

SNAPS

**Mirzapur BCL
confce held**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

The annual conference of Mirzapur upazila unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) in Tangail district ended on Thursday without declaration of new committee. In protest, BCL activists confined central leaders for a few hours at the conference venue at Mirzapur S K High School playground. The conference was presided over by president of local BCL Aminur Rahman Akanda, while party president member Abdul Mannan was present as chief guest. Among others, AL publicity secretary Asaduzzaman Noor, party's Tangail district general secretary Fazlur Rahman Faruk, Tangail district AL leader Nurul Islam, Mahabub Alam and other AL and BCL leaders addressed.

**Two drown
in Titas**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Two persons including a child drowned and 10 others injured when a mechanised boat capsized at Dharanti ghat in Sarail upazila at around 8.30 pm on Thursday. The dead are Danu Mia, 65, son of Matbar Ali of Nasimgar village and Asma Begum, 3, daughter of Taleb Ali of Kundda village. The over-loaded boat with 45 passengers was going to Nasimgar from Dharanti ghat. Just a few moments after departure the boat capsized due to strong current of the Titas, according to eyewitnesses. Other passengers came to the bank by swimming. Brahmanbaria police

**Principal
damages
wall for toll?**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A group of people allegedly backed by a college principal damaged an under-construction wall on Thursday for 'non-payment of toll amounting to 20,000 taka' by the landowner.

Landowner Yasin Ali of Tulshidanga village in Kalaroa upazila told this at a press conference held at Kalaroa Press Club. In his written statement he said Kalaroa upazila BNP vice president and principal of Sheikh Amanulla College demanded the amount from him while he was constructing a wall on his land. On denial, the extortionists damaged the wall. He also urged the authorities concerned to arrest and punish the culprits.

**30 hurt in clash
in Netrakona**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Thirty persons were injured, five of them seriously, in a clash between two rival groups at Dull village in Kendua upazila on Friday. Seriously injured Ali Akbar, 52, Liakat Ali, 35, Abul Fazal, 37, Abul Kashem, 30, and Aisuddin, 53, were admitted to Netrakona Sadar Hospital while other injured were admitted to Kendua Upazila Health Complex. Police sources said the clash was led by Chirang union parishad (UP) chairman Salma Akbar and local Awami League (AL) leader Humayun Kabir Chowdhury over formation of managing committee of Dull Non-government Primary School. Two separate cases were filed with Kendua police station. None was arrested.

**8 more Galachipa
villages under
sanitation**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Eight more villages in Galachipa upazila have been brought under sanitation system, according to an announcement of Galachipa upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) Mezbahuddin on Friday.

The villages are Char Chandrail, Katakhal, Folkhal, Chinabunia, Bahar Char, Gramuddin, Kalikapur and Koralia.

This was possible due to relentless efforts of the Dhaka Ahsania Mission in collaboration with local union parishads, government officials and Danida, a Danish aid agency, according to the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE).

Abdul Malek, 45, and his wife Rezia Begum, 35, of Koralia village told this correspondent, the activists of non-governmental organisation (NGO) made them aware about diseases like diarrhoea and dysentery which spread for lack of sanitary latrine. We bought rings and slabs and made sanitary latrines. Now we are free from the diseases," added Malek.

Seven villages in Kalaroa upazila such as West Chapli, Baiburia, Chunga, Salimpur Modina, Louda, Badrurali and Hasupara were also brought under sanitation system in May this year.

Soil nutrients critically low in N dists

Deficiencies hinder growth of plants, crops, scientists tell workshop, suggest massive motivation campaign

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

Essential soil nutrients like calcium, magnesium and sulfur have dropped to an alarming level in northern districts, reducing fertility and crop yield.

At places these are now below the 'critical level', mainly due to farmers' ignorance about fertiliser use and crop management.

Use of inorganic fertiliser and repetition of same crops for years have led to the situation.

These were revealed by scientists and agriculturists at a workshop, organized by PETTRA (Poverty Elimination

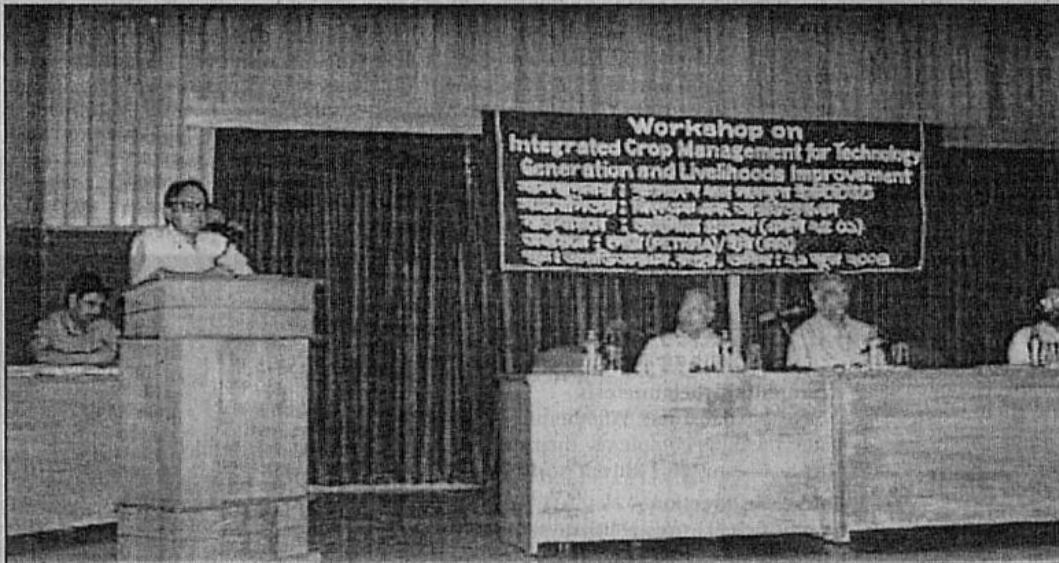
Through Rice Research Assistance), held at the RDRS's auditorium in Rangpur on Friday.

Scientists and officials from Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BARI), Grameen Krishi Foundation (GKF) and RDRS (Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service) took part in the workshop, attended also by representatives of NGOs and farmers' bodies.

They gave startling results of soil tests done in Pirganj in Thakurgaon district, Sader upazila in Kurigram district and in some other places.

Acute deficiency of calcium in soil in Kurigram Sader and Pirganj is "hindering growth of any kind of plant". Calcium in soil in the region is below 2 ppm whereas 4.5 ppm is the minimum requirement for growth of plants.

Magnesium deficiency is also acute in the soil of the region, reducing crop yield, specially rice, wheat,



Dr. MA Baki, BRRI Director, addressing the workshop.

potato and maize. The minimum requirement of the ingredient is above 3 ppm whereas it is below 2 ppm in the region. Soil acidity, which is harmful for crops, is also increasing due to lower rate of magnesium.

Though deficiency of sulfur, aluminum and manganese is not as alarming as calcium and magnesium, the situation may deteriorate soon, the scientists said.

Soil tests in other areas in the four northern districts gave results close to those, they said.

The workshop suggested launch-

ing of a massive campaign right now to make farmers aware of the situation, use organic fertiliser and change cropping pattern.

The government and NGOs should come forward in a big way for the campaign.

BRRI Director (Admin) Dr M A Baki was the chief guest at the workshop presided over by Md. Nurul Islam.

The speakers included RDRS Director Dr Sayed Shamsuzzaman, Senior Principal Scientific Officer Dr MA Mojeed, BM Elias Hossen and representatives of PETRA and farm-

ers.

Dr Shamsuzzaman said lands of 240 farmers in the two upazilas were brought under integrated crop management (ICM) programme. The farmers were given training on how to restore soil nutrients, use organic and inorganic fertilisers and reduce irrigation cost. This gave good results in restoring soil fertility, he said.

The workshop recommended extension of the ICM project in the northern districts and involvement of NGOs in it.

The five-year project concluded on June 30.

An unusual phenomenon

No spawning by Ruhi, Katal and Mrigel this year in Halda river: Environmental pollution blamed

BSS, Chittagong

Some popular indigenous fish species like Ruhi, Katal and Mrigel are yet to release spawns this year at Halda river, the main source of naturally bred fries in the country.

This is unprecedented in recent history, experts, fishery officials and fish fry collectors said. These mother fishes usually released spawns every year during March-June, they said.

The non-spawning so far this year might aggravate the gradual extinction of these indigenous species, the frustrated officials and fry collectors said.

A very small quantity of eggs were released last week. Mother fishes released only "samples" this year. Collectors could not get a very negligible quantity of eggs.

Halda river is known as the only natural breeding ground for mother fishes for over a century.

"Manmade disaster like indiscriminate netting of mother fishes (egg carrying fishes) and pollution of the river and unfavorable weather conditions are the major causes for the non-spawning this year" said Prof Mohammad Ali Azadi of

Zoology Department of Chittagong University, who has been carrying out a research on the unique character of this river and fish spawning.

This river was the main source of fries of Ruhi, Katal, Mrigel and Kaliboush fries for aquaculturists across the country before introduction of fry-breeding in hatcheries in 1980s.

Once natural fries collected from the Halda not only met the country's demand but also were sent to Myanmar and India, they said.

Conditions for natural spawning exists only in Halda in the country. Fishes from spawns in Halda used to migrate to major rivers like Padma and Jamuna, Azadi said.

"Inorganic breeding system in hatcheries results in lessening of the original taste and lead to production of defective fish," Azadi said.

Earlier, around 4000 kilogram of spawns were collected from the river during monsoon but it has declined to about 500 kilogram now, he said.

Prof Azadi who conducted a number of local and foreign funded research projects on natural fish spawning and management in the last 27 years said the government should immediately declare the

Halda river a "fish sanctuary" and impose restrictions on indiscriminate fishing to check the "suicidal trend".

Setting up of industries near banks without treatment plants should be stopped to save the river from pollution.

He said the 4500 kilometer long Mekong river that flows through Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia is jointly managed by these countries. They have banned fishing in the river for five months during the monsoon to boost fish production in those countries.

District Fishery Officer (DFO) Ershad Meah told BSS that higher authorities okayed a proposal to declare the Halda river from Madunaghat to Satterghat point a "fish sanctuary."

"Now we are considering ways to implement the decision", the DFO said. "We will sit with the experts and stakeholders soon".

The Halda Lover Academics has invented a unique method called 'Plastic Tank Mini Hatchery' to carry fries to long distances, Prof Azadi said. This has ensured over 90 per cent survival of fries.

Nightly deluge panic Bhola people

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Several thousand people of four villages in Bhola Sadar Upazila are marooned as a huge portion of the town protection embankment breached at Nasir Majhi Friday night due to heavy pressure of floodwater from Meghna river.

At least a 50 feet stretch of the embankment has been washed away, official sources there said when contacted from here yesterday.

BIWTC liner MV Alauddin sent for repair again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

BIWTC liner MV Alauddin left Barisal port yesterday for a Chittagong dockyard for repair again.

It is cruising the long journey through the mighty Meghna and the Bay of Bengal with one of its two engines operating. BIWTC sources here said.

The ship plying the Barisal-Chittagong route had sailed from Chittagong on June 28 after seven months' repair and reached Barisal Wednesday night after remaining stranded on the Meghna for about 36 hours following engine failure.

The ship with 34 crew left for Chittagong for repair at Shirushush Dockyard, where the earlier repair work was done, sources said.

It can not be said when it will reach Chittagong as it will take about four times the normal period to cruise the distance with only one

engine, its captain Mozammel Haque Haque said just before the sail. It will have to cross 90 kilometres on the turbulent Bay of Bengal.

MV Alauddin had gone out of order in December last.

Chief engineer of the ship Md Shajahan had said earlier that one of the engines went out of order when it had entered the Swandip Channel. After seven hours' repair, it resumed the journey. But after 20 hours', its right side propeller shaft broke when it reached near Chitalmari. It was stranded on the Meghna for about 24 hours.

Engineers from Barisal went there and made the engine operational on Wednesday (30 June) morning after 12 hours' repair and the ship somehow reached Barisal Wednesday night, 36 hours behind schedule.

Another BIWTC ship - MV Abdul Motin - is now plying the route.

Proshika chief's release demanded

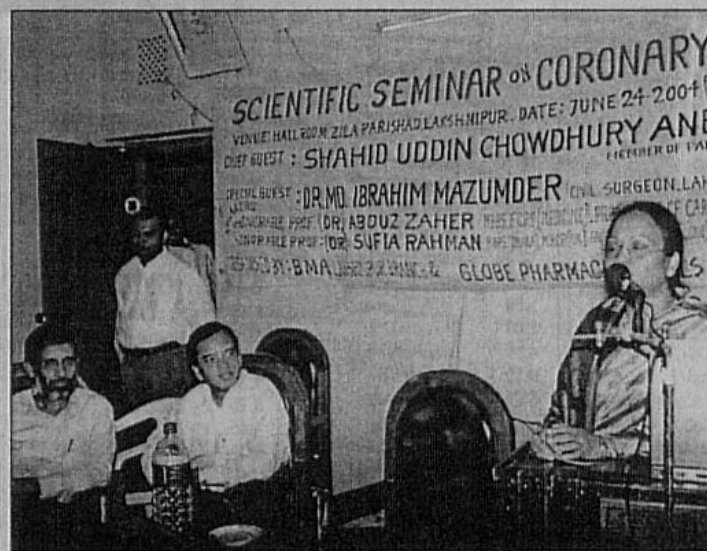
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Fifty lawyers here yesterday in a joint statement have demanded release of Proshika and Association for Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) president Quazi Faruque Ahmed.

They demanded withdrawal of false cases against him and condemned police harassment to Proshika and ADAB employees.

Signatories to the statement include district Bar Association president Md Meher Uddin, secretary Khalilur Rahman and lawyers Abdul Moizid, Md Sayeed Hossain, Mohammad Khaled Hossain, Khandaker Sharif Mia, Afsarul Islam, Shipro Rani Saha, Md Shajahan, ATM Shahjahan, Sadhan Kumar Banik, Abdur Rahman, Abdul Jalil,

Delwar Alam Khan, Shahidur Rahman, Faruque Hasan Khan, Madhob Saha, Abdus Salam, Md Lutfar Rahman, Sakawat Hossain Khan, Abdul Awal, Dilip Kumar Rajbangshi, Dipak Kumar Ghosh, Ataur Rahman, Mizanur Rahman Hozrat, Md Abul Kashem, Ashok Kumar Bhounik, Tomij uddin, Md Idris Ali, Abdur Rashid, Golam Mohiuddin, Asim Kumar Biswas, Md Nurul Islam, Md Abdul Malek, Md Afazuddin, Md Mezbahul Haque, Kofliuddin Khan, AKM Azizul Haque, Moksedur Rahman, Abdul Mannan, Yusuf Ali, Arabinda Poddar, Abdul Awal Sikdar, Abdur Rashid, Bikash Chandra Mondal, Hasina Begum, Abdul Aziz, Badrul Islam Khan, Mothur Nath Sarker and Debendro Nath Poddar.



A seminar on Acute Coronary Syndrome was held recently at Laxmipur Zila Parishad auditorium. Local unit of Bangladesh Medical Association and Globe Pharma jointly organised it.

Teesta devours part of Tuhin Dam in Dimla

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Floodwater from Teesta river has devoured a portion of the 1.5 kilometre Tuhin Dam at Khalisha Chapani in Dimla upazila, constructed in 2002-2003 financial year.

Erosion has already washed away over 50 homesteads in the area, threatening the right embankment of the Teesta.

At least 20,000 people in nine villages in Dimla upazila are marooned in the area. The worst

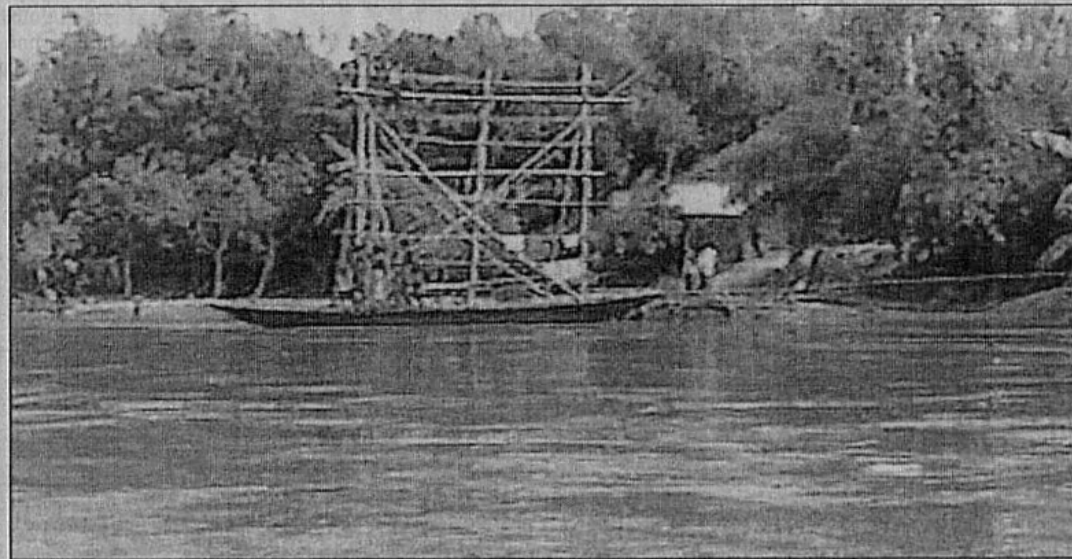
affected villages are Jharsingherchar, Char Baishpukur, East Gajabari, Char Karibari, Chatunama, Vendabari, East Chhatnai, Vasani and Tabu.

To check the erosion, Water Development Board (WDB), with the help of local people, are raising bamboo groynes and have collected sandbags for dumping at vulnerable points of the dam as a temporary measure, its Executive Engineer Zahirul Islam told this correspondent yesterday.

Local people said the river is changing course in the area, which will ultimately make useless the Teesta Irrigation Project, the largest irrigation project in the country.

WDB officials said erosion by the river started early this year as the Teesta water level fluctuates off and on. It crossed the danger mark at least 10 times in the last 15 days, they said.

To check this, WDB is trying to divert the river water through two channels, they said.



Villagers erecting a bamboo groyne at East Chatani village to protect the right bank Teesta.

PHOTO: STAR

'Media role vital to check AIDS, trafficking'

BNWLA discussion meeting told

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Bangladesh is very much vulnerable to AIDS because of its porous border with India where the disease is spreading fast, speakers said at a discussion meeting here on Friday.

People frequently crossing the border are carrying HIV virus into the country. Only an all out awareness campaign can save the country's people from this incurable disease, they said.

Journalists and NGOs have a special role to play in this regard, they said at the discussion on 'Role of Journalists in Preventing HIV/AIDS and Woman and Child Trafficking', organised by the Satkhira chapter of Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers Association (BNWLA).

It was held at the office of Satkhira Unnayan Kendra, a civil

society body.

Both the print and electronic media should give more coverage on the issues to create public awareness, they said.

BNWLA's Satkhira President Advocate Farida Akhtar Bana presided over the function. The speakers included journalists Abu

Ahmed, Kalyan Banerjee, Ram Krishna Chakraborty, Manirul Islam Mini, Anisur Rahim, Mizanur Rahman, advocate Lucy Begum and NGO representatives.

Documentaries on AIDS were screened at the meeting, coordinated by Masud Parvez.

Abu Ahmed of The Daily Star said, Satkhira being a bordering district has now become an easy route for trafficking. Only strict laws and vigilance by law enforcers can check this.

Woman 'killed' by husband, in-laws

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

A housewife and mother of a child was burnt to death allegedly by her husband here on Friday morning.

Ill-fated Sanna Akhter, 28, was sleeping in her room at Kaliganj Talukderbari in the town. Her husband Toufiqul Islam called her at about 5-30 am and confined her in another room. He poured kerosene on her body and lit fire on it. His mother Shahera Begum, 50, sisters Monsura Begum, 30, Josna Begum, 35, and Rubi, 30, helped him in stead of rescuing Sanna. While burning Sanna cried for help. Hearing her cries local people came and rescued her in a critical condition. They shifted her to Comilla Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where she succumbed to her injuries at about 6-30 am.

Police arrested three sisters of the killer husband who escaped with her mother.

Later, a neighbour termed the incident as a sequel to a conflict between Sanna and her husband's other family members on the previous night.

A case was lodged with Kotwali police.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Director

Mymensingh Medical College Hospital, Mymensingh

Memo No. MMCH/2004/18759

Dated: 24-6-2004

Tender Notice (1st Call)

Sealed tenders are invited from Mymensingh Medical College Hospital & Central Medical Stores Depot, Telgaon, Dhaka's 2004-2005 financial year enlisted contractors for procurement of MSR (Medical & Surgical Requisites) during 2004-2005 financial year at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. The tender/work order shall remain valid from 1st July 2004 to 30th June 2005. But, if necessary, this validity may be extended further maximum 03 (three) months.

Tender schedule consisting detailed description and terms & conditions can be collected from the cashier of this hospital and office of Deputy Commissioner & Police Super by depositing Tk 750/= (seven hundred fifty) only (non-refundable) through treasury challan under head "Health & Family Welfare Service" in Code No. [2781] [0000] [2023] and submitting the original copy of challan from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM on each working day from 17-7-2004 to 24-7-2004. Tenders will be received through tender box kept in front of office chamber of Director, Mymensingh Medical College Hospital and in front of the office of Deputy Commissioner & Police Super, Mymensingh from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon of 25-7-2004 and the tender boxes will be opened on the same day at 1:00 PM in presence (if any) of the attending tenderers. It may be noted that, tenders can also be submitted by post. But that must reach the undersigned by 12:00 Noon of 25-7-2004. Tender shall not be received after the prescribed/fixed time.

The authority reserves the right to reject or accept any tender without assigning any reason. Decision of tender committee shall be treated as final. No excuse/objection by any one to this shall be admissible. If any excuse/objection raised shall be legally rejected.

Group No.	Description of items	Sale price of schedule
Group No. 1	All kinds of drugs & medicines	Tk 750/= (seven hundred fifty) only
Group No. 2	Surgical dressing viz: absorbent cotton, gauze, bandage, hospital linen, beddings & related items.	Tk 750/= (seven hundred fifty) only
Group No. 3	Test & examination viz: Pathological re-agent & pathological other items/wares.	Tk 750/= (seven hundred fifty) only
Group No. 4	Surgical instruments & equipment, glass ware, rubber goods, X-ray film & X-ray chemicals etc.	Tk 750/= (seven hundred fifty) only
Group No. 5	Purchase of various kinds furniture	Tk 750/= (seven hundred fifty) only

Brig. Gen Dr. Md. Abdus Shahid Khan

Director

DFP-16463-27/6
G-360Mymensingh Medical College Hospital
Mymensingh