

Fire destroys betel leaves on 60 bighas in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Jhenidah

Fire destroyed betel leaves on about 60 bighas of land of two villages--Balidapara and Dulalmundia--in Kaliganj upazila of the district yesterday.

Locals and betel farmers said the fire originated from a nearby sugarcane field at noon and soon engulfed the betel-leaf orchards of the two adjacent villages covering 60 bighas of land.

They said criminals might have set ablaze the enclosures, causing damage to betel leaves worth Tk 1.9 crore.

The affected betel farmers are Abdul Malek, Abul Kshem, Abdur Razzak, Mahtab Ali, Ripon Ali, Daud Hossain, Khairul Islam, Shaheb Ali, Akbar Ali, Lutfor Rahman, Raiseuddin Mubarak Hossain, Ansar Ali, Idrish Ali Delwar Hossain, Mohsin Ali and Nannu Mia.

While visiting the spot, the farmers told this correspondent that they cultivated betel, taking loans from banks and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

"Betel farming is the only source of our livelihood. But fire completely damaged our leaf farms", a farmer said.



Women members of the families wail in despair while the betel leaf growers vainly try to douse the blaze at their vast garden at Dulal Mundia village in Jhenidah yesterday.

Kohinur Begum, wife of physically challenged Abdul Malek, said she took loan from Grameen Bank to cultivate betel.

"How will I repay the loan and maintain my family?", she posed.

Betel farmer Mahtab uddin of Dulalmundia vil-

lage said they have taken loans from different organisations and spent those in betel farming.

"We have to pass our days in acute hardship as we have lost everything in fire," he said.

Sugarcane growers -- Joynal Hossain, Moshir

rahman, Shahidul Islam, Abdul Aziz, Rezaul Islam, Moklesur Rahman, Ishahaq Ali and Zakir Hossain of Balidapara village also claimed that the fire destroyed sugarcane worth around Tk 4 lakh.

Fire fighters from Jhenidah district headquar-

ters and Kotchandpur rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze with the help of locals.

Assistant Commissioner (AC land) of Kaliganj upazila SM Moniruzzaman and the managing director of Mobarakganj Sugar Mill visited the spot.

30 BNP men hurt in police action in 2 districts

STAR NATIONAL DESK

At least 30 leaders and activists of BNP were injured in police action in Chuadanga and Khagrachhari yesterday.

At least 25 Chuadanga BNP leaders and workers were injured in police action after the district unit brought out a procession from Shaheed Hasan premises at about 11:00am. Police took away banner from the opposition activists and charged baton on them to foil the programme.

Central leader and district BNP president Ohidul Islam was among the injured.

In Khagrachhari, at least five BNP activists were hurt during a clash with police after the law enforcers charged baton on a roadside rally at Matiranga yesterday.

The injured were identified as Md Forkan Hossain, 30, Rahu Candra, 25, Md, Juel, 28, Gias Uddin, 25, and Maju Mia, 35.

Witnesses said, Matiranga upazila unit BNP along with its front organisations arranged a protest rally in the market area in the afternoon as part of the party's central programme.

All of a sudden, police swooped on the activists and foiled the programme.

12-POINT DEMAND

Ruet students on indefinite class boycott

RU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) yesterday started indefinite class boycott programme to realise their 12-point demand.

The demands include appointment of new teachers and construction of a shaheed minar on the campus, internet facility at all dormitories, preservation and collection of liberation war memories, appointment of physical instructors at gymnasium, reconstruction of the auditorium which was damaged by fire a few months ago and new buses for transport of students.

The students alleged that they had earlier formed human chains, boycotted classes and submitted a memorandum to the vice chancellor but the university authorities did not pay heed to the demands.

They also threatened to continue class boycott programme until their demands are met.

Sources said no classes and examinations were held at the university yesterday as the students started indefinite class boycott programme.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists demanded removal of vice chancellor Prof Sirajul Karim Chowdhury for what they said his failure to meet the students' demands.

Contacted, Prof Sirajul Karim Chowdhury said, though the university authorities assured the general students of fulfilling their demands, some people are trying to create chaos on the campus instigating the students.

He also said that the university authorities have taken initiatives to meet their demands gradually.



A human chain was formed at Picture Palace intersection in Khulna city yesterday demanding Bangabandhu international airport at Foila of Bagerhat district.

PHOTO: STAR

ALLEGED ATTACK ON TEACHER

Case filed against 15 students of Maolana Bhasani university, 2 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Tangail

A case was filed against 15 students of Food Technology and Nutritional Science (FTNS) department of Maolana Bhasani University of Science and Technology (MBUST) yesterday on charge of attacking a teacher and security guards of the university.

Assistant Proctor Belayet Hossain filed the case with Tangail Sadar model police station.

Police later arrested two students of FTNS department-- Biswajit Ghosh and Shahabuddin Ahmed Shaon-- in connection with the incident.

Omar Faruque, proctor of MBUST, said the expelled students of FTNS were writing provocative slogans against the university administration on the walls of the campus at around 2:00am.

When Assistant Proctor Belayet Hossain and four security guards tried to stop them, they attacked and injured them, he said.

The FTNS students, however, claimed that no students of the department were involved in the incident though proctor along with others picked two FTNS students from the dormitory and took them to the police station by a university microbus.

Over 200 students of the department have been boycotting classes and examinations for the last seven months demanding renaming of their degree. The incident was a conspiracy to foil the students' movement, several students alleged.

To realise the demand, the students have already lost a full semester of their academic year due to class boycott.

6 BCL men sued at RU

RU CORRESPONDENT

Six Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men of Rajshahi University (RU) unit were sued yesterday evening on charge of stabbing an activist of the university unit Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on the campus on Tuesday.

Police said, RU unit JCD joint convener Salauddin Rana filed the case accusing six BCL men with Motihar police station for stabbing Ahasan-uz-Zaman alias Olin, who is also a fourth year student of Material Science department.

The accused are Khaled Hasan Nayan and Abdus Salam of Management department, Humayon Kabir of Public Administration, Tanjib Ahmed of Fine Arts, Rocky of Psychology and Rony of History department.

Earlier a group of RU unit BCL activists stabbed in the chest, stomach and left hand of Ahasan with sharp knives at RU Tukitaki Chattar on Tuesday evening.

On information, law enforcers rescued Ahasan and took him to the university medical centre in an unconscious condition.

Later, he was shifted to Square Hospital in the capital as his condition deteriorated.

2010 RU VIOLENCE

Victims demand punishment to Shibir cadres

RU CORRESPONDENT

Victims of 9 February, 2010 violence at Rajshahi University (RU) at a rally yesterday demanded exemplary punishment to the Shibir cadres who hacked BCL worker Faruque to death and unleashed attack on them.

On February 9, Faruque Hossain, a resident of Shah Makhdam Hall and a masters student of Mathematics department fell victim to Shibir attack.

His body was dumped in a manhole. Around 100 others were injured while the Shibir men cut tendons of four of them.

At a rally on the campus yesterday, the victims called upon the government to

ensure punishment of the Shibir culprits.

They alleged that the probe into the brutal murder of Faruque Hossain remained stalled for a year because of indifference of the authorities concern.

Criticising the role of the law enforcers, they alleged that police are yet to unearth the motive behind the armed attacks and threatened to launch a tougher movement in case the Shibir cadres go unpunished.

They also called upon the government and the university authorities to impose ban on Jammal-Shibir politics on the campus.

BL College students continue protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Khulna

Students of Daulatpur Government BL College yesterday again went on rampage damaging at least nine vehicles including four passenger buses on Khulna-Jessore highway.

Earlier they put up a road barricade disrupting traffic for hours on the highway.

They demanded Tk5 lakh compensation from the owner of the bus that killed a student of the college on Tuesday noon.

They also called for setting up an over bridge near BL College and exemplary punishment to the driver of the bus.

On Tuesday, Abu Shaheen, 20, a student of third year Political Science of the college was killed in a road accident at about 12:00 noon near Daulatpur Agriculture office.

BID TO SELL GOVT WHEAT ON BLACK MARKET 2 Rajshahi traders sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Rajshahi

A case was filed yesterday with Boalia police station against two traders as they tried to sell 493 sacks of wheat meant for the government's schoolchildren feeding programme on black market on Tuesday.

The accused traders are M Sukh Chand and Nazrul Islam of Kumarpara in the city.

Sub-Inspector Abdur Razzak lodged the case under the Special Powers Act, alleging that the accused received 493 sacks of wheat weighing 51 tonnes

Follow-up

from a government granary in Bogra and hoarded them at their godown in Rajshahi. The also tried to sell the wheat to a Pabna trader on Tuesday night, the complainant said in the case statement.

Executive Magistrate M Saiduzzaman on Tuesday night seized 493 sacks of wheat after Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members found those being sold in black market here.

The seized wheat was part of 1,118 tonnes of wheat

allocated to Central Marketing Company of Jessore free of cost for producing food for schoolchildren, police said.

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the sponsor of the feeding programme.

CMC sold 1118 tonnes of wheat to a Bogra trader after withdrawing these from Shantahar public granary in Bogra in mid January. The two Rajshahi traders purchased the wheat from the Bogra trader and were trying to sell in black market on Tuesday night.



Executive Magistrate M Saiduzzaman sign an order of seizure of 493 sacks of wheat at a private godown at Shaheb Bazar in Rajshahi city on Tuesday night as two traders who tried to sell the wheat on black market look on

PHOTO: STAR

VACANCY AT BFTI

The Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute (BFTI), a trade policy think tank in public-private partnership and a national focal point for international trade related issues, invites applications from qualified candidates for the position of Chief Executive Officer.

Job Profile

This is the top-level position in Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute. The position is the administrative as well as the monitoring authority of the programs of BFTI. The Key job responsibilities include:

- Providing innovative ideas to foster the international trade by leading a team of intellectual and generous researchers specialized in international trade;
- Planning the research and identifying the newest research areas;
- Outlining the priorities, trade development planning;
- Outlining the business development goals and objectives;
- Developing and suggesting tools of the trade negotiations and other aspects;
- Outlining the training program for the stakeholders and the government officials depending on the findings of research and ensure timely implementation of training courses;
- Monitoring closely the efficiency of consultancy services provided by BFTI limiting the range of services;
- Coordinating interdisciplinary activities and ensure the information and communication flow within the disciplines through public relations and information wing and through formal official communication;
- Liaising with different government institutions and stakeholders and build a strong network with government departments, international trade bodies and institutes, international trade organizations and mass media;
- Supervising the administrative discipline and recruitment; monitor the finance and accounts of the institute independently;
- Raising issues and concern to the Board of Directors and the Committee of Experts;

Personal Profile

- Advance university degree in Public/Business Administration, Economics, International Relations, International Trade or other related discipline. The incumbent should preferably have a doctoral degree in the relevant field;
- Numerous publications in the reputed national and international journals;
- Skilled in computer operation;
- Training on trade negotiation, trade defense, trade safeguard measures, etc. will be an added advantage;

Experience

- Minimum 15 years experience in human resource (HR) development of which at least 7 years should be in senior administrative management position in local/international/multicultural organization dealing with foreign trade issues;
- Considerable knowledge of Bangladesh and international trade laws and regulations;
- Strong verbal and written Bangla and English communication skills;
- Innovative problem-solving and demonstrated analytical skills;
- Experience in participatory decision-making and overcoming resistance in implementing changed decisions;
- Excellent interpersonal, mobilization, facilitation and trade negotiation skills;
- Strong ability to innovate ideas, understand and analyze foreign trade issues critically in global context and take decision thereon;
- Expertise/experience in economic diplomacy and global trade issues will be an added advantage;
- Training on foreign trade promotion/management will be an added advantage;
- As Chief Executive Officer (CEO), the incumbent shall be responsible for overall planning, organizing and monitoring/supervising researches and policies, administration, management, development as well as ethics of BFTI independently to ensure its viability as a leading think tank of Bangladesh's foreign trade promotion.

Duration : The position is initially for one year with the possibility of extension.

Salary : Attractive remuneration after negotiation.

If your profile fits the above position, you are requested to send a detailed CV with two recent passport size photographs and a cover letter stating suitability for the position, addressed to Box No. A-13 C/O The Daily Star, 64-65 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215 on or before 13 March 2011. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interviews. Telephone inquiries are discouraged.