

SNAPS

Punishment demanded

RU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a meeting on Saturday on Rajshahi University campus demanded exemplary punishment to the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader who abused a female student of History Department recently. Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) organised the meeting in front the central library. They threatened a tougher students' agitation if the authorities concerned fail to punish the culprit. A procession was also brought out on the campus. Processionists chanted slogans against the culprit and criticised the university administration for their failure in punishing him. Earlier, students of the department submitted a memorandum to vice chancellor Prof Faisul Islam Faruki to press home their five-point demand.

Hanging latrines demolished

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Department of Environment (DoE), on Monday in a six-hour drive demolished 25 hanging latrines erected illegally along Krishna canal at Mohra in Kalurghat. At least 450 to 500 families used the latrines, raised by landlords, along the canal connecting the Halda, said DoE Director Mosharraf Hossain. The DoE authorities served a notice two months ago to the landlords requesting them to dismantle the latrines. But they ignored the notice. DoE chemist Mostafizur led the eviction drive.

Donation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The chairman of Youngone Group, Kihak Sung on Monday donated Tk 5 lakh to Chittagong Press Club (CPC) for its development. Peter Bower, president of Youngone Group in Bangladesh and director Shahin Rahman handed over a cheque of the entire amount to Press Club president Abu Sufian at a simple ceremony. Press Club general secretary Kalim Sarwar, senior vice president Ali Abbas, vice president Abu Jafar Haider, chief reporter of Daily Azadi Helaluddin Chowdhury and club member Subash Karon addressed the function.

# Flood situation grim in Netrakona, Gaibandha

## 7 die in Netrakona in 5 days; road communication threatened along North Bengal Highway

**STAR NATIONAL DESK**

Flood situation in Netrakona and Gaibandha turned grim following heavy rainfall and onrush water from upstream in last five days.

Our Netrakona Correspondent reports: Ten out of 14 unions in bordering Durgapur and Kalmakanda upazilas were badly affected by the deluge.

Seven persons died by drowning and in house collapse during the period.

The dead victims are Nasrin, 6, of Madham Bagan village, Jani, 7, of Kamarkhali village, Abdul Barak, 35, of Palash Para village, Jahara Khatun, 30, of Palash Para village, Sabuj Mia, 35, of Fulpur village, Abdul Ali, 60, of Sathashi village and Abdur Rahim, 40, of Gojir Kona village in Durgapur upazila.

More than one lakh people are passing their days in misery due to water logging and food crisis.

Road communication between the district headquarters and

Durgapur Sadar remained snapped as Netrakona-Birishiri road was badly damaged due to the onrush of floodwaters.

The worst affected unions are Birishiri, Kakayergor, Bakoljura and Gaokandia in Durgapur upazila and Karnai, Rangchati, Kalmakanda Sadar union, Langura, Pugla and Barkapon in Kalmakanda upazila.

Standing aman crops on 10,000 acres of land were damaged. About 1,000 kutcha houses were washed away by floodwaters.

Flood victims who took shelter in 23 shelters could not return to their houses following slow recessions of water and further deterioration of flood, officials said. They were staying there for 10 days.

Flood victim Amena Begum, 37, of Boruakona village who is staying at Boruakona High School flood shelter with her husband and two daughters for the last eight days told the correspondent that they had to starve for the last two days.

Rahela Khatun, 32, another flood

victim who is staying at Pugla Government Primary School flood shelter, told The Daily Star that she along with her husband and two children had taken shelter eight days back but till got nothing as relief.

The affected people are suffering from various kinds of water borne diseases.

Our Gaibandha Correspondent reports: Water level rose further in Teesta, Brahmaputra and Karotoa basin on Tuesday.

Road communication between Gobindaganj and Dinajpur might be snapped anytime as surging water of the Karotoa overflowed the North Bengal Highway at Tarafmanu.

Ground floor of Gobindaganj Upazila Health Complex went under water. The patients were shifted to elsewhere. Besides, many offices like Livestock office, Registry office, BRDB office, Department of Public Health Engineering office in Gobindaganj Upazila submerged by floodwaters.

Road communication from Sadullapur upazila to the district headquarters snapped as floodwaters were flowing over at three points of the road at Kajol Dhop and Kholabari.

A portion of the Rangpur-Bogra highway collapsed at Katakhali. Road communication along the route might collapse any time.

In Gobindaganj upazila flood badly affected standing crops on 12000 hectare, rabi crops on 250 hectares and banana on 50 hectares of land.

Nearly one lakh people were marooned.

Seven villages of Keshoregari union in Palashbari upazila flooded as Kasiabari counter embankment along the Karotoa was damaged.

Gobindaganj UNO AKM Mizanur Rahman told that 51 metric tons of rice was allocated to flood victims. Besides, 10 kilogram of rice was for a single family in 15 flood shelters.



PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN

Encroachment: Defying official ban on filling up rivers, influential people are building sawmill or factory illegally in the Dhaleswari. The picture was snapped from the Dhaleswari Bridge recently.

## 11 criminals killed in 'crossfire' with cops in Khulna, Bagerhat

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, KHULNA**

Eleven top criminals including a UP (Union Parishad) chairperson were killed by police and Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) in Khulna and Bagerhat from January to October 7 this year.

This was revealed by their wives and close relatives.

However, sources in police department and Rab claimed that they were killed in crossfire while recovering arms after their arrest. The latest victim who was killed by Rab members is Sheikh Liton, chairperson of Karhapara UP in Bagerhat Sadar upazila and president of the town unit of Jubo Dal.

Ten others who were killed in crossfire are Abdur Rahim alias Tapu of PBCP (M-L), former ward commissioner Asaduzzaman Litu, Ripon of PBCP (Janajuddho), Raja Chowdhury alias Bony of PBCP (M-L), BDR Altaf of PBCP (Janajuddho), Rashed of PBCP (Janajuddho) and Abdur Rahman alias Chhoton of PBCP (Janajuddho) of Khulna, Khairul Alam Swapon, Babu Molla and Hasan Imam of PBCP (Janajuddho) of Bagerhat.

Local leaders of opposition parties including Awami League alleged in different meetings that the arrested criminals were killed in name of crossfire 'obviously to save their godfathers in the ruling party'.

## Waging war against poverty in Sikdermallik union

### UP chairperson Elija Zaman is determined to increase civic amenities

**Z A M KHAIRUZZAMAN**

Elija Zaman is the chairperson of Sikdermallik union in Pirojpur Sadar. Before entering into local government politics she was a social worker. She took a determination to increase civic amenities in the union following her empowerment.

Her father late Sarder Sultan Mahmud was a politician. She was brought up in a family having rich political tradition. She involved herself in politics at the grassroots level for preservation of family tradition.

According to Elija, poverty is the number one problem in the union. She waged a ward against it.

There is scarcity of water and dearth of sanitary latrine. Ten NGOs are working here to supply pure water and for development of education. The NGOs are Grameen Bank, Asha, PDF, Upak, Dak Diey Jai, Prottysha and Uddipan. Women are major beneficiaries of the NGO projects.

Local economy largely depends on agriculture and foreign remittance of wage earners. About 100 metric tons of agricultural commodities are produced annually. Other products are paddy, coconut, betel nut and banana. Besides, more than



Elija Zaman

150 persons work in the USA, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Singapore and many other countries. They remit about Tk 20 lakh annually. Their remittances play a vital role in economic reconstruction of the union.

The population of the union is 30,000. The number of male and female members is proportionately equal. There are about 14,524 voters. But she expressed her reservation about the voter list. Because women lack far behind although the number of men and women is equal, accord-

ing to consensus. The number of women voters is only 4,208.

It is necessary to construct new roads and bridge-culverts. But development work came to a standstill due to inadequate government allotment. She does not have to pass hectic days. Only distribution of certificate and doing arbitration meetings are her daily activities. The law and order in the union is satisfactory. At times incidents of repression on women occur. A committee was formed to resist repression on women. Women members play their due role in this regard. As per rules female members get one third of the project work, mainly road construction work.

The sources of union income are lease money from hat-bazaar and ghat (terminal), but its amount is very small. According to Elija ADP allotment is a must for union's development.

She wants to work with fame. Local people are much cooperative to her. She never observed negative attitude towards her from anyone. She never faced obstacle in discharging her duties although at times she feel embarrassed during arbitration.

-- Source: BCDJC

## 14-pt demand placed at Mab meet in Jessore

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, JESSORE**

A 16-point charter of demands was placed at a meeting of Khulna division of Mab (Municipal Association of Bangladesh) held at a Chinese restaurant here on Saturday.

Presided over by Jessore Pourasava chairperson Kamruzzaman Chunnu, the meeting was addressed by Mayor of Khulna City Corporation (KCC) advocate Sheikh Tayebur Rahman as chief guest.

The demands included changing the post of pourasava chairman into mayor, giving authority of allotting 'khas' land to pourasava chairperson and canceling power of commissioners to bring 'No-confidence' motion against the pourasava chairman.

With a view to increasing income of the pourasava, hats and bazaars and water bodies inside the pourasava must be placed under the authority of the pourasava, it was also demanded.

MAB president and Tongi Pourasava chairperson advocate Azmatullah Khan addressed as the main speaker.

Gazipur Pourasava chairperson AKM Mozammel Haque, ex Jessore Government M M College principal Afsar Ali, Jessore Press Club president Fakir Shaikal, Jessore Sangbadpatra Parishad president and Dainik Kallyan editor Ekram-ud-Daula and Banchtey Shekha executive director Angela Gomez addressed the meeting.

Tangail Pourasava chairperson Zaminlur Rahman Milon, Bera Pourasava chairman Abdul Baten and chairpersons of a number of pourasavas in 10 districts in Khulna division were present.