

PAHELA BAISHAKH PREPARATIONS



From left: A large number of people through a market in Mymensingh town yesterday; pera, a specially prepared sweetmeat treated as a unique delicacy, is ready for sale at the shop of Apu Sarker Apurbo in the same town; and potters give finishing touches to polish earthenware at Kumarpara in Kholahati union of Gaibandha Sadar upazila as people are preparing to celebrate Pahela Baishakh, the first day of Bangla New Year tomorrow.

PHOTO: STAR

Ash factory poses health hazard for villagers

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Huge quantity of ash is being produced from burning jute sticks in six large furnaces set beside the area of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) at Khatapara village under Aditmari upazila, posing threat to health and environment. Ash is being produced in a factory built here allegedly without valid documents to export the produce abroad, said locals. The villagers strongly protested the construction of the factory but to no effect as local musclemen are involved in the business. "We are not getting expected crops and fruits since the ash factory was set up in the area six months ago. We are also being deprived of getting fresh oxygen as ash from the furnaces pollutes

the environment," said Abdul Khaleque, 48, a resident of the village. "The green leaves of trees turned black and these are falling off as ash produced from burning huge quantity of jute sticks covered the entire area," said another villager, Abdus Samad. Schoolgirl Amena Khatun, daughter of Anwar Hossain of the village, said she cannot read easily at their home when the ash covers the area. She also urged the authorities concerned to shift the factory from the area to save the environment from pollution. Lovely Begum, a worker of the factory, who gets Tk 150 to do work for 10 hours everyday, said, "We feel breathing problem while unloading ash from the furnaces."

Azad Hossain, manager of the ash factory, said they are running the factory with necessary documents. Ash is being produced here to export to China, Taiwan, Germany and Korea at present, he said. However, on condition of anonymity, a staff of BSCIC, said as the factory owner did not get plot from BSCIC, it is running illegally. Lalmonirhat BSCIC Deputy Manger Kahirul Alam Almazi said although no plot of BSCIC was allotted for running the factory, it was set up beside the BSCIC area. Contacted, Upazila Nirbahi Officer Jahurul Islam said, "Legal action will be taken against the owner of the factory if it is running without the permission of the Department of Environment (DoE)."



Trees loose leaves under the impact of jute stick burning at a few furnaces of an ash factory set illegally at Khatapara village in Aditmari upazila under Lalmonirhat district.

PHOTO: STAR

2 Brac officials robbed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mantikganj

Unidentified criminals beat up two Brac officials and snatched away Tk 6 lakh from their possession in Charakhali area in Daulatpur upazila of the district yesterday. Injured Solaiman Hossain, 35, accountant of Shyamganj Branch in Daulatpur, and Ismail Hossain, 35, programme officer of the branch, were admitted to Ghior Upazila Health Complex. Habibur Rahman, another employee of the branch, quoting the victims said a gang of four riding on two motorbikes waylaid the victims and beat them up with wooden sticks while they were going to deposit the money at Uttara Bank's Ghior branch. Later, they snatched the bag containing the money at

gun-point and fled the scene. Nazmul Nishat, officer in-charge of Daulatpur Police Station, said they are investigating the matter.

28 held on Benapole border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) arrested 28 Bangladeshi nationals from Putkhali border under Benapole Port Police Station while they were going to India without valid documents early yesterday. The rescued include 14 women and six children. Safi Uddin, in-charge at Putkhali Camp of BGB 23 Battalion, said a team of the border guards raided the area around 12:30am and arrested the Bangladeshi nationals while they were going to India without passports.

Tk 1.54cr Indian clothes seized

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Huge smuggled Indian clothes worth around Tk 1.54 crore were seized from Joypurhat and Jessore districts yesterday and the day before. Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) arrested five people and seized Indian clothes worth around Tk 1.11 crore from their possession in Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat on Saturday, reports our Dinajpur correspondent. The arrestees are Sanwar Hossain, 28, son of Ismail Hossain of Akkelpur upazila, Md Russel, 25, son of Uzil Mandal of Josai village in Pangsia upazila of Rajbari district, Sanjoy Kundu, 23, son of Paritosh Kundu of Chitrapara in Sadar upazila, Harun-ur-Rashid, 23, son of Abdol Gafur of Bali Sardarpara village in the upazila, and

Md Hiru, 23, son of late Rob Mia of Nurpur of Rangpur Sadar upazila. The border guards, acting on a tip-off, raided a train at Panchbibi railway station in the area and arrested the five along with the Indian clothes, said an official of BGB-3 Battalion. Away in Jessore, Border Guard Bangladesh seized smuggled Indian clothes worth around Tk 43 lakh in Hajrakathi area under Keshobpur upazila early yesterday, reports our Benapole correspondent. However, none was arrested in this connection, said Lt Col Mohammad Jahangir Hossain, commanding officer of BGB-26 Battalion. On secret information, the BGB men raided the area and seized the clothes. A case was filed in connection with the incident, said the CO.

Filicide!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

An alleged drug addict killed his nine-month-old baby girl and injured his wife at Kampapur village in Sadar upazila of the district yesterday morning. The deceased is Bithi, daughter of Bipul Mia of the village. Bipul's wife Sima is now undergoing treatment at Jamalpur General Hospital. Mujibur Rahman, officer in-charge of Sadar Police Station quoted locals as saying that Bipul, a drug addict, demanded Tk five hundred from his wife Sima around 6:30am, which she refused to pay. Failing to get the money, Bipul became angry and started beating up Sima mercilessly and at one stage he threw his infant daughter Bithi on the concrete floor of the room, leaving her dead on the spot. Hearing screams, neighbours rushed to the spot, caught Bipul at the spot and informed the police who went to the spot and arrested Bipul.

Sand trader shot dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Unidentified criminals shot a sand trader to death and injured another at Jamaidharani in Moheshkhali upazila of the district early yesterday. The deceased, Mizanur Rahman, 30, son of late Mohammad Hossain, was a resident of Lohagara upazila of Chittagong district. Ferdous Didar, inspector (investigation) of Moheshkhali Police Station, said Mizanur along with two others was travelling on a truck from Shapladpur area to the upazila headquarters around 12:30pm. At Jamaidharani, a gang opened several gunshots targeting the truck, leaving Mizanur and Nurul Haq, 32, bullet-hit. Mizanur died on the spot.

200 Jamaat-Shibir men sued

Accused of snatching cohort

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Over 200 Jamaat-Shibir men were sued in Joypurhat on Saturday on charge of snatching away a union level Jamaat leader after attacking police in the district on Friday. Mahfuzar Rahman, officer-in-charge of DB police in Joypurhat filed the case with Sadar Police Station at night. In the case he said nearly 150 to 200 Jamaat-Shibir men with bamboo and wooden stick attacked them at Chowmuhani village in Joypurhat Sadar upazila while they were returning

Joypurhat town after arresting Shah Alam on Friday evening. According to the case statement, detectives arrested Shah Alam, a leader of Amdoi union parishad from the village on Friday. While the law enforcers were returning with the arrestee, 150 to 200 Jamaat-Shibir men snatched away Shah Alam from the police. Five DB men were also injured in the attack. Police are raiding different areas to arrest Shah Alam, said Sirajul Islam, inspector of the police station.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Three drug peddlers held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested three drug peddlers and seized 1,700 bottles of phensidyl, Tk 4.16 lakh and six cellphones from their possession in Chaksubapur area of the district town early yesterday. The arrestees are Tufan Sarkar, 25, son of Mojibur Rahman of the area, Jahangir Alam, 20, son of Ochim Uddin of Gobindaganj upazila in Gaibandha, and Aminul Islam, 40, son of late Amsher Ali Akanda of Kalai upazila in Joypurhat district. On secret information, the elite force raided the area and arrested the three along with the phensidyl and cellphones, said an official of Rab-12.

Kid drowns in pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

A child drowned in a pond at Dakkhin Madraj village in Charfassion upazila yesterday morning. The deceased is Sufia, 2, daughter of Kamal Hossain of the village. Police and locals said Sufia accidentally fell into the pond near their house while playing on its bank and drowned.

40 get khas land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Forty ultra poor people got documents of government khas land from Kishoreganj upazila administration yesterday. As per rules, landless, homeless, river erosion victims and widows will get free allotment of the land from the government, said upazila administration sources. Local lawmaker Shawkat Chowdhury handed over the land documents to the 40 landless people. Each allottee got 11 decimals of land, said Upazila Nirbahi Officer Siddiqur Rahman.

Auto-rickshaw driver found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Police recovered the body of an auto-rickshaw driver from Uttar Mohammadpur village in Chatkhal upazila of the district yesterday. The deceased, Mahbubur Rahman, 30, son of Aminul Haque, was a resident of Paranpur village in the upazila. Local people spotted Mahbubur's body lying beside the Mohammadpur-Joyag road around 8:00am and informed the police, said Nasim Uddin, officer in-charge of Chatkhal Police Station. Later, police recovered the body and sent it to Noakhali Abdul Malek Ukil Medical College Hospital for autopsy around 12:00noon. Criminals might have strangled him and took away his vehicle, the OC added.

Trader's house attacked

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Unidentified criminals hurled a petrol bomb and a cocktail at the house of a local trader at Goyabandha Munshipara village in Dupchanchia upazila of the district on Saturday night. Shahbaz Arefin Munshi, a local rice trader, alleged that a gang of 3/4 criminals hurled the two bombs targeting his house around 9:00pm, and fled the scene. Gopal Chandra Chakraborty, OC of Dupchanchia Police Station, said criminals might have launched the attack centring a land dispute.



PHOTO: STAR

Chairman of BSRM Group Alihussain Akberali attends as chief guest at a reception arranged by Rauzan Club in honour of several distinguished personalities at a community centre in Chittagong city a few days ago.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director
Modern Food Storage Facilities Project (MFSP)
Directorate General of Food
16, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000

Memo No: 13.01.0000.362.14.019.14.154 Date: 09/04/2015
Bangladesh

Modern Food Storage Facilities Project (MFSP)
IDA Credit No. 52650-BD
Assignment Title: Service Provider for the Distribution Package SD-4: of House Hold Silos and Related Services

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for NGO or Firm ('Applicant')

- Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received an IDA credit toward the costs of the Modern Food Storage Facilities Project (MFSP), being implemented by the Directorate General of Food, Ministry of Food and intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments for the consultancy services.
- The objectives of the assignment are:
 - Market assessment and beneficiary database.
 - Training to trainers and beneficiaries.
 - Distribution of household silos (around 500,000).
 - Contract management of household silo supply.
 - Ensure quality issues and certification.
- The terms of reference of the above positions are available in the DG Food website (www.dgfood.gov.bd), that will provide detailed scope of work and required qualifications and experiences.
- Duration of service:** The service providing is expected to run for 4 years.
- Shortlisting criteria:** EOIs would be reviewed on the basis of the following criteria
 - Registration details of the NGO/Firm
 - Availability of key professional staff
 - Annual turnover of the applicant
 - Proven track record of working in coastal and disaster prone areas
 - Experience of the applicant in similar complex assignments
- Selection Procedures:** The consulting firm will be selected through Quality Based Selection (QBS) procedure of World Bank Guidelines for Selection and Employment of Consultants under IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers updated January 2011. Last date and time for submission of Expression of Interest (hard copy or soft copy through email) is **4:00pm 26 April 2015**.
- Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during normal office hours or via email or at website www.dgfood.gov.bd.
- The authority reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.

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GD-1332



PHOTO: STAR

The compound of Barisal District and Sessions Judge's Court gets flooded with water from the nearby pond on the premises of Barisal St. Peter's Church yesterday as the work for filling up the 52-decimal water body sped up after attack on a human chain of the Christian community people allegedly by a group of lawyers on Saturday. Fifteen people including ten women were injured in the attack on the human chain held in protest at the bid to grab the pond excavated on the church premises in 1849.