

Two markets leased to lower bidders in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Boragari Haat and Ambari Haat, two big village markets in Domar upazila under the district, have been leased to persons who offered much lower than the highest bidders.

Seeking remedy, the two highest bidders for the two haats filed written complaints to the deputy commissioner (DC) of Nilphamari on March 5.

February 18 was the last date of dropping tender for leasing Domar upazila's 23 haats and bazaars for Bangla year 1422, upazila administration sources said.

After verifying the relevant tender documents the same day, the lease committee declared Alamgir Badsa and Md Bablu as highest

bidders for Boragari and Ambari haats in presence of people at the upazila nirbahi officer's (UNO) office.

Alamgir Badsa offered highest Tk 31.51 lakh for lease of Boragari haat and deposited as security money Tk 10.23 lakh in five security deposit receipts (SDR) issued by Janata Bank while Md Bablu offered highest Tk 21.34 lakh for Ambari Haat and deposited Tk 6.40 lakh in seven bank drafts and pay orders issued by Sonali Bank and Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank, the two persons mentioned in the complaint to the DC.

But a group of men belonging to front organisations of ruling Awami League (AL) started vandalism in the UNO office and pressed for leasing the two

big haats to their men instead of the highest bidders, terming them as Razakars (people opposing the country's independence), they said.

The UNO suspended finalising the names of lessees for the two haats that day but on February 26, he declared Saider and Abdul Hamid as lessees for Boragari Haat and Ambari Haat although they offered much lower lease money – Tk 15.75 lakh and Tk 20.35 lakh respectively, the two complainants mentioned.

Domar UNO Md Shafiqur Rahman said Alamgir Badsa were not considered as bidders as Shafiqur deposited security money with SDR violating the directive to deposit money with bank draft or pay order and there was problem in the tender

documents of Md Bablu.

Asked about non-acceptance of SDR by Domar UNO, Janata Bank Domar branch Manager Ziaur Rahman said SDR bears the same value as bank draft and pay order and in the past it was not dishonoured in case of tender.

Md Bablu, also son of a freedom fighter, said he had come to know that someone might have removed one of his bank drafts from his tender documents kept in the upazila parishad custody to make him unfit in the tender process.

DC of Nilphamari Zakir Hossain said, "I have received complaints regarding the matter. The government's revenue collection is a priority and so, the problems will be solved according to the rules."

65 shops, 8 houses gutted in 2 districts

STAR COUNTRY DESK

At least 65 shops and eight houses were gutted in fire incidents in Manikganj and Lalmonirhat districts early yesterday and on Wednesday night.

In Manikganj, fire destroyed at least 65 shops in Joy Mandop bus stand area under Singair upazila early yesterday.

Selim Hossain, general secretary of Joy Mandop Bus stand Traders Association, said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at a shop owned by Ilias Hossain around 3:30am and soon spread to 64 other shops, reports UNB.

On information, three fire fighting units from Manikganj town and Savar upazila headquarters rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze after two hours of frantic efforts.

Affected shop owners claimed that the extent of losses caused by the fire could go up to Tk 1.5 crore. Local people blocked Singair-Hemayetpur road for an hour from 6:00am, demanding setting up of a fire station in Singair upazila headquarters.

Our Lalmonirhat correspondent reported that at least eight houses were gutted in a fire at Hajitiri village in Aditmari upazila on Wednesday night.

Police quoted locals as saying that the fire originated from the kitchen of one Jhantu Mia of the village around 11:30pm and soon engulfed seven other adjacent houses.

Being informed by the villagers, a fire-fighting unit from Sadar upazila went to the spot and doused the flames after two hours, said Kafil Uddin, officer-in-charge of Aditmari Police Station.

Affected house owners claimed that the fire destroyed properties worth about Tk 10 lakh.



PHOTO: STAR

This 300-foot-bamboo bridge over Patabunia canal at Char Boloikathi village in Kamalapur union of Patuakhali Sadar upazila collapsed due to pressure of high tide on Sunday, much to the sufferings of locals.

People of 5 villages suffer as bamboo bridge collapses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Over 10,000 people of five villages are badly suffering as a bamboo made bridge on Patabunia canal in Sadar upazila collapsed due to pressure of high tide on Sunday night.

The villages are Char Boloikathi, Dakkhin Dharandi, Kharijoma, Purbo Dharandi and Sutabaria.

At their own initiative, the villagers last year built the lone 300-foot long

bridge on the canal connecting Kharijoma Bazar.

The students of several educational institutions have to cross the canal by country boat with risk, said locals.

Tania, a student of Kharijoma Ishaq High School, said "I don't go to school regularly as I have to cross the canal by boat."

Sumona, Asma, Sohel and many other students of the institution also expressed deep concern over the issue.

More than 300 students

of different institutions are suffering a lot due to collapse of the bridge, said Nusrat Jahan, headmaster of the school.

The authorities concerned should take immediate steps to relieve people of the sufferings, said Abdus Salam, local UP chairman.

Abu Saleh Md Hanif, executive engineer of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) in Patuakhali, said they informed the higher authorities about the matter.

Schoolgirl rescued 10 days into abduction in Sylhet

Tractor driver kidnapped in Lalmonirhat

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A schoolgirl was rescued from Jindabazar area of Sylhet city, 10 days into her abduction on Tuesday while a tractor driver was kidnapped from Hatibandha upazila of Lalmonirhat on Wednesday night.

In Sylhet, a gang picked up a Class VIII girl of Kanaighat Government High School on March 15 while she was going to the school from Nij Bourbhag village in the upazila.

Acting on a tip-off, a joint-team of Kanaighat and Kotwali

police raided Jindabazar area in Sylhet city around 11:00am and rescued the girl.

Victim's mother Shakira Begum filed an abduction case with Kanaighat Police Station on March 17, accusing six people, including one Bahar of Nij Bourbhag village, said Rashedul Alam, sub-inspector of the police station.

In Lalmonirhat, unidentified criminals kidnapped a tractor driver from Khaner Bazar village in Hatibandha upazila on Wednesday night.

The abductee is Rashedul

Islam, 32, son of Abdur Rahman of the village.

Police quoted victim's family members as saying that a gang picked up Rashedul while he was returning home from a local Bazar around 9:30pm.

Police said none has contacted the family members yet or demanded ransom for Rashedul's release.

Victim's father Abdur Rahman filed an abduction case with Hatibandha Police Station yesterday, Abdol Matin, officer-in-charge of the police station said.

Plan Int'l office vandalised

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Four staffs of Hatibandha upazila unit office of the Plan International Bangladesh were injured in an attack by criminals on Wednesday.

The gang also vandalised furniture and documents of the office.

The injured are Hatibandha unit manager Mahfuzur Rahman, project manger Rakibul Bahar, accountant Dipankar Roy and night guard Taroni Kanta Bamron.

Injured Rakibul said a gang, allegedly led

by Swadhin Akhi of Barakhata village, carried out the attack at noon.

Samina Akhter, another official at the office, said a development project funded by Plan International Bangladesh was going on in Barakhata and Fakirpara unions under the upazila.

Local contractor Nuruzzaman was implementing the project but it was halted temporarily a few days ago as allegation of corruption was brought against him by some locals.

Contacted, the contractor refuted the allegations.

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