

Maimed

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wounds on Shahanur's legs festered and signs of gangrene started to develop. The patient's legs were amputated on Sunday to save his life, said Dr Aminul Islam Pathan, who conducted the surgery at the DOH.

The doctors conducted another surgery yesterday morning to prevent further development of gangrene and they collected samples for biopsy, Shahanur's wife Arjina Begum said, quoting the physicians.

The entire family has been suffering immensely as she and her two daughters had been attending her husband in hospitals while her son, Mahinur Rahman, 17, went into hiding in fear of possible repercussions, she added.

The eldest daughter, Sharmin, said a group of people have been spreading rumours to demerit the case although her father did not have any affiliation with any political party or any enmity with anyone over any land dispute.

Sharmin and her mother demanded exemplary punishment to the criminals.

Aminul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kaliganj Police Station, said he only heard about a quarrel in the village, but he was not informed of any "eve teasing".

He, however, said he already heard that Shahanur has lost his two legs.

He had asked Shahanur's family to file a case with the police station, but they filed the case with Jhenidah court instead, claimed the OC.

On Monday night police arrested two individuals named Azad Hossain and Likhon Mondol on suspicion of their involvement with the crime and they have been trying to apprehend the other criminals, he added.



Criminals destroy betel leaf gardens of the indigenous Khasi people in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar recently.

PHOTO: STAR

Forest official, 4 others beaten by grabber's men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A forest beat officer and four others were beaten up allegedly by the men of a local land grabber as they tried to stop construction on a land at a forest at Boiragir Char village in Sreepur upazila of Gazipur district yesterday.

The injured are forest beat officer Rafiqul Islam, 35, forest guard Anwar Hossain, 50, Md Azharul Haque, 45, Md Sajidur Rahman, 35, and Md Jahangir Alam, 35. They were admitted to the upazila health complex.

Forest Range Officer of Sreepur Mozammel Haque alleged that one Jahirul Islam, son of Sukkur Ali of Baoiragichala Uttarpara village, constructed a house occupying the khas land at midnight.

When the four went to stop construction of the house in the morning, a gang allegedly led by Jahirul beat them up mercilessly, he said.

They were later taken to the hospital, said the forest official. Refuting the allegation, Jahirul said he has been living there for about two decades. He paid taxes of the land until Bangla year 1422.

He claimed that while strengthening a pillar of the land, a few bitter words were exchanged with the forests officials.

Preparation to file a case with Sreepur Police Station was going on in this regard as of filing of this report around 6:00pm yesterday.

Attacks on to grab Khasi land

Miscreants cut down 350 betel leaf plants in five days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Betel leaf cultivation is the only source of income of the indigenous Khasi people in the district, but some criminals have started destroying the betel leaf gardens recently.

Criminals cut down 150 betel leaf trees in Muroicherra punjee area under Kulaura upazila of the district on November 4. They felled over 200 betel leaf trees at Islacherra punjee on October 31.

Headman of the Islacherra punjee Akriman Pathmi said criminals cut two hundreds betel plants in his punjee.

The people of Kulaura upazila are deeply distressed following an attack by a gang of criminals who targeted the punjee's betel leaf plantations. Indigenous people believe the attack was instigated by Palash Mia and

Babul Mia of Noldori village following an earlier altercation between residents and the duo on September 27.

Head of the Amuli punjee Protush Asakra said environmentalists, civil society and punjee people demand immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the persons involved in such a heinous act.

Flora Bably Talang, general secretary of KUBORAZ (an indigenous human-rights based organisation) said the responsibility of state is to ensure security of the Khasi community. The state should take urgent action against the perpetrators, she added.

Despite several attempts, this correspondent could not contact the Kulaura forest officer as his cellophone remained switched off.

Officer-in-Charge of Kulaura

Police Station Md Shamsuddoha said the victims should inform the police, who can then investigate the matter and take action against the culprits.

President of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum Sylhet chapter Gourango Patro said Khasi people have not been getting justice in the matter for a long time. The land belongs to them as per ILO Convention-107, he told this correspondent.

Joint Secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) Sharif Jamil said innocent Khasis are in jail facing false cases, tea gardens are chopping down trees, and land grabbers together with timber traders are destroying Khasi villages.

Destruction of betel leaf gardens is violation of the Constitution of Bangladesh. There is no alternative but people's movement to protect the Khasis and their villages, he added.

Use of women in drug trafficking on rise

Two female illegal drug transporters arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Taking advantage of the poverty of the women in border areas, a syndicate of smugglers hires them for transporting illegal drugs from border areas in Lalmonirhat and Kurigram.

Members of 15 Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Battalion arrested two women carrying contraband Indian drugs and three kg of hemp from Kulaghat village under Sadar upazila yesterday.

The arrestees are Jarina Begum, 38, wife of Mansur Ahmed, and Mona Begum, 36, wife of late Moksedul Islam, both hailing from Paschim Balatari village under Fulbari upazila of Kurigram.

"I was hired for Tk 3,000 to transport one and a half kg of hemp to Bogra from Nawdanga border," Jarina Begum said. "As I was jobless, I accepted the offer by

the drug smugglers' syndicate," she said, adding that many poor women in the border areas are being used as drug transporters.

Mona Begum said they get paid after delivering the drugs.

"If we had an alternative option for earning we would not transport illegal drugs, but we are helpless," said Fatema Bewa, 43, widow of Nurul Islam of Jawrani border in Lalmonirhat.

BGB sources said they have increased their vigilance and patrolling, so the identified illegal drug transporters are not conducting their illegal trade.

Commanding Officer of 15 BGB Battalion Lt Col Ahmed Bazlur Rahman Hayati said they have been conducting campaigns to raise awareness of the people of border areas against transport, sale or use of illegal drugs.

Salt-resistant bamboo brings hope in coastal areas

BY SUSHANTA GHOSH with ANDREW EAGLE

Prior to the introduction of a new salt hardy strain of bamboo in 2010 the plant, despite its usefulness, held little attraction for coastal dwellers. The new strain developed by the Bangladesh Forest Research Institute and adapted to grow well in salty soils has changed that. Nowadays, bamboo is proving increasingly popular in coastal household gardens.

"We had a lot of unused land," says Md Zakir Howlader, from Baher Char in Patuakhali's Rangabali upazila. "Then an officer from the forest research institute gave me some bamboo trees and now a healthy stand covers a good area of my land."

"I bought bamboo trees for Tk 20 each," says Abdur Rahaman Munshi of Char Kukri Mukri in Bhola district.

"Now in our household garden there are over one hundred."

According to S.K. Ahiul Islam, divisional officer of the forest research institute's plantation trial division, it's usual for some part of household yards to be devoted to bamboo since many useful household items including baskets, trays and winnowing fans are crafted of bamboo. The variety known as 'bangla bash', locally called 'baijja' can live for up to 45 years.

"In coastal areas," says Islam, "research shows that bamboo clumps are successful at offering protection from natural calamities like storms, a characteristic of particular importance in the context of global warming. The impact of storms and climate change can be reduced if bamboo is planted on a large scale. It would be useful for the forest department or NGO sector to pursue such a project."

"Commercial bamboo farming has been a challenge in coastal areas," says another forest research institute officer, "due to the saline soils. But with the new variety results are promising."

The new salt tolerant bamboo has been introduced with a view to commercial farming in a range of areas, resulting in increased bamboo coverage. Abdul Quddus, from the Barisal office of the forest research institute reports that in Patuakhali's Rangabali where in 2010 within 29 households sampled only 198 square metres was covered by bamboo, nowadays within 639 households surveyed bamboo coverage measures 5,104 square metres. Similar increases have been documented on Bhola's Char Kukri Mukri, in Chittagong's Sitakunda upazila and in coastal Noakhali.



A salinity-resistant bamboo cluster at Baher Char in Rangabali upazila of Patuakhali.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

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06/11/2016
(Subash Chandra Saha)
 Secretary (c.c)
 BIDS

Wave farm

FROM PAE 16

This means it is safer from large storms and invisible from the shore. When it starts generating in 2018, Ceto 6 device will represent the country's first wave farm.

The device works using a large float submerged in the sea. As the float is lifted and lowered by the wave motion, this drives a pump and a generator.

Power is delivered back to shore through subsea cables to power desalination plants as well as for export into the grid. Three Ceto units are already in operation in Australia.

It will start providing 1MW of electricity in 2018, enough for 400 homes a year, but this will grow to 15MW with another 14 devices by 2020 if the second stage of the project goes ahead.

That will be enough to power 6,000 homes each year by 2020. This would make it Britain's first wave farm with multiple devices.

"The UK offers unique advantages for the commercialisation of Ceto," said Carnegie's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Dr Michael Ottaviano.

Dhaka Power Distribution Co. Ltd.
(An Enterprise of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)
Biddut Bhabon (3rd Floor), 1 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka - 1000
Web site : www.dpdco.org.bd

"শেখ হাসিনার উদ্যোগ
ঘরে ঘরে বিদ্যুৎ"

জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা শহরের সম্মানিত গ্রাহকদের বৈদ্যুতিক সরঞ্জামাদির ব্যবহার বৃদ্ধির কারণে বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহার বৃদ্ধি পেয়েছে। ফলে অধিকাংশ গ্রাহকরা অনুমোদিত লোডের অতিরিক্ত লোড ব্যবহার করছেন। ঢাকা বিদ্যুৎ বিতরণ কর্তৃপক্ষ আইন'১৯৯০-এর ৩.৬ ধারা অনুযায়ী "অনুমোদিত লোড বলিতে বোর্ড কর্তৃক গ্রাহক প্রাপ্ত বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ অনুমোদনের সময় উল্লেখিত লোডকে বুঝাইবে। সংযোজিত লোড, অনুমোদিত লোড অপেক্ষা বেশী হইতে পারিবে না।" সুতরাং সম্মানিত গ্রাহকরা অনুমোদিত লোডের অতিরিক্ত লোড ব্যবহার করতে পারেন না। লোড বৃদ্ধির জন্য গ্রাহককে নির্দিষ্ট ফরমে আবেদন করে ও নির্ধারিত জামানত প্রদান করে লোড বৃদ্ধি করতে হয়। ডিপিডিসি গ্রাহকদের সুবিধার্থে যে সকল গ্রাহক অনুমোদিত লোডের অতিরিক্ত লোড ব্যবহার করছেন তাদের ক্ষেত্রে লোড অটো বৃদ্ধির উদ্যোগ গ্রহণ করেছে।

যে সকল সম্মানিত গ্রাহক অনুমোদিত লোডের অতিরিক্ত লোড ব্যবহার করছেন তাদের লোড পরিমাপ করে গ্রাহকের ব্যবহৃত প্রকৃত লোডের ভিত্তিতে ডিপিডিসি গত অক্টোবর মাসে মাসিক বিদ্যুৎ বিলের সাথে লোড বৃদ্ধির একটি 'জামানত' বিল প্রদান করেছে। এই 'জামানত' বিল শুধু মাত্র যে সকল সম্মানিত গ্রাহক অনুমোদিত লোডের অতিরিক্ত লোড ব্যবহার করছেন তাদেরকেই প্রদান করা হয়েছে। এই 'জামানত' বিল প্রদানের সময়সীমা ছিলো গত ৩১ অক্টোবর ২০১৬, গ্রাহকদের সুবিধার্থে এই সময়সীমা বৃদ্ধি করে ৩১ জানুয়ারি ২০১৭ করা হয়েছে। এই সময়সীমার মধ্যে এই জামানত বিল কিস্তিতে পরিশোধেরও সুযোগ রয়েছে।

ডিপিডিসি সম্মানিত গ্রাহকদের সহযোগিতা কামনা করছে। গ্রাহকের সন্তুষ্টিই ডিপিডিসি'র একমাত্র কাম্য।

ডিপিডিসি কর্তৃপক্ষ