



PHOTO: STAR

Farmers separate jute fibres from stalks that were kept for rotting in a canal at Paikpara village of Shailakupa upazila under Jhenidah district that saw good yield of the cash crop this year.

GOOD YIELD, FAIR PRICES

# Jute growers are all smiles in 6 western districts

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Good yield as well as good prices of jute makes growers in six western districts happy this year.

Fibre from newly harvested jute started arriving in the local market late June and it is now selling for Tk 1700/1800 per maund (40 kg).

The harvest is 10/12 maunds per bigha.

Regional office of the

Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Jessore said 1,58,125 hectares of land including 29,271 hectares in Jessore, 28,035 hectares in Jhenidah, 27,868 hectares in Chuadanga, 25,735 hectares in Magura, 25,058 hectares in Kushtia and 22,158 hectares in Meherpur district was brought under jute cultivation this year.

"I cultivated jute on two bighas of land this year at a

cost of Tk 15,000 and harvested 22 maunds worth around Tk 36,000," said Anwar Hossain of Monoharpur village in Shailakupa upazila under Jhenidah district.

Another jute grower Afzal Hossain of Doarpar village in Magura Sadar upazila said he has got bumper yield this season and sold 12 maunds of jute for Tk 21,600.

Several big jute traders

of Langolbandh Bazar in Shailakupa upazila said purchase of jute by private jute factories in Faridpur and Jessore region and export of the item to India and Pakistan has contributed to its price rise.

"The farmers of the six districts have got good yield this season. They are getting satisfactory prices too," said the deputy director of DAE in Jhenidah.

# Flooding worsens as major rivers continue to swell

Over 5 lakh marooned in Bogra, Gaibandha, Jamalpur

STAR COUNTRY DESK

The flood situation in Bogra, Gaibandha and Jamalpur districts worsened further yesterday as the major rivers continued to swell.

Around 100 villages in five upazilas of Bogra were flooded as water levels of the Jamuna and Bangalee are on increase in the areas, reports our correspondent.

The affected upazilas are Sariakandi, Sonatola, Dhunat, Adamdighi and Shibganj.

At least 1.2 lakh people in the upazilas have been marooned as Jamuna and Bangalee rivers were flowing 73 and 42 centimetres above the danger marks in the last four days, said local Water Development Board (WDB) sources.

The flood-hit people, who took shelter on the flood control embankment, are suffering due to acute crisis of food, pure drinking water and fodder.

About 13,000 hectares of cropland have been damaged due to the floods, said Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources.

At least 97 schools in the areas were badly affected as floodwater entered the institutions, said District Primary Education Officer Hossain Ali.

The district administration has distributed 130 tonnes of rice and Tk 8.75 lakh among the flood victims, said Additional Deputy Commissioner Khorshed Alam.

Our Gaibandha correspondent reports: Due to heavy rain and onrush of water from upstream, the

rivers continued to swell, inundating at least 367 villages in seven upazilas of the district.

The upazilas are Sundarganj, Sadar, Fulchhari, Saghata, Gobindaganj, Palashbari and Sadullapur.

According to WDB, the Brahmaputra, Ghagot, Karotoa and Teesta were flowing 48, 56, 20 and 24 cm above the danger marks in the last 24 hours.

At least two lakh and 70 thousand people still remained marooned in different remote areas, said the district administration sources.

Boats and banana tree rafts are the lone mode of communication in the

flood-hit areas as the roads in remote areas went under floodwater, said locals.

Away in Jamalpur, with inundation of 49 more unions in seven upazilas, flood situation in the district deteriorated yesterday, reports our correspondent.

The Jamuna was flowing 63 cm above the danger mark at Bahadurabad ghat point in the last 24 hours, leaving over two lakh people marooned, said local WDB sources.

The authorities already shut 140 educational institutions due to the floods, said District Primary Education Office and District Education Office sources.

About 12,963 hectares of croplands in the areas went under water, said Dr Rafiqul Islam, deputy director of DAE in the district.

Meanwhile, the situation in Lalmonirhat district was improving slightly as the Teesta was flowing below the danger mark yesterday, reports our correspondent.

However, the Dharla was flowing above the danger mark at Kulaghat point in Sadar upazila, said WDB sources.

As floodwater in many areas started receding, erosion by the rivers devoured a number of homesteads, croplands and orchards, said Lalmonirhat WDB Executive Engineer Shibendu Khastagir.



PHOTO: STAR

People use banana rafts to move for a safer place with daily necessities from their flooded houses at Gidari village in Gaibandha Sadar upazila yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Sharmin Akhter, a Class IX student of Rajapur Pilot Girls' High School, receives a special award from Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu at Jhalakathi Shilpakala Academy yesterday as Swarno Kishori Foundation patronised by private television Channel i arranged the programme to encourage Sharmin, who boldly resisted her early marriage bid by her mother, to continue study.

## UP chairman held with arms, ammo

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Law enforcers arrested a union parishad (UP) chairman and seized arms, ammunition and illegal drugs from his possession at Niyogbari village in Kazipur upazila of Sirajganj district on Friday.

The arrestee is Md Abdullah Al Mamun Ripon, 40, chairman of Shuvogachha Union Parishad, and son of BNP activist and former UP chairman Abul Talukder.

Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Kazipur Police Station, said a police team, acting on a tip-off, raided Ripon's house at Niyogbari village at

around 6:30pm and arrested him.

They also seized a rifle, seven sharp weapons, 15 bullets, 11 Yaba tablets and eight bottles of phensidyl syrup from his house.

"The chairman possessed the weapons for criminal activities. In primary quizzing, he could not explain the presence of arms and drugs in his house," the OC said.

Two separate cases for possessing illegal arms and drugs were filed against him with the police station on Saturday, the OC said, adding that the UP chairman was sent to jail by the court yesterday morning.

## Youth hacked to death over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A youth was hacked to death by his rivals over a land dispute at West Ratanpur village under Kazirhat Police Station in Mehendigonj upazila of the district yesterday.

The victim was identified as Al Amin Howlader, 35, son of Abdus Salam Howlader.

Locals said Al Amin was the convener of Bidyanandapur union unit

of Jubo Dal.

Shawkat Anwar, officer-in-charge of Kazirhat Police Station, said there had been a long-standing dispute between Al Amin and his cousin Manjur Hawlader over the ownership of a land.

At around 1:00pm, Manjur and his men swooped on Al Amin in Khasherhaat area and hit him with sharp weapons.

Critically injured Al Amin died on way to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barisal.

## Six extortionists held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Law enforcers arrested six youths while they were trying to extort Tk 1 lakh from a local contractor in Nilphamari Sadar upazila on Friday night.

The arrestees are Saiful Islam, Bappi and Amjad Hossain of Shahipara, Ranjon Kumar of Ukler More, and Imran Ali and Reza Hossain of Jummapara area of the town. Police said the arrestees

posing themselves as Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists had been demanding Tk 1 lakh from contractor Maksud Ullah since Tuesday.

Maksud lodged a written complaint with Nilphamari Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on Thursday.

On Friday night, a team of Rab-13 arrested the six while they went to Maksud's construction site in Sutipara area to take the money.

## BID TO RAPE WOMAN BY 2 BCMCL STAFF Locals demand arrest of accused in 15 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Villagers of the areas surrounding Barapukaia Coal Mining Company Ltd (BCMCL) staged demonstration and held a rally yesterday at the mine site demanding arrest of two employees of the company for their alleged attempt to rape a woman.

They also threatened to go for a tougher agitation programme if the accused were not arrested within the next 15 days.

The incident happened on the night of August 14 at the BCMCL workers' union office.

The woman's brother filed a case with Parbatipur Police Station on August 23, accusing Abul Kashem

Shikdar, CBA president of BCMCL and vice-president of CBA Petrobanga unit, and Azgar Ali, plumber (mechanical) of the coal-mine.

Protesting the incident, people from Sahagram, Chowhati, Serpur, Mojidpur and Durgapur, gathered in front of the coal mine at around 11:30am and then brought out a procession.

They also held a rally in front of the mine gate where they alleged that Kashem and Azgar Ali called the woman to his office on August 14 to talk about providing a job for her brother.

"When my sister went there, they (Kashem and Azgar) confined her to a room and attempted to

rape her," alleged her brother.

At the rally, the speakers also alleged that Kashem took money from many people assuring them of jobs at the mine.

A BCMCL official, seeking anonymity, said the company has nothing to do unless Kashem and Azgar are convicted by a court.

Contacted, the accused Abdul Kashem and Azgar said they were innocent.

Official sources said Abdul Kashem Shikdar is now in Dhaka while Azgar Ali is on leave.

Mahmudul Alam, OC of Parbatipur Police Station, said the investigation is going on.

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**Corrigendum-1**

Corrigendum for IFT No. SEIP FD/Furniture/GD-32/146/2015-16/507, dated: 12/08/2015 is hereby carried out as follows:

SI No. & description of IFT	Published information	Revised information
6. Invitation for	Procurement of Furniture for BASIS, BACI and BKMEA	Procurement of Furniture for BASIS, BACI and BKMEA, PKSF and BITAC
15. Tender package name	Procurement of Furniture for BASIS, BACI and BKMEA	Procurement of Furniture for BASIS, BACI and BKMEA, PKSF and BITAC
17. Tender last selling date	08.09.2015	20.09.2015
18. Tender closing date & time	09.09.2015 (2.30pm)	21/09/2015 (3.00pm)
19. Tender opening date & time	09.09.2015 (2.45pm)	21.09.2015 (3.15pm)

**Jalal Ahmed**  
 National Project Director  
 Skills for Employment Investment Program

GD-2909

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**Corrigendum-2**

Corrigendum for IFT No. FD/SEIP/Equipment/GD-20/2015-16/454, dated: 29/07/2015 is hereby carried out as follows:

Clauses	Original	Amended Provisions
17. Tender last selling date	06.09.2015	16.09.2015
18. Tender closing date & time	07.09.2015 (2.30pm)	17.09.2015 (2.30pm)
19. Tender opening date & time	07.09.2015 (2.45pm)	17.09.2015 (2.45pm)
22. Eligibility of tenderer	First bullet: The tenderer shall not be from non-ADB eligible countries and Israel.	The text will be replaced with the following: "The tenderer should be from ADB-member countries as listed in section 9 of the tender document"

**Mr. Jalal Ahmed**  
 National Project Director  
 Skills for Employment Investment Program

GD-2908