.

The latest victim is Shafiuddin Ahmed, member of Madhubati Union Parishad (UP) and vice-president of local unit of BNP.

Shafiuddin died on the spot on December 10 when a gang of 10 miscreants threw bombs on him when he was standing in front of his shop at Charcol Bazaar in Jhenidah Sadar upazila.

On November 29, one person-- Abdul Aziz -- was killed when a gang of alleged outlaws hurled bomb on him near Talsha police camp in the Sadar upazila.

Abu Bakar of Atlia village in the same upazila was bombed to death near Gopalpur Bazaar on October

25. Alleged outlaw Jhantu was killed when his rivals threw bombs on him at Gopalpur Bazaar in the sadar upazila on October 15.

On September 25, alleged outlaws hurled a bomb and killed Fazlur Rahman at Harinakundu upazila headquarters.

On July 8, an ASI Harinaundu police station was killed when miscreants threw bombs on him while he was on duty near a cinema hall at the upazila headquarters.

## 10 hurt in JCD clash over share of gambling money

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

At least 10 people were injured and a number of shops were damaged when two groups of Juba Dal activists clashed over sharing gambling money in Kotmari Hat in Jaldhaka upazila on Sunday.

Sources said Liton, president of Koimari union unit of Juba Dal, raised a tent at the local market and ran gambling for long, attracting local youths. The money thus earned was also shared by some leaders of the party.

On Saturday in the evening, some rival activists of the party led by Nazrul opposed it, allegedly because they did not get the share.

At this, members of Liton group assaulted some people belonging to Nazrul group.

Next day, the groups clashed. The shops were damaged during the chase and counter-chase that continued till noon.

Two of the injured have been admitted to Rangpur Medical

College Hospital.

A tense situation is prevailing at the market. Local people said they are apprehending a fresh clash between the gangs and have demanded an end to gambling in the market.

### 20 hurt in clash over land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

At least 20 people were injured when rival groups clashed over a piece of land in at Noboganigram village in Akhaura upazila on Sunday.

Police said there was a long-drawn rivalry between Gulam Hossain and his reghebour over a disputed land.

Three of the injured-- Gulam Robbani, 50, Luthia Begum, 44 and Rabeya Fiegum, 45-- were admitted to Akhaura Upazila Health complex in critical conditions.

The rust were given first aid. A case has been filed with Akhaura police.

## 10 trafficked from Satkhira since Nov

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Trafficking has increased alarmingly in the districts. At least 10 women and children were trafficked in since November, according to police records and other sources.

They said an organised gang is engaged in trafficking and they have also set up a network in the district town. The rise in trafficking has created a panic among people.

The victims include Asmani Begum, 14, daughter of Saded Gazi and Maruf Akhter, 15, daughter of Magureb Ali of Assassain upazila; Mizanur Rahman, 12, son of Ziad Ali of Shyanuager upazila; and Lily Parvin, 25, Shahida Khatun, 20, of Tala upazila. They were trafficked in the first week of the current month.

Lily and her sister Shahida returned home after they were sold in Mumbai, their family said.

Rubiya Begum, 30 wife of late freedom fighter Anis Uddin Sardar of Jugkhal village in Kalaroa upazila was trafficked to India by a gang allegedly led by Abdus Sabur and Moslem Ali of the same village.

On November 28, Rozina Khatun, 24 and Subarna of Puruli village were trafficked to India allegedly by one Abdulhatif of Khash Para village.

On November 30, newly married Anwara Khatun, 25, was rescued by police while being trafficked to India from Jhowdanga area in the Sadar upazila. Two traffickers including Rafiqul Islam an Indian national were arrested, police said.



PHOTO: STAR

Helping the poor... BRAC's Manikganj office on Saturday distributed crop seeds among poor farmers a part of its post-flood rehabilitation programme.



PHOTO: STAR

Do not kill guest birds... The Centre for Sustainable Development, an NGO, brought out a procession in Jessore town and handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner on Friday to stop killing of guest birds.

## Alleged extortion by police in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Police on Saturday night picked up 18 people in connection with the robbery at a schoolteacher's house in Mirzapur village in Tala upazila, committed on the previous night by a gang impersonating RAB (Rapid Action Battalion) members.

Later police released 14 of the arrested people, allegedly after taking bribe, one of them claimed seeking anonymity.

Six Union Parishad Chairmen in the area protested the 'mass arrest'

বৌত্বের বিরুদ্ধে দুর্বীর সামাজিক আন্দোলন গড়ে তুলুন

### SALE NOTICE

BANGLADESH SHILPA RIN SANGSTHA  
HEAD OFFICE, BSRS BHABAN  
12, KAWRAN BAZAR C/A, DHAKA

#### LAW DEPARTMENT-1

#### NOTICE FOR SALE OF MORTGAGED ASSETS AND PROPERTIES OF M/S ISMAIL CARPET INDUSTRIES LTD, MIRSARAI, CHITTAGONG

The mortgaged assets and properties of M/s. Ismail Carpet Industries Ltd, Mirsarai, Chittagong which will be sold in terms of Article 34 of Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha Order, 1972 read with the Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha (Direct Sale of Mortgaged Property) Rules, 1991 on "as it is where it is" basis and on the basis of "Cash Payment" to realise the BSRS's outstanding loans and dues of Tk 3046.469 million (Principal Tk 92.952 million & interest and others Tk 2953.517 million) as on 01-01-2004 together with further interest and charges till realisation from the above named company and its directors listed at para-4 hereinafter.

- The tenderers may submit their tender for the purchase of the entire properties mortgaged with BSRS's as a whole or for land, building and machinery separately.
- Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha will not assume any legal obligation whatsoever on behalf of the company and/or its directors in respect of any dues/claims of government and/or autonomous bodies such as WASA, local municipality, electric and gas supply authorities, land revenue and other creditors for which the company is liable.
- The following persons signed loan document with BSRS as directors of the company:
  - Mrs Shahanara Begum Chowdhury
  - W/o Late Moimuddin Ahmed;
  - Mr Ashrafuddin Chowdhury
  - S/o Late Moimuddin Ahmed
  - Mr Shamsul Alam
  - S/o Late Mahtul Hossain
  - Late Mr Moimuddin Ahmed
  - S/o Late Ismail Ahmed
  - Late Mr Suruzuddin Ahmed
  - S/o Late Ismail Ahmed
- Description of Properties: 16.74% acres of land together with factory, buildings, workshop and all superstructures therein situated at JL No-73 and 2891, Mouza, Purbha Maghadha, PS Mirsarai, Dist Chittagong under RS Khatian Nos-(old) 1975, 2060, 2896, 1476, 1509, 2178, 1733, 1990, 2110, 796, 2122, 1981, 2151, 2111, 1485, 1831, 1485, 4136, 2103, 2037, 4042, 1854, 2063, 2017, 3497, 3494 and RS Khatian No-2891 and New Khatian Nos-1941, 1997, 1500, 1499, 1498, 2154, 1495, 2180, 1509, 1510, 1834, 1859, 2178, 2153, 2090, 2144, 2005, 2007, 749, 818, 2016, 1496, 2891, 3444 and bearing RS Plot Nos-6662, 6617, 6641, 6682, 6644, 6650, 6664, 6629, 6639, 6658, 6623, 6619, 6666, 6667, 6668, 6647, 6632, 6627, 6607, 6630, 6614, 6631, 6624, 6654, 6626, 6628, 6671, 6646, 6652, 6635, 6637, 6651, 6633, 6620, 6621, 6618, 6634, 6636, 6640, 6625, 6660, 6645, 7904, 6613, 6656, 6669, 6649, 6655, 6670, 6665, 6657, 6638, 6608, 6612, 6672, 6648, 6678, 6679.
- The details of the mortgaged assets and properties and tender schedule containing the terms and conditions of sale may be obtained on payment of Tk. 250.00 (non-refundable) from the Assistant General Manager, Law Department-1, BSRS, Head Office, Dhaka. The intending tenderers/buyers who are interested to inspect the project assets may contact the Assistant General Manager, Law Department-1, Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha, Head Office, Dhaka.
- The intending tenderers/buyers may submit their tenders/offers in sealed cover in the tender box kept at the BSRS's Head Office, Dhaka by 2.00 PM on the 29-12-2004 accompanied with earnest money @5% of the tendered amount (refundable in case the offer is not accepted by the BSRS) in the form of scheduled Bank's Draft/Pay Order drawn in favour of the Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha and payable at Dhaka.
- The tender will be opened on the 29-12-2004 at 2.30 PM at the BSRS above-mentioned Head Office, Dhaka in presence of the tenderers, if any.
- The successful tenderers shall have to deposit 50% of the tendered amount within 7 (seven) days and the balance within 30 days from the date of acceptance of the tender. In case of failure in making the payment of the tendered amount as aforesaid within the stipulated time the earnest money, 50% of the tendered amount (including earnest money) or any amount of the tender money deposited shall be forfeited and the mortgaged assets and properties will be eligible for resale.
- The BSRS reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders/offers without assigning any reason whatsoever. The BSRS also reserves the right to negotiate with any bidder to increase tendered amount.

Assistant General Manager  
Law Department-1  
Phone: 9144176

GD-776