

SEEDLINGS DAMAGED BY FLOODING

Farmers planting gainja aman to recoup losses

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, Bogra

The farmers of Sariakandi upazila, the worst affected area in the district due to the recent floods, are trying to recoup the losses due to the natural calamity, thanks to the cultivation of late aman paddy *gainja*, especially in the *char* (landmass emerged from riverbed) areas.

After the receding of the floodwater, the farmers started planting *gainja*, a latest variety of sweet smelling paddy especially developed for the *char* areas,

along with other crops in the damaged T-aman fields.

The variety ripens within 75-80 days of planting in the Jamuna Basin char areas of Sonatala, Sariakandi and Dhunat upazilas under Bogra district, said Salauddin Sardar, upazila agriculture officer of Sonatala.

No irrigation and fertiliser is needed for its cultivation and the yield is 10-12 maunds per bigha (33 decimal) of land, he added.

Sariakandi upazila agri-

culture office sources said, different crops on at least 9,327 hectares of land were damaged in the flood that also destroyed T-aman seedbeds of 110 hectares out of 180 hectares of land.

The farmers are cultivating paddy with the saplings from the remaining 70 hectares of land that is mostly in highland areas of the upazila, they added.

The farmers are now busy in planting *gainja* in the silty *char* lands and cultivation of the variety on 2225 hectares

of land in Sariakandi upazila has been targeted, said sources of the Department of Agriculture Extension.

With the initiative of Abdul Mannan, lawmaker of Bogra-1 (Sariakandi and Sonatala) constituency, 200 farmers of Sariakandi upazila were provided *gainja* saplings free of cost for a bigha of land each on Saturday, said Sohel Mohammad Shamsuddin Firoz, upazila agriculture officer of Sariakandi.



PHOTO: STAR

With recession of floodwater, farmers in Sariakandi upazila of Bogra have started planting T-aman saplings of 'gainja' variety in their farmland to recoup the losses. This photo was taken from Debdanga area in Kutubpur union of the upazila yesterday

Punish killers of Bishakha

Protesters demand in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A human chain was formed in New Court Building area of the district town yesterday, protesting the killing of an indigenous woman in the town last month.

Stop Violence against Women (SVAW), Rangamati unit of an NGO, organised the programme in the morning.

The participants said, the government is failing to ensure security of life to the ethnic women in hill areas. Women of the area often fall victim to sexual assault, harassment and killing as the perpetrators most of the time go unpunished.

Over a month into the incident, police were yet to arrest the killers of Bishakha Chakma, 26, a mother of a baby girl, they said.

They demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to the killers of the woman.

Tuku Talukder, chairperson of SVAW, Prakriti Ranjan Chakma, president of Adivasi Forum, CHT unit, Nai E Prue Merry and Chuai Thui Marma, president of Marma Student's Council, spoke.

On August 13, Bishakha went out of her house and went missing. Later her body, wrapped in a sack, was found floating in the Kaptai Lake in Parjatan area on August 20.

EROSION BY MEGHNA

200 houses devoured in two villages of Bhola

A CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

Over 650 acres of croplands and around 200 houses including at least four mosques and a madrasa were devoured by the mighty Meghna at Char Padma and Char Munshi villages in Daulatkhan upazila in the last twenty days.

Meanwhile, the government housing project for the poor built at a cost of Tk 20 lakh is now under threat of erosion.

Affected by full moon, Meghna became furious from September 1 and devoured over 20 to 30 ft areas everyday, said locals.

Milon Patwari of Char Munshi village said his shop along with 35 others at Dastagir Bazar and Baitul Mogbul Jame Mosque in the area went into river a few days ago.

Another resident of the same village,

Shahjahan Munsi, said he lost his 16 acres of croplands due to the erosion.

Abul Khayer of Char Padma said at least 180 homesteads in the area were devoured by the river.

Fazlul Haque Saha Forkania Madrasa, Saiaadatul Jame Mosque of Char Munsi and Daulatbari Jame Mosque and Noor Jame Mosque of Char Padma went into the river during the period, said Nasiruddin Nannu, chairman of Madonpur union parishad.

We informed the local Water Development Board (WDB) about the situation and urged sought immediate steps to check the erosion, he said.

Abdul Hekim, executive engineer of WDB, said they were helpless as they have nothing to do in *char* lands due to lack of any prior planning.



PHOTO: STAR

Erosion by the River Meghna devoured Dastagir Bazar at Char Munshi village in Daulatkhan upazila of Bhola district a few days ago.

TUESDAY'S MANIKGANJ VIOLENCE

JCD chief among 4000 sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Two cases were filed against 144 identified and 3000 to 4000 unidentified people on charge of attacking policemen and attempting to kill them in the district town on Tuesday.

The accused include Masud Parvez, president of Manikganj district unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, said Aminur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Sadar police station.

Of the cases, one was filed by sub-inspector

Dipankar Roy while another by SI Kahirul Islam of the PS. At least four alleged attackers were arrested. They are Delwar Hossain, 33, son of Manikganj Mia and Masud, 44, son of Nasir Ullah of Pashchim Dashora of Manikganj municipality area, Roni, 26, son of Khorsed Ali of Char-garpara village in the upazila, and Shahidur Rahman, 42, son of Abdul Halim Dewan of the area.

The accused attacked a police patrol team, led by SI Habibur Rahman and four others on Shahid Rafique

road in the town during the Tuesday's mayhem, said the OC.

However, at least 25 people were injured when police charged batons and fired rubber bullets to disperse locals demonstrating for uninterrupted gas supply to the town in the morning.

The injured include town municipality Mayor Ramzan Ali, his wife Afroza and Shahanur Islam, the district correspondent of daily Naya Diganta.

Witnesses said, a procession led by Ramzan Ali, was brought out from Bijoymela

ground at around 10:30am, demanding uninterrupted gas supply to the area.

But police intercepted the procession near the residence of Manikganj deputy commissioner in Khalpar area when they tried to march towards the local Titas Gas office by force.

Police fired teargas shells, rubber bullets and charged batons to disperse the processionists when they reached Manikganj Sadar Hospital gate near Dhaka-Aricha highway, leaving at least 25 people injured including Ramzan.



PHOTO: STAR

The Padma turned turbulent and hit the Mawa launch terminal for the third time since August 19 this year, devouring at least two shops and displacing the terminal yesterday.

JCD leader injured in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A local leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was injured allegedly in a gunfight between his aides and policemen in Kobirajgoli area in Sonaimuri upazila early yesterday.

Two policemen, including Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury, a sub-inspector of Sonaimuri police station, also sustained minor injuries during the 'gunfight'.

Bullet-hit Nazrul Islam, 24, son of Abul Kashem, and president of JCD unit of ward no 8 of the upazila was admitted to Abdul Malek Ukil Medical College Hospital.

Ashraful Islam, officer-in-charge of Sonaimuri Police Station, said Nazrul Islam was accused in nine cases, including a case for killing Arif Hossain, joint convener of Amisapara union unit of Jubo League on September 7, was arrested from Sonkhola intersection of Chittagong port area on Tuesday around 1:00pm.

According to his confession, police went to the area to recover arms around 1:30am. On their way back from the spot, Nazrul's cohorts opened gunshots towards the police. In retaliation, police also fired back, triggering a gunfight that left Nazrul bullet injured.

Later, police recovered one pipe-gun, a locally made pistol and 6 bullets from the spot.

Two AL men hurt in bomb attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Two Awami League (AL) activists were seriously injured as a gang hurled bombs at Ramnagar village in Gangni upazila of Meherpur on Tuesday night.

Injured Anarul Islam, 45, and Muzibul Islam, 35, were the members of Bhabanipur union unit of AL. Reazul Islam, officer-in-charge of Gangni Police Station, said criminals hurled two bombs on them near Taltola field at Ramnagar village, when they were going to Daulatpur upazila of Kushtia by a motorbike around 9:45pm.

Anarul sustained injuries in the face and right hand while Muzibul in the right hand and two eyes, said the OC.

Transport strike postponed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Transport workers in the district have postponed their indefinite transport strike until Saturday.

After 30 hours of the strike, MA Majid, general secretary of both Rangpur divisional and district unit of Sarak Paribahan Shramik Federation, announced the decision at 12:00pm yesterday at a press conference held at Dhaka bus stand in Kamapara area of the city.

"Considering the sufferings of admission seekers in the public universities we have decided to postpone the strike for 72 hours until 2:00pm on Saturday," said Majid.

STORM HITS SCHOOLHOUSE IN MAY

Kids continue to suffer for want of repair

MAMUN-UR-RASHID, Bogra

Students of Bilnothar Government Primary School in Sherpur upazila of the district attend classes under the open sky as the schoolhouse, badly damaged by a storm in May this year, is yet to be rebuilt.

Established in 1973 on the bank of the Bangalee River, three classrooms and the office room of the tin-roofed school were damaged by a nor'wester on May 22, forcing the teachers to teach around 210 students on the premises of the school.

While visiting the institution in the remote area under Khamarkandi union of the upazila recently, this

correspondent found the students attending classes in an open space under a tree.

Headmistress Mahamuda Begum said, academic activities of the institution are being hampered due to lack of classrooms. "As per advice of the upazila education officer, I submitted an application to the upazila project implementation office for reconstruction of the storm-damaged schoolhouse more than three months ago, but to no effect yet," she alleged.

Abdul Kuddus, a member of the school managing committee, said their repeated appeal for reconstruction of the school fell on deaf ears of the local

administration. He urged the authorities concerned to build a concrete schoolhouse as soon as possible.

Upazila Primary Education Officer Masud Rana said they have already informed the education department and the director general (DG) of primary and mass education of the matter and sought funds for construction of a new school building.

Meanwhile, local lawmaker Mohammad Habibur Rahman recently procured two tons of wheat as help for the school. The wheat was sold for Tk 54 thousand to rebuild the school soon sources said.



PHOTO: STAR

Kids of Bilnothar Government Primary School in Sherpur upazila of Bogra take lessons in the shades of a tree as their schoolhouse, damaged by a storm in May, was yet to be repaired.

Acid thrown on housewife for dowry in Magura

Another killed in Sirajganj

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A housewife sustained severe burn injuries in an acid attack allegedly by her husband for dowry at Chittabisrampur village in Mahammadpur upazila of Magura on Tuesday.

The victim was identified as Kabita Begum, 22, wife of Sumon Miah, a resident of the same village, reports UNB.

Sheikh Matiar Rahman, officer-in-charge of Mahammadpur Police Station, said Sumon, son of Shahid Miah, married Kabita, daughter of Shahin Khan, a resident of Baoujani village of the same upazila, five years ago.

After their marriage, Sumon demanded a substantial amount of money as dowry from Kabita and often tortured her for it.

Recently, Sumon started forcing Kabita to bring the money from her parents.

On the fateful night, Sumon picked up a quarrel with Kabita over the issue and at one stage threw acid on her, leaving her body badly burnt.

Different parts of her body, including face, chest and legs, received burns.

Critically injured, Kabita was admitted to local upazila health complex. Sumon went into hiding after the incident.

In Sirajganj, a housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband and in-laws over dowry at Machhiakandi village in Salanga upazila early Tuesday, reports our Pabna correspondent.

The deceased was identified as Chayna Khatun, 26, wife of Md Sakhawat, a

resident of the same village.

Rezaul Haque, officer-in-charge of Salanga Police Station, said Sakhawat, son of Abdul Hakim, had married Chayna, daughter of Abu Sayeed Khandakar, a resident of Mehmanshahi village of the same upazila, 10 years ago.

During the time of marriage, Sakhawat demanded Tk 2 lakh as dowry.

Later, he took Tk one lakh from Chayna's family. Recently, Sakhawat and his family members started forcing Chayna to bring the rest Tk one lakh from her family.

Failing to get the money, Sakhawat and his family members beat up Chayna mercilessly in the dead of night, leaving her dead on the spot.

Later, they hung the body with the ceiling of the house and went into hiding.