

8,000 acres fallow for 2 decades

Farmers in Satkhira hold rally, hand over memos to remove waterlogging

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Several thousand farmers from four unions in the Sadar upazila brought out big procession in the town and held a rally in front of the office of Satkhira Water Development Board (WDB) Executive Engineer yesterday demanding urgent steps to remove water-logging from 20 beels (water bodies) covering 25 villages in the area.

Over 8000 acres of land remain virtually fallow throughout the year in Bolli, Labsha, Jhawdanga and Agardari unions due to the problem. These lands are flooded during the rainy season and the waters remain stagnant till the Bangla months of Chaitra and Baishakh, affecting over one lakh people, local people said while talking to this correspondent.

In most of the years, IRRI-Boro saplings transplanted in late winter are damaged by flood.

This situation continues for about two decades as the outlets for floodwater have been clogged, they said.

The farmers carried banners and posters in the procession that was started from Shahid Abdur Razzak Park. The processionists paraded the main streets of the town.

The rally was addressed by, among others, Advocate Nurul Alam, Shah Jahan Ali, Abdul Karim, Rafiqul Islam, Kazi Saidur Rahman and Subhas Sarkar.

The speakers said, 8000 acres of land in 20 beels including Rajnagar, Khejurdangi, Bhatpara, Baladanga, Akhrahkola, Bhatpara, Baladanga, Akhrahkola,

Chupria, Mukundapur and Jhawdanga remain fallow due to lack of any government step.

The Betna river has lost navigability due to deposit of silt and sluice gates at Rajnagar and Khejurdangi are inoperative for long.

They urged the government to take necessary steps to solve the

problems.

Later they submitted a memorandum to the WDB Executive Engineer to press their seven-point demand.

The demands include renovation of Khejurdangi sluice gate and construction of another at Boyarsing, construction of a 10-kilometer ring

dam from Akhrahkola to Kalaroa on Betna river and re-excavation of the silted river.

Later the processionists went to the Deputy Commissioner's Office and handed over a memorandum to him to solve their problems. They also held a press conference at Satkhira Reporters Club.



Local elite joined several thousand farmers in a procession in Satkhira town yesterday, demanding government steps for a solution to the permanent water-logging problem in 8,000 acres of land in Satkhira Sadar.

PHOTO: STAR

Martyred Intellectuals Day observed in B'baria, RU

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Child killed in road mishap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A child was killed and five others were injured when their rickshaw van was hit by a truck at Chithulia on the Shaghara-Gabandha road on Monday. One and a half years old Nitro died on the spot. The injured persons were taken to Fulchari Health Complex. The killer truck sped away, police said. A case has been filed with Fulchari police station.

Death threat to forest official

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A Forest official faces death threat from an extremist for his refusal to pay Tk 30,000 as illegal toll. The victim is Mahmudul Hasan, an Assistant Conservator of Forests. The extremist threatened him several times from December 1 to 12 over telephone. He met the Assistant Commissioner (AC) of southern zone of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP), Anisuzzaman, to inform him about the matter. But he did not find any case with police fearing reprisal from the extremist.

Auto-rickshaw off Khulna city roads

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Auto-rickshaw drivers are on an indefinite strike from Monday. Khulna Zila Auto-rickshaw Union called the strike in protest against arrest of drivers on Saturday and Sunday. They also demanded unconditional release of the arrested drivers. They alleged that the drivers were arrested for their refusal to pay tips to traffic police. But according to police, the drivers had violated traffic rules in Khulna-Daulatpur-Phulalia route by carrying more than three passengers.

VGD scheme extended in 3 hill dists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

The government extended its Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) programme for distressed women for two years in three hill districts.

According to Bandarban District Women Affairs Officer Anjana Bhattacharya, the second phase of the programme aims at providing jobs to unemployed women and rehabilitation of women who earn a living through zoom cultivation. The programme will begin in 25 upazilas from January 1.

According to new rule, 75 women

Mansur Kamal and Sheshu Academy Children's Affairs Officer Mahfiza Akterkotkpart.

Local cultural institute, Brahmanbaria Nagorkot Committee also observed the day holding various programmes.

Our Rajshahi University Correspondent reports: National flag was hoisted at half-mast and black flags were hoisted atop the administration building including halls, library and the Vice Chancellor's (VC) official residence.

VC Prof Faisul Islam Faruki and Prof. C. K. Prof. K. M. Shahadat Hossain, Mondal placed wreaths at the alter of Shaheed Minar and Martyred Intellectuals' Monument.

Bangladesh Shishu Academy organised a discussion meeting at Brahmanbaria Zila Parishad auditorium with the ADC (General) in the chair.

Brahmanbaria Deputy Commissioner (DC) Md Jahirul Haque and Superintendent of Police (SP) ATM Tarique were present as chief guest and special guest. Among others, Brahmanbaria Press Club President

will be benefited under the programme with assistance from the World Food Programme (WFP). Only 50 women were benefited under first phase of the programme which began in 2001.

Sources in the WFP office told this correspondent about 8,250 women of 110 unions in three hill districts will be benefited in the second phase. At present 5,500 women are benefited.

The Ministry of Women and Children Affairs will coordinate with seven NGOs assigned to select beneficiaries and conducting training programme.

Six dacoits were arrested.

Land for landless demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Several hundred landless people held a rally and brought out a procession at Bagha upazila headquarters on Monday demanding distribution of khas (government) lands.

They also handed over a memorandum to the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) for a fresh survey to restore khas lands now under illegal possession of influential and their allotment among the landless.

The demonstrations were organised jointly by two local NGOs—Sawa Unnayan and Samata Women Welfare Organisation.

The rally was addressed by, among others, NGO activists Mustafujur Rahman Khan Alam, Nazrul Islam Latif and leaders of the landless people.

A discussion meeting on Liberation War was held. Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-IMU) central leader Afzal Hossain Khan was in the chair.

It was addressed by among others, former minister and Awami League (AL) leader Moslem Uddin Khan, former deputy minister and Jatiya Party (JP) leader Golam Sarwar, former MP and BNP leader Abdul Wahab Khan, JSD-IMU central leader Iqbal Hossain Khan, AL leaders Golam Mohiuddin, Abdul Salam, Abdul Kasem and Abdul Mojib Photo, convenor of Mukti Joddha Sangsad Golam Mohi Khan, CPB leader Acharul Islam, JP leader Shamsul Haque, BNP leaders Zamilur Rashid Khan, Azhar Hossain Khan, PP (public prosecutor), Arafat Khan, member secretary of the celebration committee and BNP leader Masudul Kamrul Haque, Deputy Commissioner of Manikganj Roksana Ferdousi and Police Superintendent (SP) Awrangzeb Mahbub.

Tk 1.5 lakh cell-phones looted from Ctg Flora

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Cash and mobile sets worth Tk 1.5 lakh were looted from a sales centre of a computer firm here on Monday.

Eight dacoits entered the sales centre of Flora Ltd at Lalkhan Bazaar under Khulshi Police Station at around 2.30 pm and locked the security guard in a toilet. They ransacked the sales centre and looted money and mobile sets from staff and clients of the sales centre holding them hostage at gunpoint, according to witnesses.

Six dacoits were arrested.

Seminar on child rights held in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A discussion meeting on 'Role of NGOs in Protecting Child Right' was held at Bonarpara U.S.S. Hall on Monday. It was organised jointly by Gono Unnayan Library (CDL) and Unnayan Shahajoghi Sanstha, a local NGO.

Speakers there said children's rights are being violated mainly due to lack of awareness among people. NGOs can play a vital role in this regard, they said.

It is at times found that even educated people are not aware of children's rights.

The violation is severe among the illiterate in rural areas because of



A partial view of the seminar on Role of NGOs in Protecting Child Right, held in Gaibandha on Monday.

PHOTO: STAR

Extortionists damage Japan financed fish plant

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Extortionists attacked a Japanese-financed fish processing plant at Parulia in Debhata upazila Sunday evening and damaged property worth Tk 8 lakh for refusal to pay Tk 50,000 toll.

Security guard Abdus Sobhan was seriously injured in the attack.

Police said armed miscreants allegedly led by Shimul and Zahid attacked Sekai Fish Processing Plant, a joint venture private sector project involving Japanese investors as the owners refused to pay the toll.

The criminals beat the staff. The damaged property include two vehicles.

The manager of the company has filed a case with Debhata Police Station accusing Shimul, Zahid and some others.

SMG recovered in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A joint force of army and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) on Monday recovered a sub-machine gun (SMG) with 30 rounds of bullets from Barathali area of Ruma upazila.

While patrolling the border along Mizoram in India, members of the joint force recovered the abandoned SMG.

It is still unknown whether the SMG was used to kill Lance Corporal Abu Bakar Siddique of army on November 21 night.

His SMG was looted and he was killed while on duty at a religious festival at Jamchhari in Roangchhari upazila.

After the incident, army and BDR are launching combing operation in Bandarban Sadar upazila, Roangchhari, Ruma and Thanchi area.

14-day Victory Fair begins at Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A 14-day long 'Muktijoddha Bijoy Mela' or victory fair began here on Monday.

Chief Whip of Jatiya Sangsad Khondaker Delwar Hossain opened the fair as chief guest at the outer stadium.

A discussion meeting on Liberation War was held. Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-IMU) central leader Afzal Hossain Khan was in the chair.

It was addressed by among others, former minister and Awami League (AL) leader Moslem Uddin Khan, former deputy minister and Jatiya Party (JP) leader Golam Sarwar, former MP and BNP leader Abdul Wahab Khan, JSD-IMU central leader Iqbal Hossain Khan, AL leaders Golam Mohiuddin, Abdul Salam, Abdul Kasem and Abdul Mojib Photo, convenor of Mukti Joddha Sangsad Golam Mohi Khan, CPB leader Acharul Islam, JP leader Shamsul Haque, BNP leaders Zamilur Rashid Khan, Azhar Hossain Khan, PP (public prosecutor), Arafat Khan, member secretary of the celebration committee and BNP leader Masudul Kamrul Haque, Deputy Commissioner of Manikganj Roksana Ferdousi and Police Superintendent (SP) Awrangzeb Mahbub.

Procession for rescue of kidnapped college girl

Kushtia JCD leader expelled from party for alleged involvement

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Several thousand people including women and students brought out a procession in Jhenidah town on Monday demanding immediate rescue of the abducted college girl Laila Nusrat Aman Tanni and arrest of the kidnappers.

She was kidnapped on Friday allegedly by a gang led by Jhenidah JCD (Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal) Organising Secretary Abul Bashar alias Basir when she was going to a coaching centre in the town.

Meanwhile, JCD Jhenidah district unit has expelled five of its leaders and activists including Abul Basir for his alleged involvement in the kidnapping. Basir is also general secretary of Jhenidah Government KC College Student Union.

Basir and Tanni are students of the same college.

The expulsion decision was taken at a party meeting Monday night at the JCD office with its president Ashraful Islam Pintu in the chair.

Sources said the action followed pressure from top BNP leaders in the district.

But police could not make any headway till yesterday to rescue her. When contacted, police said they are trying to rescue her and arrest the culprits.

Talking to this correspondent, Tanni's father Prof Nazul Islam



A partial view of the procession brought out in Jhenidah town on Monday for rescue of kidnapped college girl Tanni.

Tanni is a first year Honours student. Basir used to tease her at college, her family claimed.

The incident has created resentment among people including political leaders and activists.

Different student organisations including Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Chhatra Union, Chhatra Front, Chhatra Moitri have demanded her immediate rescue and expulsion of Basir from the college.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Local Govt. Engineering Department
District : Joypurhat

Memo No. XEN/LGED/Joypur/RTIP/04/41

Date : 06.12.2004

Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP)

Invitation for Bids (IFB) IFB No. 04/2004-2005

- The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a Credit from the International Development Association (hereinafter referred to as the IDA) towards the cost of the Rural Transport Improvement Project (RTIP) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contract(s) as mentioned in para-2. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines : Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.
- The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, represented by the Executive Engineer, LGED, Joypurhat invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction and completion of the following works :

Name of the work	Contract Package No.	Bid security (Tk.)	Time for completion (Days)	Price of bidding document (Tk.)
Improvement of Balighata UP Office-Jibonpur-Baghjana UP Office Union Road (Chainage : 2+500 to 11+750 km)	Joy/UR-23	3,88,000.00	550	4,000.00
Improvement of Akkelpur-Rukindipur UP Office via Jamalganj Charmatha Union Road (Chainage : 0+000 to 9+140 km)	Joy/UR-24	3,25,000.00	550	4,000.00
- The bidders may inspect the bidding documents, obtain further information and clarification at the office of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Joypurhat, Tel : 0571-62542 or the office of the Project Director, RDP-2