

Storms lash 3 dists: 1 killed in Gopalganj

GOPALGANJ, June 16: A man was killed and 20 others injured during a norwester in five upazilas here recently, reports UNB.

The man whose name could not be known was killed in a lightning at Sadullah village during the storm.

In another incident, goods worth about Tk 2 lakh were gutted in a fire at a shop in Tungi Bazar.

The fire originated from a streak of lightning during the norwester also toppled a large number of trees and damaged thatched houses in Kashiani, Kotalipara and Uthitpara areas.

Our Gaibandha correspondent says: A severe tornado which blew over seven unions under Sunderganj upazila caused havoc.

Hundreds of huts raged to the ground uprooting innumerable trees. Tin-shed roofs of many dwelling houses were blown away due to high velocity of wind. At least seven persons sustained injuries under the collapsed houses.

The affected areas are Kanchibari, Santim, Chandipur, Belka. Six shops including local Awami League

office at Dhupni bazar were damaged completely. Besides, Abdul Hafiz Dakhil Madrasa, Dhupni Boys' and Girls' College were also affected partially. One pucca structure of Abdul Quddus collapsed.

Standing crops on a vast tract of land in the affected areas raged to the ground. Shelterless people have been suffering under the open sky.

Our Faridpur correspondent says: A norwester that swept over Nagarkanda, Madhukhali, Boalmari and sadar thana recently injured at least 50 persons, damaged 500 kutcha dwelling houses and standing crops on a vast tract of land.

Nagarkanda thana staff quarters was partially damaged. Big trees were uprooted and electric poles broke down disrupting electricity supply for about 24 hours.

However, the employees of the electricity department restored electricity in the disrupted area working round the clock.

The worst affected areas include Ishan Gopalpur Union under sadar thana, Moinda Market under Boalmari thana and Banga bazaar under Bhangra thana.

Indefinite strike by DPHE employees in Rajshahi

NATORE, June 16: An indefinite strike by low-grade employees has plunged the Rajshahi circle of Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) into a deep crisis, reports UNB.

Unions of Class Three and Four Employees in six districts of the DPHE Rajshahi circle went on the non-stop strike on April 17 demanding removal of Executive Engineer, Rajshahi, Monjurur Rahman for his alleged involvement in corruption and misuse of power.

The six districts under the circle are Rajshahi, Natore, Chapainawabganj, Naogaon, Pabna and Sirajganj.

The union leaders here alleged that the executive engineer was trying to suspend some DPHE employees from its Rajshahi office in a bid to consolidate his power apart from indulging in corruption.

Meanwhile, a high-powered team from Dhaka visited Rajshahi and investigated the complaints brought against

Monjurur Rahman by some contractors.

Although he is not on leave, Rahman refrained from attending to Rajshahi for the last one-and-a-half months in the face of the movement.

On April 29, the union leaders had called off their strike when the DPHE Chief Engineer rushed to Rajshahi from Dhaka and assured them of taking necessary action against Rahman.

As days kept passing without any action against Rahman, the union leaders again went on work abstention on May 21.

When contacted, Monjurur Rahman said he was the victim of a deep-rooted conspiracy. "Some vested quarters were trying to disrupt the DPHE activities as I did not accept their illegal demands," he said.

Confirming the deadlock in the DPHE in Rajshahi region, Executive Engineer of its Natore office Abul Hossain said works on various development projects were being hampered due to the strike.

A handful of students mar academic life of the rest

CU VC tells freshers at the university

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 16: Chittagong University Vice-Chancellor Professor Abdul Mannan said that the unrest atmosphere created by a handful of students mar the academic life of most other students and also results in untoward incidents. He called upon all concerned to remain alert against such disruptive activities and identify those engaged in them.

Pro-VC Abu Yusuf reiterated his words.

Both the VC and Pro-VC were addressing the freshers reception and welfare ceremony of Botany Department at gallery

No fire station in 32 upazillas in Barisal div

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 16: Thirty-two upazillas out of 38 in six southern district under Barisal division have no fire station, although frequent fire incidents take place throughout the year, particularly in the summer.

The fire brigade station at the divisional headquarters lacks modern equipment. Officials sources, however, said a decision has been taken to set up fire stations at Banaripara, Gournadi, Bakerganj, Nazipur and Kaulkhali upazillas of Barisal and Pirojpur districts.

According to fire brigade sources, 32 people were killed, nearly 683 others injured and properties worth of about Tk 1.50 crore gutted in 194 fire incidents in Barisal, Patuakhali, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Bhola and Barguna districts last year.

Chaghot river to be re-excavated

RANGPUR, June 16: The Water Development Board will re-excavate the Chaghot river in Gangachara upazila under the district during the current dry season, reports BSS.

A source with Rangpur Water Development Board said about 1000 metric tons of wheat had been sanctioned for the work. The work on the scheme will start soon.

Another report adds: Repair and reconstruction work of the Teesta river embankment was completed recently by the Water Development Board.

The work stretching about 20 kilometers of the embankment covered Kaunia, Gangachara and Jhalakathi upazilas. Nine hundred eighty metric tons of wheat and Taka 31 lakh in cash were spent on the scheme.

The wheat was provided under the World Food Programme while the cash money was allocated by the government.

Sabyasachi wants to join Army



From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 16: Sabyasachi Talukder, Cadet No-947 of Barisal Cadet College secured 15th position in the combined merit list from science group in the SSC examination under Jessore Education Board this year.

He obtained 917 marks in total with 8 letters in Bengali, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, G Math, E Math, Religious Studies and Social Science.

His father Aroop Talukder is a journalist, now working as a staff correspondent of The Daily Star.

His mother Dr. Sonali Sen Gupta is a doctor, now serving as held and Family Planning Officer (THFO) at sadar thana in Barisal.

Sabyasachi likes to play cricket and volleyball. He played in his college team. He also likes to read books of various types in leisure.

Sabyasachi wants to be an army officer. He is the youngest son of his parents.

Paddy farmers deprived of fair price in dists

NAOGAON, June 16: Despite having a bumper production of IRRI-Boro paddy, a silent despair and gloom cast on minds of the farmers of 16 northern districts, including Naogaon, due to lack of fair price of their produce, reports UNB.

Agriculture Extension Department sources said IRRI-Boro paddy on 42 lakh acres of land were cultivated in 16 northern districts as against the total target of 39 lakh acres.

The production of the acreage is estimated at 45 lakh metric tons in terms of rice. The quantity is seven times higher than that of the government target.

But paddy is being sold in the local markets in the northern districts at Tk 200-210 per maund, less than the production cost.

To give price support the government ordered to launch procurement drive from April 20 through 161 centres in the region at rate of Tk 307.92 per maund of paddy.

Local farmers alleged that Food Department is yet to take any step to procure rice and paddy barring a few centres.

When contacted the officials said they are not in a position to launch the procurement drive due to lack of space in food godowns.

Meanwhile, most of the sharecroppers and marginal farmers are compelled to sell their paddy at throwaway price to meet their household demands and repay the loan, which they borrowed during lean period.

A farmer Ashraf Ali said failing to sell his produce at the local food godown he sold his paddy at a local market at a price less than the production cost.

Taking the advantage, a section of hoarders started stockpiling paddy to make a windfall profit.

A report from Thakurgaon says: Beleaguered farmers in five upazilas of Thakurgaon district are expecting a bumper production of Boro paddy on the back of fair weather this season.

A total of 47 candidates appeared in the examination and all of them secured letter marks and secured first division.

Two hundred ninety-five letter marks were secured by the talents this year, according to Jhenidah Cadet College authorities.

Eleven candidates bagged first, second, fourth and eight other positions in the combined merit list while two other candidates stood in the Humanities Group.

B M Farid Rahman cadet number 1820 of Jhenidah Cadet College stood first in the combined merit list from Jessore board this year. He secured 943 marks with nine letters in Bangla, English, Mathematics, Islamic Religion, Higher Mathematics, General Science, Physics, Chemistry and Karmamukhi Shiksha.

Usually Farid read for eight hours daily. His hobby is reading of books and periodicals. He wants to join the Army.

His father Atiar Rahman is an Assistant Professor in a government college.

Cadet Fahad Iqbal Palash of Jhenidah Cadet College stood second in the combined merit list from Jessore board this year.

Fahad bagged 942 marks with nine letters in Bangla, English, Mathematics, Islamic Religion, Higher Mathematics, General Science, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

Fahad usually read for eight hours daily. His hobby is reading books. He wants to join the Army. His father Nasir Uddin is a health worker in Health Department at Chougacha in Jessore district.

Ashique Iqbal, Roll 139659 of Jhenidah Cadet College stood fourth in the combined merit list securing 929 marks. He bagged letter marks in Bangla, English, Mathematics, Islamic Religion, Higher Mathematics, General Science, Physics, Chemistry and Karmamukhi Shiksha.

Iqbal usually read for eight hours daily. His father Osman Mia is a lawyer on Jhenidah. He is also a sportsman. He wants to join the Army.

Hasan Mohammad Farabi stood eighth securing 925 marks. He secured letter marks in Bangla, English, Mathematics, Islamic Religion, Higher Mathematics, General Science, Physics, Chemistry and Karmamukhi Shiksha.

Farhad usually read for eight hours daily. His hobby is reading books and he desires to join the Army.

Farhad, bearing Roll Number 139649 stood 12th in the combined merit list securing 921 marks and bagged letter marks in English, Mathematics, Islamic Religion, Higher Mathematics, General Science, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.

Farhad's hobby is reading books and his ambition is to join the Army. His father Mohammad Farid Hossain is a Master Operator at Palash Urea Fertiliser Factory at Narasingdi.

Farhan of JCC Roll Number 139663 stood 13th in the combined merit list in SSC examination under Jessore board this year. He secured 920 marks bagging letter marks in Bangla, Mathematics, Islamic Religion, Higher Mathematics, General Science, Physics, Chemistry and Karmamukhi Shiksha.

Farhan usually read for eight hours daily. His hobby is reading books.

His father Jamil Rahman is a senior bank official while mother is a teacher in Jhenidah Cadet College. He wants to join the Army.

Tanvir of JCC Roll Number 139656 stood 16th in the combined merit list.

He secured 916 marks and bagged letter marks in English, Mathematics, Islamic Religion, Higher Mathematics, General Science, Physics, Chemistry

and Karmamukhi Shiksha.

Tanvir's father is a sports man he desire to join the Army. His father Major Mohammad Kamal Uddin serves in the Army at BDR Headquarters at Palkhania in Dhaka.

Cadet Ibrahim of JCC Roll Number 139677 stood 17th in combined merit list.

He bagged 915 marks with letter marks in English, Mathematics, Islamic Religion, General Science, Higher Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Karmamukhi Shiksha.

Ibrahim's hobby is reading books, and stamp collection. He desire to join the Army.

gave good results in controlling pest.

BSS from Kurigram says: A record bumper yield of Boro crop has been achieved in Kurigram district this year.

Harvesting of the crop is expected to be completed by the second week of the current month throughout the district.

According to AED, a target of producing 1,79,373 tonnes of Boro rice from a total of 63,330 hectares was fixed here for this year. It included cultivation of high yielding variety on 60,810 hectares and local variety on 2,520 hectares. But the farmers brought a total of 68,685 hectares under Boro cultivation this year in all the nine upazilas here, which surpassed the target by 5,355 hectares. As a result, the production becomes more than the target, nearly at 15,000 tonnes of rice.

Deputy Director of AED, Abdur Rouf told that favourable climatic conditions, early rainfall, no incident of pest attack and above all, enthusiasm among the farmers helped achieve a bumper production of Boro crop this year. Though there were heavy rainfalls from May 25 to 30, during the peak harvesting season, the production was not affected, he added.

The farmers, on the other hand, alleged that they were not getting fair prices of their produce. They requested the government to relax the procurement target to 20,000 tonnes for both paddy and rice. They also requested to make the procurement process easier to enable the farmers to sell their produce directly to the government's procurement, authorities at better prices.

Local agriculture experts opined that the government should purchase more and more Boro crops directly from the farmers at every union parishad headquarters, instead of all nine upazila headquarters, to enable the farmers getting fair price.

Our Faridpur Correspondent reports: The bumper yield of IRRI-Boro paddy has been

achieved in eight upazilas here during the current season.

According to AED sources, a total of 32,340 hectares of land were brought under IRRI-Boro farming with a target to produce 90131 tonnes of paddy here.

Upazila-wise break-up of cultivation and production target of paddy is as follows: 6045 hectares of land were brought under the cultivation with a target to produce 16,706 tonnes of paddy in sadar upazila, 730 hectares to produce 1,726 tonnes in Char Bhadrans upazila, 6,630 hectares to produce 24,177 tonnes in Nagarkanda upazila, 2,050 hectares to produce 4,925 tonnes in Sadarpur upazila, 5,535 hectares to produce 15,822 tonnes in Bhangra upazila, 3,075 hectares to produce 8,790 tonnes in Madhukhali upazila, 4,470 hectares to produce 12,759 tonnes in Boalmari upazila and 1,805 hectares to produce 5,226 tonnes of paddy in Alfadanga upazila.

Some of the farmers under sadar upazila told this correspondent that the bumper yield of the paddy has been possible in the season owing to favourable climatic condition.

Our Kushtia correspondent reports: Prices of rice have registered a slight fall with the arrival of new Boro rice in the markets here.

Some traders told this correspondent that the prices would come down further with adequate supply of rice in the markets. Coarse rice is being sold at Tk 13.00 per Kg as against Tk 14.50 per Kg a month ago, fine variety of rice in being sold at Tk 16 per Kg as against Tk 18 per Kg a month ago.

It may be mentioned here that there has been a good harvest of Boro paddy this year in spite of various odds faced by the farmers. They suffered crisis of seeds and fertilisers in times of need. Recent cyclonic storm which swept over Kushtia caused substantial loss of paddy but as the production was bumper farmers could sustain the loss.

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News snaps

Drugs, firearms recovered

COMILLA, June 16: Drugs worth about Tk 6.5 lakh and 16 firearms were recovered in various drives across the district during the months of April and May, reports UNB.

Police also arrested 12 people during the period. The drugs included 3,638 bottles of phensedyl, 174 bottles of Indian wines, 60 liters of homemade wine and heroin, foreign cigarette and hemp. The recovered arms included two revolvers, one pipe gun, three LGs and 15 rounds of bullet, according to police.

Mistake of postal workers

JAMALPUR, June 16: A letter, mailed from Madina city of Saudi Arabia to a person in Sherpur district, recently reached a wrong man in Jamalpur, reports UNB.

The letter was sent from Madina by an expatriate Bangladeshi to Abdur Razzak in Nalitabari upazila of Sherpur, but it was delivered to Barendra Chandra Dutta of Tarangan Bazar in Sadar upazila of Jamalpur on June 1. The officer, Barendra re-mailed the letter to its original receiver Abdur Razzak. It's not only the one instance of harrowing mistakes of our postal workers. Each and everyday such incidents take place in the country due to negligence of the postmen, but those go unreported.

Non-smoking zone

COMILLA, June 16: Local Sarakhaban has been declared non-smoking zone, indicating that a bigger success in anti-smoking campaign is not far away, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at a meeting in the office of local Sarak Chetab (Rd) Executive Engineer on June 1. The office was declared as non-smoking zone after officers, employees and contractors at the meeting promised to give up smoking. Later, an anti-smoking rally was brought in the town.

BCL dist unit dissolved

KISHOREGANJ, June 16: The executive committee of BCL district unit was dissolved on Saturday due to alleged infighting, reports UNB.

A full-fledged new executive committee of the district unit pro-Awami League Chhatra League would be announced soon, party sources said. New committees for its town and Gura Dyal Government College units are also likely to be announced before long.

Three hurt in clash

PATUAKHALI, June 16: A dispute over a trivial matter between two families in Sadar upazila ended in a bloody attack that left three people, including a baby girl, injured on Thursday, reports UNB.

The injured were identified as Berek Farazi, Minara Begum and their four-month-old baby Kona of village Pangasia. Family sources said Idris Farazi and Mazid Farazi, cousins of Berek, allegedly attacked Berek's family following a brawl over plucking black berries. The injured were admitted to a local hospital.

Sundari wood recovered