

Coffee, orange trees dying for water crisis in CHT

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

Hundreds of coffee and orange trees at several mixed fruits orchards in Chittagong Hill Tracts are dying because of shortage of water and lack of proper nursing.

Fruits Orchards' project run by Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board (CHTDB) in eight upazilas is going to fail its target and many rehabilitated farmers will be affected in the long run.

planted the orchards in 1999, under a Tk 1,288 crore rehabilitation programme and rehabilitated more than 450 households on 1350 acres of government land. They provided farmers with saplings, fertiliser, insecticides, water pumps and some other assistance, said the officials.

The present government has also extended the project after allocating Tk 5.4 crore more, they added.

But the farmers alleged many orange and coffee trees died in the last couple of years due to government neglect. Mohammad Nur Hossain, a farmer of Baropilak village in Khagrachhari district, said he planted about 200 coffee seedlings and 200 orange saplings provided free by CHTDB in 1999.

"Many coffee and orange trees of my orchards are dying due to shortage of watering. We submitted several applications to CHTDB authorities but no official came to resolve the crisis," he alleged.

Later Sindukchhari army zone commander Lt Col Kamrul Islam gave him a water pump to ensure watering facilities in his orchard, he said.

In April, the same commander also made a dam in the area to create a permanent water source for 25 orchards and 300 families, he added.

Korunamoy Chakma, a farmer of Babuchhara village, also alleged they did not get assistance from CHTDB.

Shyamol Chakma, Khagrachhari project coordinator of CHTDB, said they always encouraged CHT farmers to take care of the orchards as the crops included coffee and oranges, which had satisfactory harvests in last couple of years.

"We are providing farmers all sorts of assistance including technical support for the fruit orchards," he said.

Project Director Shafiqul Islam said farmers are getting a handsome output from CHTDB-assisted orchards. Some trees might be dying due to various crises, he added.

Denying the allegations by farmers, he said his officials visited most of the orchards.



PHOTO: STAR

Orange trees at a mixed fruits orchard at Boropilak in Ramgarh upazila of Khagrachhari district are dying due to water crisis. Such orchards, raised with the assistance of Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board (CHTDB), see very little supervision by CHTDB officials, growers alleged.



PHOTO: STAR

Buyers throng a cloth store at Shaheb Bazar in Rajshahi city as the area sees start of Eid shopping during the early Ramadan.

Protesters block roads, vandalise buses

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Protesters blocked roads and vandalised buses in Dinajpur and Lalmonirhat yesterday and the day before.

In Dinajpur, villagers blocked road for hours after a schoolboy was killed in a road accident in Hakimpur upazila yesterday morning.

Victim Shishir Islam, 7, was son of Md. Habibur Islam Jewel of Hilli Land Port area in Hakimpur village.

Police said, a Panchhibi-bound passenger bus hit the boy in front of Hakimpur upazila parishad while going to school with his father for examination.

He was rushed to Hakimpur upazila health complex where the doctors declared him dead. Habibur Islam, father of Shishir, was also wounded critically.

Immediately after the accident the villagers blocked Hakimpur-Panchhibi highway and damaged the bus protesting accident due to reckless driving. However, the bus driver and its helper managed to flee the scene.

Locals said at least 5 people were killed at the same point of the highway in the last five months due to careless driving.

In Lalmonirhat, people residing near Mostofi bus stand in the town vandalised three passenger buses as a conductor allegedly misbehaved with a passenger on Monday.

Agitated locals also blocked Lalmonirhat-Rangpur road from 8:30pm to 9:30pm near the bus stand. Road communication with Lalmonirhat-Rangpur route came to a halt for two hours due to the blockade.

Police rushed to the spot, brought the situation under control at around 9:30pm and restored the road communication.

Police and locals said, the incident occurred when two residents of Mostofi village were coming from Rangpur by a passenger bus at around 7pm on Monday.

The bus conductor misbehaved with them following an altercation over bus fare.

The two passengers later brought a large number of local people who vandalised the buses at the terminal and staged the road blockade.

FIVE YEARS INTO SERIAL BLASTS Khulna, Satkhira cases yet to be disposed of

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The cases for serial bomb blasts filed with different police stations in Khulna and Satkhira districts soon after the incidents on August 17, 2005 are yet to be disposed of.

Four cases were recorded with Sadar, Sonadanga and Daulatpur police stations of Khulna city and Batiaghata police station of the district after serial blasts on 10 spots in the city and in front of Khulna University, which falls under Batiaghata Police Station, according to our staff correspondent.

One of the cases filed with Batiaghata Police Station has been disposed of while the remaining three are still under trial in the Special Tribunal.

The banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) carried out serial bombs blasts in Khulna city and in front of Khulna University at 11:00am on the day. Three boys--Rakib, 6, Rubel, 8, and Rabiul, 9--received injuries from blasts in front of the university.

The verdict in the case recorded with Batiaghata Police Station was delivered on May 31 last year. Khulna Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal sentenced seven chargesheeted accused to seven years rigorous imprisonment. Six out of the seven convicts are still at large.

Special tribunal sources said only one out of 39 prosecution witnesses gave statement to the court in connection with the case recorded with Sonadanga Police Station. Charges were pressed against nine JMB cadres on March 13, 2006 for exploding two bombs in front of KDA new market. Of the accused, six are now in Jail while the rest are still absconding. November 7 this year has been fixed as the next date for hearing of this case.

Statements of three out of 29 prosecution witnesses were recorded in the court in connection with the case filed with Daulatpur Police Station. Charges were pressed against nine JMB cadres on January 20, 2006 for exploding two bombs in front of Government BL College. Six out of nine accused are still absconding. November 25 this year has been fixed as the next date for hearing of the case.

Statements of three of the 47 prosecution witnesses were recorded in the court in connection with the case filed with Khulna Sadar Police Station. Charges were pressed against seven JMB cadres on November 8, 2005 for their involvement in bomb blasts in front of CMM court, Dakbungalow Road, Rupsha Primary School and AG Pension office. Three out of the seven chargesheeted accused in this case are still absconding. November 25 has been fixed as the next date for hearing of the case.

In Satkhira, trial of five serial blast cases filed with Sadar Police Station is yet to be disposed of as the court could not record the statements of the witnesses. Earlier, the court recorded the statements of the five complainants, our correspondent quoting court sources said.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) ASP Munshi Atiqur Rahman, also the investigation officer (IO) in the cases, submitted charge sheets on October 13 last year against 19 JMB cadres for exploding bombs at five places in the town simultaneously on August 17, 2005.

The chargesheeted accused are Nasir uddin DaFadar, Monwar Hossain Ujjal, Maniruzzaman Munna, Nur Ali Member, Anisur Rahman Khokon, Gias Uddin, Mahbubur Rahman Liton, Billal Hossain, Asadul Haque, Ismail alias Habibur, Montaz alias Momtaz, Abul Khair, Fakar Uddin, Nayeem, Syed alias Asaduzzaman and Rakib Hasan alias Russel.

Statements of three out of 29 prosecution witnesses were recorded in the court in connection with the case filed with Daulatpur Police Station. Charges were pressed against nine JMB cadres on January 20, 2006 for exploding two bombs in front of Government BL College. Six out of nine accused are still absconding. November 25 this year has been fixed as the next date for hearing of the case.

In Satkhira, trial of five serial blast cases filed with Sadar Police Station is yet to be disposed of as the court could not record the statements of the witnesses. Earlier, the court recorded the statements of the five complainants, our correspondent quoting court sources said.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) ASP Munshi Atiqur Rahman, also the investigation officer (IO) in the cases, submitted charge sheets on October 13 last year against 19 JMB cadres for exploding bombs at five places in the town simultaneously on August 17, 2005.

The chargesheeted accused are Nasir uddin DaFadar, Monwar Hossain Ujjal, Maniruzzaman Munna, Nur Ali Member, Anisur Rahman Khokon, Gias Uddin, Mahbubur Rahman Liton, Billal Hossain, Asadul Haque, Ismail alias Habibur, Montaz alias Momtaz, Abul Khair, Fakar Uddin, Nayeem, Syed alias Asaduzzaman and Rakib Hasan alias Russel.

Statements of three out of 29 prosecution witnesses were recorded in the court in connection with the case filed with Daulatpur Police Station. Charges were pressed against nine JMB cadres on January 20, 2006 for exploding two bombs in front of Government BL College. Six out of nine accused are still absconding. November 25 this year has been fixed as the next date for hearing of the case.

In Satkhira, trial of five serial blast cases filed with Sadar Police Station is yet to be disposed of as the court could not record the statements of the witnesses. Earlier, the court recorded the statements of the five complainants, our correspondent quoting court sources said.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) ASP Munshi Atiqur Rahman, also the investigation officer (IO) in the cases, submitted charge sheets on October 13 last year against 19 JMB cadres for exploding bombs at five places in the town simultaneously on August 17, 2005.

The chargesheeted accused are Nasir uddin DaFadar, Monwar Hossain Ujjal, Maniruzzaman Munna, Nur Ali Member, Anisur Rahman Khokon, Gias Uddin, Mahbubur Rahman Liton, Billal Hossain, Asadul Haque, Ismail alias Habibur, Montaz alias Momtaz, Abul Khair, Fakar Uddin, Nayeem, Syed alias Asaduzzaman and Rakib Hasan alias Russel.

Statements of three out of 29 prosecution witnesses were recorded in the court in connection with the case filed with Daulatpur Police Station. Charges were pressed against nine JMB cadres on January 20, 2006 for exploding two bombs in front of Government BL College. Six out of nine accused are still absconding. November 25 this year has been fixed as the next date for hearing of the case.

In Satkhira, trial of five serial blast cases filed with Sadar Police Station is yet to be disposed of as the court could not record the statements of the witnesses. Earlier, the court recorded the statements of the five complainants, our correspondent quoting court sources said.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) ASP Munshi Atiqur Rahman, also the investigation officer (IO) in the cases, submitted charge sheets on October 13 last year against 19 JMB cadres for exploding bombs at five places in the town simultaneously on August 17, 2005.

50 injured as rival AL men lock in clash in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least 50 people were injured as two factions of ruling Awami League (AL) clashed in Panpatti bazar area under Galachipa upazila yesterday.

Galachipa AL is now divided into two factions, one led by local lawmaker Golam Mousa and the other by Harun-Or-Rashid, president of Galachipa upazila unit also Galachipa upazila chairman.

Police arrested an AL activist from the spot with a sharp weapon. Arrestee Azizul, 22, is an activist of MP group.

Police and locals said, MP Roni group called a meeting in Panpattie bazar mosque area at 5 pm to mark the National Mourning Day while rival upazila chairman group called another meeting in front of Panpattie high school on the occasion.

At a stage, Roni's supporters attacked the rival men's meeting, which led to clash, leaving 50 from both sides injured.

TWO INCIDENTS IN NAOGAON, SATKHIRA Acid attacks on three of a family, housewife

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Three members of a family were injured as criminals threw acid on them in Naogaon yesterday while a housewife was severely burnt in an acid attack allegedly by her husband in Satkhira on Sunday.

A couple and their 3-year-old daughter received burn injuries early yesterday as criminals threw acid on them at Colonypara of Nazipur municipal area under Patnitola upazila in Naogaon, reports our Chapainawabganj correspondent.

The victims are Sohrab Hossain, 45, wife Sanoara Begum, 35, and their daughter Khadija Khatun.

Shafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Patnitola police station, said a gang threw acid on them at around 1.00am, when they were

sleeping in the verandah of their house.

They received burn injuries mostly in the lower portion of the body.

Locals rushed them to Patnitola health complex at night where the doctors sent them to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital burn unit at noon, the OC added.

A case was filed with Patnitola police station in this regard.

Reason for the attack could not be known immediately while none was arrested in this regard till filing of this report yesterday afternoon.

In Satkhira, a housewife received burn injuries in an acid attack allegedly by her husband at village Katia Amtala in Sadar upazila on Sunday night.

The victim was identified as Zamila Khatun, 23, wife of Shafiqul Islam of the village, reports our correspondent.

Locals admitted her to Satkhira Sadar Hospital where she has been fighting for life.

Shafiqul fled away soon after the incident, police said. Quoting locals police said, Zamila Khatun was married to Shafiqul Islam, owner of Sagar Residential Hotel in the town a few years ago.

Soon after the marriage Shafiqul demanded dowry. As the parents of Zamila could not pay the amount, he used to torture her, police said. Unable to bear the torture she filed a case in this regard and since then her husband was pressing her to withdraw the case, police said.

On Sunday night Shafiqul threw acid on her through the window while Zamila was asleep in the room. She received burn injuries in her face, hands and chest.



PHOTO: STAR

The bullets recovered yesterday from a site of an under-construction high-rise in Sutrapur area of Bogra town. Workers also found a mortar shell and grenades while digging soil.

Huge ammo found while digging soil in Bogra town

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police yesterday recovered huge ammunition, including four grenades, one mortar shell and 692 bullets, from the site of an under-construction high-rise in Sutrapur area of Bogra town.

Police said the workers of Gazi Real Estate found the ammunitions while they were digging soil in the morning.

Sub-Inspector Manjurul Haque Bhuiyan of Sadar Police Station said the ammunition was kept there during the liberation war.

Rubel, 22, a construction

worker of Gazi Real Estate said after digging three feet deep into the soil, they found the bullets in an earthen pot. After further digging into the soil, they found the mortar shell and grenades.

The construction workers informed Gazi Real Estate's caretaker Arekh Uddin who later informed the law enforcers. Being informed, police and Rab personnel went to the spot and seized the ammunition.

Police said they have requested army explosive experts to examine and deactivate the ammunition.

Australian Education Exhibition
August 19-20th 2010, Ballroom, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel
Time: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Institution Name	Cricos Code
▶ Australian Catholic University.....	0004G
▶ CQ University.....	06124D
▶ Chisholm Institute.....	00881F
▶ Curtin Sydney.....	02637B
▶ Curtin University.....	00301J
▶ Deakin University/MIBT.....	00113B/01590J
▶ Flinders University.....	00114A
▶ La Trobe University.....	00115M
▶ Macquarie University.....	00002J
▶ Macquarie City Campus/SIBT.....	00002J/01576G
▶ Melbourne Institute of Technology.....	01545C
▶ Monash University.....	00008C
▶ Swinburne University of Technology.....	00111D
▶ TAFE NSW.....	00591E
▶ University of New England.....	00003G
▶ University of Technology Sydney; Insearch.....	00099F/00859D
▶ University of Western Sydney.....	00917K
▶ University of Western Australia.....	00126G
▶ University of Wollongong.....	00102E

Organized by: **Australian Centre for Education (IDP Education Pty Ltd)** & **Australian Trade Commission**
For further information please contact:
House # 4-A, Road # 54-A, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212, Tel: +(880) 2 9883545, 8821067, 9895913, 9896134
Fax: +(880) 2 8823343, 8828737, Email: info.bangladesh@idp.com, web: www.idp.com

N.B. Please bring all your academic documents, IELTS score (if available) as well as photocopies of documents to participate in the exhibition.