

Joypurhat BNP office torched

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Supporters of a faction of Joypurhat BNP torched the party office in the town yesterday protesting the newly formed committee.

Farid Hossain, officer-in-charge of Joypurhat Sadar Police Station, said one of the factions that did not get any post in the newly formed committee attacked the office near Station Road area in Joypurhat municipality around 11:00am.

The attackers vandalised the furniture of the office. Later, they set the office on fire. On information, fire fighters rushed to the spot and doused the blaze.

Joypurhat BNP men started agitation after the central committee approved the district committee with Mozahar Ali Prodhan and Nafizur Rahman Palash as president and secretary.

Taufiqul Islam, assistant secretary of central BNP, signed the letter on March 2.



Farmers cultivate wheat instead of boro paddy beside Dinajpur branch canal under Teesta Irrigation Project at Kukhapara village in Nilphamari Sadar upazila as shortage of water supply from the canal leads to changing crop patterns.

PHOTO: STAR

Man stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A youth was shot and hacked to death at Lengra Bazar area in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The victim was identified as Hasan Ali, 26, son of Hazrat Ali of Golgonda area.

Quoting local and family sources, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Kotwali Police Station Md Kamrul Islam said Hasan had enmity with Mamun of the same locality over local sand business for long.

Hasan and his men allegedly beat up Mamun a few days ago. In retaliation, Mamun and his men allegedly attacked Hasan with arms and sharp weapons, killing him on the spot, the OC said.

The killers also severed the tendons of the victim's hands and legs, police said.

Local people informed police, who recovered the body and sent it to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. They recovered three bullet shells from the spot.

There were several marks of bullets and sharp weapons on the body, the OC said.

Hasan is an accused in six cases, including two for murder, filed with Kotwali Police Station the OC added.

A tense situation is prevailing in the area and additional police have been deployed to avert further untoward incident, police said.

No case was lodged and no one was arrested as of filing of this report.

Drastic water fall in Teesta

Boro farmers opt for other crops as WDB is unable to supply required water for irrigation

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Farmers under the Teesta irrigation project are cultivating crops other than boro paddy as they are not getting required quantity of water for irrigation of boro fields.

Farmers had to move away from boro cultivation as the Water Development Board (WDB) is unable to provide irrigation water to their boro fields as water flow in the Teesta river falls drastically during the season due to closing of all the gates of India's Gajaldoba barrage in the upstream of the Teesta river.

Agriculture Extension Officer (AEO) of Teesta Irrigation Project in Dalia division Rafiul Bari said, "Water flow in Teesta falls to 1,000 cusec, while at least 5,000 cusec is needed for proper irrigation."

"With this poor flow, we can't provide enough water for irrigation, so we have decided to give irrigation water to only 8,000 hectares of boro land this year, which is about one-eighth of the 65,000 hectares in previous years," the AEO added.

The newly set target covers only four upazilas of Nilphamari -- Dimla, Jaldhaka, Kishoreganj and Sadar.

Farmers said they can either cultivate multiple crops that need less irrigation, or cultivate boro using costly diesel-run pumps, in the remaining 57,000 hectares.

In a recent visit by this correspondent to Kukha Para, Beg Para, Monosa Para, Kamar Para, Jhar Para villages in Sadar upazila beside the Dinajpur branch canal, he found that many farmers have cultivated wheat, maize,

pumpkin and other crops on their lands, instead of boro, though the area is likely to get irrigation water as per WDB's new target.

Farmer Shamsul Islam, 55, of Monsa Para said, "We don't get water from Dinajpur canal, so we are unable to cultivate boro paddy as it needs intensive irrigation. Finding no other way, we cultivate wheat, maize and other crops that need less or no irrigation."

Bhadu Mamud of Beg Para said, "Farmers in the upstream close to Teesta barrage block the canal to divert water to their fields, depriving farmers like me of water, so I cultivate wheat."

Executive Engineer of WDB in Dalia Mostafizur Rahman said, "Due to scanty water flow in Teesta, we're supplying irrigation water on rationing basis."

JMB man arrested in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police arrested a member of banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from Soudkanda village in Trishal upazila of the district early yesterday.

The arrestee is Abu Raihan Bin Sadek, 32, son of Sadequr Rahman of the village.

Raihan, a member of JMB, is an accused in a criminal case filed with Trishal Police Station in 2009, said Noor-e-Alam, Mymensingh additional superintendent of police.

Raihan, who was arrested the same year, got bail 17 months after his arrest, said Md Moniruzzaman of Trishal Police Station OC.

Chandan on run

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The police are still looking for Chandan Kumar Sarker, office secretary of Sundarganj Upazila Awami League, in connection with the investigation of lawmaker Liton murder case.

Chandan is also a close aide to Col (Rtd) Abdul Kader Khan.

Meanwhile, the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court allowed one day's fresh remand of Kader in connection with an illegal arms case. Kader will be interrogated further about the missing pistol used in the murder of Liton, said Ashrafuzzaman, investigation officer of Liton murder case.

Police arrested Shamsuzzoha Sarkar, personal secretary of former JP lawmaker Kader, on Sunday in connection with the murder of Liton. He was produced before the court, which allowed a two-day remand for interrogation.

Shamsuzzoha confessed his involvement in plotting Liton's murder with Kader. Police later dug up an empty iron box from his homestead, where the arms and ammunition had been concealed.

Police are preparing a list of accused people in the Liton murder case and on getting the reports of all seized and recovered evidence they will submit a charge sheet as early as possible, said Atiar Rahman, officer-in-charge of Sundarganj Police Station.

Kader was arrested from his house at Rahman Nagar in Bogra on February 21 and taken to Gaibandha. Police produced him before the court next day seeking ten days' remand, which the court granted. On the third day of remand he agreed to give confessional statement under Section 164 before the court.

Liton was shot dead on December 31 in 2016 in his house by unknown assailants. Police arrested 30 persons, including Kader and four suspected killers in connection with the case.

Abduction drama

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police yesterday arrested a man for allegedly arranging an 'abduction drama' in Trishal upazila of the district.

The arrestee is Bin Amin, 25, son of Adam Ali of Sateropara village in the upazila.

Amin made a phone call on Wednesday morning to Shirin Akhter, mother of Sadiqul Islam, 14, and said her son, a Class IX student, had been abducted, said Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Trishal Police Station Md Moniruzzaman. Amin also made Shirin hear a child crying, which frightened her, the OC added.

Amin demanded Tk 20,000 from Shirin for release of Sadiqul.

Shirin sent the demanded money through a bKash number given by Amin around noon, police said.

After receiving the money, Amin informed Shirin over mobile phone that her son had been released in Mymensingh Shambhuganj Bridge area. Shirin rushed to the area but could not find Sadiqul.

Later, the worried mother found her son at his school. Shirin informed Trishal police regarding the incident. Police arrested Amin from his Sateropara village through mobile tracking.

The arrestee was produced before a Mymensingh court that sent him to jail, police said.



A couple keep onion for drying on their house yard at Sarpukur in Aditmari upazila of Lalmonirhat. Like many other poor families in the area, they are getting good harvest from cultivation of spices in nearby abandoned lands.

PHOTO: STAR

Solidaridad International Competitive Tendering	
Network Asia	
Tender is hereby invited from Manufacturer, distributors and Importer of Solar System, Sub-Station and Generator, Cold Storage and Ice Production Unit for Solidaridad.	
Procuring entity Name & Address	Solidaridad Network Asia, Apartment # A1, Merry dale, 1st Floor, House # 32, Road # 10A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209
Project Name	Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security and Linkages (SaFaL)
Invitation for	Purchase of Solar System, Sub-Station and Generator, Cold Storage and Ice Production Unit
Invitation reference no.	SNA/OTM -2017/03/001
Tender Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
Source of Fund	Embassy of Kingdom of Netherlands (EKN)
Tender Package No.	Package -1 Solar System, Package-2 Sub-Station and Generator and Package-3 Cold Storage and Ice Production Unit. (Tenderers can participate in any one or two or all three packages of the tender items.)
Tender Documents Available	Solidaridad Network Asia, Apartment # A1, Merry dale, 1st Floor, House # 32, Road # 10A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209
Date & Time for Purchasing Tender Documents	March 12, 2017 to March 27, 2017 during office hours
Tender closing Place, Date & Time	Apartment # A1, Merry dale, 1st Floor, House # 32, Road # 10A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209 ; March 27, 2017 from 9.30 am. to 4.00 pm
Tender Opening Place, Date & Time	Apartment # A1, Merry dale, 1st Floor, House # 32, Road # 10A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209, March 27, 2017 at 04:30 pm

Spice farming on abandoned land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Spice farming on abandoned land near their homesteads has provided an additional source of income to the people living below the poverty line at many villages in the district.

Ultra poor villagers were motivated to grow spices on their abandoned lands by agriculture officials and NGO workers, locals said. They have been farming onion, garlic, ginger, chilli, turmeric, mint, coriander and other spices for the last few years, they added.

Afroza Begum, 30, of Chawratari village in Aditmari upazila said she has earned Tk 1,800 by selling garlic that she cultivated on two decimals of abandoned land besides her home, and she is hoping to earn around Tk 3,000 more in a few days.

Hasina Begum, 42, of Karnopur village in Sadar upazila said they left their lands idle a few years ago as they had no idea that they could use them for farming spices. "Now we are using the lands properly and getting benefit from farming spices," she said, adding that she got 15 kg of onions from one decimal of land this season.

NGO official Sabina Yasmin said over 5,000 ultra-poor people of 50 villages in the district are farming spices. "We only build up their awareness and motivate them to do something to earn more. We also work with the government offices concerned to assure the rights of the poor," she added.

Scientific Officer of Spices Research Sub-centre in Lalmonirhat Ala Uddin Khan said they provide seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and technical support to the spice growers.

Upazila Agriculture Officer in Aditmari Biplob Kumar Mohanto said ultra poor people are living better lives through awareness building and labour.

"Agriculture officials are providing technical support to the people farming spices," he said, adding that ultra-poor are not keeping their lands idle any more.

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)
 PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area
 Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
 Phone: 9126240-3, 9140056-9 Website: http://www.pksf-bd.org

Vacancy Announcement

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)-an apex development funding organization was established by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in 1990 for sustainable poverty reduction through employment generation. Since its inception, PKSF has been implementing various poverty alleviation programs and projects through its Partner Organizations (POs) all over the country.

PKSF is implementing a project titled 'OBA Sanitation Microfinance Program' financed by the World Bank. Under this Program, PKSF will support local microfinance institutions (MFIs) to provide sanitation loans to poor households in rural areas. The program is expected to reach 170,000 poor households in 26 districts across Bangladesh with affordable access to hygienic sanitation through sanitation loans from participating microfinance institutions.

PKSF hereby invites applications from the suitable candidates for the following positions under the OBA sanitation Microfinance Project.

SL	Name of the Posts	No. of Posts
1	Environmental and Social Safeguards specialist	1
2	Financial Management specialist	1
3	Senior Independent Verification Consultant	1
4	Independent Verification Consultant	2

All the employees/consultants will be recruited for one year on full time contractual basis. Interested candidates who fulfill the requirements should submit online application by 26th March, 2017. For detailed job descriptions and instructions visit PKSF website: www.pksf-bd.org.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. PKSF is an equal opportunity employer. Any kind of persuasion will be treated as disqualification of the candidate. PKSF reserves the right to cancel this recruitment process without assigning any reason whatever.

Deputy Managing Director (Finance)

Institute of Modern Languages
 University of Dhaka
Admission Notice: Session 2016-2017

MA IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING (ELT)

AIM: The MA in ELT Program is intended for aspiring and practicing teachers of English.

ELIGIBILITY: Candidates must have a second class/CGPA 2.5 at every level of education. In addition, they must have at least ONE of the following qualifications:

- A 4-year BA (Hons) degree in English Language/Literature/Linguistics from a recognized university.
- A three-year BA with one year MA degree in English Language/Literature/Linguistics from a recognized university.
- A 2-year BA (pass) degree with a 2-year MA degree in English Language/Literature/Linguistics from a recognized university.
- Be a practicing teacher with 4 years' university level education in any subject, currently teaching English at Primary, Secondary, Higher Secondary or any other level, and having two years' experience in teaching English (to be certified by the Head of the Institution).

Classes start on 04 August 2017

NOTE:

- All applicants MUST be proficient in English. A test of their written and spoken proficiency will be taken at the time of selection. The date for the selection test will be announced later.
- The MA in ELT is a fulltime course and will require students to attend classes on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Application forms may be collected from Mr. Abul Kalam Azad, Room No. 127, from 10:00am-1:00pm and 2:00pm-4:00pm on working days only, from 12 March to 13 April 2017 on payment of Tk. 1,000/-.

The last day for submission of application forms is 13 April 2017. Interested candidates may contact Mr. Abul Kalam Azad for further information during office hours.

D-114 Director