

# Yet another heinous act of tree felling

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Jhenidah

Criminals felled around 1100 mahogany, teak and litchi trees on 14 bighas of land belonging to 17 people at Bathangachi and Sankorhuda villages under Moheshpur upazila in the district on Tuesday night, said locals and police.

"I have never seen such a devilish act in my life. Those who have felled the green trees should be brought to book," said Md Shahidul Islam, assistant headmaster of Shukpukuria High School

in Moheshpur upazila.

"I have invested a lot for the tree plantation. But the criminals have destroyed all my hopes," MA Iqbal Hossain, who lost 250 mahogany and teak trees, said during this correspondent's visit to the area.

Abdul Aziz Biswas, who lost 60 litchi trees, burst into tears and said, "I planted these trees five years ago. Now I have incurred a huge loss."

Among other victims, Mofazzal Hossain lost 200 mahogany and teak trees, Toriqlul Islam lost 20

mahogany and teak trees, Jamir Hossain lost 100 mahogany and teak trees, Sukur Biswas lost 50 mahogany and teak trees, Laltu Biswas lost 150 mahogany and teak trees, Ali Kador lost four mahogany and teak trees, Abu Bakor Biswas lost 25 litchi trees, Manik Hossain lost 20 mahogany and teak trees, Nasir Hossain lost five mahogany and teak trees, Salman Hossain lost four mahogany and teak trees, and Abdul Alim lost 16 mahogany and teak trees. All of them are residents of

Batangachi village.

Besides, Rokib Malita of Sankorhuda village lost 100 mahogany and teak trees, Residents of the same village, Soriful Islam lost 40 mahogany and teak trees, Obidul Malita lost 22 mahogany and teak trees and Mahatab Mondol lost 35 mahogany and teak trees.

Political vengeance may have acted behind the barbaric incident as 15 of the 17 victims are adherents of main opposition BNP while two others belong to ruling Awami League, said a few locals.

Several victims requesting anonymity, however, said a group of crop field owners in the area jointly did the callous act, thinking that the trees, sucking great amounts of juice from the ground, would be harmful for the nearby crop fields while proper growth of the crops will be hindered due to shade of the trees when they grow larger.

The victims have demanded proper investigation and exemplary punishment to the culprits.

Anwar Hossain, officer in charge of Moheshpur police station, said, "A first information report (FIR) has been submitted to this police station. A sub-inspector has been sent to the spot. A case will be filed after thorough investigation."



PHOTO: STAR

Manik Hossain of Batangachi village in Moheshpur upazila of Jhenidah district gives a bleak look as he lost 20 mahogany and teak trees on Tuesday night when a group of criminals went into an orgy of tree felling, destroying around 1100 mahogany, teak and litchi trees on 14 bighas of land belonging to 17 people.

## C'nawabganj gets shuttle train to avail Padma Express

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Chapainawabganj:

Bangladesh Railway yesterday introduced a shuttle train on Chapainawabganj-Rajshahi route to meet commuters' demand.

Railway Minister Suranjit Sengupta inaugurated the train service at Chapainawabganj Railway Station at 1:30pm. From now on the train will run on the route six days a week.

Railway sources said the train will carry passengers, especially of those of Padma Express, to and from Chapainawabganj. Padma Express runs between Dhaka and Rajshahi.

The shuttle train will reach Chapainawabganj Railway Station at 2:30pm and leave for Rajshahi at 1:30pm, sources added.

The railway minister also laid the foundation stone of a building of Chapainawabganj Railway Station. Addressing a function on the platform, he said the government is now thinking about construction

of separate railway bridge over the Jamuna. Land belonging to the railways must be recovered from illegal occupation, the minister added.

At an opinion exchange meeting at local circuit house in the morning, local elites, businessmen, journalists, and leaders of AL and other political parties placed

some demands before the minister.

The demands include direct intercity train services from Chapainawabganj and construction of bypass rail line at Amnura Railway Junction. The minister assured them of meeting all the demands in phases.



PHOTO: STAR

Railway Minister Suranjit Sengupta inaugurates a shuttle train on Chapainawabganj-Rajshahi route at Chapainawabganj Railway Station yesterday. The train will run on the route six days a week.

## Domestic help tortured

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Jhenidah

A domestic help was tortured allegedly by the son-in-law of her master in the town on Tuesday.

The victim, Jyotsna Khatun, 36, wife of late Abdul Latif of Narayankandi village in Harinakundo upazila, is now undergoing treatment at Jhenidah Sadar Hospital.

The victim said she has been working at the house of Moshir Rahman, chairman of Kapashatia Union Parishad under the upazila for about three years.

Following an altercation with her employer's daughter Priya, her husband Topu Hossain beat up her mercilessly and cut hair of her head, the victim told newsmen at the hospital.

She said as her condition was deteriorating, chairman's driver Sohag Hossain took her to the hospital.

Human rights activist yesterday visited Jyotsna at the hospital.



PHOTO: STAR

House-cum-cyclone shelters, built on Kauwar Char near Kuakata sea beach in Patuakhali, have been distributed among 27 families who became shelterless during cyclones Sidr and Aila.

## Shelter for the shelterless

### 27 Sidr, Aila hit families get houses

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Patuakhali

Twenty-seven landless families in Kuakata area, rendered shelterless during the onslaught of super cyclones Sidr and Aila in 2007 and 2009, have got new houses.

The houses built by Action Aid, Bangladesh under its 'Shelter for Landless Project' at Charchaplee and Kawar Char villages in the coastal region were handed over to the homeless people last week.

Of the houses, 18 were built at Charchaplee and another nine at Kawar Char village in Kalapara upazila.

Expressing pleasure Sidr victim Hira Begum, 50, said "Now there is no fear as we

received the houses built with concrete that would not be damaged by such cyclone".

Hira's husband Amir Hossain went missing during the Sidr and since then the woman along with her two sons Shahidul and Sohel were living in a makeshift shelter on the flood control dam.

She is now working as a day labourer under a special programme of Food for Work'.

Like Hira Begum, Aison Bibi and Abdul Khaleq of Charchaplee and Nasima Begum, Nargis Begum and Abul Kalam of Kawar Char village expressed their heartfelt joys after receiving the dwellings.

They said no flood, cyclone and tidal surges would be able to destroy the

houses now as it was built with bricks.

All the houses are built with bricks and RCC pillars. Each one is 21 feet long and 14 feet wide. It is not only to be used as houses but also as cyclone shelters, said an official of Action Aid.

"The cost of each house is Tk about 4.50 Lakh".

Tidal surge will not be able to enter the houses erected on seven pillars as its ground floor is open, the official added.

Earlier, the government allocated 6.50 acres of khas land to build 107 houses cum cyclone shelters for the Sidr and Aila victims.

Of the houses, 27 were handed over to the landless families and the rest are being built, Action Aid sources in Kalapara said.

## Convocation at Kuet postponed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,  
Khulna

Second convocation of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (Kuet) scheduled for February 12 has been postponed due to 'unavoidable reasons'.

To this effect, authorities yesterday issued a notice signed by Registrar Md Abdur Rouf on behalf of Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Md Alamgir.

The university has remained closed since January 2 following violence on the campus that originated from serving of sub-standard food in the annual feast held on the night of January 1 at Amar Ekushey Hall of the university.

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চট্টগ্রাম কাস্টম হাউজ আয়োজিত আন্তর্জাতিক শুক্রদিবস উপলক্ষে জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড কর্তৃক ২০১০-১১ অর্থবছরে চট্টগ্রাম কাস্টমস এ সর্বোচ্চ রাজস্ব প্রদানকারী বেসরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান এর মধ্যে উত্তরা মোটর্স লিমিটেড প্রথম স্থান হিসেবে সম্মাননা স্মারক ও ক্রেস্ট লাভ করেন।



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