

## 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 year.

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, Kottia, Bajitpur, Kuliarchar, Bhoirab, Astagram and Mitaman.



Living with flood: (left) A flood affected family at Jharsingharsar 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 yesterday (Friday).

## Flood turns serious in Sirajganj, Nilphamari

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

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Flood situation in Sirajganj and Nilphamari deteriorated yesterday with onrush of waters from upstream areas in India.

**Our Correspondent reported from Sirajganj** that about 100 villages were inundated in five upazilas as the Jamatuna rose by 40 cms in the last 24 hours ending at 6 am on Friday at Sirajganj point, Water Development Board (WDB) sources said. The river is flowing has 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

also been submerged.

A five-kilometre stretch of the Sirajganj-Kazipur highway has gone under water, snapping road link between Sirajganj and Kazipur Thursday night.

Three culverts and a Bailey bridge on the Patagram-Baithola road collapsed due to pressure of water.

Agriculture Extension Department sources said the floodwater damaged crops on at least 12,000 hectares of land.

The floodwater washed away a portion of Ratonkhandi bazaar in the Sadar upazila.

**Our Nilphamari correspondent 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 Jharsingharsar 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 Charalkata 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 administration 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.

The steps included protection of the existing 139 kilometre flood protection embankment, evacuation of flood affected people and distribution of relief goods and medicines among them and creating awareness about flood.

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

## Flood makes aman prospect bleak in Barisal

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 seedbeds on about 5,000 acres in Galachipa upazila and 7,000 acres in Kalapara upazila are under water. The situation is the same in Bauphal, Dashmina and Bangalri areas.

The situation is worse in coastal areas including Char Baret and Char Miajan.

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

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

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, they said.

In Golachipa and Kalapara upazilas, aman is cultivated on about 65,000 and 23,000 acres. But two-thirds of the lands are still under water, which is unlikely to recede in next fifteen days, the officials said.

During a recent visit to the areas by this correspondent, many farmers said water is stagnant on vast areas as some influential persons are using sluice gates in embankments for fish cultivation.

Nurjahan Begum, a female member of Latachapi Union Parishad said she along with local people cut a small embankment to remove water.

Saline water has entered some coastal areas as protection embankments have breached at several 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 Bazar

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

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Cox's Bazar Sadar thana police raided the house of one Mohammad Alam and found the materials.

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 on its campus in the city.

A discussion meeting on drug abuse was held at the university auditorium on the occasion. Vice Chancellor Prof Dr. Muin Uddin Ahmed Khan presided over the meeting where Registrar Prof Zahir Uddin Ahmed was the chief guest.

The speakers included SU Director Israt Zahar, Prof Sahida Gafur, Prof Nasrullah Bahadur, Prof Surajit Sarbabidda.

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



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 non-government 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 per cent 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 Islamia 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 701 marks), Moazzem Hossain (8th with 699 marks) and Md Shahjalal (16th with 678 marks).

## 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 Tariqur 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.



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