

30 roadside trees felled illegally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

At least 30 roadside trees worth Tk 1.5 lakh were felled illegally in Horinchara union of Domar upazila yesterday. The trees include mahogany and eucalyptus, said Azizul Islam, chairman of the union parishad (UP). Labourers, engaged by one Kabir Hossain Bablu, 50, elder brother of Moniruzzaman Badal, president of ward no 6 unit of Awami League in the union, cut down the trees to sell those to local timber traders at higher prices, said the chairman. At the time of loading the felled trees on battery-run rickshaw-vans, the chairman along with village police seized those and informed upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) about the matter, said locals. Hundreds of saplings of different tree species were planted beside the road at Sheutgari village eight to 10 years ago. Local UP took the initiative. Village police leader Osman Gani alleged that a group of local influential persons felled around 200 trees from different roads in the union in a week. Bablu said he felled the trees as he planted those on his land attached to the road. UNO Umme Fatima said, she directed the upazila surveyor to investigate the matter for action.



Handloom weavers at work last month at a factory in Rooppur village of Shahzadpur upazila in Sirajganj. Right, another handloom factory in the area. PHOTO: STAR

Tanter sari losing out to cheap import

Traditional weavers in Pabna, Sirajganj leaving profession

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, back from Sirajganj

Many traditional sari weavers are switching to other professions as handloom owners in Sirajganj -- renowned for its affordable handwoven saris, known as 'tanter sari' -- are being forced to put a significant number of handlooms out of operation. Dwindling demand, rising cost of production and competition from cheaper imported saris are several of the reasons behind the problem, said loom owners in Shahzadpur upazila. Weaving factory owner Abul Kalam Azad of Rooppur village in the upazila has 50 sets of handlooms. Last Eid-ul-fitr was the only time of the entire year when he could engage 30 of the looms to cater to an increased demand for saris. Lately, this has been the only time of the year when he can operate more than half of the handlooms in his factory, Azad said. Weavers in Sirajganj and neighbouring

Pabna, a region that supplies nearly 70 percent of the country's handwoven saris and lungis (a piece of cloth worn by men around the waist), are faced with the situation in recent times. Almas Ansari, vice president of Sirajganj handloom and power loom association, said, "Various problems over the last few years have forced more than 60 percent of handlooms and power looms in Pabna and Sirajganj to go out of operation. Out of a total 6 to 7 lakh looms in 10 upazilas of the two districts, only 3 to 3.5 lakh looms are now operational." "Eight to 10 years ago, I used to sell 25 to 30 thousand pieces of saris every week, when all my looms were in operation. Sometimes I even hired several smaller handloom factories. But now, I can only sell around 20 thousand pieces of saris in an entire month -- nearly 60 percent drop in production." Availability of cheaper foreign saris has brought the demand down for the

items that are made in local handlooms, resulting in shutting down of many looms in many factories, he added. Shafikul Islam, owner of a smaller factory near Azad's, said five months ago, losses forced him to close his factory with 10 looms. Targeting to sell 800 to 1,000 pieces of saris, he reopened the factory and put four looms in operation prior to last Eid, when the demand for saris usually rises. However, he said he could not resume full operation due to a shortage of weavers as well as funds. Rising prices of raw materials, especially thread for weaving, are adding to the problem, said many factory owners. Local products made with pricier raw materials cannot compete with cheaper foreign products available in the market, said Jewel Rana, another handloom factory owner in Shahzadpur. With factory owners increasingly trying to make cutbacks as a means to survive

in the competition, daily wage of weavers continues to lag behind that of any other craft or trade, said a number of weavers while speaking with this correspondent. Average daily wage of a sari weaver now ranges from Tk 250 to 350, depending on how many saris are weaved, said handloom weaver Mukul Sarkar. Because of this unreasonably low daily wage, many weavers are leaving the profession that they inherited from their ancestors, he also said. Even after producing five to six saris on a power loom, a worker's average daily wage could be as high as only Tk 350 to Tk 450, said Shukur Ali, an experienced power loom worker. "Workers in other professions easily make Tk 600 to 700 a day -- one of the main reasons why many weavers are leaving their inherited profession," he said, adding that it was too late for him to learn another trade and therefore his fate is sealed with this low-paying profession.

400 bags of govt paddy seized en route to rice mill

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Police on Monday night confiscated 400 bags of paddy, belonging to food directorate of the government, and arrested a truck driver and his assistant as they were transporting the commodity to a rice mill in Dharmapasha upazila of Sunamganj. The arrestees are truck driver Abul Kashem and his assistant Nurul Amin. Police filed a case against them as well as Bibhu Roy, owner of Faruki Auto Rice Mill in Dharmapasha. Ejazul Islam, OC of Dharmapasha Police Station, said the truck, carrying the paddy bags (30kg each), was coming from Gajharpur area in Tarakanda upazila of Mymensingh. If any wrongdoing is proven following due investigation, necessary action will be taken against the miller, said Upazila Food Controller (UFC) Selim Haider. Upazila Nirbahi Officer Mohammad Obaidur Rahman said he has asked the UFC to investigate into the incident and submit a report so that action can be taken.



Three people, arrested on charge of snatching on Dhaka-Tangail highway after falsely introducing themselves as policemen, at Mirzapur Police Station yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

3 fake cops arrested for snatching

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police yesterday arrested three people in Mirzapur upazila when they were fleeing after snatching a gold chain from a woman on the highway. The arrestees -- Kuddus Matabbar, 52, of Shibchar in Madaripur, Taiab Ali, 60, and Khabir Uddin, 55, of Kachua in Chandpur had introduced themselves as policemen while committing the crime. "With a private car, they

approached a couple on Dhaka-Tangail highway at Sutrapur under Kaliakair upazila of Gazipur at around 11:30am, introduced themselves as policemen and told the couple that the two were under arrest," said AKM Mizanul Haque, officer-in-charge (OC) of Mirzapur Police Station. The couple started screaming when the trio snatched a gold chain from the woman. As people came forward, the trio tried to flee with the car. Being informed, Mirzapur police

started checking vehicles on the highway and later arrested the trio with the private car. "During preliminary interrogation, the trio admitted to police that they are involved in mugging on different highways introducing themselves as policemen. They are also accused in cases filed with different police stations for committing such crimes," the OC said. The arrestees were handed over to Kaliakoir Police Station in the afternoon, he added.

Housewife murdered

Youth arrested for killing father

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A woman was strangled allegedly by her husband for dowry in Patuakhali Sadar upazila on Monday, while a youth was arrested on suspicion of killing his father in Purbodhala upazila of Netrakona that day. Police found body of the housewife, Farzana, 30, in the house of her husband Rafiqul Islam Akon in Morichbuna village yesterday morning and sent it to Patuakhali General Hospital morgue for autopsy. Farzana's father is Sanu Mridha, from Gulishakhali village in Barguna's Amtali upazila, reports our Patuakhali correspondent. Mostafizur Rahman, OC of Patuakhali Police Station, said the husband and father-in-law of the woman went into hiding. Her father said, "Rafiqul had been demanding dowry ever since he married my daughter five years ago. On Sunday, Rafiqul physically assaulted Farzana after she refused to bring him Tk 50,000 from me. On Monday, he

killed her by strangulation." In Purbodhala upazila of Netrakona, businessman Mehdi Hasan, 25, was arrested in Narinda area of the upazila on Monday evening on charge of killing his father, reports our correspondent in Mymensingh. According to family members and neighbours, Mehdi and his father, Hossain Khokon, 65, locked in an altercation on Sunday over his (Mehdi) marriage without his father's approval, said Mohammad Fakhruzzaman Jewel, additional superintendent of police (ASP) in Netrakona (Sadar Circle). "The arguments tuned into a scuffle and family members found the elderly man's body, with signs of strangulation, next morning. Police sent the body to Netrakona General Hospital for autopsy," he said. A Netrakona court sent Mehdi to jail yesterday when police produced him before it with five days' remand prayer, he added.

GAMBLING CHARGE 10 AL men get bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Ten Awami League (AL) leaders and activists were arrested on charge of gambling in Sujanagar upazila headquarters on Monday night. Police also recovered Tk 21,820 from their possession, said Arbinda Sarkar, inspector of Sujanagar Police Station. However, the arrestees were released on bail yesterday, said the police official. The arrestees include Md Rabiul Islam Tutul, 40, chairman of Chartarap Union Parishad, and also the publicity secretary of the upazila unit AL, Raju Ahmed, 42, joint convener of the upazila unit Swetchchasebok League, Bashu Sarkar, 40, environmental affairs secretary of Sujanagar upazila unit AL. The ten were produced before the district Judicial Magistrate's Court yesterday noon. A police team raided the residence of Md Abdus Sattar in the upazila headquarters around 10:00pm on Monday and arrested the 10 when they were gambling, said the inspector. The following day, the court granted bail for them, he said. Upazila Parishad Chairman Md Shahinuzzaman Shahin, also the secretary of the upazila unit AL, said the arrestees were the victim of conspiracy.

Sylhet City Corporation
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শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

Memo No.: SCC/Engr/PW-1/100/1710 Date: 17/06/2019

e-Tender Notice-21/2018-19

1.	Ministry/division	Ministry of the Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives.	
2.	Agency	Sylhet City Corporation.	
3.	Budget and source of funds	ADP/ADP (Special)/Revenue fund of SCC.	
4.	Tender ID No.	Description of work	Last date of tender submission
	335097 (OTM)	Supplying of Bleaching powder & Alum for Kuituk water treatment plant.	03/07/2019
5.	Name, designation & address of PE	Engr. Md. Ali Akbar Executive Engineer Sylhet City Corporation 0821-714036	
6.	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: www.e-procure.gov.bd		
7.	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.		
8.	Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).		

Executive Engineer
Sylhet City Corporation

GD-1109



A big tree collapsed on a private car on Old Dhaka-Tangail road at Karatia in Tangail Sadar upazila yesterday, leaving the driver and a passenger injured. PHOTO: STAR

DEPARTMENT OF POPULATION SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA
ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT
Diploma in Population Sciences, 2019

Applications are invited from candidates in prescribed form for admission to the Diploma in Population Sciences Program for the year 2019.

Eligibility for Admission: Admission is open to individuals who have at least a Bachelor Degree or its equivalent from any recognized university/institution from any discipline.

Duration of the Program: Duration of the Diploma Program is 3 months, which includes 108 hours of class teaching spreading over 10 weeks time period, and 2 weeks for presentation, comprehensive assessment & graduation.

Course Fees: BDT 35,000.00 (thirty five thousand), payable to the Department of Population Sciences, University of Dhaka. The course fees include registration, tuition, course materials, food, tea and other logistic supports.

Admission Procedure: Admission procedure should be initiated by payment of BDT 20,000.00 (twenty thousand) at the Department of Population Sciences, University of Dhaka, between 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. from Sunday to Thursday, 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday and 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Saturday by 14 July 2019. The classes will start on 19 July 2019.

Contact Address: Department of Population Sciences, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4046-Ka, Arts Building, University of Dhaka, Tel: 9661900/Ext.6711, 6710; 9612209, Cell: 01766517100; e-mail: dps@du.ac.bd For details, please visit our website: www.dpsdu.edu.bd & https://www.du.ac.bd/academic/department_item/POPS

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