

Case filed for arson attack on Khasis

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Ethnic Khasi people filed a case with Barlekha Police Station in the district against 10 named people yesterday for torching three houses and cutting down 400 betel leaf plants early Sunday, allegedly to grab Khasi land in Nalikhai punjee.

"I was sleeping when my husband called me after seeing the fire. We ran out of the house without taking anything. The utensils in the house were destroyed. We are poor people and betel leaf is our only source of earning, but the plants have been cut down," said Pravita Dio, a resident whose house was burnt.

"I filed a case with the police station in this regard against 10 named people, including Shakil Ahmed, assistant manager of Chutolekha tea garden. Shakil ordered the burning of our houses and cutting of betel plants," she added.

"Seeing our houses on fire, Eju Chisham, 50, and I ran away from the houses with our families. Then we took shelter in the punjee headman's house. It was not possible to douse the fire on the high hills because of lack of water. As a result, the rooms kept burning in front of our eyes. The tin-shed houses were completely burnt down," said Achin Patro, 25.

Headman of Nalikhai punjee Tolby Lamin said there was massive damage to all the items in the three houses and around 400 trees were cut down.

"We are deeply distressed following an attack by a gang of criminals who targeted the punjee's betel leaf plantations. Indigenous people believe the attack was instigated by Chutolekha tea garden authorities following an earlier altercation between residents over grabbing our land. This was a planned attack to grab our land," he added.

Central member of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) Father Joseph Gomes OMI said it is the responsibility of the state to ensure security of the Khasi community. The state should take urgent action against the perpetrators.

He said environmentalists, civil society and punjee people demand immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the people involved in such a heinous act.

Mohammad Mukaram Hossain, manager of Chutolekha tea garden, refuted the allegations. "Khasi people grabbed our land," he said.

"I visited the punjee after hearing the news. Three houses were burnt and 400 betel leaf plants were cut. The victims filed a case against 10 people," said Barlekha Police Station Officer-in-Charge (Investigation) Mohammad Jasim Uddin.

Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Indigenous Peoples Forum, told this correspondent that Khasi people have not been getting justice in the matter for a long time, adding that the land belongs to them as per ILO Convention-107.

Land rights of plain land indigenous people cannot be protected under the current land laws of the country, so the government should form a separate land commission immediately, he said.

32 schools run with few students

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Although Mayda Government Primary School under Amragachhia union in Mirzaganj upazila was established in 1940, the institution is facing serious student crisis.

During a visit to the school on January 12 this correspondent found only three students were present in the school, but the school head teacher Farida Yesmin claimed a total of 30 students are currently studying there while the number was 24 in 2018, 35 in 2017 and 33 each in 2016 and 2015 from Class I to Class V.

Due to troublesome communication most of the students in the area prefer to take admission in other nearby schools, she claimed, adding that there are currently three teachers working there against five posts.

Department of Primary Education (DPE) recently issued a show cause notice to the school asking the school authorities why the number of students is so low.

If the number of students is not increased the school will be unified with another nearby school, says the show cause notice.

Department of Primary Education set up Pochakoralia Government Primary School at Pochakoralia village in Patuakhali Sadar upazila under a project titled 'Establishment of 1500 Primary School in Un-Schooled Areas' spending Tk 14 lakh in 2011-12 fiscal year.

The institution started its activity in 2014 with only 14 students while the number was 28 in 2015, 40 in 2016, 36 in 2017 and 49 in 2018.

While visiting the school on January 10 this correspondent saw only 22 students attending their respective classes though its headmaster Abdul Kuddus claimed that a total of 62 students took admission this year.

As the area is very small and the family members, mostly ultra poor, work in the capital for livelihood there are hardly any children to study in schools, he added.

Meanwhile, Purbo Telikhali Government



Like quite a few others of the kind, Pochakoralia Government Primary School in Patuakhali Sadar upazila is running with only a few students.

PHOTO: STAR

Primary School, established in 1994 and nationalised in 2013, in the upazila also received the same notice.

Headmaster Rina Parvin said her institution is surrounded by at least five Nurani or Hafejee Madrasas and most of the children in the area take admission there, adding that they have sent a reply of the show cause notice to the authority concerned.

Like Mayda, Pochakoralia and Purbo Telekhali Government Primary Schools a total of 32 primary schools, including 22 in Patuakhali and 10 in Barguna, were served the same show cause notice while a total of 650 schools across the country got the same.

According to Patuakhali Primary Education Office there are 1,225 primary

schools in all the upazilas of the district.

Patuakhali District Primary Education Officer (DPEO) Mohammad Shahidul Islam said they forwarded the notices to the schools concerned and upazila level officials on December 28 last year.

"We also asked the upazila level officials to visit the schools physically and submit the report by January 15," the DPEO said, adding that they received the reports and sent those to the higher authorities for necessary steps.

The rest of the schools are Banikantho Hawlader Government Primary School (GPS) in Kalapara, Purbo Chandukhali GPS, Purbo Jamura GPS in Sadar, Modhya Kachipara GPS in Baufal, Dewli GPS,

Purbo Mayda GPS, Janata Jhopkhali GPS, Basonda GPS, Modhya GPS, Mohishkata GPS, Uttar-Poshim Subidkhali GPS, Dakkhin Kakrabunia GPS, Poshim Subidkhali GPS, Modhya Chalitabunia GPS, NW Jhatibunia GPS, Mehendiabad GPS, Dakkhin Amragachhia GPS and Purbo Kafula GPS in Mirzaganj upazila of Patuakhali and Gola Sabur Tulu GPS, Kathaltali Goraghata GPS, Uttar Chhoto Tengra GPS, Poshim Gohorpur GPS, Kalipur Gyanpara Adarsha GPS in Pathorghata, Borojadabpur GPS, Uttar Golghata Najib Yasin GPS in Bamna, Uttar Amtali GPS in Amtali and Dakkhin Karuna GPS and Talgachhia GPS in Betagi upazila of Barguna.

TRAWLER CAPSIZE

2 bodies identified

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Two bodies of the victims of the trawler capsized in the Meghna river in Munshiganj have been identified while 18 other workers are still missing.

The two identified bodies are of Rahmat Ali, 39, and Rafiqul Islam, 37.

Fire service recovered their bodies on Sunday.

Rahmat was son of late Moijuddin of Gozail village under Ullapara upazila of Sirajganj and Rafiqul was son of Layan Fakir of Mundumala village in Bhangura upazila of Pabna.

Munshiganj ASP Khandker Ashfaquzzaman said relatives received the bodies.

Meanwhile, a court here yesterday granted one day's remand for Zaker Dewan, the owner of the trawler, when police produced him before the court.

11 fishermen fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A mobile court in Dashmina upazila yesterday fined Tk 5,000 each to 11 fishermen involved in netting jatka fish with current nets on the Buragourango river.

Dashmina Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shuvra Das, also executive magistrate, delivered the judgement at about 11:00am, said Md Sohag Fakir, in-charge of Dashmina Naval Police Outpost.



The fire is caused by natural gas coming out of a tube-well set up at Shinghakhali village in Bhandaria upazila of Pirojpur.

PHOTO: STAR

Natural gas from tubewell, govt inquiry demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Natural gas is coming out from a tube-well set up at a village in Bhandaria upazila.

On December 6, locals found the existence of natural gas when a tube-well was being installed at the house of Delowar Hossain at Shinghakhali village of the upazila.

"After a pipe went 35 feet to 40 feet below the surface, a fire started burning as the water of the tube-well came in touch with a burning cigarette. We put out the fire with a thick, wet cloth," Delowar said.

"When we draw water from the tube-well, natural gas bubbles out. When fire comes in touch with it, the gas begins to burn," he said.

But after installing the tube-well

they are not using the water from it.

Delowar circulated the matter locally and informed the local administration. But no step has been taken by the government authorities even one and a half months after the incident.

"We are afraid as the gas may cause accident in our area," Delowar said.

"We urge the government to investigate the matter and see if there is natural gas in our village. If gas is found, the government can use it in our area as well as other places," he said.

Around two years ago, Delowar's neighbour Khalilur Rahman, a teacher by profession, found the existence of gas after installing a tube-well in his house. But he did not disclose the matter. Rather, he kept it hidden by block-

ing the tube-well.

"I thought if the matter comes to light, I may face trouble," said Khalilur, adding that he is not willing to install the tube-well as gas comes out and they cannot use the water coming from it.

"Failing to set up a tube-well, people of our village use water from unsafe sources like ponds and canals," said another local Abdus Salam Sikder, adding that, their suffering increases in the winter as the water level decreases at these water sources.

Pirojpur Deputy Commissioner Abu Ali M Sazzad Hossain said he is aware of the matter.

"I will inform the authorities concerned about the existence of gas in Bhandaria upazila for government to be taken," he said.

'Colourful corn to resist cancer'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Eminent scientist Dr Abed Chaudhury has developed a colourful corn which may work like cancer resistant drugs.

The corn was developed by genetic modification. It can also meet the nutritional needs.

The scientist said this to this correspondent at his house in Hazipur area of Kulaura upazila yesterday.

On Sunday afternoon, Chaudhury exchanged views with farmers and talked about the new colourful corn at a meeting organised by Kulaura Upazila Parishad.

Chaudhury said that nutrient content of colourful corn is very high compared to rice and wheat. It can be called new nutrition.

"It has a lot of keratin as its colour is yellow. I developed the colourful corn by cloning," he said, adding that the colourful corn is like cancer resistant drugs. It's especially for the children who like it very much. If the

children eat corn, their nutritional needs will be fulfilled easily.

This colorful corn can be cultivated four times a year, he said.

Dr Chaudhury also distributed corn seeds to encourage farmers in Kulaura upazila as everyone can do maize cultivation on their fallow land.

He said, "I made it suitable to cultivate in our country environment".

He further said, "I had been abroad for a long time. I served in different countries of the world. Now I want to give that service to my country."

In particular, he promised to give time to take forward the agriculture department in Kulaura.

He said, "In our country, agricultural production has increased due to better application of scientific knowledge, despite shortage of land."

He said he got permission to do research work with Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation.



PHOTO: STAR

Dr Abed Chaudhury talks about newly developed colourful corn at a meeting organised by Kulaura Upazila Parishad in Moulvibazar on Sunday.

Fish larvae, venison seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Bangladesh Coast Guard recovered eight kg venison, one deer head and one hide from Amberia area in Bagerhat's Mongla upazila and 1.72 crore Parshay larvae with three trawlers worth Tk 4 crore from the Shibsa river in West Sundarbans area of Khulna's Dacope upazila on Sunday.

Coast Guard West Zone (Mongla) intelligence officer Lieutenant Al-Mahmud said, on secret information, members of the coast guard's Harbaria station conducted an operation in the Amberia canal area of Chandpai range of East Sundarbans on Sunday morning.

Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the poachers fled away in the deep forest.

After searching the spot, eight kg venison, one deer head and one hide were recovered. The recovered venison, head and skin were handed over to the forest office at noon, he added.

Chandpur Range Officer Shaheen Kabir said they buried the venison, deer head and one hide.

Meanwhile, members of the coast guard Nolian outpost seized the fry of 1 crore 72 lakhs of Parshay fish larvae and three trawlers on Sunday afternoon in Shibsa River area of West Sundarbans, said the lieutenant.

14 held in Benapole

Accused of travelling illegally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) detained 14 women, men and children, while they were illegally returning to Bangladesh from India without valid documents through Putkhali border yesterday afternoon.

BGB 21 Battalion Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Emranullah Sarkar said, acting on secret information, a team of BGB-21 conducted a drive in the area and detained six women, six men and two children. They hail from different areas of Narail and Barishal districts.

Later, BGB handed them over to Benapole Port Police Station.

A case was filed in this connection.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Department of Environment
E-16, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207
www.doe.gov.bd

শেখ হাসিনার বাংলাদেশ
পরিচালনা পরিষদ

No. 22.02.0000.008.56.28.17-20

Date: 21/01/2019

Request for Expressions of Interest (Eoi) Selection of Individual Consultant-Junior Consultant (IT)

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
2	Agency	Department of Environment (DoE).
3	Client name	Director (Admin).
4	Client code	N/A.
5	Client district	Dhaka.
6	Expression of Interest for Selection of	Individual Consultant-Junior Consultant (IT).
7	Eoi No. Ref.	22.02.0000.008.56.28.17-20
8	Date	21.01.19
KEY INFORMATION FUNDING INFORMATION		
9	Source of funds	Revenue Budget.
10	Development partners (if applicable)	N/A.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
11	Program code/project (if applicable)	N/A.
12	Program name/project (if applicable)	N/A.
13	Eoi closing date and time	05.02.2019 Time: 3:00
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT		
14	Brief description of the assignment	The assignment will focus on the following areas: Hardware, Software, Network Maintenance, Website Updating and Maintenance related Activities. Please visit www.doe.gov.bd for details Terms of Reference (TOR).
15	Qualification & experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The incumbent should have minimum Bachelor Degree in Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) with 04 (four) years Diploma Engineering in Computer Technology from any government polytechnic institute.At least 2 year working experience in any government organization/reputed non-government organization as Junior Consultant (IT) IT Officer.Working experience on Server Based workstation management and maintenance.Practical working experience on Windows/Linux Server Administration System.Related training on CCNA, Linux Server, Windows Server, Mikrotik.Skilled in design softwares like Illustrator and Photoshop will be considered in an added advantage.
16	Other details (if applicable)	Interested applicants are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (Complete CV with other details as required as per the application forms). Interested consultants are required to submit their expressions of interest in accordance with the standard application forms which may be obtained by the office of the undersigned during normal office hours (or available in the website: www.doe.gov.bd). A Consultant will be selected using the selection of individual consultant sub-method in accordance with the Public Procurement Rules-2008. A shortlist of consultants will be prepared upon evaluation of EOIs of the eligible applicants and invited for interview. It is expected that the services will commence from March 2019. Total duration of the assignment for Junior Consultant – (IT) will be 12 months.
CLIENT DETAIL		
17	Name of the official inviting Eoi	Dr. Mallick Anwar Hossain.
18	Designation of the official inviting Eoi	Director (Admin).
19	Address of the official inviting Eoi	Room No. 303, Paribesh Bhaban, E-16, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.
20	Contact details of the official inviting Eoi	Phone: 02-8181790
21	The client reserves the right to reject all Eois.	
GD-130		Mohammad Abdul Azim Assistant Director (Service) Phone: 8181791