

Bad time for mango orchardists in hills

SANJOY KUMAR BARIJA with ANDREW EAGLE

Mango orchardists in Bandarban are facing serious difficulties this year due to a lack of rain. March and April are important months for growers, when mangoes develop from buds into fruit on the way to ripening. The current drought-like conditions are taking their toll. Mangoes, including of the amrapali and rangua varieties which usually do very well in the hill districts, have been falling from the trees early.

"The heat has been excessive," says one grower, Jirkung Bawm from Laimi Para. "The weather during the flowering season wasn't ideal and it adversely affects production." Many local mango orchardists are facing losses this year due to the unfavourable weather.

According to Bandarban's agriculture extension department office, the district last year produced at least 81,940 tonnes of mangoes on 4,820 hectares. This year while orchards have grown to cover 6,900 hectares, expected production targets are unlikely to be met. "This year mango production might reach only 40,000 tonnes in

total," one officer says.

"The extremely dry and hot weather is responsible for the fall in production this season," notes the department's Deputy Director Altaf Hossain. "Low rainfall is not good for developing fruit."

"Mango production from my three-acre orchard has fallen by 55 percent this year," says grower Chang Path Mro from Thanchi.

But for growers the situation isn't all bad. As a result of stifled production, orchardists predict market prices for mangoes will be pricier this year. "Last year I earned around Tk 8 lakh from my five-acre mango orchard," says Jewel Bawm from Chimbuk Road area. "Already this year I have earned Tk 4 lakh from the same land."

Disease is also proving to be a business challenge this year. "I bought the mangoes from a five-acre orchard a month ago for around Tk. 6 lakh," says trader Md Saleh Uddin. "But I find most of the fruit has been infected with an unknown disease over the last two weeks, with infected mangoes rotting within seven to ten days." It's a problem affecting orchards in many areas of the district.



Mangoes are falling off trees before ripening in the hill areas of Bandarban as the growth of the popular summer fruit in the district has been badly affected due to lack of sufficient rain in the region this year. The photo was taken from an orchard beside Bandarban-Chimbuk road a couple of days ago.

Cop dies in scuffle with colleague

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A policeman died in a scuffle with his colleague at a police outpost in Mohadevpur upazila of Naogaon on Monday.

The deceased was Abu Helal, 56, a constable posted at Raiga Matajhat police outpost under Mohadevpur Police Station in Naogaon. He hailed from Ullahpara upazila in Sirajganj.

Police arrested constable Naimul Hasan, 55, in connection with the incident.

Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge of the police station, said the two constables locked in an altercation at the police outpost during iftar.

At one stage, Naimul Hasan pushed Abu Helal strongly against a wall.

He was rushed to the upazila health complex where doctors declared him dead.

Woman murdered for dowry, 2 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A housewife was killed allegedly by her husband and in-laws for dowry at Char-Ojodha village in Char Bhadrasan upazila of the district on Monday night.

The deceased, Farzana Bonni, 23, was daughter of Babul Sardar of Aliabad village in Faridpur Sadar upazila.

Police arrested her husband Milon Sheikh, 32, and his father Abdul Malek for their alleged involvement in the murder.

Babul Sardar alleged that Milon had been torturing Farzana, mother of a baby girl, for dowry since their marriage about three years ago and finally beat her to death on Monday night.

"Only a couple of days ago, I gave Milon Tk 2 lakh to buy an auto-rickshaw but he kept demanding more and tortured my daughter," Babul said.

Sub-inspector Swapan Kumar of Char Bhadrasan Police Station said police recovered the body and sent it to Faridpur Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

MATS female student found killed in lift

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A female student of Medical Assistant Training School (MATS) under Thengamara Mahila Sabuj Shanga (TMSS) in the district was found killed in an under-construction lift on Monday.

The deceased was Ismat Ara Parvin, 20, daughter of Gaziul Islam of Holidayboga village in Sonatola upazila. She recently took the fourth year final examination from MATS. She was serving at TMSS Medical College Hospital at Gokul area on a temporary basis and used to live in a nearby mess.

Ismat's body was found in an under-construction lift of the hospital in Sadar upazila.

Victim's father Gaziul said a man named Mizan called Ismat's mother yesterday and said their daughter died falling from the roof of TMSS hospital.

Her scarf, two cellphones and jewellery were missing, her parents said.

TMSS Deputy Executive Director Dr Matur Rahman denied any connection of the deceased with the hospital.

Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge (investigation) Aslam Ali said they are not sure whether she was killed or committed suicide.

The body was sent to Shaheed Zaiur Rahman Medical College Hospital for autopsy.



Pabna AL man dies in factional clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

An activist of ruling Awami League was killed and at least six others were injured when two factions of the party clashed on Monday allegedly for establishing control over different construction works of Bera municipality.

The deceased, Abdul Alim Khan, 45, son of Abdur Rahman, was a resident of Hatigara village in Bera upazila.

Locals said there had been a longstanding rivalry between Alim and his party rival Shafi Hossain of the village for establishing control over the construction works of the municipality.

As a sequel, both the groups equipped with sharp weapons locked in a fierce clash in Natunpara area around 10:30pm, leaving at least seven people from both sides injured.

Of them, Alim succumbed to his injuries on way to Bera Upazila Health Complex, said Officer-in-Charge Abdul Motalib of Bera Police Station, adding, that the rest are now undergoing treatment at Bera Upazila Health Complex.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Pabna Medical College Hospital for autopsy, the OC added.

Support for Tuhin to continue study

Gouripur UNO also helps his poor family after The Daily Star report

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Tuhin Mia, a poor bright boy in Gouripur upazila under the district, is now relieved of the financial concern for continuation of his higher study, thanks to the initiative of the upazila nirbahi officer.

Tuhin, a GPA-5 achiever in this year's Secondary School Certificate examinations from Rajendra Kishore Government High School in Gouripur, started working as a day labourer to manage his college admission fees as his father is too hard-pressed.

"Seeing reports in the newspapers including The Daily Star's Monday issue, I became inspired to do something for Tuhin and visited their house at Satisa in the upazila on Monday," said UNO Margina Akter.

She handed over two bundles of corrugated tin sheet and Tk 11,000 to Tuhin's family at a programme at her office yesterday afternoon.

"We will take all necessary steps for smooth continuation of Tuhin's study. The upazila administration has already included the family under the government's 'Shelter for All' programme," said the UNO.

Thanking the UNO for her benevolent initiative, Tuhin said a few other generous people have also contacted with him.

Tuhin, a science student, wants to be a doctor.

Man to die for killing wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A court here yesterday sentenced a man to death for killing his wife in Manikganj Sadar upazila in 2009.

The convict is Rubel Molla, 35, of Sorundi village in the upazila.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Al-Mahmud Fajjul Kabir also fined the convict Tk 10 thousand.

According to the case statement, Rubel strangled his wife Rehana Begum allegedly over a family feud on September 25 in 2009 while she was asleep.

Locals caught him while he was fleeing the scene after committing the murder.

Deceased's father Ibrahim Mia filed a case with Sadar Police Station against Rubel the following day.

SI Aminur Rahman submitted the charge sheet before the court against Rubel on December 23 the same year.



Over a hundred trees of Pashchim Modhukhali reserve forest in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali have been felled on the pretext of repairing a flood control embankment under Water Development Board.

REPAIR OF FLOOD CONTROL DYKE Over 100 trees felled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

More than one hundred trees have been cut down in Pashchim (West) Modhukhali reserve forest in Kalapara upazila under the district in the name of repairing a flood control embankment.

Locals said Water Development Board (WDB) has started repairing a total of 25 km of a flood control embankment in different areas of the upazila at a cost of Tk 2.60 crore. Twelve contractors are doing the work, and most of them use machines instead of labourers to cut earth. Trees get uprooted when the earth is cut with machines, they said.

Md Shahidul Islam of Madhukhali village said over 100 trees have already been cut down in the reserve forest area to repair the embankment that is situated beside the forest.

When machines cut down earth deeply, nearby trees get uprooted. Some local men cut these trees into pieces and attempt to loot it, he said.

Trees would be saved if the earth was cut by labourers, he said.

Abul Kalam, another local resident, said, contractor's men cut down trees intentionally. They could save trees if they were sincere in the work, he said.

Operator of the machine seeking anonymity said trees are uprooted when earth is removed from around their roots. "We have no bad intention," he said.

WDB Kalapara office source said Kamal Hossain is contractor of the work. This correspondent tried several times to communicate with him but failed as he didn't receive the calls.

Lincon Bayen, Barisal divisional coordinator for Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), said, "We should give priority to protect the environment in implementing any project."

Nobody should damage environment by cutting trees unnecessarily in the name of project implementation, he said.

Abul Khayer, executive engineer of WDB in Kalapara, said, "We heard about the matter and trying our best to stop cutting of trees from the reserve forest. Trees should be kept alive considering environmental impact."

Abul Kalam, an officer of Kalapara upazila forest office, said they are trying their best to stop use of machines in cutting earth.

Steps would be taken against those who are involved in cutting or uprooting trees without permission from forest department, he said.

Man to walk gallows for killing girl after rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A Jessore court yesterday sentenced a man to death in a case for killing a minor girl after rape in 2014.

The convict is Lavlu, son of Entaj Ali of Eranda village in Jessore Sadar upazila.

Judge of Women and Children Repression Prevention Court Amit Kumar Dey also fined him Tk one lakh.

Another accused of the case Anwar Hossain died during the trial.

Public Prosecutor Idris Ali said Lavlu and Anwar strangled Sabina, 8, daughter of Billal Hossain, after raping her at a field in Eranda village on March 23 in 2014.

After examining witnesses and evidence, the judge found Lavlu guilty and pronounced the verdict, said the PP.

সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানি)
Sylhet Gas Fields Limited
(A Company of Petrobangla)

বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানি নিরাপত্তা সর্বোচ্চ অগ্রাধিকার

গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ। এর অপচয় রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন।

সূত্র নংঃ ২৮.২০.৯১৫৩.০৮৪.০১.০১০.১৭/লুবঅয়েল তারিখঃ ২৪/০৫/২০১৭

নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড (এসজিএফএল) এর (ক) প্রধান কার্যালয়, চিকনাঙল, সিলেট (খ) কেল্লাশাটলা ফিল্ড, গোলাপগঞ্জ, সিলেট (গ) এমএসটিই প্রাক্ট, গোলাপগঞ্জ, সিলেট (ঘ) বিয়ানীবাজার ফিল্ড, নিদনপুর, বিয়ানীবাজার, সিলেট (ঙ) রশিদপুর ফিল্ড, বাহুবল, হবিগঞ্জ এবং (চ) রশিদপুর কনভেন্সেন্ট ম্যাকশনেশন প্রাক্ট (আরসিএফসি), বাহুবল, হবিগঞ্জ এর জাভার/ইয়ার্ডে রক্ষিত ব্যবহৃত লুব অয়েল ও থার্মিনাল অয়েল "যেখানো যে অবস্থায় আছে ভিত্তিতে" নিলামে বিক্রয়ের উদ্দেশ্যে বিপিসি'র তালিকাভুক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানের আইসিই দরদাতাদের নিকট হতে দরপত্র দলিলের নির্ধারিত ছকে ও শর্তে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। খামের উপরে অবশ্যই দরপত্র নম্বর ও তারিখ এবং খোলার তারিখ উল্লেখ করতে হবে।

০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	ঃ	বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানি ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়/জ্বালানি ও খনিজ সম্পদ বিভাগ।
০২	সংস্থা	ঃ	বাংলাদেশ তৈল, গ্যাস ও খনিজ সম্পদ কর্পোরেশন (পেট্রোবাংলা)।
০৩	নিলামকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	ঃ	সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড।
০৪	নিলাম পদ্ধতি	ঃ	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ওটিএম)।
০৫	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	ঃ	২৮.২০.৯১৫৩.০৮৪.০১.০১০.১৭/লুবঅয়েল তারিখঃ ২৪/০৫/২০১৭
০৬	দরপত্র তফসীল-এর মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	ঃ	প্রতি সেট ২,০০০.০০ (দুই হাজার) টাকা।
০৭	টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটির পরিমাণ	ঃ	উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ১০% (শতকরা ১০ ভাগ) আনেষ্টিমনি/টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি "সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড"-এর অনুকূলে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের তফসীলভুক্ত যে কোন ব্যাংক হতে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার দরপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
০৮	নিলামে বিক্রয়ের জন্য প্রস্তাবিত মালামাল	ঃ	৮ (আট) টি গ্রুপে বিভক্ত বিভিন্ন ফিল্ড/স্থানায় রক্ষিত ব্যবহৃত লুব অয়েল ও থার্মিনাল অয়েল।
০৯	দরপত্র দলিল প্রাপ্তি স্থান	ঃ	(ক) হিসাব ও অর্থ বিভাগ, সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড, ডাকঘর-চিকনাঙল, সিলেট-৩১৫২। (খ) হিসাব শাখা, কেল্লাশাটলা ফিল্ড, গোলাপগঞ্জ, সিলেট। (গ) হিসাব শাখা, রশিদপুর ফিল্ড, বাহুবল, হবিগঞ্জ। (ঘ) ঢাকা লিয়াজো অফিস, সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড, পেট্রোসেন্টার, ১৪তম তলা, ৩, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫। (ঙ) হিসাব শাখা, আঞ্চলিক অফিস, বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম এক্সপ্লোরেশন এন্ড প্রডাকশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড, পিসি রোড, সরাই পাড়া, পাহাড়তলী, চট্টগ্রাম।
১০	দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের তারিখ	ঃ	০১/০৬/২০১৭ হতে ১০/০৭/২০১৭ পর্যন্ত সকল কার্যদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে।
১১	দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান	ঃ	(ক) টিএস ডিভিশন, প্রধান কার্যালয়, সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড, ডাকঘর-চিকনাঙল, সিলেট-৩১৫২। (খ) কেল্লাশাটলা গ্যাস ফিল্ড, গোলাপগঞ্জ, সিলেট। (গ) রশিদপুর গ্যাস ফিল্ড, বাহুবল, হবিগঞ্জ।
১২	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	১১/০৭/২০১৭ তারিখ বেলা-১২-০০টা পর্যন্ত জমিক-১১ এ বর্ণিত স্থানসমূহে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাবে।
১৩	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	১১/০৭/২০১৭ তারিখ বেলা ৩.০০ ঘটিকায় দরদাতা বা তার প্রতিনিধির উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) টিএস ডিভিশন প্রধান কার্যালয়ে দরপত্র খোলা হবে।
১৪	শর্তাবলী	ঃ	টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টে বর্ণিত শর্তাবলী প্রযোজ্য।
১৫	বিশেষ নির্দেশনাঃ	ঃ	(ক) দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলার দিন কোন কারণবশতঃ কার্যদিবস ব্যাহত হলে পরবর্তী প্রথম কার্যদিবসে একই সময়ে দরদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হবে। (খ) মূল দরপত্র দলিল দরদাতা কর্তৃক স্বাক্ষর ও সীলমোহরসহ দাখিল করতে হবে। (গ) বিলাবে প্রাপ্ত দরপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। (ঘ) সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ, যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল অথবা দরপত্র আহ্বান প্রক্রিয়া বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে। (ঙ) এ নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি (www.sgfl.org.bd) ওয়েবসাইটে দেখা যাবে।

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জিডি-১১৪১