



A vast field with growing Aman paddy is now under water as heavy downpour during the last five days triggered flash floods in Chalon Beel area of Singara upazila under Natore district.

HEAVY RAIN IN NATORE

Aman on 800 acres at Chalon Beel flooded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Aman plants on around 800 hectares of land have been submerged due to flash floods caused by heavy rain during last five days in Chalon Beel area of Singara upazila under Natore district. Mizanur Rahman Mizan, upazila chairman of Singara upazila parishad, said Aman plants on at least 700 hectares of land have gone under water as the flash flood affected a large area in the upazila. The worst affected areas are Hiyalar Beel, Baria Beel, Bazrar

Beel, Sherkol and the municipality area. The Atrai River has overflowed the bank at Sardanagar in the upazila while locals are trying to protect their Aman plants by putting chunks of earth on the river bank, the upazila chairman said. Aman was cultivated on 56,000 hectares of land in the district this season, said Delowar Hossain, deputy director of the Department of Agriculture Extension in Natore. He, however, could not say clearly about the extent of damage caused by the recent flood. "We may not be able to

harvest the Aman crop this season as the water covered the crop fields. We demand re-excavation of the rivers in Chalon Beel area including the Atrai to save our crops from flooding," said Alamgir Hossain, a farmer of Sherkol village. This time water level of the Atrai increased suddenly, causing flash flood and huge losses of crops, said farmer Alamgir Hossain of Bamihal village. Many farmers are cutting down submerged Aman plants to use those as fodder, locals said.

PHOTO: STAR

Locals resist felling of trees in Thakurgaon

35 trees on govt land allegedly sold at throwaway prices

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

At least 35 fruit bearing trees on a government office premises at Akcha village adjacent to Thakurgaon-Ruhia road have been sold allegedly at throwaway prices. Local people resisted the buyer when he was felling the trees with his workers on Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) compound on Monday afternoon. LGED office and local sources said, 35 different fruit bearing trees were sold earlier to local timber trader Fazlur Rahman at a cost of

Tk20,000. On Monday at about 4:30pm, he along with his workers went to the LGED garden and started to fell the trees. A group of local people went to the place and asked him to show papers. As the buyer failed to show any official order, they forced them to stop the work. Locals including Shaiful Islam and Md Rubel, said the market price of the 35 trees would be at least Tk 1 lakh but the trees were sold at Tk 20,000 without inviting any tender. Despite several attempts, executive engi-

neer of Thakurgaon LGED Shariful Islam could not be contacted as he was not at his office. His cellphone was also out of reach. Assistant engineer of LGED Shujan Kumar Kar said, the office recently took an initiative to plant mango trees at the garden. Three trees were felled to test the soil whether it is suitable for cultivation of Amropali variety. However, he refuted the report of selling 35 trees by the office. Replying to a query, he said as the trees were not of much importance, the authorities sold them without tender.



After getting three star fruit trees felled, the 'purchaser' of 35 fruit bearing trees on the premises of LGED office at Akcha village adjacent to Thakurgaon-Ruhia road had to leave the place in the face of protest by locals on Monday afternoon.

PHOTO: STAR

Nine sued on charge of torturing housewife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A case was filed on Monday with Debhata police station, accusing nine people, including a union parishad member, of torturing wife of a rickshaw-puller at Garanbaria village in Debhata upazila the previous day. Following the case filed by victim's husband Mukul Gazi, police arrested Afsar Ali, a member of Noapara Union Parishad (UP), in Satkhira town. The other accused are Hayat Ali, Sobed Ali, Manirul Islam, Hafija Khatun, Momena Khatun, Ansar Ali, Ensan Ali, and Abdur Rashid of Garanbaria village. Police quoting local people as saying that a group of people led by UP member Afsar Ali, Manirul Islam, Hafiza Khatun and Hayat Ali went to rickshaw-puller Mukul Gazi's thatched house on a roadside khas land at the village at around 11:00am on Sunday. In a bid to take possession of the land, they asked Mukul Gazi and his wife Karima Khatun to leave the place. On refusal, the accused dragged Karima Khatun out of the house, tied her hands to an electric pole and tortured her. Hearing screams, locals came to the spot and rescued Karima. They (locals) said UP member Afsar and his cohorts tried to capture the khas land, evicting the poor family. Satkhira Police Superintendent (SP) Md Habibur Rahman Khan visited the spot Monday morning and ordered police to arrest the culprits. Contacted, officer-in-charge (OC) of Debhata police station Mashiur Rahman said the rest of the accused have gone into hiding. Drive to arrest the culprits will continue, the OC added.

ISHWARDI GOVT COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT FUND BCL cadres vandalise college, beat up teachers for 'share'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Agitated teachers, staff and students of Ishwardi Government College yesterday wore black badge, formed human chain and held a rally on the college premises protesting vandalism and assault on teachers by BCL cadres. They demanded immediate arrest and punishment to the culprits. On Monday, a few unruly activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) assaulted the teachers of the college and vandalised principal's room for not giving them a portion of the college development work fund. Police and college sources said BCL activists led by Abu Sayeed came to the principal's room at about 2:00 pm and asked him to give their 'share'. As the principal refused to entertain their proposal, they vandalised his office and two classrooms of the college. The unruly activists also beat up Md Mozibur Rahman, a lecturer of management and other teachers as they tried to resist their attack on the principal. Contacted, principal Dr Sirajul Islam said the attackers forced me to give them a portion of the local lawmaker's fund for the college. They attacked

my office, vandalised classrooms and assaulted our teachers for not giving in to their illegal proposal, he said. He filed a case with Ishwardi police station on Monday accusing 15-20 people in this regard. College sources said the lawmaker of Pabna-4 gave Tk 2 lakh for the college development work recently. The college authorities decided to conduct the soil work of the college premises with the amount but the BCL activists demanded a share of the money, they said. Contacted, officer-in-charge of Ishwardi police station Kazi Haniful Islam said that a police team

visited the college. He said police raided the houses of the accused several times on Monday and yesterday. "We are trying to nab the culprits", the OC said. Meanwhile, president of Ishwardi upazila unit BCL Md Masud Rana said that the attackers are not BCL leaders. "They are just supporters and activists," he said. "We have formed a committee headed by Ashrafuzzaman Shipon president of college unit BCL, to investigate the matter. If any BCL leader is found involved, he will be punished," Masud Rana said.



Teachers, students and staff of Ishwardi Govt College form a human chain in front of the college yesterday demanding punishment to the BCL cadres who vandalised office and class rooms and assaulted a few teachers of the college, principal's room after vandalism.

PHOTO: STAR

Implement CHT accord fully to ensure peace, good governance

Workshop at Rangamati told

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Participants in a workshop here yesterday stressed the need for full implementation of CHT peace accord to establish good governance in the country. They said access of people to all government and non-government institutions must be ensured to restore accountability and transparency in those organisations. A misconception among the Bangla-speaking people about CHT Regional Council still remains that the institution works only for welfare of the indigenous people. It must be removed through neutral activities of the council, the

participants said. CHT Regional Council (CHTRC) organised the workshop on preparing 'Citizen Charter' for CHTRC in the conference room of Rangamati Hill District Council. Public representatives, civil society leaders, government officials, NGO representatives, journalists and women leaders attended the workshop. Speaking at the workshop, CHT Regional Council Chairman Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma alleged undemocratic attitude of the government is an impediment to full execution of the peace accord. He said the people in CHT are still being deprived of all

government facilities due to politicisation of local government institutions. He urged the civil society leaders, politicians, journalists, public representatives and women leaders to help make the local institutions effective. Robert Stoleman, chief of implementation of CHTDF-UNDP, stressed the need for strengthening local government institutions. Dr Manik Lal Dewan, former chairman of Rangamati Hill District Council, CHTRC member Gautam Kumar Chakma, Ushatan Talukder, president of Adivasi Forum, CHT chapter, mayor of Khagrachhari Municipality Md. Rafiqul Alam, councillor Rokhsana

Akhter, among others, spoke at the workshop. Meanwhile, Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Land Dispute Resolution Commission Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury said establishing peace in CHT will be complicated due to delay in resolving land disputes of the region. Replying to a query about the commission's activities at the commission's Khagrachhari office, he said the indigenous people are not attending the scheduled meetings and helping the commission in resolving land disputes. Land Commission Secretary Abdul Hamid, Registrar Mohammad Hanif were present.

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