

Betel on 500 bighas of land torched

The fourth arson attack in the area since Feb causes Tk 20 crore damage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A devastating fire destroyed over 1000 betel leaf gardens on around 500 bighas of land in four villages of Kaliganj upazila in Jhenidah district, causing damage worth around Tk 20 crore yesterday.

Against the backdrop of three arson attacks on a few betel gardens in the same upazila last month, the large-scale blaze is seen as a testimony to a section of criminals' growing desperate to commit such heinous crimes.

The fire also burnt three houses and destroyed hundreds of bamboo clusters in the affected villages, namely, Raigram, Dulalmundia, Shingi and Raigram Daspara.

"I saw smoke in a betel leaf garden at noon. The fire spread very fast and

guttled more than 1,000 betel gardens including betel leaf processing materials," said Gaziar Rahman, an elderly resident of Raigram village.

Visiting the spot when the fire was still blazing, this correspondent saw locals busy trying to extinguish the fire.

Thousands of people who thronged around seemed helpless before the blazing inferno.

On information, fire fighting units from Jhenidah Sadar and Kotchandpur reached the spot.

After frantic efforts for a couple of hours, the firefighters and locals brought the blaze under control at about 4:00pm.

At least 1000 betel leaf gardens were torched in the blaze, said fire service official Lutfor Rahman.

A large number of peo-

ple gathered on the ground of Raigram High School in fear of the spreading fire.

Senkar Sen, Alamgir, Krishna, Bijoy, Nitya Pada, Kanan, Ananda, Santosh, Shankor, Anis, Kumaresh, Bhajo, Dilip, Paltan Pal, Chansal Das are among the worst victims of the fire that destroyed the over 1,000 betel gardens belonging to 1100 farmers.

Several farmers wishing anonymity told this correspondent that most of the betel leaf farmers belong to the minority Hindu community and some influential people want to force them to leave Bangladesh to get the opportunity to buy their lands for nominal prices.

Besides, some land owners who leased their land to the minority people at lower rates a few

years ago want to get it back before expiry of the lease period. They are also behind torching the gardens, said several victims.

On information, Deputy Commissioner Roma Rani Roym, Superintendent of Police Rezaul Karim, ASP Mostafizur Rahman, Kaliganj upazila Chairman Anwarul Azam, UNO Anjumanara Begum and Kaliganj police station Officer in Charge (OC) Faruk Hossain visited the spot.

The mystery behind the fire incident that caused indescribable loss to the farmers is yet to be unearthed, OC Faruk Hossain said.

"The torching of betel leaf gardens on 500 bighas of land has caused loss of at least Tk 20 crore," said Kaliganj upazila Chairman Anwarul Azim.



PHOTO: STAR

A betel leaf plantation at Raigram village in Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah district is in flames as an alleged arson attack wreaked havoc on betel gardens in four adjoining villages yesterday.

RU students go berserk protesting water crisis

RU CORRESPONDENT

Residents of Shaheed Habibur Rahman Hall at Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday vandalised the hall protesting acute water crisis persisting over the last few days.

Fed up with the situation, around two hundred students of the hall staged demonstration with empty bottles at around 2:00pm, sources said.

At one stage, the agitating students damaged nameplates of hall officials, windowpanes of the hall office, tubs containing plants and flowers in front of the office and a water tank on the hall roof.

Later, the resident students chanted slogans against the hall administration.

Informed, the hall provost along with the house tutors and hall officials rushed to the hall at around 3:00pm. The agitating students gave three hours ultimatum till 6:00pm to the hall provost to solve their problems including water crisis and manage-

ment of IPS at the dining hall and games room.

Several resident students alleged that they do not get water in bathrooms and toilets for eight hours from the morning.

"We get water only two times in a day and it is for such a short time that one can hardly complete his toilet and bath with ease," said a student of the hall.

The provost of Shaheed Habibur Rahman Hall, Dr Shahid Iqbal assured the students of solving the problems immediately.

Several students alleged that life in most of the dormitories of RU has become utterly miserable during the last few days due to an acute water crisis.

Many of them are facing skin diseases and water-borne diseases as supplied water is dirty, they said.

"Residents of female students' dormitories are also badly suffering from water problem during the last few days," said Mukti Rani Biswas, a resident of Khaleda Zia Hall of RU.

400 kg jatka seized, 4 fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Four fish traders were fined by a mobile court here yesterday following recovery of a large quantity of jatka (hilsa fry) and piranha from a fish market in Bhanga upazila.

The fish traders are Nazrul Islam, 29, Shunando Kumar Das, 18, Md. Shohel, 16, Md Jahid

Sheikh, 28, all of Hasamdia village in the upazila. Each of them was fined Tk 15,000, in default, to suffer three months' imprisonment.

Acting on a tip-off, the mobile court jointly led by executive magistrate Tarekul Alam and district fisheries officer (DFO) Mejbah ul Haque and backed by Rab officials raided Loknath wholesale fish market

owned by Atiar Matubbor in the upazila at about 7:00 am.

The court recovered 400 kg jatka and 15 kg piranha from there. Later, the recovered fishes were distributed among orphans of different orphanages and students of various madrasas

Contacted, the executive magistrate said, the four were arrested under Fish Act-1950 section (5), 1.



PHOTO: STAR

Huge jatka (tiny hilsa) seized by a mobile court from a fish market in Bhanga upazila of Faridpur district was taken to the premises of deputy commissioner's office yesterday.

The Daily Star

NEW ADVERTISEMENT RATES

Effective from 15th March-2011

Display Advertisement	Rate Saturday to Thursday per single col. inch	Rate Friday per single col. inch	Lifestyle		
Front Page			Front Page (4 Colour only)	BDT 5000/- (Per Col. Inch)	
Front Inner			Front Inner (4 Colour only)	BDT 3000/- (Per Col. Inch)	
Back Page			Back Page (4 Colour only)	BDT 4000/- (Per Col. Inch)	
Back Inner			Back Inner (4 Colour only)	BDT 3000/- (Per Col. Inch)	
Inner Page			Inner Page (4 Colour only)	BDT 2000/- (Per Col. Inch)	
Page-3	Fixed BDT 6500/- (4 Colour) (No Black & White Advt.)	Fixed BDT 7500/- (4 Colour) (No Black & White Advt.)	Rising Stars		
Page-5	Fixed BDT 5500/- (4 Colour) BDT 4000/- (B/W)	Fixed BDT 6,500/- (4 Colour) BDT 4,500/- (B/W)	Front Page 4 colour only	BDT 2500/- (Per Col. Inch)	
Page-7	Fixed BDT 4000/- (4 Colour) BDT 2800/- (B/W)	Fixed BDT 4500/- (4 Colour) BDT 3500/- (B/W)	Back Page 4 colour only	BDT 2000/- (Per Col. Inch)	
Business Page	Fixed BDT 4000/- (Front Page Colour) BDT 3300/- (Inner Colour) BDT 2400/- (Inner B/W)	Fixed BDT 4500/- (Front Page Colour) BDT 3800/- (Inner Colour) BDT 2800/- (Inner B/W)	Inner Page 4 colour only	BDT 1500/- (Per Col. Inch)	
Other Inside Pages	Fixed BDT 3300/- (4 Colour) BDT 2400/- (B/W)	Fixed BDT 3800/- (4 Colour) BDT 2800/- (B/W)	theSTAR		
Birthdays, To-Let, Purchase, Sale, Tuition, Lost, Theatre	Per col-inch BDT 1200/- upto 2 col-inch, over 2 col-inch BDT 2400/- Per col-inch (B/W) BDT 3300/- Per col-inch (4 colour)	Per col-inch Tk 1500/- upto 2 col-inch, over 2 col-inch BDT 3,800/- Per col-inch (4 colour) BDT 2800/ Per col-inch (B/W)	Only Colour Advt. No B/W		
Govt. Advertisement Front Page 100% Extra on Govt. Approved Rate Back Page 50% Extra on Govt. Approved Rate			1) Back Cover (Ptg area. 6"x9")	BDT 45,000/- per issue	
Side Panel: 1.5"x1.5" Front Page (4 Colour only No B/W Advt.) (Minimum 6 months contract)		BDT 10000/- per insertion	2) Inside Front Cover (Ptg area. 6"x9")	BDT 40,000/- per issue	
Panel: 1.5"x6.429" Back Page (4 Colour only No B/W Advt.) (Minimum 6 months contract)		BDT 10000/- per insertion	3) Inside Back Cover (Ptg area. 6"x9")	BDT 35,000/- per issue	
Panel: 1.5"x3" Business Page (Minimum 3 months contract)		BDT 5000/- per insertion (4 Colour)	4) Inside Full Page (Ptg area. 6"x9")	BDT 25,000/- per issue	
Side Panel 1.5"x3" Sports Page (Minimum 3 months contract)		BDT 3000/- per insertion 4 Colour	the Camps		
Box Number Service Charge		BDT 500/-	1) Back Cover (Ptg area. 6"x9")	BDT 35,000/- per issue	
For advertisements from abroad			2) Inside Front Cover (Ptg area. 6"x9")	BDT 30,000/- per issue	
1. Front Page	US\$ 185 (Per col Inch) 4 Colour.		3) Inside Back Cover (Ptg area. 6"x9")	BDT 25,000/- per issue	
2. Back Page	US\$ 150 (Per col Inch) 4 Colour.		4) Inside Full Page (Ptg area. 6"x9")	BDT 20,000/- per issue	
3. Page 3	US\$ 120 (Per col Inch) 4 Colour.		For advertisements from abroad only		
4. Inner Page	US\$ 85 (Per col Inch) 4 Colour.		1) Back Cover (Ptg area. 6"x9")	US\$ 600 (Per issue).	
5. Inner Page	US\$ 65 (Per col Inch) Black & White.		2) Inside Front Cover (Ptg area. 6"x9")	US\$ 550 (Per issue).	
Website For one month			3) Inside Back Cover (Ptg area. 6"x9")	US\$ 500 (Per issue).	
Home Page	Top banner Banner News ticker Spot banner 1 Spot banner 2 Spot banner 3 Spot banner 4 Spot banner 5 Panel ad	Size (480 x 60) Pixels Size (400 x 50) Pixels Size (170 x 25) Pixels Size (340 x 50) Pixels Size (340 x 50) Pixels Size (610 x 50) Pixels Size (610 x 50) Pixels Size (610 x 50) Pixels Size (170 x 40) Pixels	BDT 2,50,000/- BDT 2,00,000/- BDT 1,50,000/- BDT 1,50,000/- BDT 1,25,000/- BDT 1,00,000/- BDT 1,00,000/- BDT 85,000/- BDT 20,000/- (all applicable taxes extra)	4) Inside Full Page (Ptg area. 6"x9")	US\$ 400 (Per issue).
News Page	Top Banner	Size (480x60) Pixels	Star Insight		
Inner Page	Panel Ad Classified Ads	Size (170x40) Pixels Word Limit : 40 Words	1) Back Cover (Ptg area. 6"x9")	BDT 25,000/- per issue	
Business Page	Box Ad	Size (320x200) Pixels	2) Inside Front Cover (Ptg area. 6"x9")	BDT 20,000/- per issue	
Entertainment Page	Box Ad	Size (320x200) Pixels	3) Inside Back Cover (Ptg area. 6"x9")	BDT 15,000/- per issue	
Sports Page	Page Branding	Size (320x200) Pixels	4) Inside Full Page (Ptg area. 6"x9")	BDT 10,000/- per issue	
			FORUM		
			1) Back Cover (Ptg area. 6"x9")	BDT 45,000/- per issue	
			2) Inside Front Cover (Ptg area. 6"x9")	BDT 40,000/- per issue	
			3) Inside Back Cover (Ptg area. 6"x9")	BDT 35,000/- per issue	
			4) Inside Full Page (Ptg area. 6"x9")	BDT 25,000/- per issue	
The rates are subject to change and will be notified through our newspaper.					