

BREACH OF CONTRACT
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 Shahed 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

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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.

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 39,006 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 Khoragachh union of Mithapukur upazila. Today, the mango is cultivated in over 80 villages across Mithapukur and Badarganj, transforming the lives of many farming families."

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 Akhter, 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.

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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 around 3:30pm, 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.

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

Meanwhile, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Rangpur sent Mahmudul to jail when he was produced before it, said Shahin Alam, court inspector of Rangpur Metropolitan Court.

Mahmudul's family claimed that he was not involved in any such offences.

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 Shamsheernagar-Sreemangal regional highway in Moulvibazar's Kamalganj upazila.

His workshop

has now become a hub for finely crafted bamboo furniture and decorative items that compete with larger brands in terms of both quality and design.

"I began with no formal training initially. Later, I received training at the Forest Research Laboratory in Chattogram. The training helped me enhance my technique and improve the durability and finish of the products," he also said.

At present, Siraj employs some 10-15 workers to produce an array of items -- sofa sets, beds, dining tables, doors, racks, flower tubs, lamps, and even full-scale home furnishings -- all using bamboo collected from nearby hills.

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,

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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

No decision
on truth
commission
formation yet
Says law ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

No official decision has been made yet regarding the formation of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the law ministry said in a press release yesterday.

Some newspapers have recently published reports containing statements from the adviser on law, justice and parliamentary affairs about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The statement said recent media reports quoting the adviser on law, justice, and parliamentary affairs, Asif Nazrul, about the possible formation of such a commission.

"In this context, in the interest of clearing confusion, it is informed that no official decision has been taken so far to form the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

In his latest speech, the law adviser (Asif Nazrul) said they (government) will talk to political parties, student leaders and experts on time and will think about what can be done in this regard," the ministry said.

He (law adviser) also said that the formation of such a commission could be considered only after the trial of the genocide committed during the July uprising and once the leaders involved express remorse -- to show that mass murderers are isolated from the nation, according to the press release.



ইস্টার্ন 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/ESYT. | 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/EDA. | 09-Jul-2025 10:00 | 09-Jul-2025 11:00 |
| 3 | 1126199 | eGP WR-47/24-25 | Improvement of Lighting arrangement at near Bhairab Bazar Railway Station with other related works under SSAE/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. | 09-Jul-2025 10:00 | 09-Jul-2025 11:00 |
| 5 | 1126095 | eGP WR-1/24-25 | Supply & installation of 3 Nos. VCB for Railbhabon Sub-station with other ancillary works under SSAE/EDA. | 09-Jul-2025 10:00 | 09-Jul-2025 11:00 |
| 6 | 1123557 | eGP WR-18/24-25 | Repairing of different types of Transformer's with other related works under Dhaka Division. | 09-Jul-2025 10:00 | 09-Jul-2025 11:00 |

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 (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. 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 up to one hour before tender last selling time. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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Shaker Ahmed
Divisional Electrical Engineer
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GD-1434