

NEWS SNAPS

Prisoner dies in Gazipur hospital

UNB, Gazipur
A convicted prisoner died at Sadar hospital here early Saturday. Jail sources said M Hirenur, son of Abdur Rahim of Kilabatha village in Melandaha upazila of Jamalpur was admitted to Sadar hospital when he fell sick at Kashimpur central jail on Friday night.

Young man arrested with revolver

UNB, Jhalakati
A youth was arrested with a revolver from Nolchitii upazila town in Jhalakati district Thursday.

Local people said they chased the youth identified as Sajal, 24, when he beat up an almond seller showing arms. Later when they caught him red-handed he threw the revolver into a pond. They recovered the revolver and handed him over to the police. A case was filed.

Valuables worth Tk 5 lakh looted

UNB, Cox's Bazar
Robbers stormed into the house of an expatriate at Nalbila village in Teknaf upazila, grievously assaulted eight inmates and looted cash and valuables worth over Tk 5 lakh Wednesday night.

Locals said some 15-16 armed muggers, at dead of night, raided the house of Syed Akbar who recently came from the Middle East. They beat the inmates including the houseowner mercilessly when they tried to resist them and later decamped with the booty. Injured Syed Akbar, Ali Akbar, Sabekunnahar, Nurul Alam, Fatema Begum, Abdul Amin, Nazir Ahmed and Badiuzzaman were admitted to Teknaf upazila health complex in critical condition.

Acid attack on teenage girl in Magura

UNB, Magura
A teenage girl of village Jhama in Mohammadpur upazila who sustained severe burn injuries has been fighting for life at the upazila hospital.

Police and hospital sources said Babita Begum, 14, daughter of Abul Hossain of the village on her way to school was being disturbed by Osman Ali Mollah alias Anu, son of Hares Mollah of neighbouring village Moheshpur. Later he became angry when Babita refused his love proposal and on the fateful night of August 18 he threw acid on her body while she was asleep.

Clash over illegal toll leaves 20 hurt

UNB, Magura
A bloody clash over illegal toll from a contractor at village Panch Kahunia in Shalikh upazila left 20 people injured, eight seriously, on Wednesday.

Police and hospital sources said a group of local miscreants demanded a handsome amount of toll from the contractor of an under-construction building at the village.

At this local people became angry which led to the clash. Seriously injured Imran, 22, Shahidur, 25, Sattar, 34, Rashid, 60, Masud, 25, Mokter, 45, Salek Sheikh, 40 and Majibul, 28, were rushed to the Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

Garment worker raped in Manikganj

UNB, Manikganj
A garment worker was gangraped at Bachamara union in Daulatpur upazila on Thursday. Police quoting the case filed by the victim said Union Parishad (UP) chairman Abdul Latif and one of his accomplices picked up the girl from the union parishad office and raped her at nearby Harinpara. The girl went to the UP office to collect a citizenship certificate. She was raped again by local miscreants Badshah, Gani and Babul at Hashdia char while returning home alone from Harinpara.



PHOTO: STAR

Participants at a day long workshop in Gopalganj Sadar upazila auditorium jointly organised by the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), Gopalganj and the Supreme Seed Company Ltd for cultivation and marketing of high breed seeds of paddy called 'Hira'. Farmers and seed dealers attended the workshop recently.

Cox's Bazar Revenue office realises Tk 1.32 lakh as land development tax

UNB, Cox's Bazar

The local Revenue office has set a record realising the land development tax exceeding the target by Tk 1.32 lakh in last fiscal year.

The office collected over Tk 1.55 cr tax in the fiscal year against the target of over Tk 1.54 cr.

Meanwhile, three officials of land office and an Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) were rewarded in a simple ceremony at the local DC office on Thursday for their outstanding performance and guidance in realising the tax.

They are UNO of Maheshkhali M Jamaluddin, acting Tahsildar of

Gorakghata land office of Maheshkhali Abdul Gafur, Kanungo (audit officer) of Maheshkhali Humayun Kabir Bhuiyan and Kanungo of Sadar upazila Nripati Sheel.

Chaired by Deputy Commissioner M Matiar Rahman, the ceremony was addressed, among others, by ADM Ataur Rahman, ADC (General) Azimuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, ADC (Education) Aminul Islam, ADC (Revenue) Harunuzzaman Bhuiyan and RDC M Shafiqullah.

The DC also distributed certificates among them.

Steps sought to check erosion in Magura

UNB, Magura

Homeless people of river erosion affected areas in Magura have taken shelter in different educational institutions and passing their days in great distress.

The rivers Madhumati and Gorai devoured 200 acres of croplands and 50 dwelling houses in Magura in the last few days. Locals urged the authority concerned to take immediate measures to check erosion of the two mighty rivers.

Locals said erosion of the river Gorai has taken a serious in Gangaramkhali, Duran Nagar and Tarakhali villages of Sripur upazila while Madhumati also devoured vast areas of Gopal Nagar, Armajhi, Jangalia, Roypur, Kashipur, Ruijani, Char Selamatpur and Pachuria villages of Mohammadpur upazila. Meanwhile, local MP Kazi Salimul Huq visited the erosion-

affected areas and distributed some relief materials among the homeless people.

Some unnatural deaths in Manikganj

UNB, Manikganj

Some unnatural deaths were recorded in Manikganj on Saturday. Police said unidentified assailants hacked Hakimuddin, 80, to death at a village in Singair upazila. Police recovered the body and sent it to the morgue for autopsy.

Delwar Hossain, 20, son of Ali Hossain of Dashana village in the same upazila allegedly committed suicide by taking poison when his father refused to accept his wife as he married her without his father's consent.

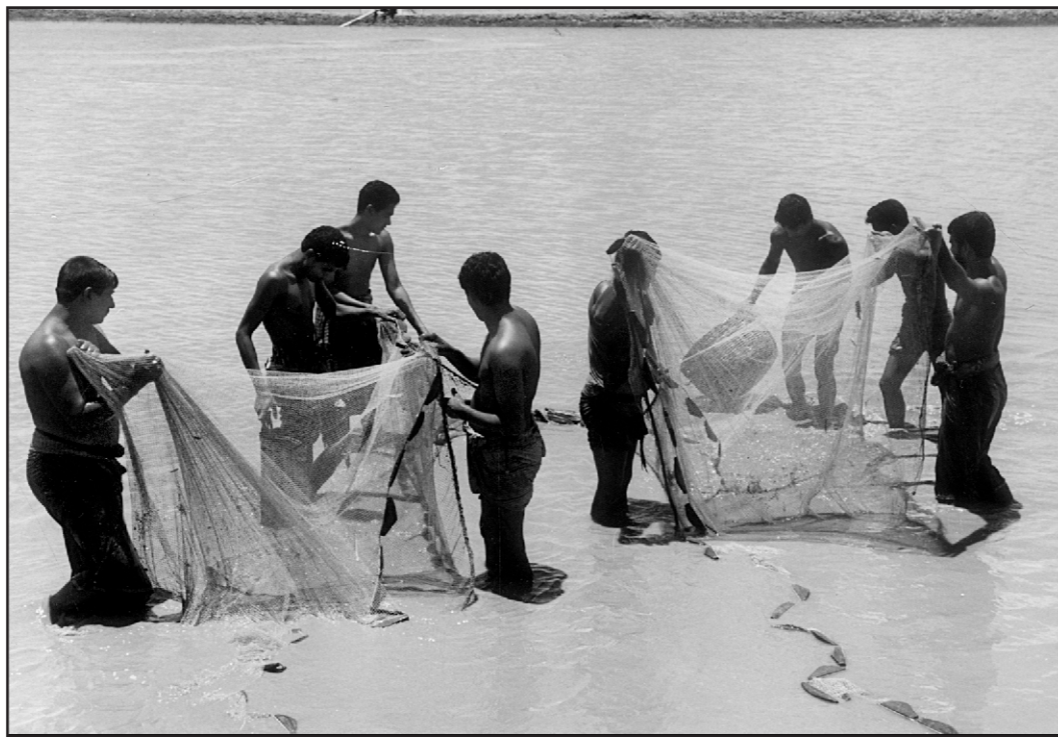


PHOTO: A K M MOHSIN

Villagers catching various kinds of fish such as Bhetki, Sarputi, Tengra and Paiksa from a shrimp enclosure in Sathkira. It is an extra profit for farmers who catch different types of fish from shrimp enclosures which come as a by-product.

Gas supply to northern dists demanded

MOZAMMEL HAQUE, Rangpur

Mosaddeque Hossain Bablu, President of Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industries (RCCI), Alhaj Rahim Uddin Bharasa and Golam Mostafa, both former presidents of RCCI and some other leading personalities in the arena of commerce and industries, have reiterated their demand for supplying gas in the greater Rangpur and Dinajpur districts for the purpose of industrialisation.

They reiterated their demand while talking to The Daily Star exclusively about the problems and prospects of industrialisation in the districts of greater Rangpur and Dinajpur.

While exchanging views with The Daily Star the business leaders informed that earlier on many occasions the Rangpur Chamber leaders moved to the higher authorities for immediate gas supply to help industrialise the region. But all their efforts have gone in vain, they lamented.

They further expressed that they had been eagerly waiting for years together to take necessary measures for establishing industries as soon as gas comes in the two greater districts.

While arguing with this correspondent both Bharasa and Golam Mostafa told that electricity and furnace oil driven industries can not compete with the gas driven industries, since price of electricity and furnace oil is almost four times higher than that of gas.

The present and former Chamber leaders further told that the commissioning of Jamuna Bridge in 1998 ushered in a new era of hope in the northern region, but it is a matter of great regret that the hopes and aspirations of one crore people in the greater Rangpur and Dinajpur districts are yet to be materialised.

There is a bright prospect of establishing agro-based industries in the two greater districts, but because of lack of gas supply, the prospective entrepreneurs' desires

remain unfulfilled.

The business leaders narrated that this phenomenon is most unfortunate for the people of this region where unemployment is on alarming rise in recent days. Because of lack of industries the large number of population are yet to be turned into valuable workforce. The population boom has been continuously hindering the normal progress in the region, they told this newsman, but the reality is being ignored by the authorities concerned, they added.

It is worth mentioning that the northern region, especially the two greater districts of Rangpur and Dinajpur, is rich in producing various agricultural products. Large quantity of these agricultural products are being wasted every year due to lack of proper marketing facilities. Potato, ginger, mango, jute and other cash crops are abundantly available in the region, but the growers are also deprived of fair prices of their products, they informed this correspondent.

Western Railway incurs loss of Tk 2 cr due to flood

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The Western Railway incurred a loss of about Tk 2 crore because of closure of train communication from the northern districts to the capital city of Dhaka since July 26.

Continued flood was the reason of closure of railway communications.

However, the railway services from the northern districts with Dhaka resumed from August 16.

The suspended ferry services to Bhadurabad ghat (terminal) were restored from Balashi after a lapse of 21 days.

While talking to the General Manager (GM) of the Western Railway, Shamsuddin Habibullah, he told The Daily Star that the rail-

way link with the capital city remained suspended for long 21 days as surging flood waters eroded the three-kilometre track from Annadabazar to Balashi ghat.

After the recession of water, the railway track was repaired on emergency basis. Railway communication in the section was restored from the morning of August 16 through plying of the inter-city 'Teesta Express' said the GM to this correspondent.

Three-kilometre tracks, out of the total four-kilometer tracks were badly damaged due to erosion of soil. Big and small ditches were created at 55 points. Condition of five, out of nine bridges between Trimohoni-Balashi needed major repairing.

Besides, 1,175 wagons

remained stranded in Bahadurabad and Balashi ghats areas. Out of those 512 wagons were loaded with foodgrains. The wagons were booked much earlier.

This correspondent talked to the Chief Engineer of the Western Railway who informed him that the higher authority already provided an emergency fund of Tk two cr for repairing of the damaged tracks. A total 16 groups of contractors were working round the clock to make the tracks fit.

Earlier, it was decided to restore ferry services from the Fulchhari ghat from August 3, but later the decision was postponed as the Fulchhari ferry channel lost its navigability depth.

Floods damage crops, vegetables on 9,660 hectares in Sherpur

UNB, Sherpur

Flash floods due to heavy rainfall and onrush of hilly waters from across the border during July and first half of August have caused a huge loss of about Tk 40 cr in Sherpur.

Local Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources said standing crops, vegetables and

seedbeds on some 9,660 hectares of land in Sherpur were damaged causing an estimated loss of about Tk 17 cr.

District Relief and Rehabilitation office sources said some 4.82 lakh people of 1.23 lakh families were affected due to the flood.

Some 7,674 houses totally and some 29,730 partially were damaged in the floods. Apart from these, some 66-km embankment, 261-km

road, 111 bridges and culverts and 14 educational institutions were damaged during the floods and the extent of damage was estimated at Tk 23 cr.

Some 276 mts of rice, Tk 4.13 lakh in cash, house building grant of Tk 1.93 lakh, 200 bundles of CI sheet and 1,000 pieces of saree and lungi reached Sherpur for the flood victims so far, district administration sources said.

BADC fails to pay price of 3,000 mts of wheat seeds to growers

UNB, Thakurgaon

A total of 1,300 wheat cultivators of Thakurgaon who sold 3,000 mts of seeds to Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) in the last fiscal are yet to get their price.

Hundreds of wheat cultivators gathered in front of local BADC office Thursday and demanded the money. But the authority failed to repay the same due to shortage of fund.

Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources said these seeds were bought from the contract growers on credit in the last fiscal year. Price of 750 mts of wheat seed was paid in July, but the remaining price of 2,250 mts wheat was not paid due to lack of fund. Now the dues of the farmers stood at about Tk 3 cr.

State Minister for Agriculture assured to pay the dues of the contract growers at a meeting of the officials of BADC on August 18.

As the price of the wheat seeds was not paid in time the growers did not supply the adequate quantum of seeds of Boro paddy in the last Boro season. They supplied only 170 mts of Boro seeds instead of 305 mts and they are yet to get the price of the sold seeds.

Farmers of Kochubari, Nargun, Mohammadpur, Bargaon areas said they would not supply Aman seeds to BADC in the next Aman season.



Some lady participants discussing at a day long advocacy workshop on "Reproductive Health and Gender" for community leaders at Dhanbari Nawab Institution Auditorium in Tangail. Tangail District Information Office arranged the workshop on Thursday with the assistance of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) recently.