

Yet again

Khasi people's 700 lemon trees, betel plants cut, tea garden owners blamed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Criminals cut over 500 lemon trees and 200 betel plants at Kumarsail Punjee in Barlekha upazila under the district on Thursday and Saturday nights, creating fresh panic among the Khasi people who earlier faced similar attacks by alleged land grabbers.

Visiting the area on Sunday, this correspondent saw gloomy faces of the indigent people, mostly women, sitting in the betel plantation.

"Many Khasi families live by growing crops on spare land in the punjee area. Without this land, where betel and lemon are grown, it will be hard for the people to survive," said Jeni Rambai, a victim.

The Khasi people alleged that local tea garden authorities are trying to occupy the land.

"We are passing days in fear of attack by organised criminals who have been trying to occupy our betel plantations. Land grabbing is the purpose behind cutting of the trees," said Santosh Potam, head of the

punjee.

"We demand immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the people involved in such heinous act," he said.

Father Joseph Gomes, central committee member of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, said, "It is the responsibility of the state to ensure security of the Khasi community. The authorities concerned should take immediate action against the perpetrators."

Munshi Marufur Rahman, manager of Kumarsail Tea Garden, said, "We are working to cultivate the leased areas in our garden according to rules. As Khasi people are obstructing it, we filed a complaint with the local police station in last September."

He, however, evaded any direct answer when asked about the cutting of lemon trees and betel plants.

Earlier on January 2 this year, criminals cut over 3,000 betel plants at Madhab Punjee in Barlekha and the affected people filed a petition with Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court in the upazila on January 9.



Criminals allegedly backed by land grabbers destroy a large number of lemon trees and betel plants at Kumarsail Punjee, inhabited by Khasi people, in Barlekha upazila of Moulvibazar on Thursday and Saturday nights.

One shot dead by BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi on Nasirpara border in Daulatpur upazila of Kushtia early yesterday.

The victim was Bulbul Hossain, 24, son of Mubar Ali of Jamalpur village in Daulatpur upazila.

Nayek Subedar Abdur Razzak of Border Guard Bangladesh at 47/Jamalpur camp said Bulbul along with six others went to Nasirpara border point for reasons unknown.

The BSF patrol team from Nasirpara camp in Nadia of West Bengal opened fire on them about 4:30am.

Bulbul was shot in his chest and was admitted to Daulatpur Upazila Health Complex where he died about 12:00 noon.

"We have sent a letter protesting the killing and waiting for reply," said Nayek Subedar Razzak.

Double blow for mentally ill FF

House grabbed, grabbers now threaten him with death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A mentally disturbed freedom fighter (FF) and his family members are staying outside their village Konabakhail in Trishal upazila since his homestead and cropland were grabbed three years ago.

FF Motiur Rahman's elder daughter Sharifa Khatun made the allegation at a press conference in Mymensingh Press Club yesterday.

Her father became mentally ill in 1971. He along with his wife and three children had been living in their homestead in great hardship from 1984, said Sharifa, a primary schoolteacher.

She said her only brother Lutfur Rahman was poisoned to death allegedly by her uncle Abdul Mannan Chanu and his accomplices in 2012. Later, a murder case was filed accusing nine people, including Chanu.

The story did not end here. Chanu and his accomplices continued torture on Motiur's family.

"At one stage, we were forced to leave the area in 2014 and finally the accused grabbed some 2.50 acres of land, including our homestead, cropland and a pond," said Sharifa.

"Since then, my parents have been living with me in a rented house at the upazila headquarters," she said.

Not only this, Chanu and his men continued threatening their family with death, said Sharifa.

She also demanded immediate arrest of land grabber Chanu and his accomplices.

ARREST OF UP MEMBER

Four cops beaten in Gobindaganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Four members of Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) sustained injuries when supporters of a ward member of Sapmara Union Parishad (UP) attacked them for arresting him at Shahebganj Bazar in Gobindaganj upazila on Sunday night.

On being informed, police from Gobindaganj Police Station rushed to the spot and rescued the injured PBI men.

The injured cops are Sub-Inspectors Mozammel Huq and Provat Chandra Barman, Assistant-Sub-Inspector Shah Jalal, and Constable Bazlur Rashid. They were admitted to Gobindaganj Upazila Health Complex.

PBI Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) in the district Anwar Hossain said the four cops went to Shahebganj Bazar on Sunday to arrest UP member Shah Alam, a wanted accused in the case for torching and looting houses of Santals in 2016.

As soon as the police arrested Shah Alam, a key activist of Jinner Badsha group, his men beat them up with sticks and tried to snatch away the arrestee. The cops fired eight rounds of blank shots to disperse the angry people.

Superintendent of Police (SP) in the district Masrur Rahman Khaled said the cops were attacked when they arrested Shah Alam. Being informed, police went to the spot and rescued the injured cops, he added.

On November 6 in 2016, a clash ensued between locals, Santals and cops at Shahebganj sugarcane farm, where three Santal men were killed and rivals torched and looted Santal homes.

One Thomas Hembrom filed a case against 33 named people, including Shah Alam, and 500 unnamed others. Investigation of the case was assigned to the PBI, and the court also issued arrest warrant against the accused people.

2.5 lakh saplings planted in a day

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Around 2.5 lakh trees have been planted in a day to save environment and prevent climate change as well.

With the slogan "Let us decorate Delduar with the green", Delduar upazila administration yesterday organised the programme.

Earlier, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Shahadat Hossain Kabir held meetings with local government officials, public representatives, politicians, teachers, traders, imams, journalists and NGOs for the last few days to make the initiative a success.

Besides, publicity was done by distributing leaflets, through social media, cable TV networks and news medias in this regard.

UNO Shahadat said they have taken the initiative getting inspiration from two such programmes implemented in Rangpur and Mymensingh recently.

Different fruit, flower, timber and medicinal trees were planted beside government offices, educational institutions, mosques and other establishments.

Krishnachura, sonalu, bokul, kodom, jarul, shimul and polash were planted beside the roads for beautification, said Shahadat.

"We have also emphasised upon planting palmyra to prevent increasing lightning strikes," said the UNO.

"Students of my institutions planted 1000 different trees today. Earlier, they planted 10,000 palmyra seeds," said Rezaul Karim, director of local Improve Education Family.



Students of a local school plant trees beside a road in Pathrail area of Tangail's Delduar upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

'Rapist' tries forced abortion

Speech impaired woman at life risk

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A speech impaired woman is fighting for life at Domar Upazila Health Complex as son of a local influential man at Khaturia Uttarpara village in Domar upazila made her pregnant and then had her undergo a risky abortion process with the help of a 'fake' village kabiraj (herbal practitioner).

Locals said Nazrul Islam, 30, son of Abdul Mazid of the village, developed illicit relation with the speech impaired woman, aged 28, by promising her to marry.

At one stage, she became pregnant and asked Mazid to marry her but he arranged forced abortion by making her swallow a harmful tablet on Sunday.

After taking the drug, the woman felt sick and started bleeding.

As her condition became serious, her mother took her to Domar Upazila Health Complex the same night.

The victim's mother alleged that neighbour Nazrul Islam raped her speech impaired daughter, making her pregnant five months ago.

"To evade the responsibility, he tried for my daughter's abortion by forcing her to swallow a harmful tablet that caused her severe bleeding.

"I will file a rape case with Domar Police Station against Nazrul," she said.

Nazrul claimed that the allegation against him is false.

Moksed Ali, officer in charge of Domar Police Station, said he will take action after getting written complaint.

Ravages of flood

People suffer as damaged roads and culverts are yet to be renovated in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Road communication between remote areas and upazila headquarters in the district has not started fully as most of the flood-damaged roads and culverts are yet to be repaired after recession of floodwater, hampering movement of vehicles and pedestrians.

During the rainy season, seven upazilas were badly affected by floodwater. Sixty nine unions, including one municipality, were submerged by floodwater, which damaged croplands, dwelling houses and institutions.

Floodwater damaged roads, bridges and culverts, especially in remote areas, so people face great difficulties in going to their destinations as vehicles cannot move on the roads due to the large ditches and potholes, said Azizul Huq of Golna village in Fulchhari upazila.

"It is very difficult to drive with passengers and goods on flood-ravaged roads," said Nayon Mia, a rickshaw-van puller.

"Even pedestrians cannot move on the damaged roads as there are large ditches filled with water in many places," said Amjad Hossain a vegetable trader of Madnerpara.

District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer AKM Idris Ali said the flood affected 607 km of rural roads, of which 35 km are damaged completely, while 42 km of the flood control dyke were affected partially and 700 metres were damaged totally.

District Executive Engineer of Roads and Highways Department (RHD) Md Asaduzzaman said a total of 49 km of roads under RHD were affected by floodwater, of which 11 km were damaged completely.

The department has repaired the partially affected roads and repair work on badly damaged roads is also going on, he added.



The surface of the paved road at Katir Haat in Fulchhari upazila of Gaibandha has been completely washed away by flood, hampering communication between many villages and the upazila headquarters.

PHOTO: STAR

“শেখ হাসিনার উদ্যোগ- ঘর ঘরে বিদ্যুৎ”

BANGLADESH RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BOARD
POWER DIVISION, MINISTRY OF POWER, ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES.
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLES' REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

Memo no: 27.12.2637.157.07.39.07.17.184 Date: 09/10/2017

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for Procurement of Electrical Materials under "Replacement of 70,000 Nos. Overloaded Distribution Transformer Under Rural Electrification Program" project. Tender submission deadlines are mentioned below:

Tender Package No.	Sub-Package No.	Description	Tender ID No.	Closing Date	Closing Time
OLT-G-8	Lot-1	Conductor, Copper	121641	09-Nov-2017	14:00
OLT-G-11	Lot-1	Sectionalizing Devices (Fuse Cutout, Fuse Barrel & Surge Arrester)	121642	09-Nov-2017	14:30
	Lot-2	Sectionalizing Devices (Fuse Link)	121643	09-Nov-2017	15:00
OLT-G-12	Lot-1	Connector	121644	09-Nov-2017	15:30

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no off line/ hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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BANGLADESH RURAL ELECTRIFICATION BOARD

বাপবিবোর্ড/জন-(১৭১০-২০৫)/২০১৭-১৮

Project Director

Replacement of 70,000 Nos. Overloaded Distribution Transformer Under Rural Electrification Program.

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