



PHOTO: STAR

Criminals went into an orgy of destruction at a betel plantation belonging to indigenous Khasi people at Kalenji Punjee in Adampur union of Kamalganj upazila under Moulvibazar district on Friday night.

Criminals cut down 1,000 betel plants in Khasi village

MINU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Criminals cut down over one thousand betel plants at Kalenji Punjee in Adampur union of Kamalganj upazila under the district on Friday night.

Seventy to eighty criminals attacked Kalenji Punjee betel plant around 10:00pm and cut down one thousand betel plants

there, causing loss of Tk 30 lakh, indigenous people told this correspondent during his visit to the spot yesterday.

"I have never seen such a heinous act in my life. All my investment has lost," said Immanuel 40, a betel garden owner of the village.

"We demand immediate arrest and exemplary

punishment of the people involved in the heinous act," said Night Kharem, head of Kalenji punjee.

"The attack on the betel leaf gardens, the only source of income of the Khasis, also badly affects local environment," said Father Joseph Gomes, central committee member of BAPA.

Kamalganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer Jahidul Islam Miah said he will give legal support for the affected Khasi people.

Md Enamul Haque, officer in charge of Kamalganj Police Station, said, We visited the spot on Friday night. We will investigate the matter and take legal action against the culprits."

Arms, ammo seized in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members in separate drives seized firearms, ammunition, crude bombs and detained an alleged arms trader from Mirpur and Daulatpur upazilas early yesterday.

Ali Haider Choudhury, commanding officer of Rab-12 in Kushtia, said being tipped-off, a team of the elite force raided Sholabil area in Mirpur upazila while they were taking preparation to commit robbery around 4:30am.

However, sensing the presence of the Rab team, the gang members fled the scene. Later, Rab seized a rifle, a pipe-gun, seven bullets and eight bombs from the spot.

Away in Daulatpur, a team of the law enforcers raided the house of one Kamol-al-Biplob at Bhagjote village around 5:30am.

Later, searing his bedroom, Rab members recovered a foreign made pistol and two bullets and arrested Biplob.

JCD infighting leaves 12 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Two factions of JCD Bishwanath upazila unit clashed yesterday, leaving at least 12 people from both sides injured.

Police said convener of the upazila JCD Matiur Rahman Sumon took out a procession from Notun Bazar area at around 3:00pm, welcoming the newly formed convening committee of the unit.

Their rivals led by Shah Amir Uddin started hurling brick chips on the processionists, leading to a clash between the two rival groups.

Rain adds to woe of cold-affected people

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Light rain coupled with cold wind disrupted normal life in Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts in the last two days.

People from all walks of life, especially day labourers, rickshawpullers, students and farm workers, were the worst sufferers of the inclement weather.

The lowest temperature was recorded at 13 degrees Celsius while rainfall was 24.4 millimetres in Thakurgaon yesterday, said an official of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE).

Azim Uddin, 46, a rickshawpuller of the district town, said "Although it was very tough to pull rick-

shaw amid cold and drizzle, I had to go outside to run my five-member family during the period."

Upen Chandra Barman, 50, a day labourer of Khochabari village in Sadar upazila, who waited at Thakurgaon Intersection in the town for works, said he was yet to get any work due to bad weather."

Besides, shopkeepers in the town were passing idle time due to lack of customers, said locals.

Contacted, Thakurgaon Deputy Commissioner Mukesh Chandra Biswas said the district administration already distributed over 10,000 warm clothes like blankets and shawls among the cold-affected people.

In Panchagarh, the

movement of townspeople was very thin due to the bone chilling cold and light rain.

Patients, especially children and elderly people, thronged the Sadar Hospital with complaints of cold-related diseases, like pneumonia and cold diarrhoea.

As the people were forced to stay indoors, businesses and official activities were seriously hampered.

DC Mohamud Salahuddin said, "We have already distributed around 15,000 pieces of blankets and mufflers in the cold-affected villages of five upazilas."

Thakurgaon Deputy Director of DAE Bhupesh Kumar Mondal said the light rain is yet to affect crops.



PHOTO: STAR

Clad in warm clothes and raincoat, a farmer carries vegetables on a bicycle amid drizzle on the road in front of Thakurgaon Polytechnic Institute yesterday. The rain starting on Friday night disrupted normal life in the cold-hit northern districts.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

15 gamblers fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A mobile court fined 15 gamblers Tk 100 each in Aditmari upazila of the district on Friday night. The convicts are president of district Bus-Minibus Sramik Union Amirul Islam, general secretary of district Truck and Tanklorry Sramik Union Abul Kalam Azad, Kabir Bahini's chief Humayun Kabir, Jahangir Alam Bosuniya, Shafiqul Islam, Rana Miah, Jahid Hossain, Ershad Miah, Mukul Miah, Mantu Miah, Rahedul Islam, Jamir Uddin, Islam Uddin, Abdul Quayum and Bhadu Miah of Aditmari and Lalmonirhat Sadar upazilas. Executive Magistrate Zahurul Islam led the court, said Aditmari police.

Robber hurt in clash with cops

UNB, Sathkira

An alleged robber was injured in a 'gunfight' between his cohorts and police in Palashpol area of the town early yesterday. The injured was identified as Mintu Sardar, 30, son of late Abdul Gaffar of the area. Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Golam Rahman said on secret information, a team of police conducted a drive in the area around 4:00 am. Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the robbers hurled some crude bombs at the law enforcers. In retaliation, police opened fire, triggering a gunfight that left Mintu injured. Police then arrested him from the spot and took him to Sadar Hospital.

Fire at puffed rice mill

UNB, Sathkira

A fire broke out at a puffed rice mill at Dhopadanga Bazar in Debhata upazila on Friday night. Fire service sources said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at Zaman Puffed Rice Mill around 10:30am and soon engulfed the entire mill. Being informed, two fire fighting units from Sadar and Kaliganj fire service stations rushed to the spot and doused the flame after one hour of frantic efforts with the help of locals. The extent of loss caused by the fire was estimated at Tk12 lakh.

Sramik Dal leader held

UNB, Bagerhat

Police arrested Jatiyatbadi Sramik Dal's district unit president Sardar Liakat Ali from in front of his house at VIP intersection in the town on Friday night. Bagerhat Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge Azam Ali Khan said on a tip-off, a team of police raided the area and arrested Sardar around 7:30 pm. He was arrested on suspicion that he might carry out subversive activities, the OC added.



PHOTO: STAR

Present and former students of Magura Government Boys' High School (former Magura Model High School) join a colourful procession in the town on Friday as the renowned institution organised a daylong programme marking its 160th founding anniversary.

BARISAL, RANGPUR CITY

Schoolteacher, college student murdered

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A schoolteacher and a college student were murdered at Shikarpur village under Uzirpur upazila of Barisal and in Rangpur city on Friday night.

The victims are Bipul Chakraborty, 57, an assistant teacher of Uzirpur Board Institution, and Dukhu Main, 20, a second year student of Rangpur Government College.

Quoting family members, our Barisal correspondent reported that Bipul came under attack by an unidentified gang while he was returning home from Shikarpur Tara Mandir at around 7:30pm. They gang hacked Bipul with sharp weapons and left the scene.

Police said locals rushed him to Uzirpur Upazila Health Complex where he died at around 8:30pm.

Bipul's nephew Asim Chakraborty said his uncle had a dispute with some locals over a land at Shikarpur village and he might have been killed as a sequel to that dispute.

Police recovering body yesterday morning and sent it to Barisal Sher-e- Bangla

Medical College Hospital for autopsy. No case was lodged with the police station concerned as of 5:00pm yesterday.

In Rangpur, college student Dukhu Main, 20, son of Shafiqul Islam of Bahar Kachna area, was murdered by unknown criminals on the same night.

Our Rangpur correspondent quoted family members as saying that Dukhu went missing when he went to Bahar Kachna Bazar on Friday evening.

Locals found Dukhu's body hanging from a tree behind a warehouse in the area yesterday morning and informed the police.

Police went to the spot, recovered the body and sent to Rangpur Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Md Abdul Qader Jilani, Officer-in-Charge of Rangpur Kotwali Police Station said the body bore several injury marks.

Police said they are trying to unearth clue to the murder. No one was arrested in connection with the murder as of 6:00pm yesterday.

FRIDAY'S CLASH WITH COPS

200 JCD men sued in Feni

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

At least 200 leaders and activists of Jatiyatbadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student front of BNP, were sued yesterday in connection with Friday's clash with law enforcers in the district town.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Kamal Hossain of Feni town Police Outpost filed the case with Model Police Station against 188 named and 20 unnamed JCD men.

In the case statement, police stated that the accused JCD men hurled crude bombs at police from a procession, obstructed the law enforcers from carrying out their duties and vandalised some vehicles and shops in the town,

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Feni Model Police Station Mahub Morshed said 57 people were arrested yesterday and on Friday night. The arrestees are among the 188 named accused. Police produced them in a court that sent them to prison.

A faction of the local unit of JCD brought out a procession on Friday afternoon on the occasion of the party's founding anniversary and locked in a clash with rival party men.

As police rushed to the spot, they clashed with the law enforcers and vandalised 20 to 25 vehicles and several shops.

Police fired tear gas shell and bullets from shot gun to bring the situation under control.

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Date: 31.12.2014

Memo No. 5-102/14-150 BMW

Notice for Invitation of Expression of Interest (EOI)

- The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB) has applied for a loan from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereinafter referred to as 'JICA') to finance the Western Bangladesh Bridge Improvement Project which is to promote reliable and efficient road transport network by replacing and constructing small and medium sized bridges mainly in Western Bangladesh, thereby contributing to socioeconomic development of the region. A portion of the proceeds of the loan is intended to be used for eligible payments for consulting services for which this EOI is issued.
- The project comprises the following components:
 - Construction of 50 concrete bridges in Western Bangladesh;
 - Construction of 10 steel bridges in Western Bangladesh;
 - Construction of a steel bridge in a new Economic Zone; The project is expected to be completed by March 2022; Executing Agency: Roads and Highways Department (RHD); Location of the Project: 5 RHD Zones in Western Bangladesh-Rangpur, Rajshahi, Gopalganj, Khulna and Barisal; and a new Economic Zone near Dhaka City; RHD will select and employ consultant for rendering consulting services of the project. Payments to the consultants will be made both in local and foreign currency.
- Roads and Highways Department (RHD) under Roads Transport and Highways Division (RTHD), Ministry of Road Transport and Bridges (MRTB), (hereinafter referred to as the 'Client') now invites Expression of Interest (EOI) in English from reputed international consulting firm(s), individual or in joint venture (hereinafter referred to as the 'Interested Consultant') for short-listing for the consulting services for Detailed Design and Construction Supervision under the proposed project. The International Consulting Firm(s) may submit the EOI in association with national consulting firms.
- As part of the services the consultant will conduct the following works:
 - Detailed Design;
 - Tender Assistance;
 - Construction Supervision;
 - Facilitation of Implementation of Environmental Management Plan (EMP), Environmental Monitoring Plan (EMoP) and Abbreviated Resettlement Plan (ARP);
 - Technology Transfer.

The above works include the following tasks:

 - Detailed Design
 - Review all primary and secondary data collected during JICA's preparatory survey;
 - Carry out all engineering surveys;
 - Prepare detailed work plan, progress reports and implementation schedule for the Project;
 - Prepare the detailed design including construction drawings, detailed cost estimates;
 - Define sources and estimated quantities of construction materials and other engineering details.
 - Tender Assistance
 - Prepare Pre-Qualification (PQ) documents, assist RHD during PQ evaluation;
 - Prepare bidding documents, assist RHD during bid evaluation and assist RHD in contract negotiations.
 - Construction Supervision
 - Supervise civil construction works and execute contract administration;
 - Regularly monitor progress and take actions required for timely completion of works;
 - Verify contractor's work statements and issue payment certificates;
 - Review and necessarily modify design, drawing, specification, cost etc.; and
 - Prepare an operation and Maintenance manual for the constructed works.
 - Others
 - Facilitate implementation of Environmental Management Plan (EMP), Environmental Monitoring Plan (EMoP) and Abbreviated Resettlement Plan (ARP);
 - Carry out Transfer of Technology;
 - Review and Facilitate implementation of Safety plan; and
 - Conduct training on HIV/AIDS prevention.
- The Consultants will be selected under Quality-Based Selection method in accordance with the procedures set out in the "Guidelines for the Employment of Consultants under the Japanese ODA Loans, April 2012" (http://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/types_of_assistance/oda_loans/oda_lop_info/guide/index.html). RHD will conduct the short-listing of interested consulting firms for the abovementioned consulting services.
- The interested consultant must have following previous experiences of rendering consulting services within last 10 years:
 - Design of at least 20 bridges minimum 30 meter in length of which at least (i) 5 bridges in a single contract, (ii) 1 Pre-stressed Concrete (PC) girder bridge minimum 80 meter in length and (iii) 1 weathering steel girder bridge minimum 100 meter in length;
 - Construction supervision of at least fulfilling same criteria mentioned in Para.- a) above.
- The EOI should specially include (along with certified English Translation if not in English):
 - The firm's registration certificate;
 - Company profile: including management, personnel, firm's specialty, performance;
 - The latest annual report;
 - List of the rendered services in last 10 years for:
 - Detailed Design and/or Construction Supervision of PC Girder Bridges minimum 30 meter in length;
 - Experience of road/bridge projects in developing countries;
 - Experience of design/construction supervision of weathering steel girder bridges in neighboring countries of Bangladesh within South or Southeast Asia;
 - Experiences of design/construction supervision of weathering steel girder bridges other than South or Southeast Asia;
 - Experience of Japanese ODA Loan Projects;
 - Contracts where minimum 5 Nos. of bridges are designed/supervised.
 In the list, following information should be provided:
 - Client's name, nature of services, contract amount, man-months the firm extended, duration of the service with commencement and completion date;
- Summary of permanent professional employees with key qualifications;
- Number of Bridge and Highway Engineers, those who belong to the firm more than a year and average working experiences (years) of those Bridge and Highway Engineers;
- Audited financial statement (Balance Sheet, Profit & Loss Account and Cash Flow Statement) for last 3 (three) years;
- Average annual turnover in last 3 (three) years; and
- History of litigation in courts or any arbitration proceedings (if any).

With all supporting documents, the EOI must be delivered at or before 4.00pm on 09 February, 2015 in sealed envelopes, marked with 'Western Bangladesh Bridge Improvement Project' to the signatory's address.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) is expected to be issued to the short listed firms by March, 2015. The client will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the firm(s) in connection with the preparation or delivery of the EOI. RHD reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal without assigning any reason.

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