

FAILURE TO PAY RHD BILL
Court orders
auction of jeeps,
computers in
Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Joint District Judge Court-2 here passed an order recently to sell all jeeps and computers of the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) executive engineer in auction for failure to pay dues of a construction farm, court sources said.

The court also called for tender of the auction by October 12.

Following RHD's failure to pay Steer Construction and Advertisement owner Ruhul Amin Babu an amount of Tk 1.15 lakh on time, he lodged the case with the court for realisation of the money.

Price of the vehicles and the computers was estimated at Tk 60 lakh.

10 abandoned
firearms seized
in Ctg

BSS, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday midnight seized 10 abandoned firearms from the coastal embankment of Maddyam Saral village in Banskhalia upazila.

The seized firearms included five single-barrel guns, one pipe gun, one light gun, two rifles and a revolver, Rab said.

On specific information that a gang of criminals had assembled in the coastal embankment to commit crimes, a Rab team reached the spot at about 2.30 last night and found the firearms on the spot in an abandoned state.

Earlier, sensing presence of law enforcers, criminals left the arms on the spot before fleeing.

BCIC whims peril
tea gardens

Delayed allotment of urea in peak season, high price may affect production

IQBAL SIDDIQUE, Sylhet

Delayed allotment of urea fertiliser by Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) has affected growth of tea plants in most gardens in the country during the current peak season, creating apprehension about attaining the production target.

On the other hand, withdrawal of subsidy on fertiliser would also push production cost of the export item, sources in the industry said.

They claimed that the second allotment was given last week while the time for use of the fertiliser was over weeks ago.

Sensitive tea plants need much more urea than other chemical fertilizers and there is alternative to that, said a tea scientist.

Urea fertiliser should be applied in soil around plants twice a year—in April-May and July-August. Tea gardens in the country need 12,000 to 15,000 tonnes of urea and 6000 to 7000 tonnes of Murate of Potash a year.

The state-run BCIC through its factories supplies the fertilisers as per demand of tea gardens made through Bangladesh Tea Board.

Normally first supply used to be made in the first half of May and the second one in the first half of July or August every year. But,

this year the total supply stood at around 5000 tonnes in the first slot, said an official in Bangladesh Tea Board. The second consignment was given about 10 days ago, at least 4 to 6 weeks behind the due time. This will be of no use to gardens, industry people said.

Almost all the tea gardens failed to apply urea for the second time this year. A senior official of Bangladesh Tea Board, an organisation of tea garden owners, said yesterday they got delayed allotment letter from BCIC for the second consignment only last week.

"It is too late", said Shafique Ahmed Choudhury, CEO of Finlays while talking to The Daily Star after getting the allotment letter from BCIC.

"It takes weeks for depositing money with the bank and lift the fertiliser from factory".

"It will be of no use for us this year as the time for fertilisation is over", he said. This delay will badly hit the tea sector this year.

On the other hand price hike of urea will enhance the production cost by 10 to 15 per cent, garden officials said.

fertiliser in time due to delayed supply.

During the first allotment this year, fertiliser price was Tk 4800 per tonne, which rose to Tk 9,000 months ago and to Tk 12,000 now, said an official in the Bangladesh Tea Board.

Manager of Somonbhag Tea Garden in Barlekha upazila of Moulvibazar Mohammad Shahjahan said, the second phase of fertilisation is very important for the crop. Its use has to be completed by mid-September at the latest, he said.

Shahjahan, also chairman of Juri Circle of Bangladesh Tea Association, said delayed application of urea may also cause diseases and pest attack on tea plants.

Numan Haider Chowdhury, general manager of Khadim Tea Estate in Sylhet and Circle Chairman of Bangladesh Tea Association, said production target might not be attained this year due to delayed application of fertiliser.

There are 164 tea estates in the country, including four small holdings. The total production varies from 55 to 60 million kilograms, almost two-thirds of which is consumed at home and the rest is exported.

Khulna WASA
gets KCC water
supply job

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

All moveable and immovable properties of water works department of Khulna City Corporation (KCC) were formally handed over to Khulna Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) on Thursday.

Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque signed all the documents and handed those over to Khulna WASA Managing Director Md. Shahidur Rahman.

Mayor Khaleque while addressing the simple handover ceremony held at the Nagar Bhaban hoped that Khulna WASA would be able to meet the demand for water in the city.

Seven ward commissioners and high officials of KCC were present.

Earlier the mayor held his first general meeting with newly elected ward commissioners where 38 out of 41 ward councillors, Divisional Commissioner Md. Yunusur Rahman, KMP Commissioner Helaluddin Badri and Khulna Deputy Commissioner Ziaulamin were present.

The meeting decided to launch a mosquito eradication drive, cleanliness campaign and formed a seven-member sub committee to properly conduct matters relating to tax assessment and mutation.

Netrakona AL
leader dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Fazlur Rahman Khan, a veteran politician and longtime president of Netrakona district Awami League (AL), died at Bangladesh Medical University Hospital in Dhaka yesterday morning due to old age ailment, Hews 75.

He was survived by son, four daughters and a host of friends and relatives.

After two namaz-e-janaza at Chandranath High School and at his native village Kunia in Netrakona Sadar upazila, he will be buried at this village graveyard.

Fazlur Rahman was elected parliament member in 1973, 1986 and 1996.



Aus paddy in large beel areas in Banskhalia in Chittagong has turned yellowish following intrusion of saline seawater through the breached embankment at Khankhanabad.

Punishment of Khulna AL
leader demanded for attack
on temples, beating priest

Jano Udyog claims land grabbing motive behind attacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Leaders of socio-cultural organisation Jano Udyog at a press conference here yesterday demanded punishment of Khulna district Awami League joint secretary Dr Baharul Alam for what they called damaging idols of Hindu goddesses and beating a priest at a temple at Kathamari Bazar in Paikgacha upazila in Khulna.

Jano Udyog leader and Khulna city CPB bigwig advocate Feroze Ahmed read out a written statement at the press conference held at Khulna Press Club.

He alleged that Awami League leader Dr Baharul Alam masterminded the recent attack on a temple at Lohpur under Fakirhat upazila in Bagerhat district and damage of idols. Motive behind the attack was to grab the land for construction of an extended building of APC Pharmaceuticals

Limited, company owned by the Awami League leader, he alleged.

He further alleged that the same AL leader also masterminded attack on another temple at Kathamari Bazar under Paikgacha upazila in Khulna district recently, beating priest and damage idols.

"We demand an impartial probe into the two incidents and security of all temples ahead of Durga Puja", Feroze Ahmed said.

Stern action must be taken against those vested interests who are involved in destroying communal harmony in the country to suit their ill motive.

The press conference was also attended by lawyers Qudrat-e-Khuda, Moninul Islam and Nikhil Roy, Mahendra Nath Sen, Biplob Chakravarty, Bhola Nath Dutta, Chandan Dutta, Palash Saha, Prabir Das, Hadjuzzaman and Biswajit Sarker.

150 urea bags
seized, 6 held
in Ashuganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Baria

Ashuganj police seized 150 sacks of urea fertilizer from Meghna River and 360 sets of Indian sarees at Ashuganj Toll Plaza on Thursday and yesterday and arrested seven people in this connection.

A police team led by Ratan Kumar Das Gupta, officer-in-charge (OC) of Ashuganj Police Station, recovered 150 sacks of urea fertilizer from a cargo boat on Meghna River near Sunarampur village under Ashuganj upazila of Brahmanbaria district on Thursday.

They recovered 150 bags of fertilizer weighing about seven tonnes from a cargo boat that was going to Muradpur village under Baniachang upazila of Habiganj district from Brahmanbaria, arrested six people and seized the trawler, the OC said.

The arrestees -- Md Tauch Mia, 35, Anu Mia, 50, Batchesu Mia, 30, Numan Mia, 35, Aiub Mia, 40, and Bachchu Mia, 25 -- told police that they are boatmen of the cargo boat that was hired by an unnamed dealer who ordered them to carry the fertilizer to Muradpur village.



Citizens join a human chain at Kandirpar in Comilla town yesterday demanding steps to protect Bakhrabad gas. Local journalists arranged the human chain.

'Outlaws' demand
toll in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Unknown cell phone callers, introducing themselves as activists of the outlawed Sarbojha Party, are allegedly demanding illegal toll from government officials and bank managers in Moulvibazar Sadar and Srimongal upazilas.

The culprits are also allegedly giving death threats to them for failure to pay the toll.

Several general dairies (GDs) were lodged with Moulvibazar and Srimongal police stations in this regard.

An alleged caller, introducing him as Abdul Matin of Sarbojha Party, asked district registrar Wahidul Alam and sub-registrar Ranjit Kumar Shil to pay some amount of money as illegal toll a few days ago. In default, he threatened to kill them or abduct their children. The caller number was 01558726598.

The manger of Srimongal branch of Agrani Bank received a

similar call from Abdul Matin Bhuiyan through cell no 01731-795663 on Wednesday. The caller introduced him as regional commander of the banned Sarbojha Party. He needed the money on urgent basis for treatment of his party activists in India, the caller said. On failure, he threatened the manager with the dire consequences or abduction of his wards.

Other officials who received similar calls are Srimongal upazila cooperative officer Jahangir Alam, upazila secondary education officer Nahar Parveen, upazila primary education officer Kisholoy Bhattacharya, upazila food officer Abu Bakar Siddique, upazila agriculture officer Jawhar Lal Mojumdar and Srimongal Pubali Bank manger Ratan Kumar Shil.

When contacted, Moulvibazar superintendent of police Barrister M Zillur Rahman said policemen are trying to identify the callers.

ANKHI MURDER

Brother-in-law confesses
killing, family calls it 'forced'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A Dinajpur court on Thursday recorded confessional statement of Rezzakul Islam, brother-in-law of Sharmin Akhter Anghi, who was burnt to death after gangrape on July 30 this year.

On the other hand, family members and relatives of Razzakul Islam and slain Akhi, said Razzakul was forced to give the 'confessional statement' to save the real culprits of the heinous crime.

Ankhi 18, daughter of Md Abdul Zabbar of village Bhagirpara under Birganj upazila of Dinajpur, was burnt to death after gang rape at her brother-in-law's residence in

Birganj upazila of Dinajpur between 11:am to 12:am on July 30, said the police inquest report.

This year Anghi appeared in the HSC examinations from Birganj Government Women's College and passed with A grade but she met her tragic end before hearing the good news.

Ankhi's elder brother Md Shahinur Rahman filed a case with Birganj Police Station on July 31.

Dinajpur DB police on September 24 arrested Akhi's brother-in-law schoolteacher Md Razzakul Islam, as the case was handed over to DB police.

The SP told The Daily Star that he interrogated Razzakul who confessed to his crime.

Advertisement for Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Limited (A Company of Petrobangla) Invitation for Tenders. Includes details of the company, tendering process, and a list of goods to be tendered.

Advertisement for 'ডকইয়ার্ড এন্ড ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ওয়ার্কস (ডিইউআই) লিঃ, নারায়ণগঞ্জ'. Includes contact information and details of a 'দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি' (Tender Notice) for electrical and lighting items.

Advertisement for 'গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার' (Government of Bangladesh) regarding 'নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি' (Job Advertisement). Lists various positions and their requirements.