

Recent tidal surge  
About 300 km embankment in 3 dists damaged

PATUAKHALI, May 30: About 300 kms of embankment of Water Development Board have been damaged in the three districts of the southern region during the recent high tide and heavy downpour, says UNB. The districts are Patuakhali, Barisal and Bhola.

Primary report says, about 180 kms long embankment in Patuakhali district, 100 kms in Bhola and two kms in Barguna were damaged during the time.

A large number of sluice gates and regulators were affected and kuchcha roads adjacent to the embankments were washed away in the onrush of water. Huge number of trees planted on the embankments were also damaged.

The roads and embankments are needed to be repaired immediately to save the vast standing crops from the intrusion of saline water.

Meanwhile, the erosion by the river Tetulia, Payra, Andharmanik, Kirtonkhola, Sugandha and Sandhya has intensified following the rise in water levels.

Vast areas of char lands in Barisal, Patuakhali and Bhola have already been engulfed by these rivers rendering a large number of people shelterless.

It is understood that due to lack of hatchery in the region,

### 3 Islami Chatra Shibir members arrested

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, May 30: Kushtia police have arrested three Islami Chatra Shibir activists on charge of assaulting police personnel and doing other illegal activities.

Abdul Wahed, former MP and Jammat Amir Kushtia and Prof Farhad Hossain, Secretary of Jammat have however, condemned the police action against those three, accused and said that they were innocent. Among the arrested are Amirul Islam and Rezaul Huq.

### IU bans political activities

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, May 30: Authority of Islamic University has banned all types of political activities in the university campus in order to bring congenial academic atmosphere there, recently.

In this connection an order has been issued signed by proctor of the University where it said, all kinds of processions, meetings can not be held as the University classes remain closed and halls remain vacant.

The order also said that violation of this order will be seriously dealt with and offenders will be severely punished.

### Chicken pox attacks 1000 in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, May 30: About 1,000 people of the district have been attacked by chicken pox.

The disease has already broken out in 40 unions particularly the adjacent areas of Kushtia town.

Local people said that children are the worst sufferers. Homeo doctors are busy in visiting the houses affected by the disease. Homeo treatment is said to be very effective in curing the disease, affected patients said.

The disease has also spread in Kumarkhali thana where over 20 persons have been attacked with the disease in village Jotmora under Jaduboiria union.

Excessive heat wave prevailing in this part of the country is likely to be the cause of spreading the disease rapidly.

The victims have urged the concerned authorities to take measures to stop spread of the disease.

### Youngman held with 20 bottles of banned drug

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, May 30: Police have arrested a young man with twenty-one bottles of phenesydil syrup in his possession on May 24 from local Goalchamla bus stand. The name of the arrested youth is Rafique, 25, hailing from Jessore.

A case has been registered with Kotwali police in this connection.

It may be mentioned here that the contraband Indian phenesydil syrup is selling almost every corner in the town and its suburb. A large number of unemployed educated youths are reportedly becoming addicted to this drug largely due to frustration.

### Shortage of fry

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, May 30: Acute shortage and high price of shrimp fry have seriously affected shrimp cultivation in greater Khulna districts.

According to reports, shrimp cultivation is more profitable than the cultivation of other crops in the region. As a result shrimp cultivation is gradually increasing in the district replacing many crop land.

The well to do farmers and businessmen of these areas are coming forward to cultivate shrimp hoping more income in the business.

It is reported that a total of three lakh fifty thousand acres of land have been brought under shrimp cultivation during the current season alone. But hundreds of shrimp cultivators throughout the region have been facing short supply of shrimp fry for quite some time. This crisis has already drawn gloomy picture on the already affected export target this reason. Sources say that less than half the target of shrimp output is expected from the region as most of shrimp culture fields remain half empty in addition to the recent loss in the tided surge that hit the coastal districts.

They urged the concerned authorities to supply necessary seeds at fair prices to boost production in the district.

### Crisis of seeds affects crop cultivation plan

SATKHIRA, May 30: Cultivation of aman paddy is being hampered during the current season due to shortage of seeds in five thanas of the district, farmers said. reports UNB.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation has so far distributed aman seeds only in two thanas out of seven.

Only 32 tons of seeds were supplied in the sadar thana instead of 100 tons and 50 tons in Assasuni thana instead 80 tons, the farmers said. The total seed requirement in seven thanas is 540 tons.

They urged the concerned authorities to supply necessary seeds at fair prices to boost production in the district.

It is understood that due to lack of hatchery in the region,

shrimp fry supply has to totally depend on natural production. However, natural way of production takes thrice the time as a hatchery takes. In the meantime, fry produced naturally in the coastal areas have

already been consumed by the cultivators which met less than one third of the total demand in these districts.

Meanwhile, due to short supply cost of shrimp fry has sharply increased. One thousand fry cost between Taka 3000 and 3500 in the local markets now as against Taka 2000 and 2500 earlier. This price hike has also contributed to decline in shrimp output expected from the region.

Those who have already invested in shrimp cultivation projects are now in trouble. These businessmen had taken loan from different commercial banks at high rates of interest for the projects. The money they had taken have already been invested in various works like field preparations, building embankments etc.

Many of the cultivators had taken loan in advance on contact who guarantees to buy the lot of the shrimp. Already in trouble, these cultivators are depending on supply of fry from other districts.

In the meantime, many traders worry that marginal cultivators who had taken loan from commercial banks may not be able to repay the loans on time.

They handed over two M-16 rifles with 392 ammunitions and two SMG's with 464 rounds of bullet. M-16 rifle is a new kind sophisticated automatic fire arms yet to be used by security forces in Bangladesh, the ordinance experts in the army said.

The Indian items included cattle hides, spare parts of television, radio, sarees, and phenesydil syrup, bottles.

The insurgents who gave themselves up reported to

### Brutal!

PATUAKHALI, May 30: A young mother who fell prey to the greediness and brutality of her husband succumbed at the Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital after 18 days of her fight for death, says UNB.

Hospital and family sources said Farida, 24, a mother of two children of Dhankhali in Kalapara thana, was set on fire by her husband Khokan Mridha as she failed to bring dowry from her parents.

The husband tied her with a wooden post, poured kerosene on her body and set on fire on April 14 this year.

The villagers rushed Farida to the hospital where she succumbed on May 2. It is learnt that the body was buried without informing the police.

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