

# Sugar mills defer crushing dates due to blockades

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Joypurhat Sugar Mill could not start its 2013-14 season's cane crushing yesterday due to continuous blockade programme of BNP led 18-party alliances.

Dinajpur Sugar Mill also faced a similar uncertainty due to the political unrest, authorities said.

However, both the mills yesterday fixed their cane crushing date on December 13.

The mill authorities decided to suspend their operation for a week considering the security and risk of cane growers during the blockade programme of the opposition, said Abdus Salam, managing director of Joypurhat Sugar Mill.

On the other hand, the farmers expressed the fear that if their cane remains in the field for long, it would lose both quality and

weight.

According to Joypurhat Sugar Mill officials, the mill had a target to crush nearly 1,00,000 metric tonnes of sugarcane this season to produce around 7,000 metric tonnes sugar.

Dinajpur Sugar Mill, located in Bochaganj upazila of Dinajpur, had targeted to crush 60,000 metric tonnes of sugarcane to produce around 6,525 sugar, officials said.

The operational time of both the sugar mills was 60 days, they said.

Meanwhile, sugar worth Tk. 70 crore of Dinajpur and Joypurhat Sugar Mills remained unsold for lack of buyers.

Officials said, Joypurhat Sugar Mill has 7,446 metric tonnes of unsold sugar worth Tk. 37 crore while

Dinajpur Sugar Mill has 6,707 metric tonnes of unsold sugar worth Tk. 33 crore produced during the

last crushing season.

The mills apprehend that they will face space problem with the starting of cane crushing season. Both the mills have a total warehouse capacity of around 10,000 metric tonnes, officials said.

The authorities claim that the dealers are not interested to lift sugar from these sugar mills as imported refined sugar is available in the local market at cheaper rates.

The unsold sugar has already created financial problems at the sugar mills.

The mills could not make payment to cane growers, officials and workers of last season for fund shortage as sugar remained unsold, officials said.

The two sugar mills have to bear a burden of at least Tk. 200 crore loss, they said.



Farmers besiege a dealer's outlet at Darukuti Bazar in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila on Friday as fertiliser is being sold there at double the government-fixed rates, right, stage a demonstration on the same issue on Lalmonirhat-Burimari Road in Hatibandha upazila of the district yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

## Fertiliser price hike sparks protest in Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Farmers in Sadar and Hatibandha upazilas staged demonstrations yesterday and the day before, protesting sale of fertiliser by the authorised dealers at prices higher than those fixed by the government.

In Sadar upazila, several hundred farmers on Friday confined a fertiliser dealer to his shop at Durakuti Bazar for four hours and also blocked Lalmonirhat-Mogholhat Road for two hours.

Farmer Haider Ali, 38, of Durakuti village in Sadar upazila said he has purchased per kg of urea for Tk 29 against the government fixed price of Tk 14, TSP for Tk 42 against the government fixed price of Tk 20 and DAP for Tk 50 against the fixed rate of Tk 25 from dealer Rafiqul Islam's shop at the bazar.

"Taking advantage of opposition sponsored blockade, the dealer has created arti-

cial crisis of different types of fertiliser and is selling those at higher prices," he alleged.

On the same issue, farmers of Goddimari and Singimari villages in Hatibandha upazila staged a demonstration on Lalmonirhat-Burimari highway yesterday for two hours from 8:00am.

A group of unscrupulous dealers are selling fertilisers at higher rates, showing a cause of stock shortage at government godown, they said.

Fertiliser dealer Rafiqul Islam of Durakuti Bazar under Sadar upazila said our stock is nearly exhausted as we could not lift fertiliser from the godown due to road blockade programme.

Contacted, Assistant Director Abdul Goni of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) in Lalmonirhat said there is no stock shortage in the godown.

## SNIPPETS

### AL office torched

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Criminals set fire to the Gunaritola union Awami League (AL) office in Madarganj upazila of the district early yesterday. Police and local AL sources said, a gang torched the tin-roofed party office some time between 2.00am and 3.00am, leaving the office along with two steel-made almirahs, a television set and furniture completely burnt. Property worth over Tk 3 lakh has been damaged, said Joyal Abedin Ayna, organising secretary of the upazila unit AL and also chairman of Gunaritola union. Activists of local BNP set the party office ablaze, Ayna suspected. Being informed, police went to the spot in the morning. No case was filed with Madarganj police station till filing this report at 4.30 pm.

### BCL leader of HSTU stabbed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Criminals stabbed the general secretary of BCL at Haje Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) on Friday evening. Injured Arun Kanti Roy is a PhD student. The criminals also damaged a pickup van of the university. Witnesses said, Arun along with his wife went to visit the Kantajew temple on Friday afternoon. While he was returning to campus by the van, the criminals, armed with sharp weapons, attacked and stabbed him indiscriminately near the temple around 5.30pm. Later, locals rushed him to Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital where he underwent a 3-hour surgery. Iftekharul Islam Real, president of HSTU BCL, claimed that the Jamaat-Shibir men attacked Arun. However, police are yet to be sure about the identity of the criminals.

### Hartal in Munshiganj today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

District Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders yesterday called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the district today, demanding release of the central leaders of the student wing of the opposition BNP. A meeting held at district BNP office and led by district unit JCD chief Jasim Uddin and secretary Masud Rana yesterday announced the hartal programme.

## Jumma people will disappear if CHT peace accord not fully implemented

Santu Larma warns

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) chief Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma yesterday said that the existence of jumma people will be at stake if the peace accord is not fully implemented.

He said this at a view-exchange meeting organised by Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Regional Council in the conference room of Rangamati Hill District Council.

Sixteen years have gone but major provisions of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) peace deal are still remain unimplemented, said Jyotirindra, popularly known as Santu Larma.

About a claim by the government that 48 out of 72 clauses of the accord have been implemented, Santu Larma said the AL government is confusing people about progress of the accord through falsehood.

"After signing of the CHT peace treaty in 1997, the then AL government remained in power for about four years, but Sheikh Hasina said that her govern-



Santu Larma

ment did not get adequate time for full execution of the accord," said the former guerrilla leader.

He said the CHT problem is a national issue, not local or regional one. So, it must be solved politically. Santu Larma urged all progressive, democratic and non-communal parties to come forward to save the existence and ensure rights of Jumma people

He urged the indigenous people to get united for movement if they are to sustain their existence

Some hundred participants, including political leaders, public representatives, layers and journalists from three hill districts took part in the meeting.

## 48 challenge

FROM PAGE 16 continue till Thursday, he added.

About 1,107 nomination papers were submitted to returning officers for 300 constituencies across the country. The returning officers cancelled nominations of 260 polls aspirants on different grounds.

About army deployment, Sirajul said the EC is yet to take the decision when the letter seeking deployment of army will be sent to the Armed Forces Division.

Meanwhile, the commission has decided not to use the recently-imported 40,000 ballot boxes in the national election, stating these boxes are not enough transparent. The UNDP provided the boxes for the EC under a project.

"The boxes received are less translucent than the sample. So, the boxes do not match with the specifications. For this reason, the Election Commission has taken the decision not to accept these ballot boxes," said an EC letter sent to the UNDP country director in Bangladesh.

But the commission has requested the UNDP to provide 10,000 more ballot boxes for the EC by December 23, said the EC officials.

The visiting UN Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs, Oscar Fernández-Taranco, will hold a meeting with Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad at his EC office today.

The EC yesterday sent a letter to Dhaka Metropolitan Police, asking to strengthen its security.

## EIGHT YEARS AFTER NETRAKONA JMB BLAST Killers still remain unpunished

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

On this day in 2005, nine people were killed and over 50 others injured in a suicide bombing by Islamist outfit Jamaatul Mujahideen, Bangladesh (JMB), in front of Udichi office at Azahar Road in the town.

Three people killed on the spot are Khwaza Haider, 38, joint secretary of Netrakona Udichi Shilpi Goshti, Rani Begum, 35, wife of a police sub-inspector and beggar Jinal, 55.

Six others who succumbed to their injuries on the way to or at hospitals here and in Mymensingh are Yadob Das, 28, Rais Uddin, 35, Ashab Uddin, 40, Jahanara Begum, 45, Sudipta Paul Shelly, 28, organising secretary of Netrakona Udichi and an unidentified bomber.

But eight years into the incident, neither the families of the deceased got compensation nor any government official visited the bereaved.

During a visit to the house of Shahanaz Begum, 31, wife of Khwaza Haider, this correspondent came to know that her family is yet to get any monetary help from the government.

"No minister, not even the Netrakona deputy commissioner (DC) visited my house," she said.

Shahanaz, mother of two children--Shiplu, 16, and



STAR FILE PHOTO

### Two Netrakona JMB blast victims-Sudipta Paul Shelly and Khwaza Haider-leaders of local Udichi Shilpi Goshti.

Shaon, 8,-- maintains a family of four including her elderly mother-in-law.

"We have become simply helpless after the death of Haider as he was the only earning member of the family," she said.

In reply to a question she said, "I do not feel like seeking any help from the government because of its failure to punish the culprits involved with the killing."

Udichi leader Sudipta Paul Shelly was also the lone earning member of her family. After her death, Shelly's old parents Sushil Paul, 69, and Aruna Paul, 59, along with her ailing brother have also become totally helpless. All of them live at a rented house. They also did not get any help from the government.

During a visit, this correspondent found Aruna Paul suffering from a serious disease

but unable to buy medicine for want of money. This correspondent also visited the houses of other victims -- Rani Begum, Jinal, Raisuddin, Yadav Das and Jahanara and talked to their family members. All of them told similar tales.

On 17 February, 2008, Speedy Tribunal Court-2 Dhaka sentenced three JMB bombers to death for their involvement with Netrakona blast.

They are Salah Uddin, Ashaduzzaman and Yunus. But the verdict is yet to be executed. On the other hand, police failed to arrest bomber Yunus till today, said Golam Mohammad Khan Pathan Bimol, public prosecutor of Netrakona Judge's Court.

Netrakona Udichi Shilpi Goshti has taken up various programmes including a protest procession and a discussion meeting to observe the day.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

National Board of Revenue Shegunbagicha, Dhaka-1000

## Corrigendum

This is notify that the last date of submission of Expression of Interest (EOI) against our EOI reference Memo No. 08.01.0000.068.11.005.12.(15)-17, Dated: 12.11.2013 for selection of consultancy firm has been extended to 31 December 2013. It is to be noted that in Serial No. 19, column 6th of the said memo, it should be read as "indicative end date" instead of "indicative start date". All other condition of the notification remain unchanged.

**Dr. Md. Abdur Rouf**  
Deputy Project Director  
VAT and SD Act, 2012 Implementation Project (VAT Online)  
National Board of Revenue  
GD-4693 Dhaka, Bangladesh

## 2 'JCD men' held

FROM PAGE 16 blockade of roads, rail and waterways by the BNP-led 18-party opposition alliance ended at 5:00am the following day.

Caught on fire, driver Mahbub Hasan lost control of the steering and the bus, carrying about 50 passengers, hit the road divider.

Most of the passengers jumped out of the vehicle through windows.

Quoting the arrestees, DB official Monirul Islam said some seven to eight miscreants gathered at the Suhrawardy Udyan in the afternoon on that fateful day.

After the Maghrib prayers, the group took position on the footpath and the road divider.

As the bus approached them, miscreants tried to stop it and blasted a petrol bomb on the windowpane of the driver's side and fled the scene.

Uzzal and Sohel, along with a few others of the gang, had been carrying out such

acts of sabotage on instructions of their senior leaders, mentioned Monirul.

Led by Uzzal, a group of eight to 10 people carried out such attacks in different parts of the capital, including Bangshal, Kotwali, Sutrapur, Paltan, Motijheel, Ramna and Shahabagh, over the last few months, he added.

The Daily Star could not independently verify the accounts of the two arrestees.

Earlier, law enforcers arrested BNP Vice-president Sadeque Hossain Khoka and Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed for their alleged involvement in the November 28 arson.

Police on the same day had filed a case against 16 opposition leaders, including BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, for torching the bus.

Fakhru, however, blamed government agencies and ruling Awami League men for the attack.

# TENDER

Sealed Quotations are invited from bona fide Dealers/Shops/Suppliers to purchase:

1. Clinical Equipment	3. Promotional Gift Item	5. IT Equipment
2. Office Furniture	4. Printing Material	6. Colposcope & Cryotherapy

## SCHEDULE

1. Tender No.	: FPAB/3602/2013, Dated 05.12.13
2. Time and last date of issue of Bid Documents	: Up to 12.00 AM of 15.12.2013
3. Time and last date of depositing Tender/Bid	: 5.00 PM of 15.12.2013
4. Details list	: 1. Clinical Equipment 2. Office Furniture 3. Promotional Gift Item 4. Printing Material 5. IT Equipment & Services 6. Colposcope & Cryotherapy
5. Earnest money deposit	: 2.5% earnest money against quoted amount
6. Last date of supply	: 07 days after work order
7. Mode of payment	: Crossed Cheque

Intending eligible bidders may obtain Bid Document from **Finance Department of FPAB** on payment of Tk. 500/- (Taka Five Hundred) and only for Colposcope & Cryotherapy Tk. 1,000/- (Taka One Thousand) (non-refundable) on all working days up to **12.00 AM of 15.12.2013**. Bidders shall have to deposit 2.5% earnest money against quoted amount as Bid security in the form of Demand Draft obtained from any scheduled Bank in favour of FPAB along with the bid document. FPAB reserves the right to reject or cancel any bid or entire tender without assigning any reasons.

A F M Matiur Rahman Ph.D  
Executive Director  
FPAB, 2 Naya Paltan, Dhaka 1000

www.fpab.org