

1650 sal trees felled: Forest official suspended

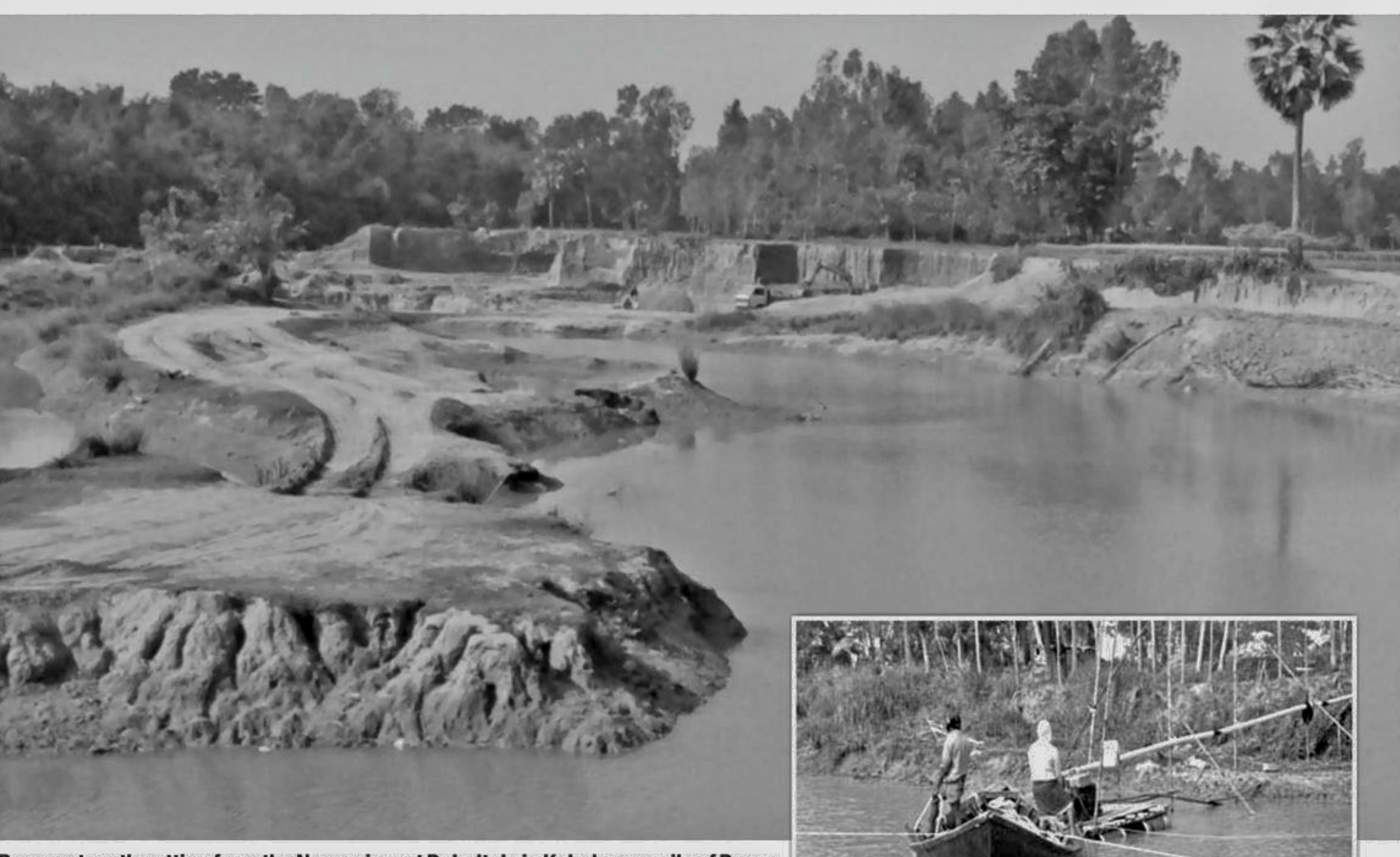
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Forest department on Wednesday suspended Beat Officer HM Ershad of Sadar Range for negligence of duty and his alleged involvement in felling 1,650 sal trees in Madhupur reserve forest.

Chief Conservator of Forest (CCF) Younus Ali issued the suspension order and sent it to the divisional forest officer (DFO) in Tangail through a fax on Wednesday evening, said DFO Masud Rana.

Besides, the conservator of forest (CF) was given the responsibility to probe the incident, forest officials said.

On November 30, about 1,650 sal trees on 15 acres of land under Arankhola mouja in Madhupur reserve forest (Sadar range) were cut down in a day.



Rampant earth cutting from the Nagar river at Bakultala in Kahaloo upazila of Bogra poses threat to the nearby farmlands and dwellings. Inset, illegal sand lifting at Kalipara in Adamdighi upazila under the same district causes similar menaces.



Expatriate woman killed by nephew

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

An expatriate woman was stabbed to death allegedly by her brother's son at Satpua under Sarishabari municipality of the district on Wednesday evening.

The deceased, Lili Aktar, 40, wife of Iman Ali of Manikpatol village under Sarishabari upazila, had been living with her family members in Italy for long.

Lili purchased a 10-decimal land from her elder brother Joynal Abedin Kutu, a resident of Satpua of the municipality in 2010, police quoted the victim's family members as saying.

Lili along with her family members came to her village home at Manikpatol from Italy on January 1 and they visited one of her paternal cousin's house in the area on Wednesday noon.

In the evening, Sumon, 20, son of Joynal Abedin, met his aunt Lili at the house and put pressure on her to return the purchased land. As she declined, Sumon locked into an altercation with her.

At one stage, an angry Sumon went out.

Around 7:00pm, the woman with her family members left the cousin's house for her home.

When she reached in front of TDC Primary School, 200 yards off the house, Sumon stabbed her dead on the spot and fled away, said Rezaul Islam Khan, officer-in-charge of Sarishabari Police Station.

The victim's husband filed a murder case accusing Sumon and 3/4 unnamed people yesterday, the OC said.

"We are conducting drives to arrest the criminals," he added.

PHOTO: MAMUN-UR-RASHID

SAND LIFTING, EARTH CUTTING FROM NAGOR RIVER Croplands, houses threatened

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, Bogra

Illegal sand lifting and earth cutting from the Nagor river and its dam area are threatening farmlands and homesteads and creating ecological imbalance in Dupchanchia, Kahaloo and Adamdighi upazilas of the district.

Locals said 12 to 15 ruling party men, some local influential people and a few Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) men are allegedly involved in the illegal activities.

Momena Begum, 63, of Gunpara village in Kahaloo upazila, said, "Journalists take snapshots, videos and information about the sand and soil lifting that threatens our croplands and homesteads, but no action has been taken to stop such activities."

Jalal Uddin, 55, a victim, said, "The river has changed its direction due to sand lifting and eroded my homestead and land."

"Ruling party men and influential sand lifters

have been threatening farmers' lands by easily getting soil to sell to the brick kilns," said a resident of Chakla Shashanghat.

Over 500-600 bighas of land in Bakultola, Gunpara, Fakirpara, Chakla Shashanghat, Kumarpara, Dewanpukur north and south, Panchthita, Belpara under Kahaloo upazila, Filitola, Polipara, Shabla under Dupchanchia upazila and Bagadaha, Kalipara and Palongkuri under Adamdighi upazila are the areas worst affected by sand lifting and soil cutting.

Member of Kahaloo upazila unit of Awami League (AL) Shamim Hossain, sports secretary of Dupchanchia unit of Jubo League Ripon Mia, Amirul Islam Bakul and an activist of Kalai union unit of BNP Hashu Mia, along with some activists of AL and BNP, are allegedly carrying out the illegal sand lifting.

Ripon said he has been lifting the sand from land belonging to his uncle, but he

could not explain why they were cutting soil from the dam area, causing erosion of the land of others.

Shamim Hossain said they had bought abandoned land beside the river to supply sand and soil to the brick kilns of Nur, Daulot, Shaju, Bachchu, without having permission from the administration.

Kalai union parishad Chairman, also a Sramik League leader, Abu Taher Sardar Hannan said he has informed the authorities concerned about the matter, but the sand lifters have continued conducting destructive activities.

President of Dupchanchia upazila unit of AL Mizanur Rahman Khan Selim said they strongly protested the illegal activities, and are fighting to protect the ecology of the area.

Deputy Commissioner of Bogra Md Ashraf Uddin said some sand lifting equipment have already been destroyed and he will take further action soon.

PABNA RISKY SCHOOLHOUSE 'Stop classes at risky building'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Finally, local administration yesterday asked the Binnadangi Government Primary School authority in Sujanagar upazila to stop holding classes in the risky schoolhouse where bamboo sticks were used instead of iron rods in constructing the building.

A report titled 'Cracks in construction' published in 'The Daily Star' on January 10 sparked huge criticisms among the public.

Visiting the school yesterday and the day before, upazila education officer, upazila engineer and other government officials noticed the faulty construction of the schoolhouse.

"Due to poor and faulty construction

work the school building has developed the cracks only within a few years," said Sujanagar Upazila Engineer Johurul Islam.

"I along with other officials visited the school on Wednesday and submitted a report to the district primary education office to take immediate steps for the sake of the innocent kids," Sujanagar Upazila Primary Education Officer Nargis Akter said.

"We have asked the school authorities to stop holding classes there. The authorities concerned will set up makeshift classrooms within a week," Nargis said.

Md Abul Kalam Azad, acting headmaster of the school, said established in 1980, the school building was constructed in two phases in 1994 and 2005 but it became risky within a few years.



Fake cosmetic factory busted, fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A fake cosmetic factory was unearthed in the district yesterday.

A mobile court led by Dinajpur Executive Magistrate Zobayer Ahmed and accompanied by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members raided Dinajpur Satellite Town on a tip-off yesterday and seized a large quantity of substandard chemicals used to produce cosmetics.

The mobile court sealed-off the factory and fined owner Md Morshedur Rahman Chowdhury Tk one lakh, said Commanding Officer of Dinajpur Rab Crime Prevention Camp-1 Major Forkhrul Islam Khan Bir.

Smuggled mandarins sold at Burimari land port

S DILIP ROY with ANDREW EAGLE

At Burimari land port in Lalmonirhat's Patgram upazila trade in smuggled mandarins is brisk. At least three thousand sacks of the fruit from India and Bhutan illegally cross the border daily, according to locals, to be sold to fruit traders at low prices. The mandarins are sold in the open, with customs officials and law enforcers strangely inactive.

"I can purchase a twenty-kilogram sack of mandarins at the border for around Tk 800," says Lalmonirhat fruit trader Delowar Hossain. "These foreign mandarins sell for up to Tk 65 per kilogram in the local market. At the border I have to pay about Tk 125 to a smuggling syndicate for each ten kilograms of oranges."

"We facilitate market connectivity in the land port area for the smuggled foreign mandarins," says one syndicate member Jamal Hossain. "These mandarins are delivered to the border by Indian and Bhutanese

truck drivers."

One such driver from Bhutan, Gonesh Singh, 46, says orders are paid for in advance for mandarins to be delivered to Burimari. Locals report that law enforcers and in particular customs officials are well aware of the illegal trade.

It's not only that the Bangladesh government loses revenue from the smuggling, but the quality of the fruit is unknown. "Plant quarantine officials don't test smuggled fruit," says the deputy director of the plant quarantine office at Burimari, Abdul Quader. "Customs will take measures to prevent this illegal trade."

Burimari's assistant commissioner of customs, Rezvi Ahmed, says a syndicate has been conducting the illegal trade in foreign-sourced mandarins. "We took steps to close the illegal market only yesterday," he says. "If the syndicate tries to operate here again we will take legal action."



Selling of mandarins smuggled from India and Bhutan has become a regular scene near Burimari Land Port area in Lalmonirhat's Patgram upazila in recent days, thanks to the negligence of customs officials and law enforcers. PHOTO: STAR

EDCL ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
Dhaka-1208, Bangladesh

Ref No: EDCL/PD-Gopalganj/ICT/IMM/2016/016 Date: 12 January, 2017

Amendment of Tender Notice
(Amendment No -2)

Project Title : Establishment of Essential Drugs Company Limited (3rd Plant), Gopalganj

Tender Name : Supply, Erection, Testing, Commissioning, Qualification and Validation of Injectable Manufacturing Machinery.

Ref. No : EDCL/PD-Gopalganj/ICT/IMM/2016/22 03 November, 2016

Notice Sl. No	Subject to be Amended	Existing as	Shall be Amended as
14	Tender Last Selling Date and Time	12 January, 2017 at 05:00 PM (Local Time)	19 January, 2017 at 05:00 PM (Local Time)
15	Tender Closing Date and Time	15 January, 2017 at 03:00 PM (Local Time)	24 January, 2017 at 03:00 PM (Local Time)
16	Tender Opening Date and Time	15 January, 2017 at 03:30 PM (Local Time)	24 January, 2017 at 03:30 PM (Local Time)

All other terms & conditions shall remain unchanged.

(Prof. (Dr) Ehsanul Kabir)
Project Director
Establishment of Essential Drugs Company Limited (3rd Plant), Gopalganj

EDCL ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED
395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area
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Ref No: EDCL/PD-Gopalganj/ICT/PW-WFI-PS/2016/017 Date: 12 January, 2017

Amendment of Tender Notice
(Amendment No -2)

Project Title : Establishment of Essential Drugs Company Limited (3rd Plant), Gopalganj

Tender Name : Supply, Erection, Testing, Commissioning, Qualification and Validation for Generation & Distribution of Purified Water, Water for Injection and Pure Steam etc.

Ref. No : EDCL/PD-Gopalganj/ICT/PW-WFI-PS/2016/23 16 November, 2016

Notice Sl. No	Subject to be Amended	Existing as	Shall be Amended as
14	Tender Last Selling Date and Time	15 January, 2017 at 05:00 PM (Local Time)	19 January, 2017 at 05:00 PM (Local Time)
15	Tender Closing Date and Time	17 January, 2017 at 03:00 PM (Local Time)	25 January, 2017 at 03:00 PM (Local Time)
16	Tender Opening Date and Time	17 January, 2017 at 03:30 PM (Local Time)	25 January, 2017 at 03:30 PM (Local Time)

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