



PHOTO: STAR

Thousands of sacks of urea fertiliser stacked under the open sky on the premises of Gaibandha buffer stock godown remain vulnerable to clotting and quality deterioration due to exposure to dense fog and drizzle.

Fertiliser kept under open sky in Gaibandha

Buffer stock godown lacks space, damage feared due to exposure to dense fog

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Huge urea fertiliser allocated for the cultivation of rabi and boro crop in this current season is kept under the open sky due to space shortage in the buffer stock godown in Gaibandha district.

If kept in the open for long, the fertiliser may get clotted and deteriorate in quality due to exposure to dense fog and drizzle, said fertiliser dealers.

The Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sought allocation of 58,000 tonnes of urea for Gaibandha district in this crop season. Of it, 29,052 tonnes is meant for boro

farming. Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) allocated 9,117 tonnes for January, 11,657 tonnes for February and 8,268 tonnes for March. The district buffer stock authority has already received supply of 9,485 tonnes of fertiliser.

The authorities pressed 4,500 tonnes of fertiliser into the 2,000-tonne capacity buffer stock godown while around 5,000 tonnes has been kept in the open space on the godown compound.

On Monday, 25 more trucks loaded with fertiliser reached the buffer stock premise as part of the ongoing process of fertiliser supply from BCIC.

Hyder Ali, in-charge of

the district buffer stock, said they have no godown of their own. BCIC leased the existing buffer stock godown from BADC that is assigned to distribute fertiliser among the dealers.

"In last boro season, huge fertiliser clotted in the buffer stock godown and the dealers filed complaint with BCIC, as farmers declined to accept such fertiliser. The authority did not take initiative regarding the matter and the dealers stopped drawing fertiliser despite the threat of license cancellation," said Aatur Rahman, a fertiliser dealer in the municipality area.

"Fertiliser kept in the open space for long may clot

due to dense fog and rain. Farmers do not want to buy such fertiliser as they face problem while spraying it in the crop field," said Abdul Latif Hakkani, vice-president of Gaibandha fertiliser distributors association.

"Most of the fertiliser needed during boro and rabi season is distributed from the buffer stock. Every year we face difficulty with huge amount of fertiliser for want of adequate godowns. The higher authority was informed of the matter on several occasions, but no step has been taken to solve the problem as yet," said Mir Md Abdur Razzak, deputy director of DAE, Gaibandha.

Clash over bazar committee election leaves 10 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

At least 10 people, including two policemen, sustained bullet injuries during a clash between two rival groups over election to Duttapara Bazar Committee in Sadar upazila on Monday night.

Police said the supporters of the two groups-- one led by Duttapara Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Nur Hossain Shamim and the other by former UP member Aziz--locked in the clash while vote counting was going on at

around 9:00pm.

The trouble began when Shamim came to the bazar on receiving information that their men were lagging behind of their rival candidates in the vote counting.

Aziz's men protested the presence of Shamim and had an altercation with his supporters. At one stage, both sides swooped on each other. They exchanged fire during the clash that lasted for one and a half hours.

Being informed, police rushed to the spot and tried to bring the situation

under control, but they also came under attack. Police fired blank shots and rubber bullets, dispersed the clashing groups and brought the situation under control.

Two motorbikes also torched during the clash. UP Chairman Shamim blamed Aziz men for the incident.

Identity of the injured could not be known. The election committee postponed vote counting due to the clash. No one was arrested in connection with the clash as of 5:00pm yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

The area comprising the makeshift houses of workers of a brick kiln and stacks of raw bricks got flooded as an embankment made for dredging to maintain navigability in the river adjoining Mawa Ferry Terminal-1 in Munshiganj collapsed yesterday allegedly due to unplanned work by Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority.

Abducted teacher murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Fulchhari police yesterday recovered the body of kidnapped schoolteacher Hafizur Rahman from remote Char Kauyabadha in Fazlupur union of Fuchhari upazila under the district, seven days after his abduction.

On December 19, a gang of robbers attacked passengers of a country boat bound for Chithulia Digor Government Primary School in Mollarchar union.

The passengers included two bank officials and a few teachers who were going for distribution of Tk one lakh 93 thousand 250 as stipend among the students of ten primary schools in the char (landmass emerged from riverbed) area.

The armed robbers snatched away the cash from two officials of Rupali Bank Ltd, Gaibandha Branch, and kidnapped teacher Hafizur Rahman before fleeing the scene.

The criminals also mercilessly beat the passengers, badly injuring three of them.

A case was filed with Fulchhari police station but Hafizur Rahman remained traceless.

Informed, police rushed to Kauyabadha in Fazlupur union and recovered the abducted teacher's body yesterday. Fulchhari police station officer in charge Abdul Mannan said, adding that the body was sent to Gaibandha Hospital for autopsy.

None was arrested in this connection.

Double-murder in Naogaon: 2 suspects remanded

UNB, Naogaon

Two people, detained in connection with a double murder case, were placed on a two-day remand on Monday.

Chief judicial magistrate Mohammad Hasanuzzaman passed the order when Shamir Chandra Sutra Dhar, sub-inspector of Sadar Police Station and also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, produced Nazrul Islam and Abu Bakr Siddique in the court.

Meanwhile, locals expressed their frustration as police failed to unearth clues to the murder of a woman and her son in the town eight days ago.

Nita Sarker Pinki, 38, wife of Jayanta Kumar Sarker, Naogaon branch manager of Southeast Bank, and her only son Joytu Sarker, 6, were killed at their flat at Ukilpara in the town on December 17.

The investigation officer (IO) said Pinki's car driver Nazrul and the flat's security guard Abu Bakar have been detained, suspecting their involvement in the murder.

Investigation will come to an end soon and the killers will be arrested, the IO added.

Rice trader mugged

UNB, Bogra

Muggers looted Tk 7.45 lakh from a rice trader in Mirzapur Ambagan area of Sherpur upazila on Monday afternoon.

The victim, Samar Dutta, is the owner of Sanchoy Enterprise at Chandaikona in Raiganj upazila of Sirajganj district.

Samar said he along with his employee Gopal Basak was returning to his business house in a bus after withdrawing the money from Islami Bank Sherpur branch.

As the bus reached the area, a microbus from the behind and another car from the front side intercepted the bus at around 2:45pm.

The muggers boarded the bus and took away the money from Samar.

Month of Victory

Mural of martyred teenage freedom fighter demanded

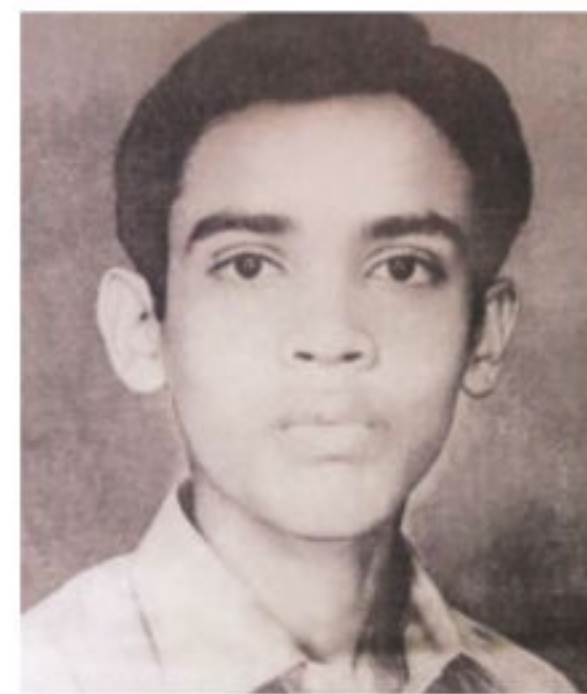
PONUEL S BOSE, Narail

Local freedom fighters have demanded setting up a mural with the portrait of martyred freedom fighter Mizanur Rahman.

Then an intermediate first year student of Lohagara Degree College, Mizan joined the Liberation War after receiving some training at the local level.

His fellow freedom fighter Sayem Ali described the scene of his martyrdom.

"As Md Siddiqur Rahman, then a teacher of Narail Victoria College, also serving as a collaborator of the Pakistan occupation army, sent a message to the freedom fighters that a group of Pak army and their local collaborator Rajakars would surrender at his Masimdia village house in Narail Sadar



Mizanur Rahman

upazila, freedom fighters led by Mizanur Rahman went there on December 9 in 1971 when the treacherous enemy ambushed us.

"At one stage, the freedom fighters had to retreat. Suddenly Mizan turned back alone and hurled a grenade at the enemy but it did not burst. Then a bullet pierced his chest and he died on the spot," said Sayem, who was captured and mercilessly beaten by Razakars that day.

"After that the enemy hung Mizan's body with a bamboo pole, marched the town with it and arranged a 'photo session' at Narail Chowrasta to get wicked pleasure. We heard that they buried Mizan at Narail town graveyard. But the grave could not be detected yet," he said.

The next day, the freedom fighters got reorganised and attacked the camp of Pak army and Rajakars on the compound of Narail Water Development Board, forcing them to surrender.

"We want setting up a mural with the portrait of Mizanur Rahman to keep his glorious sacrifice alive in the mind of the new generation," said Mizan's fellow freedom fighter Sayed Moniruzzam, now financial affairs secretary of Narail district unit of Muktiyoddha Sangsad.

Locals fear house collapse as mindless sand lifting on

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Local people of Khanshapara in Gobindaganj upazila feared their houses might be collapsed into a large ditch at any time created due to mindless sand lifting.

The ditch is becoming deeper day by day due to continued sand lifting by the authorities concerned for setting up a cluster village, causing serious threat to the adjacent 15 houses in the area, said locals.

Government allocated about Tk one crore for setting up the cluster village on a khas wetland in the area to accommodate destitute people, said sources.

Niberon Chandra, resident of Khanshapara village, said "We repeatedly urged the authorities concerned to shift the location of sand lifting, considering the problem, but they turned a blind eye to the matter".

We informed the project




PHOTO: STAR

Continuous sand lifting with a dredger creates a large and deep ditch, posing threat to the adjacent houses at Khansamapara village in Fulbari union of Gobindaganj upazila under Gaibandha district.

implementation officer (PIO) about the matter but to no effect, said Santunu Kumar Dev, chairman of Fulbari union parishad. Contacted, PIO Nayab

Ali said "If their houses face threat of collapse, they can shift them to a safer place as they have been living on the land illegally for long".



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