



A partial view of picturesque Tupamari Multipurpose Agricultural Complex at Goraye village in Durgapur union of Ulipur upazila of Kurigram.

PHOTO: STAR

Serene agri complex turns recreational spot

Locals urge making a full-fledged tourism centre at the vicinity in Kurigram's Ulipur

ABDUL WAHED, Kurigram

Tupamari Bahumukhi Krishi Complex, a multi-purpose agriculture complex comprising a large picturesque pond along with greenery on the banks, also serves as a recreational spot at Goraye village in Ulipur upazila under the district.

Various fruit and medicinal trees on the bank of the pond, locally called Zia Pukur, give an eye-soothing look here. There is also a small cattle farm on the bank. Upazila Central Cooperative Society (UCCS) planted the trees.

The beautiful location witnesses visitors round the year and the number increases from November till February.

The society bought 25 acres of marshland area at the village in 1972 and dug a pond on 18.27 acres of the land under a project of World Food Programme in 1980-1981 fiscal year.

The pond, 60 to 80 feet in width, is only eight kilometres from the Zero Point of Kurigram town.

Tree plantation on its bank began a few years later, and the area gradually developed into a recreational spot.

The visitors can enjoy the natural beauty of the vicinity and arrange picnic there without any entry fee.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found a group of local students loitering there.

"We often visit Zia Pukur for recreation," said Mozahedul Islam, 17, a local student.

Local resident Omar Faruk Manga, 40, said there is no suitable picnic spot except Zia Pukur in the district.

A number of picnic parties come here but there is not enough arrangement for sanitation and tube-wells, he said.

There are only four guards to look

after the agriculture complex.

Bhupati Bhushan Barma, director of Bangladesh Bhawia Academy in Ulipur, said Zia Pukur is the largest pond in greater Rangpur region.

"We have been demanding for long to establish Zia Pukur area as an official picnic spot. It has good communication facilities as the spot is situated beside Kurigram-Chilman road," he said.

Khorshed Alam, chairman of the managing committee of the cooperative society, said Ulipur UCCS now comprises 240 cooperative members.

"Tupamari Bahumukhi Krishi Complex is an asset of Ulipur UCCS. The premises would be a wonderful recreational and tourist spot in the district, but we don't have necessary funds for the purpose," said Ulipur Upazila Cooperative Officer Golam Mostafa.

16 hurt in clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

At least 16 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups over a trivial matter at Thaliara village in Sadar upazila yesterday.

Of them, nine were admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital.

Officer in Charge of Brahmanbaria Sadar Model Police Station Md Nabir Hossain said some ducks of Quddus Mia entered the paddy seed-bed of Sabur Mia in the same village.

Quddus and Sabur locked in an altercation over the issue. At one stage, supporters of the two rivals attacked each other with lethal weapons, leaving 16 people from both sides injured.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control, said the OC.

MYSTERIOUS CASE AT MMCH Couple take DNA test to establish claim on newborn

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The woman, who claimed to have given birth to a male child at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) on December 10 and later was handed a female child by the hospital authority, had to go through a DNA test along with her husband as the couple wanted to get back their 'missing' son.

Following a court order on Wednesday afternoon, the DNA tests of the new parents and the baby girl were conducted in the capital on Thursday to verify their claim that they had a boy instead of a girl, Deputy Director (DD) of MMCH Laxmi Narayan Majumder said.

"It will take a while as the report will be available in two weeks," the DD said, adding that if the parents' DNA report matches with the infant girl the matter will be solved.

"To find the facts, whether it is a job of an organised gang or a mistake, a proper probe is a must," the DD said, adding, the baby girl is currently at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the hospital after the parents declined to take her as their child.

On December 18, Administrative Officer of MMCH Mustafizur Rahman filed a missing case with Mymensingh Kotwali Police Station accusing some unnamed people of abducting the baby boy.

On December 10, Papiya Akter, wife of Monwar Hossain, was admitted to the Labour Ward of the hospital where she gave birth to their first child.

The child was identified as male and then kept in the ICU of the hospital due to respiratory complications.

When the parents were handed over a girl child on Monday they protested.

Idols damaged in Naogaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Criminals stole an idol of Manasha from a temple and dumped it into a roadside ditch in Raninagar upazila of Naogaon yesterday.

Khasgarh Manasha Temple Committee President Raran Chandra Mandal said the priest of the temple went home after completing rituals on Sunday night. Residents of the area found the idols in the ditch the next morning.

Criminals got inside the temple by breaking the lock, stole the idol and dumped it in the ditch, he said, adding that they also damaged the idol.

Officer-in-Charge of Raninagar Police Station Siddiqur Rahman said police visited the spot and are investigating the incident. Processing was going on for filing a case over the incident.

Tension was prevailing in the area.



Family members of critically injured siblings Momin and Manik, who were stabbed by drug peddlers on Sunday night, break down in tears at their house at Bholarchawra village in Mohendranagar union of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

FURY OF DRUG PEDDLERS

2 siblings fighting for life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Two siblings are fighting for their lives after being stabbed on Sunday by alleged drug peddlers for protesting against drug peddling in Mahendranagar union under Sadar upazila of the district.

The victims are Momin Islam, 45, and his younger brother Manik Islam, 33, sons of late Ansar Ali of Bholarchawra village in the union.

The critically injured siblings are receiving treatment at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH). The alleged peddlers -- retired police constable Abdul Latif, 53, and his son Rashed Islam, 31 -- went into hiding after the incident,

police and locals said.

The two brothers were taken to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital and later referred to RMCH as their condition was deteriorating, said Resident Medical Officer of Sadar Hospital Dr Mohammad Safi. "They were stabbed on their backs, necks, hands and stomachs," he added.

"The drug peddlers entered our house and stabbed my husband and his brother with sharp weapons," said Mahima Begum, 38, wife of Momin. She said the brothers were stabbed as they strongly protested against drug peddling at the village.

Mofazzal Hossain, 42, of the village said Latif and Rashed have been conducting their illegal trade at the

village openly since long, adding that they were arrested several times but did not give up peddling. The villagers are very upset by the open drug peddling and taking in the locality, he said.

Mahendranagar Union Parishad Chairman Mashiur Rahman said he tried several times to stop the father and son from doing the illegal trade but failed. "Law enforcing agencies will take necessary action in this regard," he added.

Officer-in-Charge of Sadar Police Station Mahfuzur Rahman said no case was lodged in this regard till yesterday noon and police are conducting drives to arrest the two stabbers.



Electric poles tilt precariously at Garanata in Palashbari upazila of Gaibandha, and inset, Dhanchhora in Gaibandha municipality, thanks to the callousness of the authorities concerned.

PHOTO: STAR

Tilted electric poles, dangling wires pose danger

KM REZAUL HOQUE, Gaibandha

A number of electric poles in Gaibandha Sadar and Palashbari upazila remained dangerously tilted for the last two years, posing risk of accident anytime.

Besides, the live electric wires hanging from the tilted poles may snap anytime and fall on pedestrians, which can cause a fatal disaster.

Local people alleged that despite repeated appeals to the authorities concerned no step has been taken to replace risky electric poles which may uproot in a short time.

As many as six such roadside poles remain tilted hazardously in Dakkhin Dhanchhora and Professor Colony area in Gaibandha municipality,

where bamboos are used to support the poles to prevent those from falling, forcing the passers-by to cross the areas carefully.

Trader Saiful Islam said if the live electric wires fall on the pedestrians, especially the school kids, they can be victim of electrocution.

Locals said two years ago the authorities concerned set up the poles for power connections in the locality, but within a few months they tilted either towards the road or the crop fields.

Schoolteacher Amjad Hossain of Radhakrishnapur village in Sadar upazila said, "I feel more worried when students pass through the risky areas."

Kamal Hossain, councillor of ward No 3 under the municipality, said they asked local PDB officials to replace the tilted poles on several occasions, but no action has been taken yet.

In Palashbari, local people identified at least five such tilted poles beside the crop lands at Garanata village in the last two years.

Farmer Hazrat Ali said due to the risky situation labourers demand high wages for working under the tilted poles.

Anwarul Islam, executive engineer of Power Distribution Division II in Gaibandha, said they have invited a tender to renovate the tilted and defective electric poles.

'CHT ethnic women insecure'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Women in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) feel insecure in absence of proper justice despite rising incidents of violence against them, speakers said at a workshop in the district town yesterday.

CHT Women Headman-Karbari Network and Kapaeng Foundation organised the workshop titled "Violence against CHT indigenous women and children and strategies for preventing it" at Rangamati Hill Resort hall room from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Speakers said many indigenous women and girls were raped in CHT region during the last ten years, but the culprits seem to be out of the reach of law.

Sova Tripura, president of CHT Women Headman-Karbari Network, presided over the event while Bablu Chakma, project coordinator of Kapaeng Foundation, delivered the welcome speech.

Public representatives, academics and rights activists spoke on the occasion.

Headmen and karbaris, advocates and representatives of different organisations from the three hill districts attended the programme.



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02. The participating company must have at least 3 (three) years proven experience in supplying software/computers in any scheduled Bank in Bangladesh/Bangladesh Bank or must have previous record of successfully supplying software/computers to BASIC Bank Limited. The participating company must submit relevant document(s) as proof of its experience as mentioned here.

03. The participating company must have successful implementation experience in similar kind of project (as offered in tender) in any scheduled Bank in Bangladesh/Bangladesh Bank or in BASIC Bank Limited. The participating company must submit relevant document(s) as proof of its experience as mentioned here.

04. The participating company must have at least three OEM Certified Engineers on the proposed Server and three Certified Engineers on the proposed Storage System. The participating company must submit the CV and relevant certificates of the Certified Engineers with the tender documents.

05. The participating company has to submit BDT 10,00,000/- (Ten Lac) only with the tender through PO/DD in the name of BASIC Bank Limited, Head Office, Dhaka as earnest money. The earnest money of the successful company will be returned at the time of making the 1st payment. Earnest money can be forfeited for reasons mentioned in the tender schedule.

06. The tender schedule may be obtained from ICT Division (Peoples Insurance Bhaban - 5th Floor, 36 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka) of BASIC Bank Limited between 10:00 A.M. and 02:00 P.M. of all working days at a cost of Tk 5,000/- only in cash (non refundable). No schedule will be sold after 02:00 P.M. of January 24, 2018.

07. Sealed offers/tenders have to be dropped in the tender box kept at the ICT Division (Peoples Insurance Bhaban - 5th Floor, 36 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka) of BASIC Bank Limited on or before January 25, 2018 by 03:00 P.M., and the tenders will be opened at 03:15 P.M. on the same day in presence of bidders, if any.

08. Other terms and conditions can be found in the tender schedule.

General Manager
ICT Division