

CITY

5 of a family suffer burns as culprits set house on fire

UNB, Keraniganj

Five members of a family suffered burn injuries as culprits set their house on fire in Dhaka's Keraniganj early yesterday.

Aminul Islam, additional superintendent of police, said miscreants set the house of one Julhas on fire by pouring petrol at 4:00am. They also locked the door from the outside.

Julhas, along with his two children and two other family members, suffered burns in the fire.

Hearing their screams for help, neighbours rescued them.

On information, a firefighting unit rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire.

The injured were taken to the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery. Police are investigating the incident, said Aminul Islam.

8 hurt as vehicle overturns near Karnaphuli tunnel



UNB, Ctg

Eight people, including a member of Bangladesh Navy, were injured when a microbus overturned near Bangabandhu tunnel at Anwara point in Chattogram yesterday.

The injured are Navy personnel Gazi Mahubub Rahman Rony, 39; driver Rubel, 30; Ali Martuza, 27; Rashedul Karim, 28; Farhana Akter, 26; Munna, 25; Kanchim, 22; and Sazzad Hossain.

Zahir Uddin, officer-in-charge of Karnaphuli Police Station, said the accident occurred in the morning when the microbus skidded off the road and overturned after hitting a traffic police box on the road divider, leaving eight people injured.

The driver lost control over the steering due to poor visibility caused by dense fog, said the OC.

Among the injured, Gazi Mahubub was taken to Patenga BNS Hospital while the others were admitted to Chattogram Medical College and Hospital.



PHOTO: STAR

A large portion of the forest has been cleared to dig up a pond inside Barguna's Patharghata mangrove forest recently. Many locals have started to encroach upon the area, endangering the wildlife and ecosystem. Meanwhile, the authorities refrain from taking action, citing manpower crisis.

Reserve forest or a village?

Locals encroach area claiming it theirs, admin hesitant to take actions

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Piles of hay serving as cattle fodder, tin-shed houses and children at play — this correspondent observed everything except mangrove trees in a recent visit to parts of the Barguna Patharghata mangrove forest.

Rampant tree felling and excavation of ponds have turned a section of the reserved forest into a pseudo-village, where wildlife is notably absent.

As an illegal human settlement remains in progress, the forest stays on deathbed due to greed of men.

Locals are setting up their habitats in Charlathimara and Badurtala areas of the forest, endangering its wildlife and ecosystem.

Around 3,019 acres of these two areas were recognised as reserve forests in 1986.

The place is a sanctuary for

about 30 different animal species, including crabs, turtles, deer, monkeys, and boars.

Meanwhile, locals say they are merely reclaiming what is rightfully theirs, which is not illegal.

In 1989-90, around 53 landless families were allocated 40 acres within this forest for settlement by the then deputy commissioner Harendranath Howladar.

Since then, they have taken possession of 19 acres of land in different phases over the years. Now they are taking over the remaining 21 acres.

However, Abdul Hai, forest department beat officer at Charlathimara, said since 21 acres of the provided land remained unoccupied, the forest department cancelled the agreement and declared it a reserve forest area. Despite this, some are now trying to forcibly occupy the forest, he said.

The rampant tree felling and

land grabbing had been going on for the previous two weeks, according to witnesses.

One Nurul Islam Pyada said several locals, including one Delwar Hossain and his son, have occupied a huge portion of the forest by felling trees.

Babul Howladar, another local, claimed the encroachers are working together by managing the people of the forest department. At least 10 other locals, this correspondent talked to, echoed the same.

However, beat officer Abdul Hai denied such allegations. "We are not at fault. We have a lack of manpower, and it is impossible to protect the huge forest area with small manpower," he said.

The forest department also claimed that they are unable to do anything to stop the encroachment as they are afraid of facing attacks

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Five to die for killing woman after rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Shariatpur

A Shariatpur court yesterday sentenced five people to death for killing a woman after rape in the district's Damudya upazila in 2019.

Judge Md Sohel Ahmed of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal delivered the verdict.

Each of the convicts — Nizam Bali, 45, Mohammad Ali, 35, Omar Farooq Bepari, 24, Al Amin Bepari, 20, and Ibrahim Molla, 21, of Dakshin Shitalakathi in Damudya — were fined Tk 1 lakh, court sources said.

Of them, Ibrahim, Al-Amin and Farooq have been absconding since the incident.

On April 18, 2019, Firoza Begum, 55, from Dhankathi in Damudya, went missing, according to the prosecution.

She was killed after the rape.

On April 21, police recovered her body from an abandoned pond in Boro-Naoga area of East Damudya.

RMG workers protest dismissal of colleagues

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Around 500 RMG workers in Savar started demonstration on the factory premises yesterday, protesting the termination of their colleagues.

The workers of Anlima Textile Limited started the protest in Ulail area next to Dhaka-Aricha highway around 9:00am. They said the factory authorities have been unfairly terminating their colleagues for the past few days and not paying arrears.

The factory's assistant vice president (HR admin) Kaium Miah denied the allegation. "Many workers resigned due to work shortage. I can assure that all those who have resigned have been paid their fair dues including service benefits," he said.

ABM Rashidul Bari, assistant superintendent of police of Ashulia Industrial Police-I, said they are trying to resolve the issue.



PHOTO: STAR

Despite being a major hub for thousands of daily shoppers in Rajshahi city's Shaheb Bazar area, the RDA Market ranks among the city's worst fire hazards due to its illegal construction and blatant disregard for safety rules.

RDA Market at fire risk

ANWAR ALLI, Rajshahi

Rajshahi's RDA market narrowly escaped a disaster on Monday night when a fire broke out at a shop near its entrance.

The fire service put out the blaze in an hour, limiting the loss of damage to a few lakhs of taka.

"If the fire had broken out inside the market, I can't imagine what would have happened," said Ohidul Islam, deputy director of Fire Service and Civil Defence in Rajshahi.

Despite being a major hub for thousands of daily shoppers in the city's Shaheb Bazar area, the RDA Market ranks among the city's worst fire hazards due to its illegal construction and blatant disregard for safety rules, said fire officials.

Officials declared the market a fire hazard in 2010, highlighting the lack of a water reservoir, narrow access roads for fire trucks, and insufficient emergency exits.

"We hung banners warning of the danger several times. But unidentified individuals removed

those," said the fire deputy director.

The massive three-story complex, housing nearly 3,000 shops, was "illegally" constructed by the Rajshahi Development Authority in 2004, removing a former tin-shed market.

With pressure from business leaders, building codes and fire safety rules were ignored during the

Officials declared the market a fire hazard in 2010, highlighting the lack of a water reservoir, narrow access roads for fire trucks, and insufficient emergency exits.

construction, claimed shop owners at the market.

The market has no parking space, causing regular traffic jams on the road in front of it.

An investigation committee of RDA, formed in 2010, found discrepancies in the building's design and questioned its structural integrity.

Despite the report's recommendations, no corrective action was taken, said Sekander Ali, an adviser to the market's businessmen's association.

While some owners acknowledged the risk and call for a modern, safe reconstruction, others are hesitant owing to concerns about relocation and financial loss.

Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, who went to the fire scene on Monday night, told reporters that he would sit with businessmen to find a solution to the problem.

He proposed a new multi-story building but acknowledged the complexities and time involved in relocating the shops.

Earlier, the business association constructed a water reservoir at the entrance, which firefighters used to put out the fire.

"But the reservoir is not a solution. Installation of a modern fire hydrant system can alleviate the hazards. But reconstructing the building following the codes will be wise," said Ohidul.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Special Branch Headquarters, Bangladesh Police, Dhaka	
Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selecting Researcher/Research Firm (National)	
1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs
2. Agency	Special Branch
3. Head of procuring entry	Additional Inspector General, Special Branch, Bangladesh Police, Dhaka.
4. Request for Expression of Interest EOI	For the Selection of Researcher/Research Firm
5. EOI Reference No.	Memo No-44.01 .0000.095.36.002.23-12
6. Date	16.01.2024
KEY INFORMATION	
7. Procurement method	Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
8. The period of assignment	1. 24 months (গোয়েন্দা তথ্য বিশ্লেষণের জন্য উপযুক্ত ও আধুনিক প্রযুক্তিগত পদ্ধতি চিহ্নিতকরণ, অনুসরণ এবং তার প্রয়োগ), 2. 24 months (Strategic Approach for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVe) and Terrorism: Bangladesh Perspective)
9. Source of fund	Revenue Budget, GOB
10. Title of Research	1. গোয়েন্দা তথ্য বিশ্লেষণের জন্য উপযুক্ত ও আধুনিক প্রযুক্তিগত পদ্ধতি চিহ্নিতকরণ, অনুসরণ এবং তার প্রয়োগ, 2. Strategic Approach for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVe) and Terrorism: Bangladesh Perspective
11. EOI publication date	17 January 2024
12. Time and date of pre-proposal meeting	14.30 hrs on 23 January 2024
13. Closing time and date of EOI submission	12 hrs on 30 January 2024
14. Time and date of EOI opening	12.30 hrs on 31 January 2024
15. Brief description of the assignment	1. গোয়েন্দা তথ্য বিশ্লেষণের জন্য উপযুক্ত ও আধুনিক প্রযুক্তিগত পদ্ধতি চিহ্নিতকরণ, অনুসরণ এবং তার প্রয়োগ, 2. Strategic Approach for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (P/CVe) and Terrorism: Bangladesh Perspective
16. Qualifications of researcher/research firm	i) Researcher(s) is/are requested to send a write-up not exceeding 2000 words in Consistence with the topic as above (in prescribed form stated in Bangladesh Police Gobeshona Nitimala, 2018), Providing (a) Educational qualifications (b) Birth certificate/NID (c) Years of Research experience (d) Published Articles (with reference) (e) Certificate of highest degree (f) Resumes of Research Associate/Associates along with (g) e-TIN Certificate (h) No objection letter from the appropriate authority (if working in any public or private university or other autonomous body) to conduct the research. ii) Research firm(s) is/are requested to send a write-up not exceeding 2000 words in consistency with the topic as above (in prescribed form Stated in Bangladesh Police Gobeshona Nitimala, 2018) Providing (a) Trade License (b) Research Experience (c) Research Experience of the Chief Executive of the Firm (d) Educational Qualifications of the Chief Executive of the Firm (e) Resumes of Research Associate/ Associates along with letter of consent to conduct the research (f) Publications of the firm (Books). Articles/Research Articles (g) Capacity of the Firm (Infrastructure/Logistic-Transport. Photocopier, Scanner etc). number of researchers and personnel (h) TIN Certificate of the Chief of Executive of Firm. Attested copies of relevant papers mentioned above must be submitted along with the EOI.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
17. The place where the application will be received	Special Superintendent of Police (Planning & Research). Special Branch Headquarters 11th Floor, Room No. 1208, Malibag, Dhaka.
18. Name of official inviting EOI	Mahmuda Amatullah
19. Designation of official inviting EOI	Special Superintendent of Police (Planning & Research), Special Branch Headquarters.
20. Address of official inviting EOI	Special Branch Headquarters, Malibag, Dhaka.
21. Contact details of official inviting	Phone & Fax: 02-9340952 E-mail: sb.ssp&r@police.gov.bd
22. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs.	