

CYCLONE KOMEN HITS COAST



PHOTO: STAR/ BANGLAR CHOKH

Pashchim Para of Shah Parir Dwip in Teknaf under Cox's Bazar district gets flooded by tidal surge caused by cyclone Komen that also left a trail of devastation in the coastal area yesterday.

Vietnamese pangas sees successful farming

MD AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Cultivation of White Muscle Pangas brought from Vietnam bears bright prospect in the country as it is a good source of protein and a potential export item.

Dr Harunur Rashid, a professor of Fisheries Management Department of Fisheries Faculty of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), along with his research team is working to popularise the variety.

After start of its cultivation in the country three decades ago, Thai variety of pangas became favourite among local consumers but in recent years, its popularity declined due to its odd smell and high amount of

fat, said Dr Harun.

As pangas is a good source of animal protein for common people, fishery scientists looked for its other varieties that would interest local consumers, he said.

"After successful research of our team, the white pangas with less smell and less fat is now being cultivated commercially at several places of the country. The fish is also a potential export item," said the scientist.

Four former students of BAU fisheries faculty took a project for commercial cultivation of pangas at their farm in Phulbaria upazila of Mymensingh district in 2011, sources said.

"We collected some 1200

pangas fry from Vietnam in 2011 and reared those in natural water body for three years. Later, we got around 250 matured fishes and got some 20 lakh fry from them in 2015," said Abdul Kadir Tarafder, managing director of the farm.

"We involved our teacher Dr Harun with the research work and he guided us to make the project a success. We started selling pangas fry in the market from January this year and so far sold some 10 lakh fry at Tk 1.25 to Tk 1.50 per fry.

"Businessmen from different areas of the district are coming here to buy the fry. The cultivation process is the same as Thai pangas but the cost is less and the market price is higher," said

Tarafder.

The fish is produced mainly in Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia and China, he said.

"The nature and climate of Bangladesh is suitable for cultivation of white pangas. It can create self-employment for thousands of people. It has great demand in Western countries and so, arrangement for its export will boost our economy," said Nadim Ahmed Chowdhury, another researcher of the farm.

Around 25 tonnes of pangas can be produced in a one-acre pond, he said, adding that students from BAU fisheries faculty often visit the farm for conducting research.



PHOTO: STAR

White Muscle Pangas cultivated at a farm in Phulbaria upazila under Mymensingh district.

Kurigram farmers increasingly interested in arum cultivation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

A section of farmers in the district have started growing arum as it has become a profitable crop and cultivation costs are low.

Makbul Hossen, 47, an arum farmer of Talukkalao village of Kathalbari union under Kurigram Sadar upazila said "I have cultivated arum of the mukhi variety on five bighas of raised land and am expecting bumper production. I planted the arum seed in the third week of January and harvest began in the third week of July."

"The variety grows well on land with good drainage. I am a vegetable farmer, but I have been cultivating arum for some years and getting better profits at lower costs," said Makbul.

"I have spent Tk 80 thousand for arum cultivation and have to spend Tk 30 thousand more for harvesting. I am expecting a net profit of around Tk one lakh 30 thousand as the market

price is high. If I had cultivated paddy on the land then I would make a profit of only Tk 15 thousand," he added.

Shawkat Ali Sarkar, deputy director of the Department of Agriculture Extension said "Arum is an

environment-friendly, poison-free and nourishing crop. The agriculture department has been advising farmers on cultivating arum of the high yield variety."

"Over 343 hectares of land for Mukhi Kachu and over 100 hectares for Pani

Kachu have been used for cultivation of arum in the district this year. We advise farmers to cultivate Pani Kachu in marshlands where other crops do not grow well. Arum cultivation is increasing here every year, and farmers are becoming



PHOTO: STAR

Makbul Hossen at his arum field of Talukkalao village in Kathalbari union under Kurigram Sadar upazila.

Elephants kill two in Rangamati

UNB, Rangamati

Two people were killed and another was injured in an attack by wild elephants at Shiber Aga village in Longodu upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Mozammel Hossain and Nurul Haque.

Abdul Gaffur Chowdhury, chairman of Bogachotor Union Parishad, said a herd of wild elephants stormed the houses of the area in the early morning, killing the two.

The animals also damaged three houses in the area.

Three drown, 5 missing in B'baria boat capsizes

UNB, Brahmanbaria

Three people, including two members of a family, drowned and five others went missing as a boat capsized in the Chetora River in Sarail upazila of the district yesterday.

Two of the deceased were identified as Fatema Begum and her daughter Shefali. Identity of another could not be known till 5:00pm yesterday.

Witnesses said the boat sank immediately after it left Dubajail ghat in the upazila around 8:30am due to strong current in the river caused by the influence of Cyclone Komen.

Local people recovered the three bodies from the river while five people remained untraced.

Two traffickers arrested

UNB, Khagrachhari

Police in a drive arrested two alleged human traffickers at Rashiknagar village in Dighinala upazila of the district on Wednesday.

The arrestees are Khalilur Rahman, 50, and Ripon Miah, 24.

On secret information, a police team led by Additional Superintendent of Police Enayet Hossain Mannan raided the village around 7:00pm and arrested the two from their house.

Khalil is the ringleader of the human trafficking gang and he had long been involved in human trafficking in the district, said police.

Lightning kills 2 in Natore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Two people were killed by lightning at Shatakuri village in Singra upazila of the district yesterday afternoon.

The deceased were identified as Rabeya Begum, 35, wife of Mohammad Bachchu, and Kalpona Khatun, 12, daughter of Abdul Kuddus of the village.

Police said both were struck by a thunderbolt while fishing in a canal nearby their houses around 5:00pm. They

Jhalakathi couple held for raping college girl, spreading nude photos

Minor girl raped in Khagrachhari

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Police yesterday arrested a couple in Rajapur upazila under Jhalakathi district on charge of spreading naked photographs of a college girl after raping her while a youth raped a ten-year-old girl in Dighinala upazila under Khagrachhari district on Wednesday.

Our Jhalakathi correspondent reports: The arrestees in Rajapur rape case are Dulal Mistry, 38, of Pashchim Kanudaskathi of Rajapur, and his wife Purnima Mistry who, according to the victim, helped Dulal to rape her, said Munirul Gias, the officer in charge (OC) of Rajapur Police Station.

"Two months ago Dulal along with his companion raped the girl at his house with the help of his wife and took some naked photographs of the girl. Recently they gave the girl illicit

proposal again, threatening to expose the photos on internet otherwise," the OC said, referring to the victim.

"As the girl rejected, the criminals spread the photos on several mobile phones. The victim's father on Wednesday night filed a case with the police station accusing five people of the rape, assisting in it and spreading the naked photos on mobiles. The two arrestees were sent to Jhalakathi jail and a memory card, where the photos were stored, was seized from their possession," he added.

Our Khagrachhari Correspondent adds: A ten-year-old Chakma girl, allegedly raped at Jodapanichhara in Dighinala upazila under the district on Wednesday afternoon, is undergoing treatment at Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital.

"An unidentified youth raped her around 4:00pm of

Wednesday when she was alone at Jodapanichhara house. The criminal escaped, threatening her not to disclose the matter," the victim's mother told this correspondent at the hospital.

Sensing unusual illness of the girl at night, her parents inquired into the matter and she told them of the molestation.

They admitted her to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital yesterday morning.

Contacted, Resident Medical Officer of Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital Dr Sanjib Tripura said the girl's medical test report was not available as of yesterday afternoon.

Mohammad Salam, sub inspector of Dighinala Police Station, said he heard of the matter unofficially but nobody filed any complaint in this regard.

Grabbing of temple land sparks protest in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Hindus in Gaibandha formed a human chain along the station road in the town yesterday, protesting grabbing of a temple's land near the stadium recently.

Addressing a rally at the venue, the speakers said the authorities of Gaibandha Adarsha College recently occupied four decimals of land of the temple of Ramkrishna Mission.

Montazur Rahman, principal in-charge of Gaibandha Adarsha College, cut down three

gigantic mango trees worth over Tk one lakh on the occupied land on Wednesday, they said, demanding return of the illegally occupied land and punishment to the principal for felling the trees.

The speakers said they would hold a protest meeting at the ground of the Ramkrishna Mission today, and announce further agitation programme.

Those who spoke at the rally are Ranajit Bakshi Surjo, president of Gaibandha Puja Uddhayan Parishad, Makhan Chandra

Sarker, secretary of Ramkrishna Mission and Temple, journalist Gobinda Lal Das, Pranab Kumar Sarker, Dipok Kumar Pal, Sujana Prasad, Bappi Das, Chanchal Shaha and Palash Chakki.

Participants at the programme threatened that they would not celebrate Janmashtami and Durga puja if the land was not returned and if the persons responsible for grabbing the land were not punished.

Later, they submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner.



PHOTO: STAR

Locals join a human chain organised by Ramkrishna Ashram and Mission Temple in Gaibandha Sadar upazila yesterday protesting illegal occupation of four decimals of land and felling of three mango trees on the endowed property of the temple allegedly by the authorities of Gaibandha Adarsha College. Inset, workers felling a mango tree on the land on Wednesday.

