



PHOTO: STAR

This charcoal field at Kalaiya in Baufal upazila under Patuakhali district, set up very close to a few educational institutions and dwellings, poses threat to human health and environment in the area.

Illegal charcoal field on occupied waqf land

Locals worried as it poses threat to health, farming

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

An illegally set up charcoal field near four educational institutions in Kalaiya Bazar area of Baufal upazila under the district poses health hazard for locals and threat to environment in the area.

Just beside the coal field, there is a stand for three-wheelers and around 30 shops. About one month ago, Mizan started making his coal field and he has already set up six hearths (fire-places) with several pipes as outlet for the smoke.

Abu Naser Khan, chairman of Paribesh Bachao (save the environment), a social organisation, said the government should take immediate step to stop the operation of the coal field as it poses threat to the environment.

But waqf estate administrator's office sources said there is no *motowalli* named Shahjada at the estate. Jahangir Hossain and Solaiman Mia are legal *motowallis* of the estate, they said.

Mizanur Rahman alias Mizan Mollah, organising secretary of Jubo League's Kalaiya union unit in the upazila, set up the coal field forcibly occupying about 1.57 acres of land of Abdul Haque Waqf Estate, locals said. It is about 50 metres from Ali Akbar Government Primary School, about 100 metres from Kalaiya High School and Kalaiya Rabbana Fazila Madrasa and 150 metres from Idris Mollah Degree College.

Anwarul Islam, a worker of the coal field, said 3,000 maunds of firewood has already been kept inside these hearths and around 20 tonnes of coal would be produced by burning it within 15 to 20 days. The coal will be sold to brick kilns in the area as the fuel has huge demand here in the brick building season from December to April. Mizan Mollah set up the coal field occupying the waqf land worth over Tk 7

crore and locally collected firewood is being burnt there, locals said. Mizan Mollah said, "I took lease of the land from Shahjada Mia, *motowalli* (custodian) of the land. I have not taken permission for setting up the coal field as environment would not be polluted."

Md Ruhul Amin, acting upazila forest officer, said they did not give any permission to burn firewood in the coal field. Sukumar Biswas, Barisal divisional director of the Department of Environment, said, "We did not issue permission to set up any coal field in the division. We will take immediate step to stop operation of the field."

Many Lalmonirhat smugglers now prefer vegetable farming

S DILIP ROY with ANDREW EAGLE

It used to be that Nabir Uddin's six bighas of land in Dighaltari village of Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila were permanently uncultivated. Like many border dwellers, the 48-year-old was convinced he could do better from smuggling. "About five years ago I was involved in smuggling goods from India, while my land was abandoned," he recalls, "but smuggling never brought peace to my family."

same village, never used his four bighas of land for cultivation either. "I faced many problems when I tried to manage my family with income earned from smuggling," he recalls of the activity he gave up six years ago. "Smuggling never allowed me to help my family in the way farming vegetables does." With a more predictable, legal income source to rely on, Ali's family has not looked back. In border communities across Lalmonirhat district vegetable farming has proved a trustworthy alternative to smuggling. According to an official of the agriculture extension department, over the past few years huge quantities of vegetables growing these days, "says the satisfied farmer, "My family is happy about it."

potato, bitter and bottle gourds and chilli. Much is grown on land previously uncultivated thanks to the deceptive lure of smuggling. First year Honours student Ashraful Islam of Chawratari village in Mogholhat union of Lalmonir Sadar upazila is pleased his father Ahmed Miah, 52, gave up smuggling four years ago. "My family's living standard has improved," he notes. "We always had seven bighas of land but it's only in the past few years we have grown anything. We used to feel worried and disappointed about what my father did, but not now."

vegetable cultivation has helped us." Local chairman Habibur Rahman notes that vegetables produced in border communities are commonly supplied to Dhaka and across the country. Meanwhile Shamsul Haque, camp commander of 15 BGB Battalion which is stationed in the area, expresses satisfaction that the majority of border dwellers have exchanged smuggling activities for vegetable farming. "It's a really positive development," agrees Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila agriculture officer Enamul Haque, "Agriculture officials have provided advice and support in the transition to vegetable farming. It's good to see that for many, vegetable cultivation has become the preferred option."

The switch to vegetable farming has not only brought a stable income but also respectability. "No part of my land is without vegetables growing these days," says the satisfied farmer, "My family is happy about it."

His father agrees. "The whole family is happy now," he says, "The improvements to our living standard that smuggling promised were never really achieved. But

The survey was performed under the supervision of Global Strategic Partners and the International Republican Institute, USA. The deputy commissioners were not far behind, with an approval rating of 72 percent. The Rapid Action Battalion also enjoyed 76 percent endorsement rating. The number of people who thought the government was in the right direction jumped from 33 per cent in November 2013 to an all-time high of 62 per cent by mid-2015.

The methodology used by the pollsters was multi-stratified probability sample through in-person, in-home interviews. People aged 18 and above were interviewed for the survey. The margin of error was plus or minus two percent with a confidence level of 95 percent.



PHOTO: STAR

A farmer nurses his bitter melon field near Durgapur border in Aditmari upazila under Lalmonirhat district.

ROAD ACCIDENT Kabi Nazrul Univ mourns loss of two students

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

All classes and examinations of Jatiya Kabi Nazrul Islam University (JKNIUI) were suspended yesterday to mourn two students of the university, who died in a road accident in the district on Monday evening.

Mahfuzur Rahman Asif, 20, a third year student, and Abdullah Al Mamun, 18, a first year student of Computer Science and Engineering Department, died after a Mymensingh-bound bus hit the motorcycle they were riding at a bypass intersection on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway near the university in Trishal upazila.

Abdullah died on the spot while Mahfuzur on way to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. Police seized the bus, but the driver is yet to be arrested.

The university authorities earlier announced a day-long programme, which included suspension of classes and examinations, hoisting of black flag and holding of *doa mehil* on the campus.

Prof Dr Mohit Ul Alam, vice-chancellor of the university, hoisted a black flag on the campus in the morning. At a *doa mehil*, teachers and students prayed for the salvation of the departed souls.

Prof Md Alauddin, vice-chancellor of Maulana Bhasani Science and Technology University; and JKNIUI Treasurer Prof AMM Shamsur Rahman; were present, among others.

4 BNP men arrested on subversion charge

UNB, Moulvibazar

Police in separate drives arrested two Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders, a Swachhchasebak Dal leader and a leader of Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (Jasas) from different places of the district on Monday on subversion charges.

The arrestees are Nurul Alam Noman, former general secretary of JCD district unit, Foyzal Ahmed, senior joint convener of the district Swachhchasebak Dal, Maruf Ahmed, president of Jasas district unit, and Mahabur Rahman Shipon, a leader of JCD municipality unit.

Shipon was wanted in a case for subversive activities. Abdus Salek, officer-in-charge of Moulvibazar Model Police Station, said they were arrested on charge of planning to carry out subversive activities during today's municipality polls.

Rise in govt

FROM PAGE 16 opposition while half of the remaining population was not sure about what the opposition was doing.

The approval ratings for other state organs were also quite high. The judiciary enjoyed a 73 percent approval rating.

With one of the highest approval ratings of 83 percent, media seem to have instilled a great deal of confidence into the masses.

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Clash over formation of interns' committee at MMCH: 20 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

At least 20 interns were injured in a clash over formation of a new committee of interns at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) on Monday night.

Of the injured, seven were admitted to MMCH while the rest took first aid, sources said.

Interns Noor, 25, Kabir, 25, Aftab, 21, Sumon, 22, Shibabanda, 20, Nripen, 21, and Rhidoy, 22, are undergoing treatment at the hospital, sources said.

Two groups of interns -- one led by Mehdi Hasan Sarker Royal, also president

of BCL Mymensingh Medical College (MMC) unit, and the other by intern Raisul Alam Shuvo -- wanted to form the committee with their men, sources said.

Leaders of the two rival groups locked in an altercation over the issue at Doctor's Club of the hospital around 9:30pm.

At one stage, the two groups swooped on each other, leaving at least 20 people from both sides injured.

The clashing groups also ransacked furniture and broke the windows of the club, said sources.

On information, police rushed to the spot and

brought the situation under control, sources said.

Following the incident, the authorities of MMCH and MMC sat in an emergency meeting yesterday to settle the dispute between the two groups, said Prof Dr Motiur Rahman Bhuiyan, vice-principal of MMC.

Prof Bhuiyan, also secretary of the Mymensingh unit of Bangladesh Medical Association, said they were trying their best to resolve the issue to avert further untoward incident. But no final decision was made as of filing of this report at 5:30pm yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Election-related materials are being carried on three-wheelers from the Pabna deputy commissioner's office to different polling centres yesterday as all are set for today's municipality elections.

PABNA AND SANTHIA UPAZILAS Dhaner shish again in polls race after 19 yrs

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPIU, Pabna

BNP's election symbol *dhaner shish* (sheaf of paddy) has appeared in the polls race in Pabna Sadar and Santhia upazilas under the district after long 19 years, much to the happiness of the party supporters centring today's municipality polls.

In 1996 parliamentary elections, Rafikul Islam Bokul was elected lawmaker from BNP with *dhaner shish* symbol in Pabna-5 (Pabna Sadar) constituency while BNP candidate Monjur Quader, who took part in the election from the same party in Pabna-2 (Bera-Santhia), was defeated.

In 2001 parliamentary

election, there was no candidate with this symbol as BNP-led four-party alliance nominated Abdus Subhan in Pabna Sadar and Motiur Rahman Nazami was nominated for Pabna-2 constituency with the symbol *daripalla* (balance scale).

The national election in 2008 saw the same situation.

"As no candidate contested with *dhaner shish* symbol in Santhia for the last 19 years, many new voters are not acquainted

with it. Now the local government election is going to be held with participation of party-nominated candidates. And so, BNP men are contesting with the party symbol *dhaner shish*," said Habibur Rahman, a resident of Santhia Bazar area.

"People of Pabna Sadar and Santhia are happy to see BNP symbol *dhaner shish* again after many years," said Johurul Islam, office secretary of the district unit of BNP.

অফিস ভাড়া হইবে
মতিঝিলের প্রানকেন্দ্র জামান চেম্বার্স, ৪৭, দিলকুশ বানিজ্যিক ভবনের ৭ (সপ্তম) তলায় ৪৫০০ বর্গফুটের জায়গা ব্যাংক ও বিমা প্রতিষ্ঠানকে লিফটের সুবিধা সহ ভাড়া দেওয়া হইবে। যোগাযোগ করুন: ৯৫৫২২১৮, ৯৫৮৫৬৮৫ এবং ০১৭১৪-১৩১৫৪৪

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e-Tender Notice-06/2015-2016 (Open Tendering Method, NCT)

The following e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by the Executive Engineer, RHD, Patuakhali Road Division, Patuakhali for the procurement of works as stated below:

Tender ID	Package No.	Name of work
42452	e-GP-PRD-15/2015-2016	Supplying of Brand new Steel Wire Rope and U-Clamp for different ferry ghats under Patuakhali Road Division during the year 2015-16.
42415	e-GP-PRD-14/2015-2016	Repairing Kuakata Inspection Banglow, providing new bath room and sitting, sanitaris, electrification collapsible gate necessary repair works & painting works under Patuakhali Road Division during the year 2015-2016.

For the above Tender, Tender Document last selling/downloading Date and Time: 11-Jan-2016 16:15 hrs; Tender Closing Date and Time: 12-Jan-2016 11:00 hrs; Last Date and Time for Tender Security Submission : 11-Jan-2016 10:55 hrs.
The above tenders are online Tenders, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). For more details please contact Support desk contact numbers.

Mohammed Zahirul Islam
Executive Engineer, RHD
Patuakhali Road Division
Patuakhali

GD-4003