

# Trade in honey from litchi

## 700 tonnes of honey worth Tk 13cr collected this year

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Beekeepers collected around 700 tonnes of honey worth around Tk 13 crore from the litchi orchards in the district this year.

Uttarabanga Mouchashi Samity President Md Jahangir Alam said around 500 honey collectors from different northern districts came to Dinaipur as soon the litchi trees started flowering. They collected about 700 tonnes of honey from around 40,000 beehives.

The market value of the honey is around Tk 13 crore, said Jahangir.

Horticulturist of Department of Horticulture Imrul Ahsan said there are 3,500 commercial litchi orchards in different upazilas, adding that there are many homesteads that have litchi trees.

Imrul said pollination is needed

for plants to reproduce and many plants depend on bees or other insects as pollinators. Pollination takes place when a bee collects nectar and pollen from the flower of a plant, he said, adding that honey bees are the best pollinators for litchi.

Flowering of litchi plants began at the end of February this year, said Imrul. The honey cultivators and litchi orchardists have been benefited, he added.

During a visit to different orchards in Sadar upazila, Biral, Chirirbandar and Ghoraghat areas in the district, this correspondent found that the honey collectors had set up many beehives (boxes) in litchi orchards for collecting honey.

Rafiqul Islam, a honey collector from Joypurhat, set up around 80 beehives at a litchi orchard at Kawgaon

village in Sadar upazila on March 15. He collected around 1.7 tonnes of honey till April 5, he added.

"I sold the honey at Tk 175 per kg," said Rafiqul, adding that he received training on beekeeping from Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC).

Dulal Talukdar, a honey collector from Tangail, set up around 75 boxes at litchi orchards at Amarpur village in Chirirbandar upazila. He said farmers collect honey produced from different crops like litchi trees and mustard plants from end of November to end of March.

He along with four other beekeepers collected around four tonnes of honey from there and sold it for Tk 1.70 lakh, Dulal said.

Different companies in the country buy the honey, he added.



This pangolin, injured after getting trapped in a net at a garden of Ichobpur in Moulvibazar's Sreemangal on April 26, faces paralysis as Bangladesh Wildlife Service Foundation failed to cure it. The forest department has not taken initiative for its better treatment while the only wildlife treatment centre in Sylhet region, Lawacherra Wildlife Rescue Centre, is running without any surgeon and adequate equipment.

PHOTO: STAR



People struggle to take goods across the shaky wooden bridge over the Langulia river at Khatora village in Basail upazila of Tangail.

PHOTO: STAR

## Risky wooden bridge

The bridge built a decade ago has broken down at several points

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A wooden bridge built by villagers around a decade ago at Khatora village in Basail upazila has broken down at several points due to rotting of the structure, hampering communication and causing suffering to the people.

Locals built the bridge over the Langulia river with the help of the then local lawmaker and the upazila chairman.

The bridge is the only means to go to the upazila headquarters for several thousand people in Kawljani and Fulki unions, locals said, adding that several thousand people of the adjacent Kalihati upazila also use it.

Besides, students of Kawljani Board Bazar Government Primary School, Lutfa Shanta Girls' High School and Kawljani Nawsheria High

School use the bridge to go to their educational institutions, said Habibur Rahman of Kawljani.

The Board Bazar area is very important for local people as several banks and many educational institutions are situated there, he said.

Local people have been facing problems in transporting their goods and products, including crops and raw materials, to the markets as vehicles cannot move on the broken and shaky bridge. Only pedestrians can cross the bridge, but at great risk, he added.

People have to go an extra five kilometres on an alternative route to take their goods to the upazila headquarters on vehicles, he added.

Although the people's representatives had made promises to construct a

concrete bridge, they have not been fulfilled so far, said shopkeeper Saiful Islam in Board Bazar area.

The then lawmaker Shawkat Momen Shajahan had helped local people to erect the wooden bridge, said Kawljani Union Parishad Chairman Habibur Rahman Chowdhury.

"Construction of a concrete bridge is a longstanding demand of the local people. We have submitted a memorandum in this regard to the authorities concerned," he added.

Basail Upazila Chairman Kazi Shahidul Islam said necessary survey and measurements have already been done.

A proposal to construct a concrete bridge has been sent to the ministry concerned, said Upazila Engineer Amzad Hossain.

## SUICIDE OF SCHOOLGIRL

# 'Punish madrasa teacher'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Local people staged a demonstration at Hapania Goysapara village in Trishal upazila yesterday, demanding exemplary punishment of a madrasa teacher for harassing a 13-year-old schoolgirl.

Sohagi Begum, daughter of day labourer Nazrul Islam, committed suicide after being harassed by her teacher Mobarak Hossain, 26, of local Kawranbai Furkania Madrasa on Saturday.

Sohagi, a fourth grader at local Goysapara Government Primary School, used to go to the adjacent madrasa to learn Arabic. She went there on Saturday morning when the teacher harassed her after the class was over.

On learning about the matter, local people rushed to the spot but the perpetrator ran away. The girl was taken to her house.

Being upset, Sohagi shut herself up in a room of her house and committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling, around two hours after the incident, said Trishal Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md Jakir Rahman.

Locals caught Mobarak from his in-laws' house in the village on Saturday and handed him over to police.

Mobarak was produced yesterday before the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court that sent him to jail, the OC said, adding that he confessed during interrogation that he used to harass the girl on various occasions.

The girl was buried at her family graveyard early yesterday after autopsy at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, he added.

## Abducted girl child rescued at Benapole

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Police rescued a three-year-old girl from Benapole yesterday four days after her abduction from Pirojpur.

The victim is Hridoy, daughter of Shahid Bari of Jhatkati village in Pirojpur Sadar upazila.

Monir Hossain, sub-inspector of Benapole Police Station, said Taslima Khatun of Rajar Khola village in Pirojpur Sadar adopted the girl from her father after her mother was sent to jail in a case a few months ago.

A gang led by Mahabul, Shahabul, Bakul and Hafizur of Benapole abducted the baby from Pirojpur on Wednesday for ransom.

Taslima gave Tk 5000 to the kidnappers but they did not return Hridoy.

Benapole and Pirojpur police jointly rescued the girl from the area yesterday.

## Daughter's stalker kills father

Main accused Rony arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A man was stabbed to death by a gang led by his daughter's stalker in Gabtoli upazila on Saturday.

The deceased was Md Sayed Ali, 38, of Perirhat Purbopara village in the upazila.

Police arrested prime accused Rony Ahmed, 20, son of Saiful Islam of Shahjahanpur upazila and his accomplice Siam, 23, of Gabtoli upazila. Rony is a first year student of Kahaloo Degree College.

Police said Rony often stalked the victim's tenth grader daughter. Recently, he gave a marriage proposal to the girl's family.

As Ali refused the proposal, Rony became very angry.

When he along with four accomplices went to the victim's house on Saturday night to kidnap his daughter, Ali resisted them.

At this, Rony and his accomplices stabbed the victim, leaving him critically injured.

Hearing screams, locals rushed to the spot and caught Rony and one of his accomplices red-handed and informed police. However, the rest managed to flee the scene.

Critically injured Ali later died at a hospital, said Gabtoli police.

As Sayed Ali resisted the bid to abduct his daughter by Rony and his accomplices, they stabbed him.

## Elderly father assaulted by sons takes own life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

An elderly man committed suicide after being assaulted allegedly by his two sons over family affairs in Muktagachha upazila of the district yesterday.

The victim was Abdul Baten, 65, a farmer of Kashimpur village.

Quoting locals, Muktagachha Police Station Officer-in-Charge Ali Ahmed Mollah said Baten recently divorced his wife, which made his two sons -- Md Sarwar and Md Anwar -- angry.

The sons locked in an altercation over the issue with their father yesterday. At one stage, they allegedly assaulted him.

After the incident, Baten took poison in his house. Neighbours took him to Muktagachha Upazila Health Complex immediately where the doctors declared him dead.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police are investigating the incident, the OC said. An unnatural death case was lodged with the police station.

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

'Ecosystem based development, management and conservation of the Saint Martin's Island' Project  
Department of Environment (DoE)  
E-16, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207  
[www.doe.gov.bd](http://www.doe.gov.bd)

No. 22.02.0000.040.14.010.17.132

Date: 03/05/2018

### Request for Expressions of Interest (Eoi)

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF).
2	Agency	Department of Environment (DoE).
3	Procuring entity name	Project Director of 'Ecosystem based development, management and conservation of the Saint Martin's Island' Project.
4	Procuring entity code	N/A
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
6	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Consulting firm for Establishment of Turtle Hatchery, Protection of hatching ground & Release of Hatching to the Sea.
7	Title of service	Expressions of Interest (REOI) for Consulting firm for Establishment of Turtle Hatchery, Protection of hatching ground & Release of Hatching to the Sea.

### KEY INFORMATION

8	Procurement method/sub-method	Fixed Budget Selection (FBS).
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### FUNDING INFORMATION

9	Budget and source of funds	GoB
10	Development partners (if applicable)	N/A

### PARTICULAR INFORMATION

11	Project/programme code (if applicable)	5004
12	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Ecosystem based development, management & conservation of the Saint Martin's Island.
13	Eoi closing date and time	Date: 22/05/2018 Time: 12:00 noon.

### INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT

14	Brief description of assignment	Selected firm will be responsible for the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Conduct detailed surveys in the beach of St. Martin Island (SMI) for identifying/locating nesting beach/grounds of sea turtles.</li><li>Monitor sea turtle nesting round the year and document all scientific information.</li><li>Manage nests for in-situ hatching and if needed relocate (ex-situ) the clutches for safe hatching.</li><li>Manage all nests laid on the beaches of SMI for safe hatching.</li><li>Investigate threats level including sources of threats, and identify mitigation measures and recommend the measures to DoE for actions.</li><li>Conduct Sea turtle migration and population study, nesting success inventory, mortality and nesting frequency, seasonality in details.</li><li>Identify and recognize critical nesting beaches and undertake actions for safe nesting.</li><li>Control all predators (dogs, crow, other predatory animals) and stop egg poaching.</li><li>Establish sea turtle rescue and rehabilitation center.</li><li>Conduct by-catch awareness program among community &amp; offshore fishermen to reduce by-catch.</li><li>Investigate by-catch intensity and identify ways of by-catch reduction.</li><li>Designate all nesting beach areas, locations and draft conservation zoning for sea turtle and incorporate with SMI ecological zoning.</li><li>Suggest seasonal conservation actions, measures, and practice during the course of project.</li><li>Provide DoE a detailed CMP &amp; action plans for long term conservation program of marine turtle.</li></ul>
15	Qualification & experience required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>NGOs/Consulting firms having at least ten years consecutive experiences of working in relevant/similar work/activity in St. Martin Island either under GOB project or of its own donor supported projects will be preferred for the assignment.</li><li>Minimum 10 year exclusive and continuous and consecutive experiences of monitoring and breeding facilitation of sea turtles in SMI and/or other locations of Bangladesh coast.</li><li>Satellite tracking and tagging experiences of sea turtles for identification of distribution and foraging grounds research on sea turtle will get preference.</li><li>Global Sea turtle conservation network of scientific, task force and other membership will get preference.</li><li>Research publications on sea turtle conservation in SMI will be an added advantage.</li><li>Possess knowledge and experiences of conserving overall marine biodiversity of the island.</li></ul>
16	Other details (if applicable)	Interested Firm should provide a cover letter indicating why they are competent for the assignment with brochures of organizational strength and experiences, legal documents like: trade license/NGO registration, certification of VAT/Tax, description of experience of similar assignments, experiences in similar operating conditions in competitive proposal.

GD-1215

Mohammed Solaiman Haider

Project Director

# Living on Tk 3,000 a month!

Village cops demand fourth class govt job status

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Hard-pressed gram police (village cop) members in the district have reiterated their demand for declaration of their job as a fourth class category and provision of government facilities accordingly.

Struggling to maintain the family with a meagre monthly salary of Tk 3,000, many of them work as farm labourers and rickshaw pullers to manage the bare necessities.

"There are 419 village cops working in 45 unions under five upazilas of Lalmonirhat. Four years ago, we got promise that our job would be declared as a fourth class one but it is yet to be implemented," said Maminul Islam, president of Bangladesh Gram Police Karmochari Union's district unit.

Ansar Ali, 55, a village cop of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila's Rajpur union said, "Earlier our status was upgraded from chowkidar to gram

police (village cop) but our living standard has not changed as we are getting very low salary."

"We work day and night amid risk but we get a meagre Tk 3,000 per month. Our daily earning stands at Tk 100 whereas a farm labourer earns Tk 300 a day," said village cop Aminul Islam, 45, at the same union.

"We work for protecting peace in village but the low salary is too scanty to provide minimum requirements for the family, I work as a mason during the off time to earn additional money," said Shahin Islam, 44, a village cop of Kulaghat union in Lalmonirhat Sadar.

Rashedul Islam, 39, a village cop of Mahendranagar union in Lalmonirhat Sadar, said he peddles rickshaw for additional earning to save his family from half starvation.

"We perform duty to prevent social crimes, child marriage, gambling and drug abuse and help police to arrest warranted accused. We also play role to implement orders from the officials and public representatives, thus keeping ourselves busy most of the time. But we have to live an inhuman life," said Mazibar Rahman, 48, a village cop of Rajpur union in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

Enamul Haque, secretary of Bangladesh Gram Police Karmochari Union's Lalmonirhat district unit, said, "Of our monthly salary of Tk 3,000, we get Tk 1900 from the government fund and Tk 1100 from the local union parishad. We can hardly meet our family requirements, including children's education. We demand declaration of our job as a fourth class category and providing government facilities accordingly."



A few members of 'gram police' share their experience in front of Lalmonirhat Sadar Upazila Parishad complex a few days ago. Despite playing an important role in maintaining law and order in rural areas, they get a meagre Tk 3,000 as monthly salary.

PHOTO: STAR