



PHOTO: STAR

As the rains turn char (newly emerged landmass) areas of the Padma River green with grass, buffaloes find a happy occasion to graze to their heart's content. The photo was taken from Rajshahi city recently.

Doctor beaten up, health complex locked as patient dies unattended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Locals and relatives of a patient beat up a doctor and locked Sreepur Upazila Health Complex following death of the patient at the hospital for lack of treatment yesterday.

Relatives said Arjina, 14, daughter of Daliluddin of Char Maheshpur took poison in the morning and was admitted to the health complex in a critical condition at around 7:00 am. As no doctor was present at the hospital, she remained unattended for an hour and died, they alleged.

Arjina's death angered her relatives who along with locals locked the main gate of the hospital and chambers of the doctors. They also besieged the

health complex and beat up a doctor who tried to enter the health complex around 9:00am.

Hearing the news, Civil Surgeon (CS) Dr Humayun Molla with a police team from Sreepur Police Station reached there at around noon. He assured the agitating people of taking action against the doctors responsible for death of the patient.

Contacted, administrative officer of the health complex Abdul Karim said the civil surgeon ordered to hold up nine doctors' salaries and allowances.

The civil surgeon told this correspondent that apart from holding up salaries and allowances of the doctors, departmental action would be taken against them.

TEN SOUTH-WESTERN DISTRICTS

Early jute harvest starts for handsome profit

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

The farmers in south-western districts have started harvesting jute at an early stage as the prices of the cash crop shot up to Tk 1,500 to 1,800 per maund (40 kilogram), which is more than their expectation.

In the current season, the farmers of ten districts of the region cultivated jute on 207,180 hectares of land against the target of 108,351 hectares set by the Department of Agriculture

Extension (DAE), as last year's price of Tk 1,000 to 1,200 per maund, was seen as 'quite satisfactory', DAE sources said.

Against this backdrop, jute cultivation this season has appeared as more profitable than other crops for the farmers in the region.

Several farmers said higher prices this season has encouraged them to harvest jute early although they usually reap it between late August and September.

DAE Jessore regional office sources said last year they had set target to produce jute on 124,900 hectares of land while the farmers brought 115,938 hectares of land for the purpose.

Farmers in major jute markets like Sailkupa, Langalbandh and Bhatai Bazar in Jhenidah district, Mohammadpur, Naldi, Dariapur, Sripur and Nakole in Magura district, and Khoksa and Kumarkhali Bazars in Kushtia district are

now busy with the newly harvested fibre as 40 to 50 maunds of jute are brought to each market on weekly 'market days'.

Several jute farmers at Bhatai Bazar in Sailkupa upazila under Jhenidah district said although they are receiving optimum price for their product, the quality of 'immature' jute is not up to the mark.

In this season, Kushtia, Jessore, Jhenidah, Magura, Narail, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Satkhira, Khulna and Bagerhat districts saw jute cultivation on 37500, 28140, 24598, 34020, 20073, 24600, 23950, 9930, 3081 and 1288 hectares of land respectively, DAE sources said.

A number of farmers talking to this correspondent said they have been facing problem to rot jute for want of sufficient water in local ditches, rivers and other water bodies.

Asked about the matter, DAE Deputy Director Khokan Chandra Nandi said, "The newly introduced ribbon rating system, which enables jute rotting with much less water and extracting quality fibre, will come to a great help for the farmers. The government has announced allocation of Tk 30 crore for free service of 15,000 ribbon machines to jute farmers in the region. The farmers should get training on the matter."



PHOTO: STAR

A farmer in Jhenidah gathers jute plants near a water body and collects bundles of fibres to take them to local market for sale.

VILLAGES NEAR HAKALUKI HAOR STILL WATERLOGGED

Over 2 lakh suffer due to 'unplanned' dyke

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Over two lakh people of Hakaluki Haor bank villages under Kulara, Juri and Baralekha upazilas in Moulvibazar district are passing days amid sufferings as their houses and croplands have been affected due to flooding from the large water body for two months.

Locals said there is very little initiative from the government to mitigate their sufferings, except insufficient relief materials provided by the district administration.

An unplanned embankment constructed in Pitaitikor Burikiari area under Fenchuganj upazila of Sylhet district in 2004 is responsible for this massive water logging, said people of the affected areas.

They have urged the authorities concerned to remove the embankment to save the people and crops from the flood of Hakaluki Haor.

The embankment blocked passage of water from the haor to Kushiya River. A 70-metre-wide canal was excavated to drain out the haor water to Kushiya River but it is too inadequate for the purpose, locals said.

About 80 percent of boro paddy of last season and the whole of aus paddy in current season have been damaged due to heavy rainfall and onrush of water from hills across the border.

Sources at Water Development Board (WDB) Moulvibazar Circle Office said 460 square kilometre area of 25 unions of Kulara, Juri and Baralekha upazilas has been inundated, affecting two lakh



PHOTO: STAR

A woman along with her two grandchildren wades through the flooded Hakaluki haor bank village Bhukshimul. The photo was taken a few days ago.

14 thousand people and damaging crops on 5825 hectares of land. The number of damaged houses is 8896 while that of damaged ponds and water bodies is 146.

About 60 educational institutions of Juri, Kulara and Baralekha upazilas in Moulvibazar district have remained closed due to the flooding.

Over 700 affected families have taken shelter in 23 shelter camps in three upazilas. The worst affected unions are Bhatapur, Brahminbazar, Kadipur, Bhukshimul of Kulara upazila, Jayfoarnagar and West Juri of Juri upazila, Sujanagar, Talimpur, Daserbazar, Borni and Niz Bahadurpur of

Baralekha upazila. People of the flood-affected areas are now selling their domestic animals to purchase food and to repair houses.

"An influential BNP leader constructed a one and half kilometre-long embankment on Hakaluki Haor in Pitaitikor Burikiari area of Fenchuganj upazila under Sylhet district in 2004. As the unplanned embankment blocked passage of water from the haor to Kushiya River, villages of Hakaluki haor bank in three upazilas of Moulvibazar and three upazilas of Sylhet district have remained affected for long," Sirajuddin Ahmed Badshah, chairman of the Bhukshimul union parishad, said.

"About two lakh people of

Kulara, Baralekha and Juri upazilas of Moulvibazar are marooned. Houses and crop lands of the haor bank villages in the three upazilas have remained under water since floodwater engulfed the area in the last week of May. According to my assumption, the amount of losses including crops, houses, roads etc will be over Tk 1400 crore."

He demanded immediate removal of the unplanned embankment.

After visiting Pitaitikor Burikiari embankment on June 25, Moulvibazar Deputy Commissioner Md Mustafizur Rahman sent a report on the embankment to the higher authority and he is still waiting for instruction on the matter.

'JMB man' kills wife for protesting his activities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police arrested Jalal Fakir, 30, Imam of Bogi Jame Mosque under Sharankhola upazila of Bagerhat district on Friday on charge of attempting to kill his wife Ayesha Akhter, 24.

Ayesha is now fighting for life at Khulna Medical College and Hospital (KMCH) as she sustained serious head injuries.

According to police, Jalal attacked Ayesha as she protested his link with banned militant outfit Jamaat-e-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

Jalal Fakir is also a teacher of a madrasa in Mathbaria upazila of Pirojpur district.

He attacked his wife at 3:30pm on Friday with a large dagger at their bedroom at Bogi village. He cut two fin-

gers of left leg and tendons of right leg after hitting Ayesha Akhter in her head.

Hearing her screams, neighbours rushed to the spot and rescued profusely bleeding Ayesha and admitted her to Khulna Medical College Hospital.

OC Azizul Huq of Sharankhola police station said a case had been filed at 10:00pm on Friday naming Jalal as lone accused. The accused was arrested immediately after the incident, OC said.

The OC, quoting statements of some locals, said Jalal Fakir is an *ehsar* of JMB. Relations with his wife Ayesha got strained when she came to know her husband's closed link with JMB and strongly protested his clandestine activities with other JMB cadres, he added.

In Narayanganj, a newly married housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband at Chamurkandi village in Araihaar upazila on Thursday night, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Shahinur, 19, wife of Abu Bakar of the village.

Police said, Sahinur, daughter of Amjad Mia of Raudgaon village in Sonargaon upazila, was married to Abu Bakar, son of Sanaulah of Chamurkandi village four months back.

Neighbours said, since their marriage Abu Bakar used to torture her for dowry.

On the fateful night Abu Bakar picked up a quarrel with Shahinur over the issue and at one stage he with the help of his family members beater to death.

7 more Jamaat activists held

STAR REPORT

Police arrested seven activists of Jamaat-e-Islami in Dinajpur and Satkhira districts yesterday.

Of them, four were arrested in Satkhira while the rest in Dinajpur.

In Satkhira, law enforcers arrested four Jamaat men, including Kaliganj upazila Ameer Maulana Moslem Uddin, in the afternoon, according our correspondent.

The other arrestees are Ashraful Islam, son of Mohammad Ali of Nengi Faridpur, S M Suja Uddin, son of S M Hossain Ali of Raghurampur, and Md Nuruzzaman, son of Abdur Rashid Sheikh of Bazargam Rahimur in Kaliganj upazila.

Police said they

arrested the Jamaat men as they were planning to carry out subversive activities in the upazila. The arrestees will be produced in a Satkhira court today.

Our Dinajpur correspondent reported that Ghoraghat police arrested three Jamaat activists while they were sticking posters on walls at Dugdugi Bazar at around 5:00am.

The arrestees are Mohammad Abdul Mannan, 45, son of late Hossain Ali, Mohammad Hossain Kabir, 27, son Enamul Haque Shah, and Mohammad Abul Wahid, 48, son of late Kafil Uddin of the upazila.

Police produced the arrestees in a court that rejected their bail prayers and sent them to jail.



Credit Rating Report

Long Term	:	AA
Short Term	:	ST-1
Rating year	:	2009
Date of Rating	:	June 21, 2010

Credit Rating Information and Services Limited (CRISL) has upgraded its rating and assigned AA (pronounced as double A) for long term and ST-1 for short term for the year 2009.

Banks rated AA in the long term are adjudged to be of high quality, offer higher safety and have high credit quality. This level of rating indicates a corporate entity with a sound credit profile and without significant problems. Risks are modest and may vary slightly from time to time because of economic conditions.

Banks rated ST-1 in the short term are considered as the highest certainty of timely payment. Short-term liquidity including internal fund generation is very strong and access to alternative sources of funds is outstanding. Safety is almost like risk free Government short-term obligations.