

30 lakh peasant families to benefit from Nat'l Agri Tech Project

UNB, Dhaka
Nearly 30 lakh peasant families are expected to benefit through the use of good agricultural practices from production to marketing with the help of newer agriculture technology.

Gobeshona Foundation, Hortex Foundation and the Project Coordination Unit (PCU).
The project covers 120 upazilas of 25 districts, including Mymensingh, Sherpur, Bogra, Faridpur, Jessore, Moulvibazar, Sylhet, Comilla, Narsingdi and Dhaka.

grass and German grass.
The extension objectives will be carried out through forming Common Interest Groups (CIGs) comprising the farmers.
Technology demonstrations are being held among some 18,000 CIGs. Of them, more than 12,000 are crop CIGs, 2,400 livestock CIGs and 3,600 fisheries CIGs.

bicycle and Tk 600 per month.
Some 600 Farmers Information Advise Centre (FIAC) have already been formed under the NATP in 600 union council offices through which the farmers can get advice about their problems.
Besides, some 60 PhD degrees will be offered to the local scientists to enhance their capacity as well as to make human resource development.



Dhaka Wasa workers dig in the middle of Gopibagh RK Mission road to instal sewer pipes almost a month ago, but slow work has been causing suffering to pedestrians and local residents. The photo was taken yesterday.



Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon forms a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday demanding steps to stop food adulteration.

Study of philosophy can eliminate superstitions

Says Tafazzul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The study of philosophy can eliminate all kinds of superstitions through logic and help peace prevail in the world, former chief justice Tafazzul Islam said yesterday.

ing in the country, Tafazzul urged the students and alumni of the department to save the country from this crisis through practicing philosophy.
The DUPDAA at the programme also honoured six members of the association for their outstanding contribution to the society.

cultural personality Laila Hasan were honoured for their achievements at the national level.
Dhaka University Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Harun-or-Rashid and Dhaka University Alumni Association General Secretary Rakibuddin Ahmed also spoke at the inaugural session of the day's programme presided over by DUPDAA President Prof Azizunnahar Islam.

Theatre in Inani beach air

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazaar

Hundreds of kites in the forms and colours of marine creatures, including red tortoises, dolphins, lobsters, jellyfish, mermaids and purple sharks along with rainbow coloured butterflies, cobras, birds and insects flew over the skyline of Inani sea beach in Cox's Bazaar yesterday.

The beach, located 35 kilometres off the tourism town of Cox's Bazar, had its skyline adorned with colours as kites in the forms of living creatures of marine ecosystem soared, fluttered and circled in the air.
A number of local and foreign tourists, who came to the beach on a pleasure trip, enjoyed the fantastic theatre in the sky.

It was a kite festival organised by Chhobir Hat, an organisation of Dhaka-based artists of different fine art institutes.

As many as 22 kite makers and 50 flyers from the capital came here to participate in the festival. Hundreds of children from the local community joined the fiesta.

The enthusiastic viewers, especially children, became more ecstatic when they received some 500 kites from Chhobir Ghar members for free of cost. Their joys knew no bounds.

Kite flying was not the bottom line or focal point of Chhobir Ghar, rather it was aimed at giving the children a place to spread their dreams inside their minds, said noted cartoonist Bipul Saha, a member of the organisation.

Like many other things, the tradition of kite flying is also on the extinct. With it, the dreams of children to soar with their minds are also becoming lost as well. The aim of the festival is to give those children a world to hover on their dreams, he added.

20 injured in clash between police, farmers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between farmers and police on Dhaka-Rangpur highway at Mithapur in the district yesterday morning.

The agitated farmers blocked the highway for about three hours from 7:00am and kept the movement of vehicles suspended with potato sacks and trucks laden with potato over the highway.

Police said a number of farmers blocked Dhaka-Rangpur highway in front of Shah Sultan Cold Store as they failed to store their potato.

Witnesses said the farmers brought sacks full of potatoes in rickshaw vans, motor trolleys and trucks early in the morning to store them at the cold storage, but the refused to keep the potato saying that there is no space.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freedom fighter Md Abdul Hakim Majnu, elder brother of Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque, passed away at his residence in the capital early yesterday at the age of 62.

He had been suffering from cancer for long. He left behind his wife, one son, one daughter and a host of relatives and well-wishers.

He was buried at his family graveyard at Mushuddi in Dhanbari, Tangail, with state honour.

The food minister, deputy commissioner and police superintendent of Tangail and local Awami League leaders were present.

Mosaddek Moyeen

DU CORRESPONDENT

Mosaddek Moyeen Nantu, a businessman in Narayan-ganj, passed away at a hospital in the capital due to a cardiac arrest on Wednesday night at the age of 58, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a host of relatives and admirers.

His jantola will be held at his Jamtola residence in Narayan-ganj after Asr prayers today.

Dr Emdadul Haque

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chaprainwabganj

Dr Emdadul Haque, a medical officer of Nachole Upazila Health Complex, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at his Kanthal Bagicha residence in the town yesterday at the age of 48.

He left behind his wife, one son, one daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Bangladesh Medical Association and Swadhin Bangla Chikitsok Parishad, Chapainawabganj unit, expressed deep shock at the death of Dr Emdad.

Fake currencies seized, 2 held in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday seized fake currencies and arrested two people with note-making accessories from a house at Bakal village under Sadar upazila here.

The arrestees were identified as Habibur Rahman, 32, son of Abdul Bari Mondal of Kumira village at Tala upazila, and Kismat Ali, 45, son of Moinuddin of Machkhola village under Sadar upazila.

Quoting locals, police said Rab-8 members of Barisal contacted the accused in the guise of

buyers and wanted to buy forged notes amounting to Tk 5 lakh in exchange for Tk 2,50,000 about a month ago.

On information, the Rab men raided the house and seized the accessories, including chemicals, four 500 taka notes and offset papers.

The accused had been cheating the people for long, sources said.

Rab-8 Deputy Assistant Director (DAD) Abul Hashem filed a case with Sadar Police Station against the arrestees.

Officer-in-Charge of the police station Hashem Khan confirmed the matter.

Extortion case filed against 5 AL leaders in Borga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Borga

An extortion case was filed against five leaders of Kahalu Upazila Awami League in Borga on Thursday.

Ayub Ali, brother of Krishak League joint convenor Tony of the same upazila, filed the case with Bogra Senior Judicial Magistrate Court, accusing the ruling party leaders of demanding Tk 2 lakh in toll on March 9.

The accused are Kahalu Upazila AL President Helal Uddin Kabiraj, General Secretary Dr Abdul Hakim, Kahalu Upazila Krishak League President Boderuzzaman Khan, Durgapur union AL President Azizul Haque and AL leader Principal Hossain Ali.

The complainant alleged that the leaders asked him to come to the upazila Muktijodha office on March 9 evening and demanded Tk 2 lakh brandishing sharp weapons. They also warned him of dire consequences, sources said.

Ayub said some of these leaders chased AL lawmaker Khadija Khatun on February 24 and he had protested the incident, which might have been the reason behind the demand for money.

The court asked the police to investigate the incident.

Death anniversary

DU CORRESPONDENT

Today is the ninth death anniversary of Rawshan Ara Begum, wife of former customs superintendent Ahmad Fazlul Karim, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at Banani graveyard after Zohr prayers. Relatives and friends are requested to attend the programme.

WEATHER TODAY logo with sun and cloud icons.

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry across the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today, with chances of rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind at one or two places over Sylhet division.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:07pm today and rises at 6:09am tomorrow.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 12.0 degrees at Srimongal.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius, Humidity in percentage, Morning, Evening. Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisaha, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.



Former chief justice Tafazzul Islam speaks at the third reunion of Dhaka University Philosophy Department Alumni Association (DUPDAA) at Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) yesterday.

UPDATED DRAFT VOTER LIST Nearly 3 lakh new voters in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A total of 2,90,905 new voters were added to the updated draft voter list in Sylhet division.

The new voters include 1,26,948 women. The division had 50,81,483 voters as per the earlier voter list.

Deputy Election Commissioner of Sylhet division Khondaker Mizanur Rahman told the Daily Star that copies of the draft list are available at the offices of Union Parishad, district and upazila election offices and

ward commissioners' offices in city areas as well as the divisional office of the EC.

The EC will accept petitions containing demands, objections and amendments related to the list until March 23.

Of the four districts in the division, Sylhet added 98,446 new voters, Moulvibazar 56,104 voters Habiganj 60,810 voters and Sunamganj 75,545 to the list.

In the Sylhet city corporation area, 16,775 new voters, including 7,936 women, were added to the updated draft voter list, official sources said.

5 robbers held with firearms in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in five arrested five robbers with five firearms and 24 rounds of bullets in the port city here in the early hours of yesterday.

On information that a group of robbers were preparing for a break-in, the elite force raided Jarga Pukurpar area under Karnaphuli Police Station on the other bank of the Karnaphuli river around 12:00am.

Sensing the presence of Rab members, the criminals tried to flee the scene, leaving their firearms and ammunition scattered at different places of arable fields.

At one stage, the Rab members encircled the robbers

from all sides and managed to catch five of them red-handed.

Later, they recovered four one-barrel sawed-off guns, one locally made light gun and 24 rounds of bullets from their possession, sources said.

The robbers were identified as Hakim alias Akom, 24, Jahangir, 26, Saiful, 28, Abdul Khaleq, 26, and Nazim Uddin, 25.

During an interrogation, the criminals confessed that they had long been involved in robbery at different places under Anowara, Banskhalhi and Patiya upazilas.

Later, the arrestees were handed over to Karnaphuli police. A case was also lodged in this connection.

One killed in clash over land dispute in Panchagarh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

An elderly person was killed and four others, including two women, injured in a clash over a disputed land at Gunjanmarihat village under Atwary upazila here on Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Hafizuddin alias Shukuna, 75, son of late Mogdha Mohammad of Barshalupara village.

Officer-in-Charge of Atwary Police Station Majnu Rahman said Abu Taher, step-brother of the victim, and his accomplices numbering 10-12 attacked Shukuna around 2:00pm while he was watering his Boro field at adjacent Gunjanmarihat village.

Hearing the news, the victim's family members rushed to the spot to rescue him. But the criminals also attacked them, leaving Shukuna dead on the scene and four people critically injured.

Injured Khatijan, 70, wife of Shukuna, her sons Mozibor Rahman, 50, and Foimuddin, 35, and Rafiza Begum, 24, wife of Foimuddin, were admitted to Atwary Health Complex for treatment.

On information, police went to the spot and recovered the body, which was sent to Panchagarh Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Mojibor filed a murder case with Atwary Police Station yesterday, accusing 10 people, including Abu Taher, Murad, Kader, Daraj, Yunus, Azam, Shahidul, Azizul, Kuddus and Hobibor in this connection.