# NATIONAL

# The Daily Star

# **SNAPS**

### **Fire in Sylhet** market

**OUR CORRESPONDENT,** Sylhet Property worth over Tk 20 lakh was gutted in a fire at a market at Ambarkhana in the city on Wednesday.

The fire originated from a shop in Bari Mansion and soon engulfed nine shops, fire brigade men who doused the fire said. The cause of the fire could not be known

### 93 pc loan recovery by RAKUB

**UNB**, Thakurgaon Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) made a profit of Tk 35.61 lakh in Thakurgaon region in the last

fiscal vear During the period, the bank recovered Tk 20.80 cr loans against a target of Tk 22.52 cr. The rate of loan recovery is 93 per cent.

It also distributed loan totaling Tk 20.91 lakh during the period.

# Tk 25 lakh loans

### to youths

**BSS**, Munshiganj The Livestock Department disbursed Tk 25 lakh loans among 242 trained youths in the district in the last financial year for setting up poultry farms and cattle rearing.

The department imparted training to 527 youths for self-employment. All the trained youths will be given loan in phases, officials said

### Tk 20.96 lakh loans to farmers

UNB, Kishoreganj An amount of Tk 20.96 lakh was distributed among 3,090 farmers of Kishoreganj district by the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) on Wednesday.

Officials said the money was given to the farmers in seven upazilas to help recoup crop losses caused by rain in the last aman season.

The affected upazilas are Pakundia, Kotiadi, Bajitpur, Kuliarchar, Bhoirab, Astagram and Mitaman



PHOTO: EAM ASADUZZAMAN Living with flood: (left) A flood affected family at Jharsinghersar village in Dimla in Nilphamari district moving to safety and (right) victims who took shelter on the flooded Dantirchar embankment at the village setting out for collecting drinking water with utensils in hand. The photos were taken vesterday (Friday).

# **Flood turns serious in** Sirajganj, Nilphamari

# 25,000 people move to safety, road link snapped in Sirajganj

### STAR NATIONAL DESK

A five-kilometre stretch of the Flood situation in Sirajganj and Sirajganj-Kazipar highway has gone Nilphamari deteriorated yesterday under water, snapping road link between Sirajganj and Kazipur with onrush of waters from upstream areas in India. Thursday night

also been submerged.

The floodwater washed away a

Our Nilphamari correspondent

portion of Ratonkhandi bazaar in

e Sadar upazila.

Our Correspondent reported from Sirajganj that about 100 Three culverts and a bailey bridge on the of Patagram-Baoithola road collapsed due to villages were inundated in five upazilas as the Jamauna rose by 40 pressure of water. cms in the last 24 hours ending at 6 Agriculture Extension Dep-artment sources said the floodwater am on Friday at Sirajganj point, Water Development Board (WDB) sources said. The river is flowing has damaged crops on at least 12,000 hectares of land. above the danger mark there.

At least 25,000 people have taken shelter on the highway in Kazipur. The affected upazilas are

Kazipur, Sirajganj Sadar, Belkuchi, Chowhali and Shahjadpur; where about 10,000 kutcha houses have **reported** that the flood situation deteriorated in Dimla, Jaladhaka and Kessoreganj upazilas as the

Teesta was flowing 10 cms above the danger mark at the Teesta Barrage point Friday morning.

Erosion by the Teesta damaged a regulator of

the Buri Teesta Irrigation Project and washed away part of Jharsinghersor village in Dimla. About 1500 affected families of

the village have taken shelter on the Teesta embankment.

The Nilphamari-Rangpur highway is threatened due to erosion by the Charalkata river, a tributary of the Teesta. The Cahralkata is now only about one metre from the highway, Official sources said.

About 25 families have moved to safer places in the area, they said. A BSS report from Faridpur said

the Padma is rising and is now flowing only 10cm below the danger level The Faridpur district adminis-

tration in an emergency meeting on Thursday decided to take steps to face the situation in view of the alarming rise in the water level, official sources said.

Presided over by ADC (Gen) Nurul Amin, the meeting was attended by political leaders and **WDB** officials

# Flood makes aman prospect bleak in Barisal

they said.

cultivation.

**Rally for release of** 

Juba League leader

### AKTER FARUK, Barisal

Flood has made prospect of the next *aman* crop bleak in Barisal as most of croplands and seedbeds are under water.

Agriculture officials said seed-beds on about 5,000 acres in In Golachipa and Kalapara upazilas, *aman* is cultivated on about 65,000 and 23,000 acres. But Galachipa upazila and 7,000 acres in Kalapara upazila are under water. two-thirds of the lands are still under The situation is the same in Bauphal, Dashmina and Bangalrli areas.

The situation is worse in coastal areas including Char Baret and Char Miajan. by this correspondent, many farmers said water is stagnant on vast areas as

Heavy rains and waters overflowing the rivers have turned cultivable lands into vast sheets of water, with no sign of immediate improvement, theysaid

At places, embankments for fish cultivation have made water stagnant, worsening the situation.

Transplantation aman seedlings normally begins from the second week of June. But this year, as most of points.

AL activist shot dead in Rajbari BSS, Rajbari

An Awami League activist was gunned down and two of his family members were injured by unidentified assailants at West Harinbaria village in Pangsha upazila on Wednesday, police said on Friday. The victim was identified as

Anwar Hossain, 35.

Police quoted family sources as saying that a gang of 12 entered Anwar's house and sprayed bullets on him. He died on the spot.

A case was filed with Pangsha Police Station.

## AL leader hurt in acid attack

**UNB**, Sherpur

A local Awami League leader suffered severe burn injuries in an acid attack while he was returning home at North Nakshigram village in Nalitabari upazila on Tuesday, police said.

Four men waylaid and threw acid on him, alleged the victim, Shamsuddin Ahmed, 45, a union Awami League secretary.

Shamsuddin was admitted to the Sadar hospital and later sent to Dhaka.

A case was filed with Nalitabari thana accusing three persons. They are Kabir Hossain, reportedly a BNP activist, his father Osmani and Abdus Sattar

The accused are yet to be arrested.

# Arms making materials recovered in **Cox's Bazar**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT,** Cox's

Arms making materials were recovered from a house in Teknaf Pahar area of the town on Friday, police said.

Nurjahan Begum, a female mem-ber of Latachapli Union Parishad Acting on a tip-off, a team of said she along with local people cut a Cox's Bazar Sadar thana police raided the house of one small embankment to remove water. Saline water has entered some Mohammad Alam and found the coastal areas as protection embank materials. ments have breached at several

Alam fled away sensing presence of the police.

### **Anti-drug Day Observed** at SU

### **CU CORRESPONDENT**

The Southern University (SU) has observed the World Anti-Drug Day Zafar Shamsuddin, district Juba League president Mostafa Alam n its campus in the city



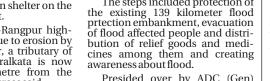




PHOTO: DII IP RAY In search of dry land: Flood affected people of Parulia village under Hatibandha upazila in Lalmonirhat district on a boat along with cattle and other belongings in search of a safe place.

# **Debacle for Barisal** colleges in degree examinations

#### **OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**

Only twenty percent of examinees from government and nongovernment colleges in Barisal passed the degree examinations held in 2002 under the National University.

Out of a total of 1720, only 350 passed, official sources said. Out of eight, only three colleges

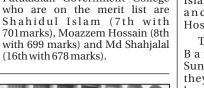
crossed the official requirement of 24 percent pass.

Colleges in Patuakhali district have three examinees on the combined merit list but those in Barisal have none.

The pass percentage is 34.81 in Barisal Government Womens College, 29.57 in Government Syed Hatem Ali College, 17.09 in Barisal Government College.

In the four private colleges, the percentage is 17.10 in Barisal İslamia College, 32.33 in Amrita Lal Dey College, 12.72 in Barisal City College and 24.28 in Manik Mia Mahila College

The three examinees from Patuakhali Government College who are on the merit list are Shahidul Islam (7th with 701marks), Moazzem Hossain (8th with 699 marks) and Md Shahialal (16th with 678 marks).





Students of Law Department of Islamic University (IU) brought out a procession on the campus recently demanding separation of the judiciary.

wami League (AL) held a rally on the deputy commissioner (DC) office premises on Thursday demanding release of district unit Juba League General Secretary Arunangshu Dutta.

UNB, Thakurgaon

They also demanded withdrawal of the "false" cases against Arunangshu, also a central committee member of Jubo League.

Former member of parliament Romesh Chandra Sen, AL district committee convenor Sadek Kuraishi, Sadar AL president Abu

Bulu, acting general secretary Ovijit Roy Lavlu and district Chhatra League president Altafur Rahman Altaf addressed the rally.

the seedbeds have been damaged

there will be acute crisis of seedlings

and vast areas may remain fallow, they apprehend.

Late sowing produces bad yield,

water, which is unlikely to recede in

During a recent visit to the areas

some influential persons are using

sluice gates in embankments for fish

next fifteen days, the officials said.

Chancellor Prof Dr. Muin Uddin They said the four-party alliance behind the bar out of political ven-geance although the High Court declared his detention illegal.

AL leaders said the government detained Arunangshu under Special Powers Act and later started filing "false" cases against him one after another.

Ahmed Khan presided over the meeting where Registrar Prof Zahir Uddin Ahmed was the chief guest. The speakers included SU Director Israt Zahan, Prof Sahida Gafur, Prof Nasrullah Bahadur,

A discussion meeting on drug

abuse was held at the university auditorium on the occasion. Vice

Prof Surajit Sarbabidda. The speakers called for stricter enforcement of narcotic control laws to reduce drug abuse.

## 4 fishermen rescued, two pirates killed in Sundarbans

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police after a gunfight with pirates rescued three fishermen and an owner of a trawler from captivity at Chorameghna canal in the Sundarbans, killing two of the gang.

Other members of the gang took the two bodies deep into the forest, police said.

The rescued persons are Tarigur Rahman, 32, Khairul Islam, 27, Ohiduzzaman, 26 and trawler owner Altaf Hossain, 40.

They were abducted from Baishaki area of the Sundarbans on June 21 while they were fishing and held hostage for Tk 10 lakh ransom.

They were rescued on Sunday after a two-hour gunfight, police said.

The shootout ensued when a police team from Shyamnagar police station challenged a trawler which was carrying pirates and the kidnapped fishermen. Sixty-seven bullets were traded during the gunfight.

Police recovered two live cartridges, a tape recorder, some utensils and rice from the trawler.