

# Tree felling fest on

Trader purchases 35 roadside dead trees on auction, cuts down 10 living ones besides those in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Pabna

A timber trader with the connivance of an employee of Pabna Zila Parishad felled at least ten roadside mahogany trees illegally at Haripur in Chatmohar upazila of the district in the last seven days.

The zila parishad recently auctioned 35 dead trees along Zonail-Haripur Road and local timber trader Md Sher Mahmud got those as the highest bidder. After getting permission to cut down the trees, he engaged labourers who started felling trees on Tuesday last.

But Sher Mahmud with the help of zila parishad employee Md Ashrafur Islam cut down eight roadside mahogany trees along with the dead trees at dead of night.

The matter came to the notice of the local people on Thursday afternoon when the labourers of Sher Mahmud cut down two big mahogany trees in Haripur Bazar area.

They prevented the labourers from felling both dead and living trees and informed the union parishad chairman of the matter. Being informed, Haripur UP Chairman Md Mokbul Hossain reached the spot and took the two felled trees to the union parishad complex.

The chairman also stopped felling anymore roadside trees and informed the zila parishad administrator of the matter.

Chairman Mokbul said the zila parishad issued work order to cut down 35 dead trees along Zonail-Haripur Road, but timber trader Md Sher Mahmud in collusion with zila parishad employee Md Ashrafur Islam felled at least ten mahogany trees along with the dead ones.



PHOTO: STAR



Labourers engaged by a timber trader saw a felled roadside mahogany tree into logs and cut down another one at Haripur in Chatmohar upazila of Pabna district. The photos were taken a few days ago.

Sher Mahmud refuted the allegation, saying that he cut down dead trees along the road. He declined to say anything about felling of mahogany trees.

Contacted, Pabna Zila

Parishad Administrator Md Saidul Haque Chunnu said we gave permission to cut down 35 identified dead trees, but the trader felled some valuable trees roadside trees, violating rules.

Zila parishad employee Asrafur's involvement in the criminal act was found in the preliminary investigation and departmental action would be taken against him, the administrator said.

## SALINE WATER ENTERS THRU' DAMAGED DYKE

# Aman farming on vast areas of Patuakhali uncertain

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Aman cultivation on around 40 thousand hectares of land in Kalapara upazila under the district faces uncertainty as the farmlands are flooded by saline water entering through the damaged parts of flood control embankments during high tides.

About five km areas of the embankment have collapsed and more 13 km areas are under threat in the upazila, said locals and sources of Water Development Board (WDB).

About 1.5 km flood control embankment at Char Kazal launch ghat area has been totally washed away in the river and more three km embankment in the area is under threat.

The Ramnabad River washed away about 2 km area of the embankment in Gazir Khal and Munshipara area at Lualia village under the upazila while more five km embankment area remains highly vulnerable.

"Our farmlands are becoming unfit for cultivation of aman paddy as saline water floods the lands during high tides," said Asmat Ali, 60, a farmer of Chowdhuripara area.

Altaf Hossain and Majed Sikder of the same village



PHOTO: STAR

A portion of the flood control dyke has been washed away in Nizampur area of Mohipur village in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali, allowing saline water to enter the crop fields.

said they would be deprived of aman paddy if saline water regularly enters their farmland.

"Frequent flooding by saline water decreases fertility of agricultural lands and gradually it becomes unfit for crop production," said Md Nizam Uddin, chairman of agro-chemistry department of Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU). Rezaul Karim Biswas, chairman of Lualia union parishad (UP), said most

agriculture lands in the union are affected by saline water as the flood control embankment breached at four points.

"We already sent letters to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Patuakhali and to water resource ministry demanding necessary step to repair the damaged embankment," he said.

Abdul Maleq Akon, chairman of Khaprabhang UP, said, "Farmlands in this area usually produce one crop a

year. Farmers will badly suffer if saline water entering through damaged parts of embankments floods the lands regularly."

Md Safi Uddin, executive engineer of WDB in Kalapara, said, "Repair of the damaged embankments will not be possible this year as this is the rainy season. We have already sent letters to the ministry concerned praying for allocation of Tk 13 crore for the purpose."

## Case against FF protested

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Kushtia

Several hundred freedom fighters formed a human chain in the district town yesterday, demanding withdrawal of 'false' cases filed against an FF by a woman.

They also submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner in favour of their demand.

The participants at the programme alleged that on the night of April 1, 2011, the son of the plaintiff of Baradi village in Sadar upazila, entered the residence of a housewife at the village and tried to assault her sexually.

Hearing the hue and cry, neighbours rushed to the spot and caught the accused red-handed and beat him mercilessly, leaving him dead on the spot.

Following the incident, mother of the deceased filed a case with Kushtia Model police station accusing 11 people, including freedom fighter Jamal Uddin of the village.

Later, the woman filed 11 cases more against Jamal and his family members, said the freedom fighters.

The cases are false filed only to harass Jamal, they said.

Contacted, police superintendent Mofiz Uddin Ahmed said police were probing the allegations before going into action.



PHOTO: STAR

People of low-income groups buy clothes for their near and dear ones from roadside hawkers at cheaper rates ahead of Eid in Jhenidah town yesterday.

## Detained BSF man returned

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Chapainawabganj

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) yesterday handed over a member of Border Security Force (BSF), who was held on intrusion charge Saturday night, to Indian authorities after a flag meeting here.

A BGB team held the BSF man from Kironganj frontier of Shibganj upazila.

The detainee was identified as, Bijoy Singh, 30, of Churi Anantapur camp

under 125 BSF Battalion of Maldah in Paschim Banga.

Lt. Col Manzurul Alam, Commanding Officer of 9 BGB battalion in Chapainawabganj said, acting on a tip off, a BGB team of Kironganj border observation post caught Bijoy with the help of local people, some 500 yards away from the main pillar no 178 when he was entering Bangladesh territory along with a rifle and 18 bullets at around 11:00 pm.

The BSF jawan said he was chasing a group of smugglers and had mistakenly entered Bangladesh territory.

The BSF man was returned after a battalion commander level flag meeting between the BGB and BSF at zero line of Kironganj frontier of Shibganj upazila yesterday afternoon.

Lt. Col Manzurul Alam and Commandant of 125 BSF Battalion from Maldah in Paschim Banga AS Debas led their respective sides.

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