

Flood damages aman seedlings in Lalmonirhat char villages

Farmers worried over acute green fodder crisis

A large number of farmers in the district are worried about aman cultivation this season as the recent flood damaged the seedlings in Teesta and Dharla river basin char (landmass emerged from riverbed) areas under the district.

Meanwhile, high prices of hay, oilcake and wheat bran have thrown the cattle farmers into serious problem from the beginning of rainy season as floodwater damaged grasslands, said farmers.

Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) officials in Lalmonirhat said the recent flood damaged aman seedlings on 20 acres of land and advanced variety of the crop on 35 acres of land.

Local sources, however, said the area of damaged aman seedlings would be much larger than that recorded by the DAE.

Nesar Uddin, 55, a farmer of Madhya Goddimari village of Hatibandha upazila, said,

"I prepared seedlings on 20 decimals of land to cultivate aman paddy on two acres of land in this current season but all the seedlings got damaged due to inundation for five days.

"The land will remain uncultivated, if I fail to procure aman seedlings from the local market by this month of July," he said.

Abdul Mazid, deputy director of the DAE in Lalmonirhat, said damage of the seedlings will not affect aman cultivation as farmers will get enough seedlings in the local market.

The recent flooding also



PHOTO: STAR

Aman seedlings lie damaged at a field of Madhya Goddimari village in Hatibandha upazila under Lalmonirhat district and inset, a cattle farmer of Char Gobordhan village in Aditmari upazila under the district has a bleak look as fodder crisis grips the area due to flooding of nearby grasslands.

damaged large areas of grasslands as well as haystacks, said Narayan Chadro Barmon, 55, a farmer of Shiberkuti Char village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

Now one maund of hay is selling between Tk 350 to 400 in the local market against Tk 170 to 180 a month ago.

Failing to purchase hay,

fodder as the flood had washed away our preserved haystack, said Narayan Chadro Barmon, 55, a farmer of Shiberkuti Char village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

Now one maund of hay is selling between Tk 350 to 400 in the local market against Tk 170 to 180 a month ago.

Failing to purchase hay,

oilcake and wheat bran at high prices from the local market, many cattle farmers are selling their domestic animals for low prices, locals said.

The recent flash flood has damaged all the grass fields of 60 char villages at Teesta and Dharla river basin areas in Lalmonirhat in the district, said Ziaul Haque, representative of

an NGO in Lalmonirhat Sadar.

It will take months for new grass to grow, said Dr Abu Hossain Sarker, Lalmonirhat district livestock officer.

Around five thousand farmers of the 60 char villages in the district rear about 40 thousand cattle, said sources at the livestock office.

FOUR UNIONS OF KURIGRAM Erosion by Jamuna devours 200 homesteads in 3 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Erosion by the River Jamuna took a serious turn, devouring around 200 homesteads and a vast tract of croplands at different villages in four unions under Daulatpur upazila in the last three days.

The worst affected villages are Islampur, Bashail, Munshikandi, Jotkashi, Beparipara, Fakirpara and Rahatpur in Baghutia union, Chuadanga, Hajipara, Kacharipara and Uttarkhanda in Bachapara union, Wahed Alir Para, Gobindapur, Noker Ali Matborer Para, Baghpara and Mandalpara in

Charkatari union and Baratia, Amtoli and Boinya in Jionpur union.

The erosion-hit people have already taken shelter on government roads and high lands, said an official of Water Development Board (WDB) in the district.

A number of educational institutions, markets and mosques of the area are under threat of erosion, said Md Akter Hossain, chairman of Baghutia union parishad.

Despite repeated pleas, the authorities are yet to take any steps to check the erosion, said the chairman.

Manikganj WDB sub-divisional engineer Md

Abdur Razzak said they already dumped sandbags at different points to thwart the erosion.

Golam Parwar, management and maintenance officer of WDB, said they wrote to the authorities for funds but yet to get any response.

Meanwhile, erosion by the River Dhaleswari has eroded a large number of homesteads, and vast tract of farmlands and orchards at Sreedharnagar village in Ghorupazila.

Local people formed a human chain on the bank of the river on Thursday, demanding immediate steps to stop the erosion.



PHOTO: STAR

Erosion by the Jamuna River has taken a serious turn, devouring croplands and homesteads in five unions of Daulatpur upazila under Manikganj district during the last couple of days. The photo was taken from Baghutia in the upazila on Thursday.

Three held for illegal tree felling

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police arrested three people on charge of illegally cutting down roadside trees at Nijnatabari village in Dhunat upazila of the district yesterday morning.

The arrestees are Goffar Hossain, 55, son of Babar Ali, Iman Ali, 35, son of Akkel Ali and Amzad Hossain, 30, son of Geda Mondol of the village.

Gaffar engaged two labourers—Iman Ali

and Amzad—to fell three big trees beside Dhunat-Goshaibari Road. After cutting down two of the three trees, local informed the police.

Being informed, law enforcers rushed to the spot and arrested Gaffar, Iman and Amzad on charge on illegal tree-felling.

Contacted, officer-in-Charge (OC) Shahjahan Pasha of Dhunat Police Station said police will file a case as complainant against the three.

Nasaka frees all 24 fishermen

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Myanmar's border security force Nasaka has freed all the 24 Bangladeshi fishermen they abducted from the bordering Naf River in Teknaf upazila.

Sources said the fishermen reached Naitong Para terminal of the river in Teknaf Sadar at about 8:00pm on Sunday.

Battalion Commander Lt Col Zahid Hasan of 42 BGB in Teknaf told this correspondent yesterday that Nasaka on Friday detained 21 Bangladeshi fishermen along with six boats while fishing on the Naf River. The next day they abducted three more fishermen in the afternoon, he said.

BGB on Sunday sent two letters to its Myanmar counterpart protesting the matter and calling to sit in a flag meeting.

Nasaka did not respond to the letters but freed the fishermen on Sunday night. The freed fishermen are Abdul Mia, 45, Nur Bashar,

35, and Nur Yunus, 30, three sons of Joynal Abedin of Dakkhin Jallya Para under Teknaf municipality, Md Yasir, 14, and Kala Mia, 13, two sons of Nur Bashar, Omar Faruq, 14, son of Abdul Mia, Mohammad, 28, son of Abul Mahajan, Mohammad Abdullah, 25, son of late Abdul Moteleb, Md Ayub, 30, son of Md Akbar, Abua, 22, son of Hossain Zohar, Abdul Karim, 30, son of Md Hossain, Fazal Ahmed, 26, son of Kamal Hossain, Md Morshed, 26, son of Abul Hashem, Md Hashim, 35, son of Md Kader, Kamal Hossain, 12, son of Hamid Hossain, Abu Syed, 28, son of late Noor Hossain, Ali Ahmed, 25, son of Kala Mia, Md Fayeze, 35, son of Md Hossain of Uttar Jallya Para, Nazir Ahmed, 32, son of Imam Hossain, Ismail, 30, son of Abu Taher, Amir Hossain, 27, son of Nurul Islam and Md Alam, 17, and Md Selim, 15, son of Amir Hossain and Md Zahid of Naitong Para village.

Man arrested on charge of cheating job seekers in Sunamganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police arrested a man in Sunamganj Sadar upazila yesterday on charge of realising Tk 35.42 lakh from 27 people in the name of sending them to Saudi Arabia on job visas.

The arrestee, Md Sohel Ahmed, hails from Rabarbari village in the upazila.

Police said Sohel took Tk 35.42 lakh from 27 people of Rabarbari and its adjacent villages on November 11, 2011 promising to send them to Saudi Arabia for jobs.

As Sohel failed to send them on repeated dates, he assured them of giving the money back within a shot time at a local arbitration on July 13 last year.

However, instead of returning the money back, he threatened some of his clients over phone for the last few months, alleged the victims.

Later, one of the job seekers Md Farid Miah filed a complaint with the police superintendent on July 8.

A police team, led by Sub-Inspector Habibur Rahman, raided the house of Sohel early yesterday and arrested him.

Two outlaws killed in mob beating in Pabna

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two cadres of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) were killed in mob beating while trying to commit a robbery at Bilchakra village in Santhia upazila early yesterday.

One of the deceased was identified as Biplob Hossain, 28, son of late Kadu Pramanik of Dohorzani village in the upazila, while the identity of another could not be known, reports our Pabna correspondent.

Police said the outlaws were the activists of PBCP Janajuddho faction and Biplob was wanted in two murder cases.

Shahid Mahmud, officer-in-charge of Santhia Police Station, said armed cadres of the outlawed party stormed into Noni Gopal's residence at the village at

around 12:30am.

Hearing the news, locals rushed to the spot and chased the gang. They caught two of the gang members and beat them up, resulting in their death on the spot, the OC said, adding that the remaining cadres however, managed to flee.

Police sent the bodies to Pabna Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Our Munshiganj correspondent adds: A man was killed and his father injured by a gang of robbers at their house at Suapara village in Sadar upazila of the district early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Foysal Bhuiyan, 28, son of Chunnu Bhuiyan, 75.

Foysal's elder brother Farhad Bhuiyan said a gang of armed bandits stormed into their house at around 2:00am and hit his father

Chunnu Bhuiyan with sharp weapons.

As Foysal came forward to save his father from the robbers, they also stabbed him, leaving him critically injured, Farhad added. The gang confined Farhad to an adjacent room.

They vandalised the house and left the scene. Critically injured Foysal and his father Chunnun were rushed to Tongibari Upazila Health Complex where the doctors declared Foysal dead.

Officer-in-Charge M Shahidul Islam of Munshiganj Sadar Police Station said they are trying to unearth whether the incident was a robbery or an armed attack as a sequel to previous enmity.

Law enforcers have already launched a drive to arrest the culprits, the OC added.

Youth's body found near border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) recovered the body of a Bangladeshi youth from Nagor River near Dharmagarh border under Ranishankoil uazila of the district yesterday.

Identified as Abarat Ali, 27, he was son Mozammel Haque of Moradhar village under Haripur upazila of the district.

Major Kazi Alamgir, operation officer of BGB-30 Battalion told this correspondent over cellphone that local people saw a floating body on the river near the border and informed the BGB members.

A team of the paramilitary troops went to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital for autopsy, he added.

A company commander level flag meeting was held in the afternoon on Dharmagarh border where the BSF denied killing of the youth.

18 fishermen abducted in Bhola

A CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

Robbers abducted 18 fishermen from a trawler at Tagar Char point of the River Meghna in Monpura upazila early yesterday.

Harunur Rashid, owner of the trawler, said a gang of armed robbers swooped on the trawler led by Nayan Majhi and abducted the fishermen to realise ransom.

In another incident, a gang of robbers stormed into a trawler near Kalamer Char area. They threw three fishermen into the river and left the scene, locals said.

Man gets life for killing wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

A Netrakona court yesterday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for killing his wife.

The convict is Abul Kashem of Pashchim Chalipura village under Barhatta upazila.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Md Abdul Hamid also fined the convict Tk 20,000, in default he is to suffer another two years in jail.

According to the prosecution, Kashem killed his wife Jyotsna Akhter, 25, following a family feud on June 3, 2000.

After examining the witnesses and evidence, the judge found Kashem guilty and pronounced the verdict.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS



PHOTO: STAR

Vice Chancellor of Begum Rokeya University in Rangpur Prof AKM Nur-un-Nabi poses with teachers, students and officials of the institution in front of Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall after inauguration of the female students' hall of residence, the first one on the campus, on Sunday afternoon.

Sad death of siblings

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Two siblings died after taking 'toxic' seeds of a jackfruit at Tunirhat village in Sadar upazila of Panchagarh district on Sunday evening. The dead were identified as Mojidul, 4, and his sister Sumi, 3, children of Md Babul of the village. Family sources said the duo found the seeds of the fruit on the road near their house. They ate them and felt severe stomach pain. Both later died on the way to Panchagarh Sadar Hospital.

10 shops gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail

More than 10 shops were gutted in a fire at Tularampur Bazar in Sadar upazila early yesterday. Locals said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at a shop and soon engulfed the adjoining shops. On information, fire brigade from Narail Sadar station rushed to the spot and doused the flame after two hours of frantic efforts. The affected shop owners claimed that the loss caused by the fire could go up to Tk 30 lakh.

Man electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A construction worker died from electrocution at Anarpur village in Dhunat upazila on Sunday. The deceased was identified as Golap Hossain, 45, son of Cheru Pramanik of Ratni Para village. Golap was electrocuted while he was trying to start the water motor at a newly built house in the area and died on the spot, said Shahjahan Pasha, officer-in-charge of Dhunat police station.

Rickshaw puller murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A rickshaw van puller was found dead in Chirirbandar upazila yesterday. The deceased was identified as Md Ayeaz Uddin, 38, son of late Obar Uddin of Charjamaatpara village. Locals found his body at a brick field in the area at 11:00am and informed police. The body was recovered and sent it to Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital morgue for autopsy. Police suspected that Ayeaz was murdered as the body bore several marks of injury.

Journo hurt in attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A journalist was injured in an attack in Phulbari upazila yesterday. Victim Md Rezaul Islam Babul, 52, is a local correspondent of daily Manabzamin. He is now under treatment at the upazila health complex. Bablu said he went to Katabari village and was attacked by Md. Fizarul Islam Bhutto, 30, and Md Shafiqul Islam, 28, of the upazila following a phone call. The attackers also took away his camera and cash, he said. A case was filed accusing two people in connection with the attack.

Woman killed by husband

UNB, Sathkira

A woman was killed allegedly by her husband at Kamalnagar village in the district early yesterday. The deceased was identified as Sabina Yasmin, 28, mother of two children and wife of Monirul Islam of Bhadrakhali village in Shyamnagar upazila. Monirul used to reside at a rented house in the area. Tariqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Sathkira Sadar Police Station, said Sabina was strangled by her husband following an altercation over a family feud.