

JMB man arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Police arrested a member of banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) with home-made bombs in Nejampur railway station area of Nachole upazila in the district on Wednesday night.

The arrestee is Nazmul Islam, 50, son of Hajaridanga village of Shibganj upazila.

Nachole Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Fasiuddin said on information, a team of police raided a mango orchard in Nejampur railway station area around 9:45pm and arrested Nazmul when he was holding a secret meeting with his cohorts there.

Sensing presence of the law enforcers, his five to six accomplices fled from the area.

Police, however, were able to arrest Nazmul and recovered seven home-made bombs from his possession.

'Efficient law enforcers help check militancy'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Proper actions alongside professional development of the law enforcers have helped to curb militancy in the country, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said at a programme in the district town yesterday.

Militants as well as sea and forest robbers are being made to surrender as the government has taken adequate steps for development of professional skill and discipline of the police force and increase of their manpower, the minister said at the meeting on law and order at the deputy commissioner's conference room.

With increasing awareness, now common people are cooperating with the law enforcers to get the militants caught, he said. Urging people from all walks of life to be vocal against the bad effects of drugs, he said, "Drug still remains a matter of major concern and so, we have taken a strict position against the trade of illegal drugs to make the country free from the curse of drug abuse."



Two men help a horse-drawn cart to pass a rugged spot of a sandy land at Koromjapara in Sariakandi upazila of Bogra.

PHOTO: MAMUN-UR-RASHID

LALMONIRHAT, BOGRA

Horse carts, an easy transport in remote char areas

STAR COUNTRY DESK

The char areas of Lalmonirhat and Bogra districts see increasing use of horse-drawn carts, serving as convenient vehicle in the remote sandy lands in river basin areas most of the year.

Our Lalmonirhat correspondent reports: Introduction of a large number of horse-drawn carts has eased communication in the char areas.

"I carry passengers on boats in the Teesta river when there is sufficient flow during monsoon for three to four months from July to October and I work as a coachman in the char areas rest of the year," said Manowar Hossain, 45, of Teesta Char Gobordhan of Aditmari upazila in the district.

"We transport agricultural products from char areas to mainland, and bring necessary goods from there. Sometimes char people use our broughams to carry ailing people to hospitals," said Nazrul Islam, 48, another coachman in the area.

Around 250 to 280 horse-drawn carts are used daily for transporting goods in around 100 char areas along Teesta and



A horse cart returns after reaching goods to remote Char Kalmati on the basin of the Teesta river in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Dharla rivers in the district, said Hamidur Rahman, 42, a cart driver at Char Dawabari area of Hatibandha upazila.

"We get Tk 25-30 for transporting one maund (40 kg) of goods in four to five kilometres of char areas in a horse cart. We can transport up to 10 maunds of goods in each trip," he said.

"On an average I earn Tk 600 a day and half of it is spent for buying horse's feed," said

Hossain Ali, 35, a coachman at Char Bowalmari in Dharla river basin area of Lalmonirhat Sadar.

However, many char people, failing to afford the fare of horse carts, still carry goods by themselves, walking miles on the sandy land, said Mosaddeque Hossain Chowdhury, chairman of Mahishkhocha union parishad.

Several locals have urged the government to arrange free trans-

port on broughams for ailing and elderly people.

Our Bogra correspondent reports: Visiting the char areas along the Jamuna and Bangalee rivers in Sariakandi, Sonatola and Dhunat upazilas under the district during the ongoing dry season, one would frequently come across horse-drawn carts.

In Sariakandi upazila, hundreds of horse-carts ply Char Kazla, Hat Sherpur, Kaluabari,

Kornibari, Bohail, Chandanbaisha and Kornibari areas, helping people to carry their goods during the dry season, said Alamgir Hossain, an inhabitant of Kaluabari.

"I have made a horse cart using old rings, tyres and tubes of motor vehicles and wood and bamboo spending around Tk 35 thousand and bought a pair of horse for Tk 20 thousand. I have started using it to carry people and goods on the sandy char," said Sourav Kumar.

A horse-drawn cart costs around half of a bullock cart and it can move on the sandy char land much easier than a bullock cart, he added.

Horse-drawn carts are now playing an important role in carrying goods and passengers in the chars area, said Md Abdur Rashid, upazila social service officer of Sariakandi.

Arrangement of easy-term loans from banks would encourage more people to buy or make horse-drawn carts and arrange transporting people and goods in the remote areas, he said.

Bumper onion yield likely in Jhenidah

2,500 hectares of land have been brought under onion cultivation this season

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Onion growers in the district are happy as they are expecting bumper yield this season.

There was no pest attack in any onion plot in the district, so the farmers will harvest well this year due to favourable weather, said Deputy Director of Jhenidah Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) Shah Akramul Haque.

Akramul said onion had been cultivated on 2,395 hectares of land in six upazilas of the district in the last season, while 2,500 hectares have been brought under cultivation this season.

Onion has been cultivated on 220 hectares in Sadar upazila, 60 in Kaliganj, 55 in Kotchandpur, 140 in Moheshpur, 1,765 in Shailakupa and 260 hectares in Harinakundo.

Farmers said one kg of onion seeds is needed for growing it on one bigha of land. Production cost, including irrigation and fertiliser, is Tk 10,000 to Tk 12,000. They get 50 to 60 maunds of yield per bigha, and sell it at Tk 1,000 to Tk 1,200 per maund, they added.

Abdur Razzak of Charchunda village under Shailakupa upazila said he has been farming onions since 1995 as it is more profitable than most crops. Growers can store dry onion for long, he said, adding that they can sell it at good price when the prices go up.

Farmers sow the seeds from December to mid-January and start harvesting in the second week of March.

Ibrahim Hossain said there are 200 families in Charchunda village and all of them work together for cultivating onions.

They get good price early in the season, he said, adding that if the price goes down they store the crop and sell it when the prices go up.



Grabber eyes widow's land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A local influential person is grabbing a piece of land, originally owned by a Hindu widow, at Shahitri village under Lalmonirhat Sadar municipality, defying the Municipality Shalish (arbitration) Board order given in June last year.

Fifty-five-year-old Subodini, widow of late Sudhir Chandra Barman and daughter of late Nitai Chandra Barman of the village, with his only son Sudhan Chandra in now living on others land at neighbouring Roypara village.

Subodini received the mutation papers of the 31 decimals of land, which she inherited from her mother late Makhodasa Bala, from Lalmonirhat Assistant Commissioner's (land) Office in November 2003.

"I have been paying taxes against the 31 decimals of land at the local office since I received the mutation documents in 2003," said Subodini.

Abul Kalam, Tohshildar at Lalmonirhat Municipal Land Office, said they received taxes from Subodini as per the legal documents but they are not designated to recover any grabbed land.

On June 28 last year, Sadar Municipality Shalish (arbitrator) Board delivered judgement over the issue and declared Subodini as lone owner of the property, but the alleged grabber Majidul Haque Bakshi, 62, son of late Fazle Haque of the village, did not pay heed, said Azizur Rahman Tuhin, councillor of Ward no 4 of the municipality.

Sadar Municipality Mayor Reazul Islam Rintu said the arbitration board handed the widow all the documents and suggested her to file a case with the court.

As Subodini did not have the ability to bear the expenditure of the court or any case she is knocking local community leaders seeking their help.

One of the community leaders Shamsuzzaman Bablu said villagers tried to settle the matter but the alleged grabber didn't respond to their initiative despite several attempts.

When asked, Majidul Haque refuted the allegation brought against him and said he purchased the land from a local about 30 years ago.

"Without court's order I would not give a single inch of the property," he added.

SUJANAGAR UZ BY-POLL Pabna BNP alleges AL threat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The district BNP leaders have expressed concern over the March 6 by-election to Sujanagar Upazila Parishad, alleging threat by ruling Awami League (AL) men and partial role of the local administration and police.

"A group of Awami League men attacked BNP leaders and activists in the municipality area during campaign for BNP nominated chairman candidate Hazari Jakir Hossain on Tuesday afternoon, leaving five of our leaders and activists injured," Pabna district unit BNP Secretary Habibur Rahman Tota told a press conference at Pabna Press Club yesterday.

A couple of days ago, AL men foiled the campaign of Zakir Hossain, also president of upazila BNP, in Sagarkandi area, alleged Masud Khandaker, joint secretary of district BNP.

"Earlier, the ruling party men attacked the house of Sujanagar municipality BNP Secretary Kamal Biswas and created pressure on Zakir Hossain to withdraw his nomination paper.

"After the incidents, we went to police to file cases but they did not accept our cases. We are worried about peaceful election amid continuous threat by the ruling party men and partial role of local administration," he said.

The BNP leaders urged the Election Commission to take steps for ensuring free and fair election in Sujanagar Upazila Parishad by-election.

Contacted, AL nominated chairman candidate Abdul Kader Rokon refuted the allegation of attacks on the BNP leaders and activists by his party men.

Md Obaidur Rahman, officer in charge of Sujanagar Police Station, said, "When there is any information of attacks, police rush to the spot. But BNP men did not file any case. We are ready to maintain peace for holding a free and fair election."

2 rapists get life in Jhalakathi

Six others were acquitted as allegations not proved

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

A Jhalakathi court on Wednesday sentenced two stalkers to life term imprisonment for raping a schoolgirl in 2004.

They are Md Rubel Hossain, 26, son of Ashraf Ali of Dakkhin Malipur, and Raihan Hawlader, 27, son of Habibur Rahman of Surjopasha in Nalchhity upazila.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Md Bazlur Raham also fined the lifers Tk 1 lakh each.

According to the prosecution, a group of youths, led by Rubel and Raihan, entered the house of the girl and raped her on September 4 in 2014.

The victim's father later filed a case with Nalchhity Police Station, accusing the duo and six others.

After examining witnesses and evidence, the judge found them guilty and pronounced the verdict.

Six other accused in the case were acquitted as allegations brought against them could not be proved.

Kader's another aide arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Rangpur police arrested another close aide of 'mastermind' Abdul Kader Khan of MP Liton's murder.

Subol Chandra Sarkar was held in front of a clinic in Rangpur city on Wednesday, said Gaibandha Police Superintendent Masrurur Rahman Khaled.

Yesterday, the arrestee was produced before Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court that sent him to jail in Gaibandha.

Earlier, during interrogation by police, four alleged killers confessed that Subol all along helped giving information about the location of lawmaker Liton and kept close contact with killers and Kader Khan, said Gaibandha police.

Kader Khan, also a former lawmaker from Jatiya Party, was arrested in Bogra on February 21 for his suspected involvement in the murder of Gaibandha-1 Awami League MP Manzurul Islam Liton.

Liton was killed after unknown assailants opened fire on him inside his home in Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha on December 31 last year.



Law Minister Anisul Huq inaugurated the new building of Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court in Chapainawabganj yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR