

# Plough pan hits crops

## Farming of deep-rooted crops hampered in Lalmonirhat

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Production of deep-rooted crops in the district is decreasing day by day due to the bad impact of plough pan on the soil.

Plough pan is a compact layer of soil which is formed generally under the normal ploughing zone of soil in cultivable lands, reducing productivity of the land.

Farmers at different villages said they do not know about the plough pan problem as agriculture officials did not inform them about it.

Farmer Nabirul Islam of Fulgachh village in Sadar upazila said he got less production of carrots this year due to reasons unknown. "We know this crop grows underground, but it comes out on the top of soil," he said. "I ploughed the land with a tractor, but it ploughed only 3.5 inches deep," he added.

Deputy Director (DD) of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in the district Bidubhushon Roy said ploughing at the same depth year after year and cultivation of flood-irrigated rice in muddy conditions is creating plough pan under the ploughing zone. Plough pan may be formed for other reasons, depending on soil-related factors, he added.

"On an average, plough pan forms between 3.5 to 7.5 inches depth. The compact layer depth is about four inches under the normal cultivation layer and compactness is reduced after about 7.5 inches depth," he added.

Root fails to penetrate the compact region, so cultivation of deep-rooted crops like radish, carrot, sweet potato, potato, ground nut is hampered and yield is reduced, the DD said, adding that it disrupts the soil's physical and chemical properties, which may reduce the productivity of the soil drastically.

Plough pan creates hindrance to the infiltration of water under the soil. Due to this, water-logging takes place and drainage capacity of the soil is drastically reduced, thus crop cultivation is hampered by high soil moisture, said Aditmari upazila Agriculture Officer Biplob Kumar Mohanto.

DD Bidubhushon Roy said crop rotation is a very effective way to break and prevent plough pan. Deep rooted crop cultivation like jute after shallow-rooted crop is one of the ways of crop rotation, he said, adding that use of alternate wet and dry method instead of flood-irrigated rice cultivation is very helpful in preventing plough pan formation. "Deep ploughing is highly recommended to break the plough pan mechanically by disk plough, harrow and modified country plough," he said.



A farmer harvesting carrots, a deep-rooted crop, looks unhappy as production has decreased due to formation of plough pan on his land. PHOTO: STAR

# For coming late!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

An office peon was beaten up mercilessly by the executive engineer of Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) in Lalmonirhat Sadar for coming late to the office.

Peon cum night guard Anil Chandra Sarkar, 35, is now undergoing treatment at Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital with injuries on his neck, back and legs, said Dr Azmal Haque, resident medical officer of the hospital.

"I was on duty as night guard at the office around 8:40pm on Friday night. All on a sudden, our Executive Engineer Badsha Miah started beating me mercilessly," said the peon.

"Asked about my fault, the engineer said 'you came late to office'. At one stage, he lost his temper and said he will take my life. At this, he tried to kill me through choking but luckily I was saved by other office staff," said Anil.

Office peon Anil, son of freedom fighter Guru Charan Sarkar of Dakkhin Gaddimari village of Hatibandha upazila, is a staff of PHED office in Hatibandha.

He was taken to Lalmonirhat office on deputation a month ago. Although Anil is an office peon, he has been performing additional duty as night guard in the office.

After a week of joining in Lalmonirhat office, Anil made an appeal to the executive engineer for cancelling the deputation order on the ground that his ailing freedom



Office peon Anil Chandra Sarkar, injured by Lalmonirhat PHED executive engineer, lands in a hospital. PHOTO: STAR

The office boss then demanded Tk 10 thousand as bribe against cancellation of the deputation order.

"Later, I gave him Tk 3,000 for cancelling the order," Anil said, adding that the engineer did not do this. Instead, he gave me additional duty.

Refuting the allegation of taking bribe, engineer Badsha said the peon was beaten as he was late for duty.

Wishing anonymity, other office staff of PHED in Lalmonirhat alleged that Badsha always misbehaves with them.

Confirming the incident, CBA President of Lalmonirhat PHED Abdus Salam said they have made a written complaint to the higher authorities against the office boss on Saturday noon.

"If we don't get justice in this regard by Monday, we will go for another step, including filing of a case," he said.

# Missing tailor found murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Body of a man, who went missing on Tuesday night, was found at Chandpur village under Dighpait union in Sadar upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased, Shafiqul Islam, 39, son of late Habel Uddin of the village, was father of two daughters.

"After finishing work at his tailoring shop at Dighpait Bazar, Shafiqul returned home on Tuesday evening. He went out of his house around 8:00pm, but did not return since then,"

Mahabbat Kabir, inspector of Sadar Police Station, quoted the victim's family members as saying.

"Family members and relatives made failed attempts to find him. On Sunday morning locals found Shafiqul's decomposed body kept in a sack in Bongshai canal beside Chandpur village.

"Informed by Jahangir Alam, member of Dighpait union parishad, police recovered the body around 10:30am.

"It seems criminals strangled Shafiqul as his throat bore injury marks. We are trying to trace the killers and find out the motive," said Inspector Mahabbat.

# Books in Santal language still a far cry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Lack of textbooks in mother language and shortage of teachers of their own communities hamper schooling of a large number of indigenous children, mostly the Santals, in different areas of Sadar, Gomostapur and Nachole upazilas under the district.

Sajoni Hemrom, of Class IV, and Sumitra Tudu, of Class V of Jalahar Government Primary School in Sadar upazila are lucky enough as their teachers are Santals. Still they face problems as the textbooks are in Bangla and English.

"Most of the 70 students of this school are Santals as there are 60 families of the community at Jalahar village, a Santal-majority area. At school they learn Bangla and English and the teachers using Santal language help them to understand the texts. They would be more interested to learn if the textbooks were in mother language," said Anas Saren, acting headmaster of the school.

This correspondent also visited Amnura

Mission Non-Government Primary School, run by Norwegian Lutheran Mission, at Jhilim union under Sadar upazila on Saturday.

Of the 238 students, 132 kids, including 73 Santals, belong to different ethnic communities. All the five teachers are also of the minority communities.

The ethnic kids read Bangla and English texts, but cannot speak the languages clearly.

Conditions of most other indigenous learners in the district are worse as they have to learn with Bangla speaking teachers.

According to indigenous leaders in Chapainawabganj, at least 25,000 indigenous people belonging to ethnic communities including Santal, Kole, Oraon, Mahato and Rajbangshi live in the district, the Santals being the largest among them.

The government should arrange textbooks for Santal kids in Roman alphabet, which is used for writing Santal language since 1863, said Hingu Murmu, president of Uttarbanga Adibasi Parishad.

# Gaibandha By-Polls Nine submit nomination

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Nine candidates yesterday submitted nomination papers for the by-election to the Gaibandha-1 constituency.

The seat fell vacant following the murder of Awami League lawmaker Manzurul Islam Liton in December last year.

The by-election will be held on March 22, said GM Shahatab, regional election officer.

They are Golam Mostafa Ahmed, AL, Shamim Hyder Patwari, JP (Ershad), Mohammed Ali Pramanik of JSD (Inu), Waheduzzaman Sarkar Badsha, JP (Monju), Shariful Islam, Gano Front, and Zia Zaman Khan, NPP, and independent candidates - Mostafa Mahsin, Abdul Majid Mia and Nawshad Ali.

## BIRDEM GENERAL HOSPITAL

(An Enterprise of the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh), Ibrahim Memorial Diabetes Centre, 122, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000.

### Employment Notice

Applications are invited from the citizen of Bangladesh for the following posts.

Sl#	Name of the Post	Qualifications
01	<b>Professor (Microbiology)</b> Pay Scale :Tk. 56500-74400/- & all other admissible allowances.	1 MBBS or Equivalent and Registration with BMDC. 2 Five years experience in the relevant field as Associate Professor with any of the following Post-graduate degrees recognised by BMDC:PhD/DSc/D.Phil/FCPS/MD/M.Phil/MS/MRC path. or equivalent in relevant subject. 3 Five Scientific Publications in Medical Journals recognized by the BMDC.
02	<b>Senior Consultant (ENT)</b> Pay Scale :Tk. 56500-74400/- & all other admissible allowances.	1 MBBS or Equivalent and Registration with BMDC. 2 Five years experience in the relevant field as Consultant/Associate Professor with any of the following Post-graduate degrees recognized by BMDC:PhD/FCPS/MS/FRCS or equivalent in relevant subject. 3 Five Scientific Publications in Journals recognized by BMDC.
03	<b>Sr. Consultant (Ophthalmology)</b> Pay Scale :Tk. 56500-74400/- & all other admissible allowances.	1 MBBS or Equivalent and Registration with BMDC. 2 Five years experience in the relevant field as Consultant/Associate Professor with any of the following Post-graduate degrees recognized by BMDC : PhD/FCPS/MS or equivalent in relevant subject. 3 Five Scientific Publications in Journals recognized by BMDC.
04	<b>Consultant (Ophthalmology)</b> Pay Scale :Tk. 50000-71200/- & all other admissible allowances	1 MBBS or Equivalent and Registration with BMDC. 2 Three years experience in the relevant field as Jr. Consultant/Asstt. Professor or teaching experience in equivalent post with any of the following Post-graduate degrees recognised by BMDC: PhD/FCPS/MS or equivalent in relevant subject. 3 Three Scientific Publications in Journals recognised by BMDC.
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06	<b>Consultant(Critical Care Medicine)</b> Pay Scale :Tk. 50000-71200/- & all other admissible allowances	1 MBBS or Equivalent and Registration with BMDC. 2 Three years experience in the relevant field as Jr. Consultant/Asstt. Professor or teaching experience in equivalent post with any of the following Post-graduate degrees recognised by BMDC:PhD/FCPS/MD/MRC/CP or equivalent in Critical Care Medicine or any relevant subject like Medicine,chest,Cardiology with strong background/experiences in Critical Care Medicine. 3 Three Scientific Publications in Journals recognised by BMDC.
07	<b>Consultant (Urology)</b> Pay Scale :Tk. 50000-71200/- & all other admissible allowances	1 MBBS or Equivalent and Registration with BMDC. 2 Three years experience in the relevant field as Jr. Consultant/Asstt. Professor or teaching experience in equivalent post with any of the following Post-graduate degrees recognised by BMDC: PhD/FCPS/MS/FRCS or equivalent in relevant subject. 3 Three Scientific Publications in Journals recognised by BMDC.
08	<b>Jr. Consultant (Neurology)</b> Pay Scale :Tk. 35500-67010/- & all other admissible allowances.	1 MBBS or Equivalent and Registration with BMDC. 2 Any of the following Post graduate degree recognized by BMDC : PhD/DSc/D.Phil/FCPS/MD/MRC/CP/M.Phil/MSc or equivalent in relevant subject 3 Candidates having teaching experience and publications in relevant subjects will get preference.
09	<b>Asstt. Professor (Histopathology)</b> Pay Scale :Tk. 35500-67010/- & all other admissible allowances.	1 MBBS or equivalent degree and registration with BMDC. 2 Any of the following Post graduate degree recognized by BMDC. FCPS/MD /M phil /MS/MRC Path or equivalent in relevant subject. 3 Candidates having teaching experience and publications in relevant subjects will get preference.
10	<b>Resident Surgeon (Gynae &amp; Obs)</b> Pay Scale :Tk. 35500-67010/- & all other admissible allowances.	1 MBBS or Equivalent and Registration with BMDC. 2 Any of the following Post-graduate degrees recognised by BMDC: PhD/FCPS/MS/MRCOG or equivalent in the relevant subject. 3 Candidates having teaching experience & Publication in the relevant subject will get preference.
11	<b>Asstt. Professor (Blood Transfusion Medicine)</b> Pay Scale :Tk. 35500-67010/- & all other admissible allowances.	1 MBBS or Equivalent and Registration with BMDC. 2 Any of the following Post graduate degree recognized by BMDC : PhD/FCPS/MD/MTM or equivalent in relevant subject. 3 Candidates having teaching experience and publications in relevant subjects will get preference.
12	<b>Registrar (Neurology)</b> Pay Scale :Tk. 29000-63410/- & all other admissible allowances.	1 MBBS or Equivalent and Registration with BMDC. 2 Any of the following Post-graduate degrees recognised by BMDC: PhD/DSc/D.Phil/FCPS/MD/MRC/CP/M.Phil/MSc or equivalent in relevant subject.
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14	<b>Office Secretary</b> Pay Scale :Tk. 22000-53060/- & all other admissible allowances.	2nd class Master Degree with efficiency in Computer Operation under a Network environment.
15	<b>Junior Health Educator</b> Pay Scale :Tk. 16000-38640/- & all other admissible allowances.	Bachelor of Science (BSc) having Health Education Training Course from BADAS.
16	<b>Senior Staff Nurse</b> Pay Scale :Tk. 16000-38640/- & all other admissible allowances.	Diploma in Nursing & Midwifery. Candidates having not completed Midwifery Course may apply provided they have completed any other equivalent course recognised by BNC.
17	<b>Research Asstt. (Microbiology)</b> Pay Scale :Tk. 12500-30230/- & all other admissible allowances.	BSc (Hons) in Microbiology/Biotechnology/Laboratory Science.
18	<b>Medical Technologist (Microbiology)</b> Pay Scale :Tk. 12500-30230/- & all other admissible allowances.	Diploma in Medical Technology recognized by the State Medical Faculty.

Applications to be submitted in prescribed form, obtainable from Cash Counter # 15 & 22, BIRDEM, 122 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000, on all working days (from 9-00 A.M. to 12-30 P.M.). The price of each application form for Sl. # 1-16 is Tk. 400/- & Sl. # 17-18 is Tk. 200/-. Age limit for Sl. # 14-18 is 30 years as on 30.06.2017. Applicants who are in service should apply through proper channel. Name of the applied post to be clearly written on the envelope. One copy of money receipt must be attached with the application form. For the post of Sl. # 13 applicants should mention clearly the Speciality. Management reserves the right to cancel any or all application without assigning any reason whatsoever. The application along with required papers (as per instruction on the application form) should reach on or before 04.03.2017 either dropped in the box placed in front of room # 230 or sent by post. Only short listed candidates will be called for interview. Incomplete applications may be rejected. Director General



Save Forest Cycle Procession: Eleven members of BD Cyclists pose for photograph near Rema-Kanelga forest area in Chunarughat upazila of Habiganj on Saturday. The programme aimed at building awareness among people to save the forest and nature from consistent grabbing and logging. The march to the forest started from Sreemangal upazila town of Moulvibazar. PHOTO: STAR

# Man to die for farmer murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A court here yesterday sentenced a man to death for killing a farmer in 2008.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Al Mahmud Faijul Kabir declared the verdict.

The convicted Nurul Islam, 25, son of Hazrat Ali of Kafatia village of Sadar upazila, is absconding. The court, however, acquitted three others as the charges brought against them could not be proved.

Ainal Hossain, 48, of the village, was killed on October 3 in 2008 as Nurul Islam and some others hit him with iron rods and sharp weapons following a dispute over land boundary.

# Two private dorms for Nazrul univ girls gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Two private dormitories for female students of Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University were burnt to ashes on Saturday evening, said police.

Police and Fire Brigade and Civil Defense personnel rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Trishal Police Station Md Moniruzzaman said.

Around 60 female students had been residing in Shashi Chhatri Nibash and Aniruddha Chhatri Nibash at Namapara in Trishal upazila, the OC said.

"Soon after the incident, we asked the provost of Dulonchanpa, the lone residential hall for female students of the university, to accommodate the affected students on an emergency basis and she complied," said Proctor Dr Md Jahidul Kabir.

A six-member probe body headed by the proctor has been asked to submit its report within four working days.

The fire might have started from an electric short circuit, Moniruzzaman said, adding all the belongings of the students, including books, papers and furniture, were burnt to ashes.

# Woman killed for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A housewife was yesterday strangled to death for dowry in her in-laws' house in Atghoria upazila of the district.

The deceased, Akhi Khatun, 25, wife of Jayedul Islam and daughter of Abdul Halim Sheikh of the village, was often tortured by her in-laws for dowry, police said.

Officer-in-Charge of Atghoria Police Station Md Faruk Hossain, quoting victim's family members, said Jayedul often tortured Akhi for dowry since they got married two months ago.

Jayedul and his family members beat up Akhi and strangled her to death, said Akhi's family members.