

# Irrigation canal grabbed for market construction

Both AL, BNP men allegedly involved

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

Unscrupulous people allegedly led by local Awami League (AL) and BNP leaders have continued illegal construction of a 35-room market on a portion of an irrigation canal at Bororia village in Balidia union parishad (UP) of Mohammadpur upazila under the district.

"Two former UP chairmen -- union unit Awami League president Abul Kalam Fakir and upazila unit BNP general secretary Zahangir Alam Bachchu instigated several locals to build the market after grabbing the canal land," said Mohammad Mofizur Rahman, present chairman of Balidia UP, also general secretary of the union unit AL.

Water Development Board (WDB) in Magura has already served notices on 35 people of Borolia village, including Abul Kalam Fakir, his son Rafikul Islam, and Zahangir Alam Bachchu, to demolish the market illegally constructed on the canal land, official sources said.

When contacted over cell phone, Abul Kalam Fakir denied his involvement in grabbing the canal and said, "Local people took initiative to build the market as they were in a crying need of it at the village."

When asked about his ownership of a room at the market he said, "Not I, my son owns a shop at the market."

The official records however, confirmed Abul Kalam's possession of a shop at the under construction market.

Zahangir Alam Bachchu



PHOTO: STAR

Unscrupulous people allegedly led by local Awami League and BNP leaders have built concrete structure for a market, encroaching upon the Modhumati-Nabaganga Irrigation Canal at Bororia village in Mohammadpur upazila of Magura district.

claimed that they built the market following 'verbal permission' from the WDB.

He admitted his ownership of a shop at the market. The eviction notices served to the 35 people separately by Magura WDB also ordered them to demolish the market on public land with their own initiative within May 31, official sources said.

As the people concerned did not remove their illegal structures within the specified time and continued their illegal construction work, the officials of Magura WDB are getting ready to

demolish the illegal establishments, they added.

"We have already sought financial and legal support from our higher authorities and local administration to demolish the illegal market built on a part of Madhumati-Nabaganga irrigation canal," Executive Engineer of WDB in Magura Apurbo Kumar Biswas told this correspondent a few days ago.

The canal from Shirgram village under Babukhali union in Mohammadpur upazila to Rajapur through Bororia village was excavated under

Madhumati-Nabaganga irrigation project in 1984-85 financial year to facilitate irrigation of local croplands, sources at WDB office in Magura said.

When contacted, Mohammadpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mohammad Shamsuddoza said, "I have already submitted a written report to the deputy commissioner in Magura regarding canal grabbing and illegal construction of the market. The land belongs to Water Development Board and so, it is their responsibility to evict the illegal occupants."

## Two UPDF men arrested with firearms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Army personal arrested two activists of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) with firearms in Choto Kalapani area under Ramgarh upazila of Khagrachhari district early yesterday.

The arrestees are Jaharlal Chakma alias Mithun, 40, son of Biraj Mohan Chakma, and Khitacha Tripura alias Manoi, 24, son of Mohakumar Tripura of the area.

Acting on a tip-off, an army team raided a house in Choto Kalapani area at around 2:30am arrested the UPDF activists.

They also seized a revolver, a single-barrel gun, three bullets, toll collection receipts and a military uniform, said Major Sakawat Hossain of Guimara army sub-zone.

The arrestees were handed over to Guimara Police Station yesterday noon. Bashir Ahmad, acting officer-in-charge of Guimara Police Station, said a case was filed against the arrestees.

In a press release yesterday, UPDF Ramgarh upazila unit leader Apu Tripura demanded immediate release of the UPDF activists.

## Abducted girl rescued, two held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Seven hours into her abduction, police rescued a girl from Jangli railway bridge area in Natore Sadar upazila early yesterday.

They also arrested two people in connection with the abduction. The arrestees are Kalu Mian, 38, son of Ansar Ali, and Golam Mastofa, of Tebaria area under the upazila.

Nabir Uddin, sub-inspector of Natore Police Station, said a gang of criminals allegedly led by Kalu Mian picked up the girl while she was going to Jangli Bazar at around 8:00pm on Friday. Victim's sister lodge a case with the police station the same night

Acting on a tip-off, Natore police launched a drive in Jangli railway bridge area at around 3:00am and rescued the girl. They also arrested Kalu and Tulu on the spot.

## Journo Jamal murder: One more held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in an overnight drive arrested one more accused in journalist Jamal Uddin murder case from Arpara of Magura district on Friday morning.

The arrestee is Raju Mallick, 45, son of Shamsher Mallick of Kashipur village under Sarsha upazila of Jessore district.

Major Arifur Rahman, camp in-charge of Rab-6, said they, acting on a tip-off, raided the area and arrested Raju.

Earlier on June 24, law enforcers arrested Ukil Mia, one of the seven accused in the case and brother of Raju, from Helencha Bazar in South 24 Parganas district of Paschim Banga in India.

Jamal, 33, a correspondent of local Bangla daily Gramee Kagoj, was killed by criminals at Kashipur Bazar in Shasa upazila on the night of June 15.

A murder case was filed with Sharsha Police Station the following day, accusing seven people.

## The Daily Star - ENGLISH FAIR



PHOTO: STAR

Holding blank answer sheets for use in quiz contest, participants in English language fair pose for photograph at Jhenidah government Model High School yesterday.

## Kids from six more schools learn amid an air of festivity

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Students of six more schools in Sylhet, Jhenidah, Faridpur and Rangpur districts yesterday took part in the English language fairs held under English in Schools programme, a joint initiative of The Daily Star and mobile operator Robi.

Adcomm Ltd is the creative and event partner of the English language fairs

Our staff correspondent from Sylhet reported that students from Blue Bird School and College and Kazi Jalal Uddin ML Girls' High School joined the fair held at Blue Bird School and College auditorium.

The function was addressed, among others, by Johura Begum, English teacher of Kazi Jalal Uddin Girls' High School, Sumon Kanti Dhar, English teacher of Blue Bird School and College, Golam Kibria, upazila secondary education officer of Jamalganj upazila in Sunamganj, and Robi's Sylhet Regional chief Darpan Kumar Roy. Md Fahad of Robi conducted the programme.

Following screening of The Lion King, a globally renowned movie, the students of the two schools participated in spot quiz vocabulary test, questions and answers, one word question and situation based question-all based on the movie.

Selected students took part in extempore speeches on different topics and role play.

Prizes were distributed among the winners of different competition at

the end of the programme.

In Jhenidah, over 130 students from Jhenidah Government Model High School and Jhenidah Government Girls' High school joined the English language fair held at Government Model high School auditorium in the morning, reports our corre-

around 11:00am. English teachers Syed Ali and Golam Mortuza addressed the function.

The programme began with the screening of The Lion King. Students participated in spot quiz vocabulary test, questions and answers and one word question based on the movie.

Eighteen students won different competitions. Prizes were distributed among the winners at the end of the programme.

The English language fair at Rangpur, Police Lines School and College saw lively participation of over 100 students of the school, according to our correspondent.

Principal Dr AKM Jalal Uddin Akber inaugurated the fair at around 11:30am. Md Monjurul Islam, vice-principal, and Md Abdul Motaleb, senior teacher of the institution, spoke.

After watching THE Lion King, students took part in different competitions. They also entertained the audience by reciting poems, telling jokes and singing songs.

Principal Dr AKM Jalal Uddin Akber distributed prizes



PHOTO: STAR

Two students take part in a role play at the English language fair held at Blue Bird School and College in Sylhet city yesterday.

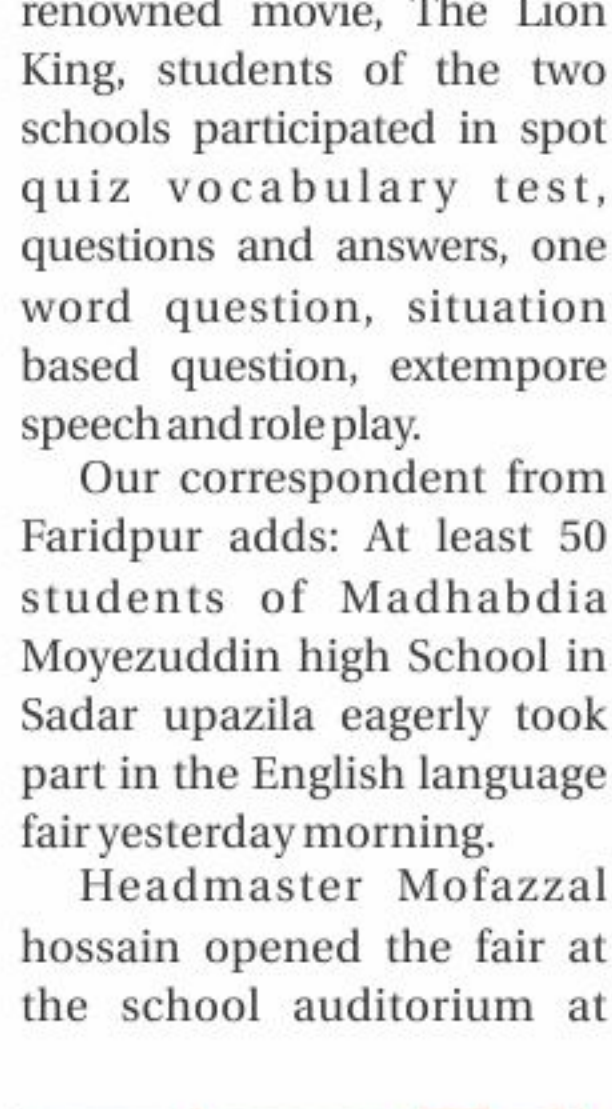


PHOTO: STAR

Two students take part in a role play at the English language fair held at Blue Bird School and College in Sylhet city yesterday.

# Arum farming brings solvency to Joypurhat farmers

The nutritious vegetable now an export item too

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Many farmers in Joypurhat district are opting for arum cultivation, as shoots of the popular nutritious vegetable, locally known as kochur loti, has become an export item, making its farming more profitable than other agricultural items in the area.

Around 800 hectares of land in the district has been brought under arum farming this season, agriculture officials said, adding that about one tonne of arum can be produced on a hectare in six months.

"Arum farming is gradually gaining popularity as farmers are getting its fair prices. Its production cost is low too," said Md Abul Kalam Azad, a retired deputy director of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Joypurhat.

Arum farming requires no pesticides and very little cost for nursing, said ==

Balighata market beside Hakimpur-Joypurhat road in Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat sees huge supply of arum as farmers from Puranpoil, Dogachhi, Dhalahar, Badhsa and Mohammadabad of Joypurhat Sadar upazila and Balighata, Ratanpur, Dharangi, Aima Rasulpur, Khasbatta, Piara, Birnagar and Mahipur of Panchbibi upazila regularly bring the item there for sale.

Buyers from different districts including Dhaka

and Chittagong come to Balighata 'arum market' to procure the item and 10 to 15 truckloads of arum shoot leave Joypurhat for other parts of the country daily, said local traders.

Traders from Karwan Bazar and Savar in Dhaka are the main buyers of arum shoot, said Md Abul Hossain, a local trader.

After processing, the nutritious and palatable vegetable is exported to Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, India and a few European countries, said sources.

Local farmers and businessmen of Balighata 'arum market' have demanded setting up an 'arum processing zone' there.

"This item is tolerant to natural calamities and requires no pesticides. And so, its production cost is low. It can be cultivated on lowlands," said local farmer Abdul Matin who brought his produce to Balighata market for sale.

"Last year I cultivated arum on two bighas of land and made satisfactory profit. This year I cultivated

it on four bighas of land," Moyer Uddin of Patabuka village in Panchbibi upazila said.

Khabir Uddin of the same village, who cultivated arum on four bighas of land this year, said, "Arum production continues for six months at least. Five to six thousand saplings are required for cultivating arum on one bigha of land."

During a visit to locala market it was found that arum shoot was selling at Tk 20 to 25 a kg, depending on quality and sizes.



PHOTO: STAR

Balighata market beside Hakimpur-Joypurhat road in Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat district sees huge supply of arum stem, locally known as kochur loti, as farmers from different areas of the upazila bring the popular nutritious item to the market for sale.

## Enjoy Golf in Kunming !!!

Jinghua Bangla Tours & Travels Ltd.  
Premier Tour Operator in Bangladesh

- Kunming Dianchi Lakeview Golf Club: www.lakeview.cn
- + Kunming Wanda Golf Club: www.wandagolf.com
- + Dinosaur Valley Sightseeing
- 3N4D: From BDT 99,900\*/pax

### Package Inclusive:

- 3 Nights 4 Star Hotel
- Accommodations Twin Sharing Basis with Breakfast
- Return Airfare & Tax
- Airport Transfer
- China Visa
- 2 Course of 18-Hole Green Golf Play with one lunch for golfer (Free Golfer Facilities except Golf club Sets and Golf Shoes)
- Dinosaur Valley One Day Sightseeing and Free Rides
- Guide & Transportation
- Please Contact with us for More and More Different Chinese Golf Club and Worldwide Tour Package.
- Conditions Applied

Dinosaur Valley  
For Details please visit:  
www.konglonggu.com



Jinghua Bangla Tours & Travels Ltd

Sheba House (5th Floor), House # 34, Road # 46, Gulshan-2, Dhaka.  
Tel: +88-02-8820440, +88-02-8814834, +88-02-8814836, +88-02-9896894  
Mobile: 0175884585, Fax: +88-02-9862363

Web: www.jinghuabanglatours.com, www.jhbtours.com