



Local organisations bring out a colourful procession in Dinajpur town, right, observe a candlelit vigil on the premises of Swadhinata Bijoy Stambha in Gaibandha town marking International Women's Day yesterday. Similar awareness building programmes were observed across the country.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

4 WAREHOUSES IN DINAJPUR, JOYPURHAT 40,000 tonnes of urea rotting under open sky

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Around 40 thousand tonnes of urea fertiliser, kept under the open sky on the premises of four warehouses in Dinajpur and Joypurhat districts, is gradually losing quality due to long time exposure to the sun.

The huge quantity of fertiliser also remains vulnerable to serious damage in case of sudden rainfall, said officials.

The situation has arisen as there is shortage of accommodation in the warehouses and dealers are dilly-dallying to receive their allocated amounts due to farmers' reluctance to buy the fertiliser following its price hike.

The dealers are not collecting their full allotments as farmers now prefer other types of urea including guti urea to save money, said Md Abdul Mannan, president of Joypurhat unit of Bangladesh Fertiliser Association (BFA).

In Dinajpur district, the warehouses in Parbatipur, Dinajpur Sadar and Birampur upazilas can accommodate 10000, 6000 and 6000 tonnes of fertiliser but 18,300, 16,936 and 12,932 tonnes of urea were kept in the warehouses till Sunday, warehouse sources said.

Department of Agriculture (DAE) officials in Dinajpur said according to their estimate 71,780 tonnes of urea would be required during the Irri-Boro season.

In January and February, 139 distribution dealers under the district collected 15,998 and 21,403 tonnes of urea although they were to



PHOTO: STAR

Huge quantity of fertiliser is kept under the open sky on the premises of this warehouse of Bangladesh Fertiliser Association in Dinajpur Sadar upazila, making the agriculture input vulnerable to damage by sun and rain.

collect 18,000 and 21,403 tonnes respectively, according to the data of DAE of Dinajpur.

The dealers are scheduled to collect 17,412 tonnes of fertiliser in March but none of them collected their allotments as of filing this report yesterday, sources said.

The 2,000-tonne capacity warehouse in Joypurhat has a stock of 12,000 tonnes and so, 10,000 tonnes are left under the open sky on its premises, said officials of Joypurhat unit of BFA.

The demand of urea in

the district for current Irri-Boro season is 15,298 tonnes but most of the 57 fertiliser distribution dealers in the district did not withdraw their full allocation, said officials of DAE in Joypurhat.

Md Anwarul Islam, deputy director of Dinajpur DAE, said the accommodation problem in the warehouses would ease if the dealers collect their allotment timely.

As per agreement, dealers are bound to collect their allotment in instalments and the agreement

can be cancelled if the allotments are not collected, said a few dealers.

But due to price hike of the fertiliser most farmers now prefer guti urea and so, dealers are reluctant to withdraw their allocation thinking that it would remain unsold, they said.

"Quality of fertiliser declines if it remains exposed to the sun for long. And it is vulnerable to serious damage if it rains," said Nazrul Islam, assistant agricultural officer of Dinajpur DAE.

Accused in Lokman murder case attacked at court

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Supporters of slain Narsingdi municipality mayor Lokman Hossain yesterday attacked the accused in the murder case on the local court premises.

Jahangir Alam, a supporter of one of the accused, was injured in the attack.

Sources said, the supporters of Lokman attacked the accused immediately after they came out of the courtroom.

Salah Uddin Ahmed Bachchu, younger brother of post and telecommunication minister Raji Uddin Ahmed Raju and one of the main accused said he along with the other accused came out after appearing before the court.

All of a sudden, a procession, led by lawmaker Lt Col (ret) Nazrul Islam Hiru and existing mayor

Kamruzzaman, attacked on them, leaving Jahangir seriously injured, he added.

The attackers also vandalised the office of the district lawyers' association when we tried to take shelter there, Bachchu said.

On information, Rab members and police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Lawmaker Lt Col (Ret) Nazrul Islam Hiru, however, denied the allegations and said he went there to join a meeting at the deputy commissioner's office.

"I saw a procession entering the court premises but I do not know the people behind the incident", he said.

Md Shahidullah Sikdar, general secretary of the district lawyers association condemned the incident and demanded exemplary punishment of the attackers.

Fire kills woman, her 6-yr-old grandson

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A woman and her six-year-old grandson were burnt to death as a fire broke out at their residence in Sujanagar upazila on Wednesday night.

Hamida Khatun, 60, wife of Zindar Ali of Kadoa Dakkhinpara village in the upazila, and her grandchild Ashim Uddin died on the spot, said police.

The fire originated from a stove at Zindar's house around 9:00 pm, said Md Samsul Haque, officer in-charge (investigation) of Sujanagar police station.

Locals rushed to the spot and put out the blaze in an hour-long struggle.

Zindar also sustained injuries in the fire, which gutted three rooms of the house, the OC said.

Locals claimed that the fire-fighters reached the spot late.

Md. Abul Kalam, in-charge of Sujanagar fire station said that the fire fighters were dousing another fire in Professorpara area at the time of the incident. The fireman rushed to Kadoa village immediately after getting information, he said.

There is just one fire controlling vehicle at Sujanagar fire station. So it was impossible to fight fire at different places at a time, he explained.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Landslide kills one

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A man was killed and three were injured in a landslide in Moheshkhali upazila of Cox's Bazar yesterday morning. On information, police recovered the body of Md Idris, 35, and sent it to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Injured Abdus Sabur, 45, Abu Shamad, 45, and Mohammad Ali, 38, were admitted to the local upazila health complex. Police said a large chunk of earth fell on the workers at a betel-leaf garden at the foot of a hillock at Adharghona village around 8:30am. Md Idris, son of Siraj Miah of the village, died on the spot, said Ranjit Kumar, officer in-charge of Moheshkhali police station.

Youth commits 'suicide'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

An HSC examinee allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at village Khalishkhali in Tala upazila on Wednesday night. The victim was identified as Bappi Das, 20, son of Ganesh Das of village Kola in Kaliganj upazila under Jhenidah district. He was residing at his grand father Niranjon Das's house at Khalishkhali. Quoting locals police said Bappi fell in love with a girl about six months ago. As the parents of the girl, a student of class nine, refused to give marriage with him, he took poison Wednesday evening. He was taken to a clinic at Satkhira town where he died at about 10 pm.

Fugitive convict arrested

UNB, Khulna

Police arrested a fugitive convict in an arms case from his house at Amadi Bazar in Koira upazila early Wednesday. The arrestee was identified as Sanjib alias Sanjit, 30, son of Santosh Das of Jaigir Mahol village of the upazila. A team of police, led by SI Sheikh Shahjahan, raided his house late at night and arrested him. He was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment in an arms case in absentia by a court recently.

Criminal held in Jessore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Police arrested a notorious gang leader at Tejrol village under Bagherpara upazila of the district last night. The arrestee was identified as Askar Ali Joarder, son of Nurul Joarder of Krishnanagar village in Bagharpara upazila. Rafiqul Islam, officer in-charge of Bagharpara police station said, on secret information, they raided Askar's father-in-law's house in the Tejrol village and arrested him. Police said Askar was wanted in a number of murder, robbery, extortion and other criminal cases.

Sad death of a woman

UNB, Sylhet

A housewife, who was an epileptic patient, died after falling into a pond while doing ablution at Sonatola village in Sadar upazila on Wednesday. The deceased was identified as Dilara Begum, 25, wife of Abdul Karim of the village. Police quoting family sources said, Dilara went to a nearby pond of her house in the early hours for ablution to say Fazr prayers. Suddenly she fell into the water body and drowned. Police on information recovered the body and sent it to Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.



COURTESY: BANGLALION

Internet Service Provider Banglalion WIMAX was launched in Noakhali recently. The launching was announced at a press conference there. Chairman of Banglalion Major (Rtd.) Abdul Mannan, Chief Commercial Officer Dr. Md. Shafiul Haque Chowdhury and Head of Market Communications, GM Faruq Khan were present.

UNICEF Vacancy Announcement

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is seeking applications from Bangladeshi Nationals to fill the following positions for Field Operations Section. For detailed Job Descriptions, please visit our website: www.unicef.org.bd

Post Title: 1) Program Officer, NO-A; (Sylhet-1, Rangamati-1) 2 Posts.

Last date of receiving applications: **22 March 2012**

Please mark on the envelope the post applied for and your place of posting preference in order of priority. Only short listed candidates will be invited for written test/interview. Any attempt to unduly influence UNICEF's selection process will lead to automatic disqualification of the applicant.

Application with CV and a copy of filled in P-11 form should be sent to the Chief, Human Resources, BSL Office Complex, 1 Minto Road, Shahbag, Dhaka.

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PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Hindus join rituals at Battala, a traditional place for celebrating Dol Utsab, ahead of a festival relating to Lord Krishna, in Gopalganj town yesterday.

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