

UTTARA GONOBHABAN None sued yet for tree felling

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Natore
A case is yet to be filed against those responsible for illegally felling a large number of trees on Uttara Gonobhaban premises at Dighapatia in Natore.
Natore Deputy Commissioner Shaheena Khatun, also the president of Uttara Gonobhaban management committee, said they have received the probe report and forwarded it to the higher authorities, including cabinet division and housing and public works ministry. "We will take necessary steps according to the higher authorities' guideline. Afterwards, case will be filed and responsible people will be brought to book," said the DC.
Meanwhile, Ekattor Parishad held a rally at a local restaurant on Tuesday night protesting felling of the trees.



Shykh Seraj with Matur Rahman at the latter's malta orchard at Jamtara in Chapainawabganj.

PHOTO: HRIDOYE MATI O MANUSH

Trucker turns innovative malta farmer

Matur grows the luscious fruit in Barind area, shows others the way

SHYKH SERAJ
A few years back the Barinda (Barind) region was the example of austere nature. People could barely dream of growing anything there. However, as a result of many development projects and diverse initiatives from farmers, the region has turned around. The colour and face of the entire locality has changed as well. It has become greener and livelier. Fields of green are on the landscape, which was a very rare image to witness a couple of years ago. Round the year, the fields are full of crops. Farmers are bringing in success, one after another. Once, Rajshahi was referred to as 'mango region' of the country, but today, it is producing different fruits, as many as you like.

Manush (Soil and People in Heart), have definitely watched the growth of malta orchards on different episodes, for the past three years. I have covered malta orchards, located around the country. Specially, the variety of malta which amazed me along with the farmers is, Malta-1. It's really luscious and very sweet. What I have seen so far is most of the malta look green after they ripen. But, Matur's malta appears yellow after they ripen. I asked Matur about the secret of success behind it.
"I used the right technology at the right time so it happened," replied Matur.
"Proper management is the key to your success," he added. "One amazing information that I would love to tell you is Matur was a truck driver of the Roads and Highways Department with his job. But, he fell in love with nature and his spontaneous overflow of powerful feeling was expressed in malta farming. But he's not only dealing with emotion, he's dealing as well with commercial farming. The knowledge of

farm and trade comes along when I talk about Matur. He has been building his orchard for the past four years gradually.
Matur is a dreamer and a pragmatic farmer at the same time.
"I love science, and for unin-

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terrupted electricity supply I have small panels," says Matur. "I have also granted malta plants so that others can make their orchards easy," added Matur.
Modern irrigation facility to ensure water is spread around the orchard for 200 malta plants. The garden is full of yellow malta. And this has become possible due to the realistic measures taken by Matur.
Matur's wife Nasima Begum also works at her husband's orchard.
"I really love to work here and we together dream of a greater future," says a confident Nasima.
Matur claims his malta are the sweetest in the country. He also has solid knowledge on TSS (total soluble solids) which gives him the information on the sweetness. He also does fruit bagging and it seemed to be that he has been following the right and the most modern step to turn his orchard into gold.
Senior Horticulturist Dr. Sharaf Uddin says, Matur and also has the love for farming and also has modern technologies and everything he is doing defying right to get the best fruits out of his orchard.

orchards have spread up to 500 bighas of land. Matur also grows mango in his farm along with some other fruits. His orchard has become the ideal spot for agro-tourism. Many people from different localities come to Matur's orchard to see farming from very close.
"Dear readers, around the country, with the endeavour from entrepreneurs and visionary farmers, every day Bangladesh is writing success stories. Not only the money has attracted these great minds, but their minds were deeply rooted to soil. That's why are witnessing the boom in farming sector, with diversified crops. In this regard, truck driver Matur has strongly got hold of the steering for farming. And, this is the heart of Barinda region in developing. I believe strongly that with efforts from farmers like Khairul Chohanipawanabjan's Matur, Pirojpur's Reboti Sikder, Meherpur's Ismail and many more like them Bangladesh will soon be self sufficient in fruit production. And then there will be no need for dependence on import. I am positively waiting for that historic day, like all of you."

'Nationalise Ebtedayee madrasas'

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Pirojpur
Speakers at a human chain in the town yesterday demanded nationalisation of Ebtedayee madrasas, the primary level educational institutions under madrasa education board.
The human chain was formed on the Club Road in the town.
Md Humayun Kabir, district unit president of Bangladesh Joint Ebtedayee Teachers' Samity Foundation, Sadar upazila unit president Md Siddiqur Rahman and Md Badruz Zamran were present.
There is no difference in the education systems of primary schools and Ebtedayee madrasas, but no step has been taken to nationalise the madrasas, said the speakers.
They submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner in Pirojpur.

Good initiative

Youths repair road on their own in Moulvibazar
OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Moulvibazar
The youths in Kulaura upazila are repairing the 1.5-km-long and five-foot-wide Abatalpur-Mintapur-Rampasha road in their area themselves.
They began the repair work after their repeated requests to the officials concerned went in vain.
"We were promised by the local government a few months ago that the road would be repaired, but we decided to repair it on our own due to the inordinate delay," said Asuk Mia.
"We were hopeful after the local lawmaker and union parishad chairman visited the area, but they did not keep their promises," said journalist MA Akid.
Kulaura Upazila Nirbahi Officer Chowdhury Md Golam Rabbani said it was a good initiative by the youths and praised them for their contribution.

India to pursue

displaced nationals from Myanmar
Asked about Sushma's visit, another influential Indian diplomat said the external affairs minister made it clear that her country would like to see free, fair and participatory elections in Bangladesh.
"India wants to see free, fair and participatory elections and democratic process working here," he said, adding that it was not for India to go about the election process, and the people of Bangladesh would determine it.
About Sushma's meeting with Khaleda, the diplomat said the BNP leader was convinced about India's stance on the Rohingya crisis.
"We support our system that is the party in power continues to run the government during the polls time. This system is followed in all democracies and majority of the countries in the world."
India doesn't want to back something that contradicts with the established democratic system, he added.



A partial view of Sagardighi in Ghatail upazila of Tangail.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

BEAUTY LOST

Tangail's Sagardighi degraded by unrestrained business, lack of care

MIRZA SHAKIL with ANDREW EAGLE
It used to be that the people of Tangail in leisure time with family and friends or even in search of solitude would head to the Sagardighi tank. The water body in Ghatail upazila that legend says was dug during the reign of a 'King Sagar', during the ancient Pal dynasty was renowned for natural beauty. In recent years, from unrestricted commercial activities and land grabbing, Sagardighi is sadly but a shadash of its former self.
Many locals could remember a time when they would regularly cool off on scorching summer days by taking a swim there. Originally of course the public even drank its crystal clear water. On windy days Sagardighi was art

in action as waves rocked to and fro. At calmer times it emanated charm and enchantment.
Each spring, on the 12th day of the Bengali month of Chaitra, when Hindus gather some few kilometres away for worship at an ancient tamal tree believed to have been visited by Lord Krishna, a dip in Sagardighi's pristine waters was an accompanying welcome rite.
Nowadays, Sagardighi suffers from random fish farms in it and illegal homes, buildings and poultry farms along its banks. What could have been a site with the tourism potential is all but ruined.
Operated by influential locals, the fish farms involve the dumping of artificial feed in the tank. Thanks to the poultry farms on the eastern and western sides, which also generate considerable

the site," he continues. "About a month ago we applied through the deputy commissioner to the tourism ministry to establish Sagardighi as a tourist spot. If that happens proper regulation of surrounding activities should fall into place."
Sagardighi, legend has it, was dug by 200 laborers following a wise king's edict. It was designed to be an asset for local people at a time when the area was covered in dense forest and drinking water was scarce. It was still an asset when people could enjoy the tank for picnics and recreation. It's unfortunate to see and smell Sagardighi now, shackled by unrestrained development and, for the first time in centuries since it was dug disregarded, treated not as an asset but almost as a liability.

Missing youth found dead in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Khagrachhari
The body of a missing youth was found in Rubber dam area of Panchhari upazila of the district yesterday.
The deceased was Anwar Hossain, 20, of Mohammadpur area in the upazila.
Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Panchhari Police Station, said three days ago, Anwar went missing from the Changi river when he went to collect wood.
Yesterday morning, locals found the body in the area near the sandy land of the river and informed police.
The law enforcers later recovered the body, said the OC.

Cousins hack girl over land feud

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh
An SSC examinee was hacked allegedly by her cousins over a land dispute at Maizhati village in Ishwardi upazila of the district.
The victim is Mitu Akter, 15, a Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinee from local Madhupur High School in Ishwardi.
There was a longstanding conflict between Mitu's father Ruhul Amin and his elder brother Nurul Islam over the land, said Badrul Alam Khan, officer-in-charge of Ishwardi Police Station.
Following the dispute, Nurul's sons - Ripon Mia and Rimom Mia - locked in an altercation with Ruhul at their homestead on Tuesday noon.
At one stage, Ripon and Rimom chased Ruhul with sharp weapons, said the OC.
Hearing the scream, when Mitu rushed to the spot to save her father, the duo hacked her, leaving her seriously injured. Mitu was taken to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, he said.
A case was filed with Ishwardi Police Station, accusing six people, including Nurul and his sons - Ripon and Rimom. Police arrested Nurul, Ripon and Rimom early yesterday, said the police official.



Devotees bring Kathin Chibar (robe worn through hard labour), as a gift to the Buddhist monk at Jon Chug Ban Bihar in Rangamati yesterday as the month-long celebrations are going on marking Kathin Chibar Daan, the biggest religious festival of the Buddhist community in Chittagong Hill Tracts region.

PHOTO: STAFF