



PHOTO: STAR

Omnivorous in nature, African catfish (left) and South American piranha, pose threat to local varieties of fishes and other aquatic creatures.

Take steps to stop farming of piranha, African catfish

PM gives several other directives in Chandpur

UNB, Chandpur

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked the authorities concerned to take measures against the farming of piranha and African catfish (magur) as these fishes destroy the local fish varieties.

She gave the directives during a view-exchange meeting with the district officials held at the district circuit house.

Deputy Commissioner of Chandpur district Priyotosh Saha presided over the meeting where Principal Secretary MA Karim and Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad were present among others.

The Prime Minister asked the district administration to ensure all sorts of facilities for the people who live in the Char areas.

She said that the water development board should look into the effect of their projects before implementing any new project.

She also said that the paperwork for any development project should be

completed during the monsoon season while the implementation work should be done during the dry season.

Hasina strictly directed the district administration to avoid any sort of corruption and irregularities while distributing rice among the fishermen while they are barred from fishing.

"We have to look after the fishermen's families, especially how they will live during the season when the government restricts them from fishing," she said.

In this connection she said that the amount of rice allocated to each family has been increased from 10 kg to 30 kg per month.

Regarding sand extraction, the Prime Minister said that this should be done in a planned way so that the river is not affected.

She directed the BTCL officials to work sincerely to distribute internet connections at the grassroots level as the government is committed to building a 'Digital Bangladesh'.

The Prime Minister praised the coast guard officials for their extraordinary efforts with limited manpower.

She said that her government will show zero tolerance towards drugs and drugs smuggling.

"Take stern action against drug smugglers and peddlers irrespective of party affiliation and go for drastic action against these anti-social elements," she said.

She also mentioned that there will be a recruitment drive in police administration as they are facing manpower shortage.

The Prime Minister said that her party came to power for the welfare of the people and asked the public servants to work hard for the welfare of the people.

She mentioned that the previous alliance government left the country amid food deficit. "We are committed to ensuring food security."



PHOTO: STAR

Workers busy thrashing and winnowing paddy as harvest of early variety boro has started in Chalan Beel area. Farmers and agriculture officials expect good yield of the crop in the northern districts this season.

13 hurt as AL factions clash

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

At least 13 people were wounded when a group of ruling Awami League swooped on another group at Khunerchar village in Kalkini upazila of the district yesterday.

Condition of seven of the injured were stated to be critical as of their leg tendons were cut.

Critically injured Shahdat, Kalam, Masud, Shahidul, Badal, Shahjahan, Liton, were rushed to Pongu Hospital in Dhaka while the rest to Kalkini Upazila Health Complex.

Locals said, the cadres of Kalkini Thana AL leader Kashem Talukder made the attacks on the men of Bansbari union unit AL leader Badal Talukder over establishing dominance in the area.

Around 30 cadres of Kashem Talukder equipped with sharp weapons, hammers and sticks stormed into the houses of Badal Talukder and attacked his people, police said.

Kalkini police station officer-in-charge Mezbah Uddin Ahmed told The Daily Star that they conducted several raids in the village to arrest the attackers but all the suspects went into hiding.

BOGRA AZIZUL HAQ COLLEGE Fierce clash between BCL factions, 12 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Bogra Azizul Haq College unit clashed on the campus yesterday, leaving 12 from both sides injured.

Of the injured, BCL college unit Convenor Abu Zafar Mohammad Mahmudunnabi Russell and activists Aminul Islam and Palash were admitted to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital.

Campus sources said the trouble began at around 9:00am as the BCL men belonging to college unit Joint Convenor Kamrul Huda Ujjal attacked Russell group over sharing of extra money collected from students during filling up of their examination forms.

The activists of the BCL two factions, equipped with iron rods and sharp weapons, chased each other during the clash that continued for an hour.

Law enforcers, including Rab and police, went to the campus, dispersed the clashing groups and brought the situation under control.

Movement of vehicles on the road in front of the college remained halted for over two hours from 10:30am. Police arrested two BCL men named Russel-1 and Russel-2 on the spot with iron rod and stick.

Russel group said the arrestees belong to Ujjal faction and hail from Dhanu upazila of Bogra district. Both factions blamed each other for the incident.



PHOTO: STAR

Armed activists of Chhatra League chase their intra-party opponents during a clash at Bogra Azizul Haq College yesterday.

Brick kilns flout rules

People suffer from various diseases as smoke polluting environment in Subarnachar in Noakhali

A CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Brick kiln owners in Subarnachar upazila of Noakhali district are flouting government rules, especially regarding burning of firewood, setting up of chimneys and use of land, as there is very lax vigilance by authorities concerned.

As per rule, the brickfield owners can set up their kilns on 1.5 acres of land but they are often using three to five acres of land for the purpose.

Although government rule makes it mandatory to set up 120-foot permanent chimney in the brickfields, only 25-foot tin chimneys are being used and it causes emitted smoke to pollute environment in a much larger scale around the brickfields.

Locals alleged that almost all the brick fields in the area are violating government rules under the very nose of the law enforcers.

During a visit to Aman Brick Field at Halim Bazar, some 200 yards away from Char Jabbar police station and Subarnachar upazila administrative building, this correspondent found that smoke billowing out of the chimneys was seriously polluting the environment.

People living near the brickfields, especially children

and elderly people, are often affected with various diseases including bronchitis and asthma, according to local doctors.

Claiming that he does not use 'local wood' in the brickfield, Haji Abdul Kashem, owner of Aman Brick Field, said, "I have been running the

brick field in compliance with government rules for the last eight years."

Local people, on the other hand, said the brick field has never used coal since its setting up although some coal has been kept in front of the kiln for a long time.

The law provides for up to

10 years jail and some fine for flouting the rules but it sees hardly any implementation in the district.

People of Subarnachar upazila have demanded immediate intervention for the local administration for safety of people and environment in the area.



PHOTO: STAR

Huge logs are kept for burning at a brick kiln, only 200 yards from the Subarnachar upazila administrative office.

DERAILMENT Rail link with Ctg cut off for 9 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Railway communications between Chittagong and other parts of the country remained snapped for nine hours from 3:10am yesterday following derailment of a freight train at Lalmai Station in Comilla.

Train communication, however, restored at around 12:10pm after two relief trains from Akhaura and Laksham cleared the track, removing the derailed wagons and engine.

Ibrahim Khalil, divisional manager of Bangladesh Railway (east zone), said two wagons and the locomotive (engine) of a Shantahar-bound wheat-laden goods train derailed at Lalmai Station as its driver moved on ignoring signal.

Thousands of passengers faced untold sufferings due to disruption to train services. Udayan Express, which left Sylhet at 9:10pm on Saturday, remained stranded at Lalmai Station for nine hours, railway sources said.

Passengers of Dhaka-bound Subarno Express, which left Chittagong Station at 7:30am, also suffered a lot since the train was stranded near Lalmai station for over two hours.

A four-member committee headed by Divisional Transportation Officer Moksudul Rahman was formed to probe the accident. Other members of the committee are Divisional Mechanical Engineer Md Mohiuddin, Divisional Engineer (I) Abul Kalam Chowdhury and Divisional Signal and Telecom Engineer Sushil Kumar Halder.

2 CU teachers hurt as stones hurled at bus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two senior teachers of Chittagong University (CU) were hurt as unidentified people threw stones at a CU teachers' bus in the city yesterday morning.

Professor Salam Ullah Bhuiyan, chairman of CU marketing department and provost of Shahjalal Hall, and Professor Ismail Mia of zoology department got injuries in their arms during the incidents, CU Proctor Prof Dr Jasim Uddin said.

They received treatment at CU Medical Centre.

"Three policemen including me on a CNG-run auto-rickshaw were escorting the CU-bound bus from Aturer Depot area. As the bus crossed Kulgaon City Corporation Girls High School at Baluchhara Bazar, some youths started throwing stones at it. We chased the culprits but they managed to speed away," Havilder Md Mostafa of Oxygen Police Box said.

TOXIC MILL WATER ENTERS CROP FIELDS Farmers block road to protest pollution

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Farmers put up blockade at Bharaduba on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Bhaluka upazila from 11:00am to 3:30pm yesterday protesting flow of toxic water from a textile mill in their crop fields.

Toxic water from Experience Textile Mills at Bharaduba has been affecting their crop lands for years, said farmers.

The toxic liquid caused much damage to boro crops this year, they added.

Yesterday's road blockade caused immense sufferings to hundreds of passengers from

Jamalpur, Sherpur, Netrakona, Kishoreganj and Mymensingh districts.

Later local lawmaker Dr M Amanullah along with Bhaluka upazila nirbahi officer, the officer-in-charge of Bhaluka Police Station and others visited the spot and persuaded the agitating farmers to withdraw the barricade.

At a discussion held at the mill, its authority agreed to compensate the victims soon and make alternate arrangement to drain out the toxic water in a planned way so that crop lands are not affected, police said.

The mill will remain closed till the conditions are not

fulfilled, they added.

"Boro plants on some 2000 hectares of land were affected this year due to toxic flow from Experience Textile Mills," Deputy Director of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) Md Mozammel Haque told this correspondent.

A DAE team visited the spot in the beginning of this boro season and submitted report to the authority concerned. A team from Forest and Environment Ministry also visited the affected area a month ago, said DAE sources.

Offer to invest US\$ 12 billion (BDT 84 thousand crore) in 8 mega infrastructure projects in Bangladesh on BOT basis, led by Professor (Dr.) Masum Billah.



Through the greater initiative and efforts of Dr. Masum Billah and his team Mr. Mir Anisuzzaman, Mr. Raymond, Dr. Mahdi Asgari, Mr. Wiskey, Mr. Stefano and others, series of meetings have been held for months between Dr. Masum and several world renowned investors, contractors, Project Management teams, Technology suppliers and other relevant groups from Malaysia, China, Hong Kong, Germany, USA, Dubai, Singapore, France, Canada and Italy for the possibility of offering their team contributions towards an effective development of several Mega Projects of Bangladesh with standard B.O.T. arrangement. The primary focus of the initiative is to help Bangladesh to be a proud nation in a globalized world.

After serious thoughts and several mutual discussions, it has been finally agreed among the team members to offer their utmost cooperation with a team spirit (consortium) to undertake 8 mega projects of Bangladesh to be developed on B.O.T. arrangement with a maximum offered value is USD 12 Billion (84 thousand Crore Taka).

The proposed 8 projects are:

- i) Monorail / LRT in 6 major cities;
- ii) High Way with Toll (DK-CTG-DK);
- iii) Padma Bridge - 2 - along with the High Way & Toll (DK-BNPL-DK);
- iv) Selected Power Plant Projects;
- v) Computerization of Education System, Financial System & National ID;
- vi) Low Cost Housing Projects with High Rise Towers;
- vii) Micro-financing System to create Bangladesh as an Entrepreneur based nation; and
- viii) Health Care Project (Mini-Hospitals Nationwide).

The opportunities for the development of these projects are available with 100% foreign investment, technology, experts, efforts and management to create Bangladesh a nation with pride and prosperity in the modern world of advance technology. All these possibilities and achievements are greatly depending on the green signal with required support and cooperation from the Government, Local authorities and legal protection.

Dr. Masum is the Former Director of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce & Industry in charge of Global Trade and Investment Cooperation (OIC Countries) besides he is an internationally renowned Scholar, writer of world class several text books at various University levels, presenter, Professor, Viewer, Director and Chairman of a Business Consortium.