

ONE YEAR OF ATTACK ON SANTALS

# No progress in probe as cops ignore one plaintiff

KONGKON KARMAKER, back from Gaibandha

No progress has been made in investigation as one of two plaintiffs has been missing in a case filed for killing of three Santals and looting and torching of Santal houses in Gobindaganj upazila, although a year has passed since the incident.

Santals of Gaibandha alleged that no progress has been made as one of the two plaintiffs is missing while police do not consider the other as a plaintiff.

They also alleged that police are considering Swapan Murmu as the plaintiff of the case although evicted Santals are claiming Thomas Hembram as plaintiff.

"Sugar mill authorities forced Swapan to file the case", Sahebganj Bagda Farm Bhumi Uddhar Sangram Committee President Philimon Hembram said, adding, "We want police to consider Thomas Hembram as the plaintiff of the case."

Even a year after the incident,

*Santals claim that one of the two plaintiffs is missing while police do not consider the other as a plaintiff.*

police are yet to arrest any of the accused in the case, although they are moving freely in the area, Jatiya Adivasi Parishad President Rabindranath Soren alleged.

On November 6 last year, three Santal men were killed and 33 others hurt when police fired bullets and torched their houses during a drive to evict them from the sugar-

cane farm.

Since then, the landless Santal families have been passing their days under hundreds of makeshift tents at nearby Madarpur and Joypur villages.

Later, Gobindaganj police took a case from one Swapan Murmu, but 10 days later, when Thomas Hembram went to file a case, police, rejected his appeal for filing a case.

Later, following a court order, police accepted Thomas's FIR as a general diary (GD). The court also directed police to give Thomas's FIR same status.

"Although I am one of the plaintiffs of the case, police are not considering me," Thomas alleged.

In April this year, the case was handed over to Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI).

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Anwar Hossain Mian of Gaibandha PBI, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, said he could not talk with plaintiff Swapan despite several attempts as

he is unaware about his whereabouts.

When asked about Thomas's FIR, ASP Anwar said they are considering his GD with same status, but the person who filed the GD is not important to police.

When asked about Swapan's whereabouts, his wife Jotsna said her husband left for Dhaka immediately after filing of the case.

Shahjahan Ali, general secretary of Bhumi Punurudhar Sangram Committee, alleged that local lawmaker Abul Kalam Azad and Sapmara UP Chairman Shakil Akand Bulbul were involved in the attack.

Meanwhile, although autopsies of deceased Shyamal Hembram and Mongal Mardi were done, postmortem of another deceased Romesh Tudu has not been conducted yet due to reasons unknown.

Police did not find any evidence of local lawmaker's involvement in this regard, the IO said, adding that they were conducting drives to arrest the accused of the case.

## JSC examinee stabbed over love affair

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A Junior School Certificate (JSC) examinee was stabbed by another JSC student over love affair in the town yesterday.

The victim is Farhan Alif, 15, son of Md Masudur Rahman of Faridabad area in the town, also a student of Faridpur Zilla School.

JSC students of Faridpur Zilla School said they appeared in the examination at Ishan Institution centre. After the examination was over, Farhan and his friend were talking with Md Hridoy, another JSC student of Baitul Aman Institution. Students of Baitul Aman Institution also appeared in the examination at the centre.

At one stage, Hridoy stabbed Farhan, leaving him seriously injured following an altercation over love affair with a girl, said police.

Farhan was rushed to Faripur General Hospital and then shifted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital as his condition worsened.

## Gas crisis makes urea production uncertain

*Titas Gas asks Jamuna Fertilizer to suspend operation*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Urea production in Jamuna Fertilizer Company Ltd (JFCL) is facing uncertainty as Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd (TGTDC) asked it to stop production immediately as there is a gas crisis.

As per directive of Petro Bangla, the distribution company served a notice to Jamuna Fertilizer in this regard on November 9 as there is acute shortage of natural gas in the Titas Gas networking system, said General Manager (technical) of JFCL Mahbuba Sultana, also acting managing director.

"Though urea is still being produced, we will have to shut the factory soon and urea production will stop," she added.

As per an agreement with TGTDC, JFCL was supposed to get supply of natural gas at 370 pounds per square inch (PSI) pressure, which is needed to produce 1,500 tonnes to 1,550 tonnes per day, Mahbuba said.

The factory has been getting gas at 120 PSI to 130 PSI pressure, which is capable of producing only 1,000 tonnes to 1,200 tonnes per day for 45 days, hampering achievement of its production target, she said.

"If the factory cannot produce sufficient fertilizer, 20 districts, including 16 northern ones, will face serious fertilizer crisis in the coming season and the Boro farmers will have to bear the brunt," Mahbuba said.

Meanwhile, workers and employees of JFCL staged a demonstration in the factory compound yesterday, protesting the notice served by TGTDC and demanding its immediate withdrawal.

## Winter cabbages hope of farmers

MOHSIN MILON with ANDREW EAGLE

In Greater Jessore, winter means vegetables. Beans, string beans, chillies, cauliflower, brinjal and tomatoes: the region that fulfils around eighty percent of domestic demand for vegetables produces many varieties. But of a morning, as sunlight illuminates the Jessore to Magura highway, on both sides and more than other crops, it is a landscape of cabbages that is unveiled.

Yet this year due to unusually heavy rainfall the planting of vegetable seeds and saplings has proceeded with extra care. Many farmers are keen to make up for recent crop losses incurred as a result of the rains. More than just a usual winter crop, this year cabbages bring hope.

"I have planted cabbages on four bighas of land this year," says Rustam Ali, from Nangorpur. He is one of the country's premier vegetable farmers. "Due to the excessive rain during this year's monsoon I lost Tk 2 lakhs, but I hope to be selling up to Tk 5 lakhs worth of cabbages soon."

Many farmers from the villages around Khajurra have similar tales of loss to tell. But with vegetable crops ready to send to market within about twenty days, there is a light on the horizon.

Current market prices per tonne include: Tk 1650 for cauliflower, Tk 1500 for radishes, Tk 1800 for brinjal, Tk 1600 for string beans and beans, Tk 4,200 for green chillies and Tk 80 for tomato. Cabbage farmers meanwhile can expect to earn around Tk 2,500 per hundred cabbages.

**A cabbage field at Churamankathi in Jessore Sadar upazila. The region that meets around eighty percent of domestic demand for vegetables produces many varieties like beans, string beans, chillies, cauliflower, bringjal and tomatoes.**

PHOTO: MOHSIN MILON



The lone X-ray machine in Boailmari Upazila Health Complex lying unused since its installation in an abandoned building in 2008.

PHOTO: STAR

## X-ray machine unused for nine years

*The machine of Faridpur's Boailmari Health Complex installed in an abandoned building*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

The lone X-ray machine of Boailmari Upazila Health Complex here has remained inoperative for nine years as it was installed in an abandoned building.

The machine was set up in a room of the abandoned health complex building in 2008, said X-ray machine operator Abdur Rashid. The old building was declared abandoned in 2006 and a new one was built, but that did not have any room for X-ray machine, he added.

"On average 300 to 350 patients take outdoor treatment everyday, of whom, 50 to 70 patients need to have X-ray done, so they have to pay extra for getting their X-ray outside the health complex," Rashid said.

"I am suffering from chest pain and I

need X-ray. The doctor told me to get it done from outside," said Lima Parvin.

"If the X-ray machine is operated, we could save money," said Poli Begum, wife of a patient.

Upazila Health Officer Tapos Biswas said as there is no room for the X-ray machine in the new building, it was installed in the old building in 2008, which was declared abandoned in 2006, so they have not been able to use the machine.

Tapos said he asked the authorities concerned to resolved the problem, but no step has been taken yet.

Civil Surgeon Arun Kanti Biswas said the X-ray machine does not work as it has remained unused since its installation. He said he requested the authorities concerned to install a new one for the health complex.

## Ease traffic jam

*Speakers tell Mymensingh rally*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Speakers at a human chain in the town yesterday demanded immediate relief from serious traffic jam in Shambhuganj Bridge area.

People from all walks of life joined the programme organised by Sammilito Samajik Andolon (SSA), Mymensingh.

They also demanded stopping of toll collection at the bridge, dumping of garbage near it and construction of three new bridges over the Brahmaputra river to ease the traffic jam, and creation of easier communications for the people of Mymensingh and its adjacent districts as well.

Thousands of passengers from Mymensingh, Sherpur, Netrakona and Kishoreganj have to cross the bridge every day, but the severe traffic congestion makes their journey painful, said the speakers.

Action is yet to be taken to tackle the problem, they alleged.

They also urged the authorities concerned to fulfill their demands considering the sufferings of the people.

Poet Swadheen Chowdhury, secretary of SSA, delivered the welcome speech with its President Aminul Hasan in the chair.

Later, they submitted memorandums to Mymensingh divisional commissioner, deputy inspector general of police (Mymensingh Range), deputy commissioner and superintendent of police.

**Prime Minister's Office**  
Prime Minister's Transport Pool  
Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

Memo-03.080.026.00.00.379.2017(part)-1140

Date: 08.11.2017

**e-Tender Notice**  
e-Tender is invited in e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Director (Transport), Prime Minister's Office, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215 for the procurement of:

SI No.	Tender ID	Name of goods	Document last selling/downloading date & time	Last date & time for tender security submission	Tender closing date & time
01	135906	10 units Sedan Car (1451-1500 cc)	05.12.2017 12.00 noon	05.12.2017 1.45pm	05.12.2017 2.30pm

- Tender publication date & time is on 13.11.2017 at 12.00 noon.

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

**Major A K M Kawser**  
Director (Transport)  
Prime Minister's Office  
Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215  
Phone- 02-9112104

GD-2439

## Cop closed for torturing driver

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A member of Thakurgaon Detective Branch (DB) of police was closed to the district police lines on Saturday night on charge of beating a driver of a microbus requisitioned by police.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Farhat Ahmed closed Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Md Helal Uddin for his misbehave.

A team of DB police, led by ASI Helal, was going to Badambari village in Baliadangi upazila on Saturday night to conduct a drive.

On the way, the policemen asked driver Mofazzal Hossain, 22, to increase the speed. As the driver could not do so, Helal beat Mofazzal, leaving him injured.

Mofazzal took shelter at the transport workers' union office in Ranishankoil as the police team launched the drive at Badambari village. The workers took him to Ranishankoil Upazila Health Complex from where he was shifted to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital the same night.

Dr Suvendu Devnath said mark of injuries was found on Mofazzal's right cheek and neck.



**Sylhet City Corporation**  
Nagar Bhaban, Sylhet  
[www.scc.gov.bd](http://www.scc.gov.bd)

Memo No. SCC/ENGR/Elec-4/724/17/214

Date: 12/11/2017

**E-Tender Notice-02/2017-18(Electrical)**

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of the Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives.
2.	Agency	Sylhet City Corporation.
	Tender ID No.	Description of work
3.	135870 (OTM)	Supply & Installation of LED Street Lighting System at Different Area of Sylhet City Corporation (2nd Phase).
	136319 (OTM)	Supplying Tube Light Shade & GI Pole for Street Lighting System at Different Area of Sylhet City Corporation.
4.	Name, designation & address of PE	Md. Ruhul Alam Executive Engineer (Electrical) Sylhet City Corporation 0821-727151.
5.	This is online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and offline/hard copies will not be accepted. Interested persons/firms can see details in the website: <a href="http://www.eprocure.gov.bd">www.eprocure.gov.bd</a>	
6.	The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches.	
7.	Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ( <a href="mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd">helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd</a> )	

GD-2441

**Md. Ruhul Alam**  
Executive Engineer (Electrical)  
Sylhet City Corporation