

CONTRACT BREACH
Arrest warrants issued against Bashundhara chairman, MD

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Sylhet

A Sylhet court yesterday issued arrest warrants against Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan, Managing Director Sayem Sobhan Anvir, and four others in a case filed over breach of contract by former Sylhet bureau chief of Kaler Kantho.

Judge Mohammad Harun-or-Rashid of the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court in Sylhet issued the warrants after the accused failed to appear in court despite being summoned.

Plaintiff Ahmed Noor, former Sylhet bureau chief of Kaler Kantho -- a national daily under Bashundhara's East West Media Group -- filed the case on December 5 last year.

His lawyer, Emad Ullah Shahidul Islam, confirmed the information.

The other accused in the case are Kaler Kantho publisher Moynal Hossain Chowdhury, current editor Hasan Hafiz, former editor and cheque signatory Shahid Muhammad Ali, and former Bangladesh Pratidin editor Naem Nizam. The newspaper Kaler Kantho has also been named institutionally in the lawsuit.

According to the case statement, Ahmed Noor worked as a senior staff reporter and Sylhet bureau chief from the newspaper's inception until September 2021.

He claimed the company delayed paying his service benefits as per the Wage Board. In January 2024, they issued 10 cheques after agreeing to pay the dues. Of these, only two were honoured, while eight bounced, totalling Tk 601,824.

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HARIBHANGA DOMINATES mango markets in the north

S DILIP ROY

With the intense summer heat ripening fruits earlier than expected, the famed variety of Haribhanga mango from Rangpur has hit the markets five days ahead of schedule.

The seasonal mango trade officially began on June 15, and already over a dozen markets have sprung up across Mithapukur and Badarganj upazilas -- Padaganj being the largest among them.

From early morning till evening, the marketplaces are abuzz with activity. Mango growers are bringing their harvests directly to buyers, while traders and customers from across the region, and even other districts, are flocking to secure their share of the beloved fruit.

From permanent fruit shops to makeshift roadside stalls, Haribhanga now dominates every corner of the local fruit scene. Its popularity is not limited to Rangpur alone -- boxes are being couriered nationwide and even shipped abroad.

Data from DAE in Rangpur shows that Haribhanga mangoes are being cultivated on 2,567 hectares of land across Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha, and Nilphamari -- an 11-hectare increase from last year.

According to farmers, traders, and buyers, both supply and prices of Haribhanga mangoes are satisfactory this season.

Data from the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Rangpur shows that Haribhanga mangoes are being cultivated

on 2,567 hectares of land across Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha, and Nilphamari -- an 11-hectare increase from last year.

Of this, 1,915 hectares are in Rangpur district alone, with 80 percent of production concentrated in Mithapukur and Badarganj upazilas.



The projected output for the current season stands at 39,000 tonnes, with an estimated market value exceeding Tk 140 crore.

"At least 400 tonnes of mangoes are bought and sold here every day," said Sumon Islam, a mango trader at Padaganj Bazar of Mithapukur.

"The market is now lined with temporary courier service booths through which buyers are sending mangoes to Dhaka and other districts," he shared.

He added that the market will run through July, and many wholesalers are purchasing mangoes here in bulk to distribute to smaller retail outlets across the country.

Meher Ali from Padaganj village said he has been cultivating Haribhanga on one hectare of land for the past six years, producing 14-15 tonnes annually.

"This year the fruit size is better. Despite some loss due to nor'westers, the overall quality is excellent. We are selling at Tk 27-33

per kg," he said adding, "Mango farming has made us self-reliant."

Ruhul Amin, a fruit trader from Lalmonirhat, said he buys mangoes directly from farmers every day at Padaganj and nearby markets, incurring a cost of Tk 30-35 per kg, including transportation. The same mangoes are sold in retail markets at Tk 45-50.

"Buyers now ask only for Haribhanga. There's no demand for other varieties," he said. "This is our most profitable season."

Sujon Saha, a buyer from Rangpur city, shared that he bought 10 maunds (approximately 400kg) of Haribhanga mangoes from Padaganj -- keeping two maunds for his family and sending the rest to relatives in Dhaka via courier.

"I bought it at Tk 32 per kg here, while in the city's retail markets it costs around Tk 50. I'm very satisfied," he said.

DAE officials and locals said with its round-to-elongated shape, fibreless flesh, firm texture, and excellent shelf life, Haribhanga mango stands apart from other varieties. Thanks to its unique genetic traits, even wrinkled skins don't indicate spoilage. Its appeal is visual, nutritional, and gastronomic.

Last year, Haribhanga was granted Geographical Indication (GI) status.

Local orchard owners including Aminul Islam, Rafiqul Islam, Khurshed Alam and Moslem Uddin said they have already begun receiving export orders from Middle Eastern buyers this season.

Sirajul Islam, deputy director of the Rangpur DAE, said, "Although the official harvesting date was set for June 20, the early heat caused the mangoes to ripen faster. So, we approved harvests from June 15."

He added, "Haribhanga originated from Tekani village at Khoragachhi union of Mithapukur upazila. Today, the mango is cultivated in over 80 villages across Mithapukur and Badarganj, transforming the lives of many farming families."

From modest hobby to a thriving venture

Kamalganj artisan's bamboo furniture charms local and foreign buyers

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Amir Hossain Siraj, a nursery business owner by profession and a bamboo craftsman by passion, began crafting bamboo décor for village weddings back in 2003 as a hobby.

Over the next two decades, his modest hobby evolved into a thriving bamboo furniture business, with demand reaching across Bangladesh and beyond.

Siraj began his workshop with an initial investment of only Tk 20,000 and employed one assistant in Baracheg village along the Shamshernagar-Sreemangal regional highway in Moulvibazar's Kamalganj upazila.

His workshop has now become a hub for finely crafted bamboo furniture and decorative items



Siraj's bamboo products neither emit the typical pungent odour associated with untreated bamboo nor are vulnerable to insect infestation. The furniture is

guaranteed to last at least 10 years, he claimed.

The prices of his products range from Tk 10,000 to Tk 28,000 for sofas and Tk 15,000 to Tk 17,000 for dining tables, among others, significantly more affordable in comparison to wooden or rattan alternatives.

Smaller items like racks and pen stands are also popular among tourists and hobbyists.

"Siraj gained popularity for his bamboo craftsmanship after he began decorating wedding venues. Over time, his initiative has grown into a thriving cottage industry with immense prospects. Tourists visiting Madhabkunda Waterfall, Kamalganj, Lawachara, and Sreemangal often make a stop to purchase his pieces," said Sadequl Islam, a local resident.

The proximity to the major local tourist spots, such as Madhabkunda, has brought Siraj's furniture to the attention of

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Finely crafted bamboo furniture items line the shop of Amir Hossain Siraj at Baracheg village in Kamalganj upazila, Moulvibazar.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

BRUR teacher Mahmudul arrested in murder case

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Thakurgaon



Md Mahmudul Haque, an assistant professor of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism at Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR), was arrested in the city in a murder case yesterday.

A police team picked him up from his residence in Dhap area, said Md Abdul Al Mamun Shah, officer-in-charge of Hajirhat Police Station and also the investigation officer of the case.

On August 2 last year, a man named Samej Uddin was killed during a mass protest in front of his grocery shop in Radha Krishnapur Maulavipara area, the OC cited the case statement.

The victim's wife filed a case with the police station on June 3, accusing 54 people. BRUR teacher Mahmudul Haque was listed as the last accused in the case, said the OC.

Rangpur Metropolitan Police Commissioner Md Majid Ali said Mahmudul is also accused in another case filed with Tajhat Police Station, but declined to provide further details.

Meanwhile, a Rangpur court sent Mahmudul to jail when he was produced before it, said Shahin Alam, court inspector of Rangpur Metropolitan Court.

Following the arrest, Mahmudul's wife wrote from his Facebook account, "My husband was not involved in any such crime. He is completely innocent. This is a deliberately fabricated false case."

DHAKA FRIDAY JUNE 20, 2025

ASHAR 6, 1432 BS

The Daily Star

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2 sisters among 3 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least three people died and three others were injured in separate road accidents across the country in the last two days, according to reports from our correspondents.

Two sisters were tragically killed after being run over by a speeding tractor while crossing the Kurigram-Rangpur regional highway on Wednesday night. The accident occurred in front of Kathalbari Degree College in Kurigram Sadar upazila around 9:00pm, said Officer-in-Charge Md Habibullah of Kurigram Sadar Police Station.

The deceased were identified as Rokeya Begum, 59, and Parveen Akther, 49.

Locals and police said the sisters were attempting to cross the main road in front of the college when a tractor, moving at high speed towards Kathalbari, hit them and fled the scene immediately.

Locals rushed the injured women to Kurigram General Hospital, where doctors declared them dead upon arrival.

OC Habibullah said a general diary was filed in connection with the incident.

"As the victims' families did not lodge any complaint, the bodies were handed over to the relatives without an autopsy," he added.

Meanwhile, in Pabna, a man was killed and three

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Two arrested over rape in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested two men accused of raping a woman in the capital's Khilkhet area.

"The victim was lured to a house on the pretext of lending money and was raped by two men," said Talebir Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

The incident occurred around 7:15pm on June 14.

The arrestees are Akkas Ali, 44, and Amanullah Bhuiyan, 45.

Quoting Khilkhet police, the DMP official said the woman had approached her neighbour Akkas Ali to borrow Tk 1,000. Akkas took her to the house of his acquaintance, Amanullah Bhuiyan, saying the money would be arranged there.

Once inside the house, the woman was asked to wait in a room while they claimed to arrange the rest of the money. When she entered, the two men allegedly locked the door and raped her.

Around 8:30pm, she managed to force open the door and return home, after which she fell ill.

The woman filed a case under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act with Khilkhet Police Station yesterday.

The two men were arrested from the Barua Parulia area of Khilkhet, the official added.

ইস্টার্ণ রিফাইনারী লিমিটেড
Eastern Refinery Limited

(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)

e-TENDER Notice No: ER/TN/e-GP/C-18/2024-2025

e-Tender has been invited in the National e-GP portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of work as stated below:

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Tender Package No. & Description	Tender Publication Date and Time	Tender Last Selling/Downloading Date and Time	Tender Closing & Opening Date and Time
01	1126325	ER/C-29/2024-2025 RENOVATION OF STORE OPEN SHED	19 June, 2025 15:00 Hrs	07 July, 2025 15:00 Hrs	08 July, 2025 12:00 Hrs

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the national e-GP system portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

GD-1431

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Divisional Electrical Engineer
Bangladesh Railway, Dhaka

Invitation for e-Tender

e-Tender Notice No. 54.01.0000.212.07.267.24-25/10

Date: 19.06.2025

e-Tender is invited in National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works, details are given below:

SI No.	Tender ID	Package No.	Description of works	Tender document last selling date & time	Tender closing & opening date & time
1	1126207	eGP WR-43/24-25	Changing overhead line cable, pole with other ancillary works at SYT Padma-Jumuna Depot side under SSAE/E/SYT.	09-Jul-2025 10:00	09-Jul-2025 11:00
2	1126203	eGP WR-46/24-25	Supply & installation of different type of materials for vertical extension of 2 Nos. IGV lift 1000 KG capacity at Rail Bhaban under SSAE/E/DA.	09-Jul-2025 10:00	09-Jul-2025 11:00
3	1126199	eGP WR-47/24-25	Improvement of Lighting arrangement at near Bhaban Bazar Railway Station with other related works under SSAE/E/BCI.	09-Jul-2025 10:00	09-Jul-2025 11:00
4	1126189	eGP GR-24/24-25	Supply of different types of Submersible Pump Motor Set under Dhaka Division		