



A despaired farmer of Dhappgram in Sariakandi upazila under Bogra district sees his wheat field that was ravaged by hailstorm early yesterday.

Hailstorm damages crops in Bogra, Jhenidah

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Hailstorm coupled with rain left different crops on vast tracts of land damaged in Bogra and Jhenidah districts yesterday.

In Bogra, chilly, wheat, maize, vegetables, lentils and paddy on vast areas of land were damaged as the hailstorm lashed different char areas of Jamuna River basin under Sariakandi upazila early yesterday.

Besides, a number of trees and houses were uprooted or damaged during the storm that lasted for about 10 minutes, reports

our correspondent.

Farmer Emdadul Haque of Dhap area in the upazila said the hailstorm left chilly on his two bighas, wheat on one bigha and pumpkin on 28 decimals of land damaged.

Upazila agriculture office sources said chilly on 2, 100 hectares of land, lentils on 1,300 hectares, wheat on 1,000 hectares, maize on 350 hectares, boro paddy on 350 hectares, vegetables on 145 hectares and other crops on about 300 hectares, got damaged during the storm.

Besides, at least 80 houses were completely and 150 houses partially damaged.

The damage caused by the hailstorm could go up to Tk 2 crore, said the sources.

Upazila Agriculture Officer Md Kamruzzaman suggested that the affected farmers be prepared for next cultivation.

Meanwhile, the hailstorm damaged crops on 540 hectares of land in three unions under Sonatola upazila, said sources at the agriculture office of the upazila.

According to our Jhenidah correspondent, lentil on 2000 hectares, wheat on 650 hectares, banana orchard on 200 hectares, maize on 100 hectares and buds of litchi and

mango on 100 hectares of land were damaged as the hailstorm lashed 12 unions in Moheshpur upazila the same day, said Upazila Agriculture Officer Abu Talha.

Of them, the worst affected unions are Natima, Jadabpur, Manderbaria and Swaruppur, said Upazila Nirbahi Officer Nasima Khatun.

The hailstorm lasting for about one hour from 3:00am caused heavy loss to the farmers in the areas, said the UNO.

Farmer Emadul Islam of Sundarpur village said lentil on his 25 decimals of land got damaged completely during the storm.

111 fishermen return from Indian jail

A CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

One hundred and eleven Bangladeshi fishermen returned home yesterday after serving different jail terms in Indian prison.

Of the returnees, 61 are from Cox's Bazar, 18 from Patuakhali, 17 from Barguna, 13 from Bagerhat and one each from Bhola and Barisal districts.

Shamshernagar Police in South 24 Parganas district in the Indian state of Paschimbanga handed over the fishermen and five fishing trawlers to Shyamnagar police near the bank of the Kalindi River in the upazila at around 1:45pm.

Aminul Islam, officer in charge of Shyamnagar Police Station, said Indian coastguards detained the fishermen with five trawlers when they entered the Indian territorial waters illegally for fishing at different times.

They were later produced in a court that sent them to jail, the OC said, adding that the Indian authorities released the fishermen on expiry of their jail terms.

BGB destroys drugs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Border Guard Bangladesh destroyed 4375 bottles of foreign wine, 454 bottles of phensidyl, 370 kg hems and 17 bottles of bears in Srimangal BGB camp area under Srimangal upazila of the district on Wednesday.

Source said, the border guards in separate drives seized the drugs worth Tk one lakh from different areas.

Nasir Uddin Ahmed, director of BGB-46 Battalion, confirmed it.

Thousands suffer as bridge work lies half done

Human chain in Manikganj demands early completion of the bridge over Kaliganga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Thousands of people joined a human chain on the bank of the Kaliganga River at Bewtha in the district yesterday demanding early completion of under construction Ramzan Ali Bridge that saw only half of the work done despite expiry of the scheduled time a year ago.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is implementing the 297-metre-long bridge

with Tk 40.55 crore from the government and Navana Construction Ltd is constructing the bridge, sources said.

The construction work started on August 4 in 2013 and it was scheduled to complete by February 4 this year but it sees less than half of the work till now.

Manikganj municipality Mayor Md Ramzan Ali along with a few ward councillors also took part in the human chain that continued for half an hour from around 11:00am.

They warned of tougher programme if the construction firm fails to complete the work within next June.

Engineer Alamin Sheikh in-charge of the construction firm, said the supply of stone, cement, sand and rod is being hampered due to continued blockade and frequent hartals enforced by BNP-led 20-party alliance.

The work will hopefully complete in June, said Mofiz Uddin Bablu, Manikganj Sadar upazila engineer of the LGED.



PHOTO: STAR

Cross section of people join a human chain at Bewtha in Manikganj district yesterday demanding early completion of the bridge at the spot. The bridge over the Kaliganga River sees less than half of the work done although the deadline according to the schedule expired on February 4.

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Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA)
UTC Building (level-8)
8 Panthapath, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215

Illegal brick kiln sealed, another fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

The district administration in a drive sealed an illegally set up brick kiln in Badarganj upazila of the district on Wednesday.

Another brick kiln in the area was fined Tk 50,000 for violating the environment rules.

Executive Magistrate Md Rafiqul Islam said they sealed AUB brickfield for running without licence from the Department of Environment (DoE) and fined PBM brickfield for violating the environment rules.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Khondkar Ishtiaque Ahmed was present during the drive.

Domestic help beaten dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A domestic help, who was beaten up allegedly by his employer at Sumitpur village in Kawkhali upazila on Tuesday, died at the upazila health complex yesterday.

The deceased is Tuhin Hawladar, 20, son of Jahangir Hawladar, a resident of Uttar Nilti village in the upazila.

Shahin Hawlada, younger brother of the deceased, said Tuhin had long been working as a domestic help at the house of one Jakir Hossain alias Selim at Sumitpur village and not been paid by his employer for the last few months.

On Tuesday night, Tuhin had an altercation with Selim over his wages and at one stage, some local youths led by Selim beat him up mercilessly, leaving him critically injured, Shahin said.

They later poured poison into his mouth and took him to Kawkhali Upazila Health Complex around 4:00am. Tuhin died at the health complex around 5:00am yesterday morning.

Following a case filed by the victim's father with Kawkhali Police Station, law enforcers arrested Selim.

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