

SNIPPETS

Jubo League men held with arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Natore*

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two Jubo League men along with arms, bullets and yaba tablets in Hugolbaria area of the town on Tuesday night. The arrestees are Sahjahan Kabir alias Kazi Selim, 38, finance secretary of Natore district unit Jubo League and its activist Rezaul Karim, 35, son of Suruj Mian of Sadar upazila. Major Abdur Rahim, company commander of Rab-5, said on secret information, a team raided the area and arrested the duo. They also recovered two foreign made pistols, 11 bullets, three magazines, 24 pieces of yaba tablets and 19 mobile SIM cards.

Indian held for intrusion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushitia*

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) arrested an Indian national on intrusion charge at Challishpara frontier in Daulatpur upazila on Tuesday night. Meanwhile, Indian Border Security Force (BSF) picked up a Bangladeshi cattle trader from the border point yesterday. Habildar Abdul Ohwab, in-charge of Ramkrishnapur camp, said they caught Abdul Hannan Mandol, 32, son of Azit Ali Mandol of Sarkarpara under Jalangi police station in Murshidabad district of Pashchimbanga, at 8:30pm while he was entering Bangladesh through the border illegally. On the other hand, a BSF team from Jalangi camp caught Hablu Hossain, 42, son of Reyat Ali of Challishpara, early yesterday when he crossed the border area to bring his cattle.

'Arrest Sujon's killers'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Natore*

A human chain was formed in Kanaikhali area of the town yesterday, demanding immediate arrest of the killers of local JCD leader Saifuzzaman Sujon. The district unit BNP and its associate organizations organised the programme. On December 2, Sujon was killed in a fierce clash between the activists of BNP and AL in the area, said the participants. Secretary of Natore district unit BNP Aminul Haq, its organising secretary Kazi Shah Alam, district Jubo Dal president Saiful Islam Aftab, its secretary Babul Chowdhury, Sujon's brother Shahiduzzaman and wife Masuma Akter, took part in the programme.

Cocktail attacks protested

BAU CORRESPONDENT

A section of teachers at Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) yesterday formed a human chain protesting cocktail attack on the residences of their two fellows on the campus. They also demanded beefing up security in the residential area of teachers. Bangladesh Agricultural University Teachers' Association (BAUTA) organised the programme. On Friday afternoon, criminals hurled several cocktails at the houses of pro-Awami League teachers Prof Emdadul Haque Chowdhury and Prof Md Abu Hadi Noor Ali Khan.

Leadership crisis in JP

FROM PAGE 16

Secretary General Ruhul Amin Hawlader or Raushan Ershad or GM Quader or Ziauddin Bablu? We don't know," a JP leader told The Daily Star yesterday.

Another JP leader, wishing anonymity, said apparently the government was controlling the JP through an intelligence agency which had "picked up Ershad" from his Baridhara residence and took him to the CMH "for treatment" on December 12.

Two JP presidium members close to Ershad told The Daily Star that though the government earlier wanted to send the JP chief abroad, it now has backed out of the plan thinking that Ershad might make anti-government statements from abroad.

Besides, the move to send the former president abroad forcefully would tarnish the image of the government.

So the government will keep Ershad under surveillance at the CMH, mentioned the JP leaders.

However, JP presidium member Kazi Firoz Rashid told newsmen that Ershad would not go abroad.

"The party chief will receive treatment at the CMH," he said after meeting Raushan Ershad at her Gulshan residence.

On December 13, Ershad, through his special adviser Bobby Hajaj, told media that he was well and the government had confined him to the CMH for arrest as he did not agree to participate in the January 5 general election.

Bobby, who allegedly was forced to leave the country on Monday, also said Ershad nominated him as the party's spokesperson. Ruhul Amin Hawlader and GM Quader would give instructions to the party leaders and activists in absence of the JP chief, he added.

"But the reality is we go to Hawlader's residence in the morning and then to Raushan Ershad's in the afternoon as we believe she and Ziauddin Bablu are playing key roles behind the scene to maintain liaison with the government," a mid-level JP leader told this newspaper.

On November 18, Ershad announced to quit the ruling alliance, but joined the "polls-time government" the same day. He also declared that his party would contest the polls independently.

But in a dramatic move on December 3, the former military autocrat changed his mind and declared to boycott the election, saying that a proper atmosphere for the election was missing.

Despite the government's repeated efforts, the JP chairman did not change his decision.

Meanwhile, Ershad held a meeting with party Secretary General Ruhul Amin Hawlader at the CMH at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday evening, said JP sources.

Tobacco cultivation in Lalmonirhat doubles

Alarming increase in a year

S DILIP ROY, *Lalmonirhat*

A staggering 50 thousand hectares of land in the district has been brought under tobacco cultivation against last year's 25 thousand hectares, said sources of agriculture department, tobacco companies and farmers.

Farming of the harmful item sees an alarming rise in a number of villages in five upazilas under Lalmonirhat district as tobacco companies conduct successful door to door campaign to motivate farmers for the purpose.

Azizar Rahman, 60, of Baninagar village of Kaliganj upazila for the first time cultivated tobacco on his three acres of land that was earlier used to produce paddy.

Like Azizar, around two thousand farmers in the district have got their names listed as new tobacco growers with hope to get high profit.

"Seeing my neighbour's good earning from tobacco farming last year, I have now prepared my three hectares of land for the same purpose as paddy farming earlier failed to bring me expected profit," said Anwar Hossain, a farmer at Karnapur village in Lalmonirhat Sadar.

"We the tobacco growers always get seed, fertiliser and other inputs and technical support from the tobacco companies. After yield, the companies purchase the item for good prices," said Ashraf Ali, who has continued tobacco cultivation for the last 20 years at Saptibari village in Aditmari upazila.

"We get support includ-



PHOTO: STAR

Farmers busy planting tobacco at field of Karnapur village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila. Cultivation of the harmful crop doubled in the district in the last one year to around 50 thousand hectares as the growers get high profit from it.

ing interest-free loan from the company in our crisis period," said tobacco grower Nazrul Islam at Sarpukur village in Aditmari upazila.

The area of tobacco farming has almost doubled at Karnapur village this year and the farm labourers daily wage has risen to Tk 250 from last year's Tk 200, said farm labourers Meher Ali, Shamsheer Miah, Narayan Das, Manik Chandra, Taslim Uddin, Liakot Hossain and others.

Most of the farmers do not know the harmful effect

of tobacco cultivation on the soil but agriculture officials hardly come to make farmers aware about it, said farmer Haider Ali at Kakina village of Kaliganj upazila.

Tobacco growers cultivate the item from late November to middle December and harvest it in the last week of February to first week of March. They get 45 to 70 maunds of yield from each hectare of land and one maund (40 kg) tobacco is sold for Tk 3,000 to Tk 4,000.

Six tobacco companies

work in the field level in Lalmonirhat district round the year and they often make advance payment for the cultivation, farmers said.

Expressing deep concern over large-scale tobacco cultivation on paddy lands, Abdul Mazid, deputy director in Lalmonirhat DAE, said his department always conduct campaigns to build up awareness among the farmers but they forget the matter later due to temptation of high profit.

Panchagarh Sugar Mills also stops cane crushing

Opposition refuses to keep sugarcane vehicles out of purview of blockade

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*

Panchagarh Sugar Mills also suspended cane crushing yesterday for disruption in supply of sugarcanes due to the ongoing BNP-led 18-party sponsored 72-hour blockade.

Earlier, production at Thakurgaon Sugar Mills came to a halt on Tuesday.

The authorities of the two mills expressing worry said they would not be able to achieve production target if such situation continues.

Despite good production of sugarcane, the Panchagarh mill authorities cannot collect raw materials from their 30 purchase centres under five upazilas due to blockade.

Managing Director (MD) of Panchagarh Sugar Mill SM Abdur Rashid said they started the season's sugarcane crushing on Friday.

Till yesterday morning, the mill produced 71 tonnes of sugar by crushing 2,600 tonnes of sugarcanes.

The production target was fixed at 5250 tonnes of sugar by crushing 75,000 tonnes of sugarcanes in the current season.

The mill was set to continue its operation for 75 days during the current season, he said.

About 7,500 acres of land have been brought under sugarcane cultivation against the target of 10,000 acres with the production target of 1 lakh tonnes of sugarcanes.

The mill provided Tk. 62,06,000 subsidy to about 2100 sugarcane farmers of Panchagarh Sugar

Mill's zone, said Shamsul Haque, GM (agriculture) of the mill.

President of Panchagarh Sugarcane Growers' Association Abdul Aziz told this correspondent that they told the BNP-Jamaat leader to keep the sugarcane vehicles out of the purview of blockade but the parties are yet to take steps in this regard.

The cane crushing began around 15 to 20 days late this year.

If the mill fails to collect sugarcanes from the growers in time, the farmers will incur a huge loss as the weight of sugarcanes will reduce significantly due to dry season, he said.

General secretary of Thakurgaon district unit BNP Taimur Rahman said he discussed the matter with the district party leaders on Tuesday night where they refused to keep the sugarcane vehicles out of the purview of blockade.

Contacted, president of Thakurgaon Sugarcane Farmers' Association Ruhul Amin told this correspondent that they will go for a tougher agitation soon to continue the mill's operation and collect sugarcanes from growers in time in a bid to save farmers from huge losses.

Managing Director of Thakurgaon Sugar Mills Ltd. SM Abdul Aziz told this correspondent over cell phone that the mill's authorities and the growers were trying to convince the opposition as the mills and farmers would face losses due to interruption of production.

Missing youth found murdered

UNB, *Comilla*

The body of a young man, who went missing from Senbagh area in Noakhali on December 12, was found floating in a pond at Nashratpur village in Laksham upazila of Comilla yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mamun, 23, son of Amir Hossain of Khajuria village in Senbagh upazila.

Family members said Mamun remained missing since he went out of their house at around 12 noon on December 13.

Abul Khayer, officer-in-charge of Laksam Police Station, said local people spotted the floating body of Mamun at noon and informed the police.

Police went to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy. Law enforcers are trying to unearth clue to the murder, the OC said.

KAWER CHAR HAS NO TUBE-WELL

3000 villagers use water from 200 deep holes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Patuakhali*

People of Kawer Char, a village adjacent to the Bay under Kalapara upazila of the district, face acute crisis of safe drinking water in the winter as there is no tube-well in the area.

About 3,000 villagers, mostly fishermen, have to collect salty water from over 200 deep holes they made on the sandy land.

Many people, including children, suffer from various water-borne diseases as they drink impure and salty water. Mahinur Begum, a housewife, said.

"We collect salty water from a hole that we have dug on the sandy land and use this water for drinking, cooking and other household works," she

told this correspondent during his recent visit to the area.

Minara Begum, another housewife, said they are suffering from various water borne diseases like dysentery and diarrhoea as they have no other alternative but to drink impure and salty water.

At least 40 children suffered from diarrhea and dysentery in the last one month for drinking salty and impure water from holes, villager Alauddin said, adding that the families could not provide medicines for their affected children as they live hand-to-mouth.

"We face acute crisis of safe drinking water in the winter season for want of tube-wells. Water that we collect from holes is unfit to drink, he said.

Khaliquzzaman Khalifa, chairman of Dhulashar Union Parishad (UP), said people of Kawer Char under the union are facing acute crisis of safe drinking water in the current winter season as there is no tube wells in the area.

"We requested the upazila administration several times to ensure safe drinking water for the villagers by sinking tube-wells, but to no effect," the chairman told the correspondent.

The water in the holes contains bacteria and arsenic and unfit for human consumption,



PHOTO: STAR

A housewife at Kawer Char village in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali collects water from a deep hole made on the sandy land as people of the village face acute crisis of water in the winter season for want of tube-wells in the area.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Dist: Pirojpur

Memo: No-LGED/XEN/PIROJ/2013/3195

Dated: 17.12.2013

e-Tender Notice No-09/2013-2014

e-Tender is hereby invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of works under the South-Western Bangladesh Rural Development Project (Tender ID No: 3898 & 4018). This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (<http://eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches up to 15.01.2014.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and from e-GP help Desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Md. Rafiqul Hasan  
Executive Engineer  
LGED, Pirojpur

GD-4842



Vacancy Announcement

Promotion of Development and Confidence Building in the Chittagong Hill Tracts

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces vacancy for the following position for "Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility" under "Service Contract" modality. The duration of the contract is one year initially and subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance and availability of Funds.

1. Programme Officer-Communications and Outreach - 1 Position

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/operations/jobs/>. Hard copy of the TOR can be collected from UNDP-CHTDF Offices of Dhaka, Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban. Applications should be submitted no later than January 05, 2014.

"Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Submitted documents will not be returned to the applicants"

"Qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply"



UNDP

Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.