

Fertiliser under open sky as warehouse lacks space

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A huge quantity of urea fertiliser is set to be lost due to the cold and foggy weather as bags are piled up in the open in front of the warehouse in the district due to a lack of space inside. The buffer warehouse in Gaibandha was built 36 years ago with a capacity of two thousand tonnes. Since then, authorities have not taken any initiative for construction of another warehouse to accommodate the huge stock of fertiliser delivered from the factory. The district had a bumper production of boro crop and the demand for fertiliser varied from 7,000 to 14,000 tonnes per month in the peak period of boro farming, but the warehouse

cannot accommodate such a huge quantity of fertiliser. Hyder Ali, in-charge of the warehouse, said the district's fertiliser dealers took 40 percent of their stock from the warehouse and the remaining 60 percent from the Jamuna fertiliser factory. But this year, the dealers are totally dependent on the warehouse, as the factory has ceased fertiliser distribution. The warehouse was built according to the demand of that time, but now the requirement for fertiliser has multiplied. The government has decided to construct 13 more warehouses in the country during this fiscal year, but Gaibandha district is not on the priority list, he added.

One hundred and eleven BCIC dealers have been distributing fertiliser among farmers round-the-year. In January, the authorities allocated 10,030 tonnes for boro farming. At present, 8,066 tonnes are piled up in and outside the warehouse, he said. One thousand tonnes of last year's stock have become spoiled due to adverse weather. The spoiled fertiliser is powdered and repacked, but farmers refuse to buy it. "We buy fertiliser from the warehouse and from Jamuna fertiliser factory. We often face harassment during the peak period of boro farming, so cannot get the fertiliser to farmers in due time," said Zillur Rahman Raju, president of the district

fertiliser trading association. He demanded the construction of more warehouses to accommodate additional fertiliser stock, so that quality can be ensured. At least 50 bags of clotted fertiliser still remained unsold, as farmers refuse to purchase it, said Abdur Rashid Sarker, a dealer in Sundarganj upazila. "I have 150 bags of unsold clotted fertiliser, which I could not dispose off to farmers as yet," says Ayub Ali, a dealer in Dhopadanga in Sundarganj upazila. According to the warehouse in-charge, however, the quality of clotted fertiliser remains intact unless it is melted, so farmers need not worry.



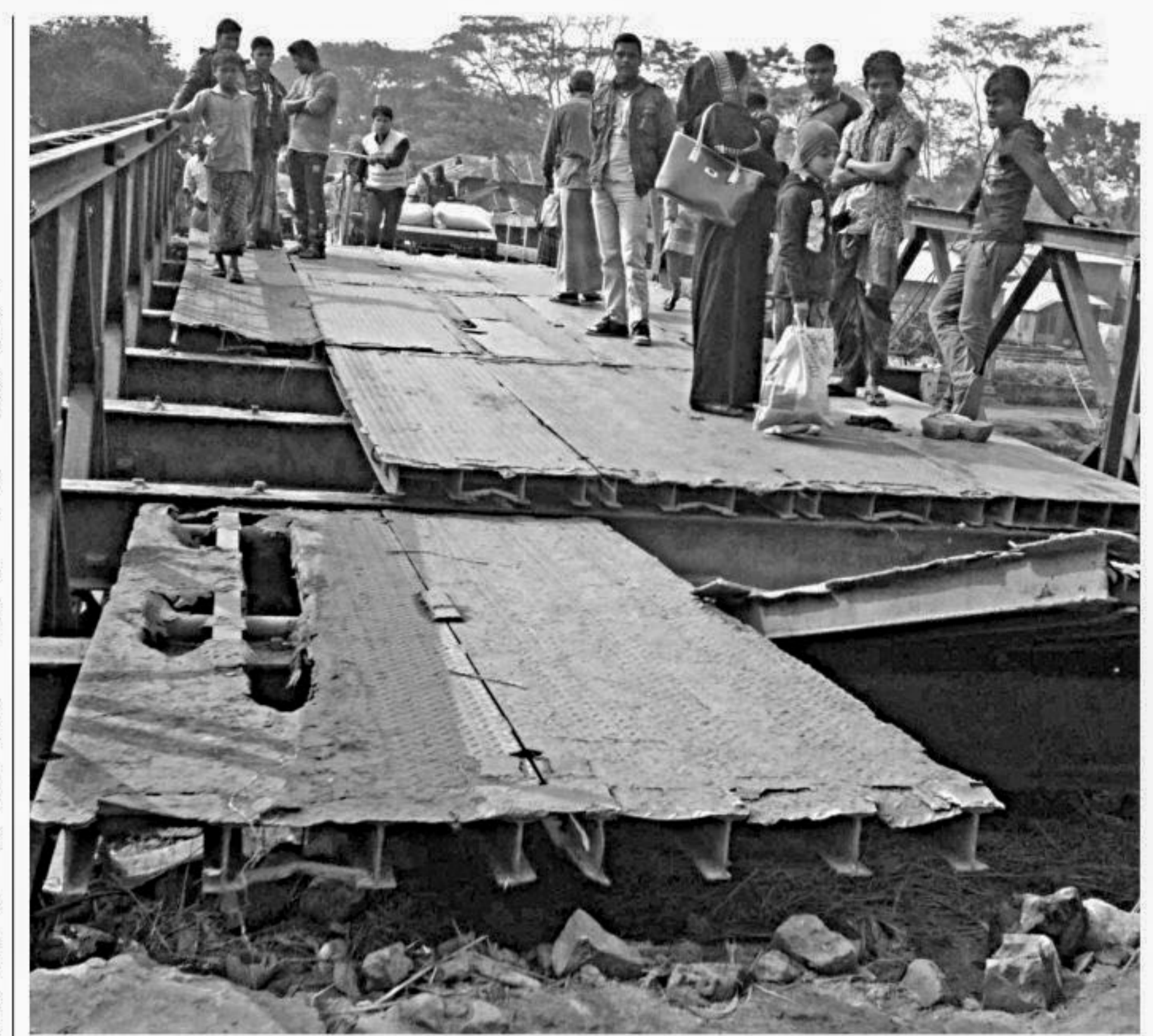
A huge amount of fertiliser stacked under the open sky on the premises of Gaibandha's warehouse remains vulnerable to clotting and quality deterioration due to exposure to dense fog.

PHOTO: STAR

Man gets life for killing wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A Meherpur court yesterday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for killing his wife in Gangni upazila of the district in 2006. The lifer is Rafiqul Islam, 35 of Mohammadpur village in the upazila. The court also fined the convict Tk 50,000. In default he is suffer another year in jail, court sources said. According to the prosecution, Rafiqul hacked his wife Sagarika Khatun, 18, with a sharp weapon following an altercation over a family feud on June 6, 2006. She died on the spot. Jahangir Hossain, brother of Sagarika, filed a murder case against Rafiqul with Gangni police station the same day. Police later pressed charges against Rafiqul. After examining the case record and witnesses, Additional District and Sessions Judge T M Musa pronounced the verdict.



Some steel sleepers of this bridge on Dakua Canal on Galachipa-Dashmina road in Patuakhali collapsed on Sunday under the weight of a goods-laden truck, snapping communication between the two upazilas.

PHOTO: STAR

Jubo League man shot in Laxmipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A Jubo league man was shot by a gang at Kashimpur village under Laxmipur Sadar upazila on Sunday night. The victim is Ekram Hossain Nirob, 24, a member of Jubo League Sadar upazila unit. Nirob's father Abul Fazal said some youths called his son out of his house at around 9:00pm and shot him in the waist. They also hacked Nirob with sharp weapons, he added. Hearing screams of Nirob, family members and neighbours rushed to the spot and took him to Sadar Hospital. Jahangir Hossain, in-charge of police investigation centre at Duttapara Police Station, said they are trying to unearth clue to the incident and arrest the culprits involved.

Bridge collapse snaps road link with 2 Patuakhali UZs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

An iron bridge on Dakua Canal on Galachipa-Dashmina road collapsed on Sunday, snapping road communication between the two upazilas of the district. The bridge was built by Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) around 20 years ago. Abul Hossain, a trader at

Chiknikandi Bazar under Galachipa upazila, said some steel sleepers on the north side of the bridge collapsed when a goods-laden truck was crossing the bridge. "The bridge had become vulnerable due to lack of proper renovation, but we could use it to communicate easily with Galachipa and Dashmina upazilas. Now we have to face problems," he added. Abdul Mannan, another

trader of the area, demanded immediate steps to repair the bridge, considering the interest of the locals. Contacted, Md Atiqur Rahman, engineer of Galachipa upazila LGED, said they have already informed the higher authorities about the matter and urged them to take immediate steps to repair the bridge. "We are looking to build a new bridge on the canal," he said.

Low Zika risk

FROM PAGE 16 Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica and Puerto Rico have even warned women to delay conceiving until the Zika outbreak is brought under control, reports AFP. Jitters over Zika have spread far beyond the affected areas to Europe and North America, where dozens of cases have been identified among people returning from vacation or business abroad. IEDCR Director Mahmudur said though risk of Zika virus infection in Bangladesh is low, measures to destroy shelters and reproduction facilities for aedes mosquitoes are the best ways to prevent Zika. "The IEDCR has the technology to test Zika virus. So, for now, there is no reason for worries," he said. According to the WHO, Zika virus disease usually requires no specific treatment. People sick with Zika virus should get plenty of rest, drink enough fluids, and treat pain and fever with common medicines. If symptoms worsen, they should seek medical care and advice. There is currently no vaccine available, it says.

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Girl stabbed for refusing marriage proposal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A college girl was stabbed by a criminal at Singrail village in Nachole upazila of the district yesterday morning. The victim is Masuma Khatun, 17, a first year HSC student at Nachole Degree College. Fasiuruddin, officer-in-charge (OC) of Nachole Police Station, said Masuma was going to the college from her house at around 6:45am when a criminal, with his face covered with a cloth, stabbed her and tried to strangle her. The criminal fled the scene when the girl started shouting for help. Locals took her to Nachole Upazila Health Complex. The OC, quoting family members, said a local boy gave a proposal to Masuma's family members a few days ago for marrying her. Masuma refused the proposal.

SNIPPETS

Elderly woman burnt alive

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur An elderly woman died in a fire at her house at Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat early yesterday, police said. The deceased was identified as Asia Begum, 70, wife of Abdul Maleque of Shalpara village in the upazila. Police said Asia used to warm herself near a fire before going to bed at night. She did the same on Sunday night but her blanket caught fire, which immediately spread over her body. Hearing screams at around 3:00am, neighbours tried to rescue her, but could not do so as they failed to open the locked door. Later, fire fighters of the upazila recovered her charred body.

35 maunds of jatka seized

UNB, Barisal Police arrested a young man with 35 maunds of jatka (hilsa fish less than 10 inches long) from a truck near Meghna Ludhua wharf in Kamalnagar upazila under the district on Sunday noon. Rafiqul Islam, sub-inspector of Kamalnagar Police Station, said on secret information, a police team conducted a drive in area and arrested the youth with the jatka.

Girl killed in wall collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore A madrasa girl was killed when a wall collapsed on her at Hanua village in Monirampur upazila of Jessore district on Saturday. The deceased is Aasia Khatun, 10, daughter of Shafiqul Islam of the village and a Class III student of a local madrasa. Police said Aasia sustained severe wounds when a wall of an abandoned house collapsed on her while she was playing beside it in the afternoon. Locals rescued her and took her to Jessore Medical College Hospital where she died around 8:00pm.

Human trafficker held

UNB, Cox's Bazar Police arrested a human trafficker from Nayarpara village in Teknaf upazila of the district early Sunday. Officer-in-Charge of Teknaf Police Station Ataur Rahman Khandaker said a team of police, acting on a tip-off, conducted a raid at the house of Shamsul Alam Markin, 60, in the area and arrested him. The OC also said court issued seven arrest warrants against him.

Woman murdered

UNB, Benapole An elderly woman was killed in an attack by criminals at Paikpara village in Abhoynagar upazila of Jessore district on Saturday night. Locals and police said a gang allegedly led by Iqbal Sheikh and his four brothers -- Enamul Sheikh, Emon Sheikh, Nasir Sheikh and Mamun Sheikh-- attacked the woman, Jarina Begum, 65, wife of late Yakub Ali of the area, as she tried to protect a young man named Halim Khan around 9:00pm. She died on the spot. The youth took shelter at the residence of the woman after being chased by the gang at that time over destroying a carom board.

MURDER OF HSC EXAMINEE SHAKIL

Three including prime accused Piyash arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police yesterday arrested three youths, including the prime accused in the case for killing Muhtasim Billah Shakil, 18, an HSC examinee from town's Shaheed Syed Nazrul Islam College. Police conducted drives in Kishoreganj and Sylhet and arrested the three, including Piyash, 18, said Md Kamrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station. He did not disclose the names of two other arrestees.

Follow-up

The OC said drive will continue to arrest the rest of the accused in the murder case. Shakil was killed by some of his friends in the town Thursday evening. His father Emdadul Haque lodged a case with Kotwali Police Station on Friday night, accusing 14 people, including Piyash. Shakil came under attack by some of his friends allegedly led by Piyash, a student of town's Royal Media College, for protesting harassment of a

girl at a fair held at Town Hall premises Thursday afternoon, police said. Piyash along with about 15 of his friends got into another altercation with Shakil in College Road area around 5:00pm when the latter was on his way home at Akua Madrasa Quarter in the town. All of a sudden, the youths stabbed Shakil indiscriminately and left the area, leaving him critically injured. Shakil succumbed to his injuries at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital around 7:00pm.

Trawler capsizes: 3 more bodies found

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Police yesterday recovered the bodies of three more people, including a child and a woman, raising the death toll to seven from a trawler capsized in the Meghna River in Chandpur. The deceased were identified as Nasima Begum, 28, Ratan, 2, and Ahmadullah, 44, said Wali Ullah, officer-in-charge (OC) of Haimchar Police Station.

Some fishermen found the bodies floating in Hijla area of Kaliganj around 3:00pm and informed the police. Two six years old children -- Siam and Shahjada -- remain missing, six days into the trawler capsized, the OC told our Chandpur correspondent. At least nine people, including six children, went missing when the trawler sank after being hit by an oil-laden vessel in the dense fog on Tuesday.



Magura townspeople formed a human chain yesterday, demanding that the government declare Jessore as division instead of Faridpur.

PHOTO: STAR

স্পেস ভাড়া
ঢাকার গ্রানিকেন্দ্র বাংলাদেশের অবস্থিত রূপায়ণ ট্রেড সেন্টারে সার্বস্বনিক লীফট ও জেনারেটর সুবিধা সহ ২১৭০৫ বর্গফুট স্পেস একত্রে ব্যাংক, ইন্সুরেন্স, কর্পোরেট অফিস ও হোটেল/রেস্টুরেন্ট এর জন্য ভাড়া দেওয়া হবে। প্রকৃত মালিকগণকে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।
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Attention: BGMEA Members

This is for kind information that BGMEA has sent a format to all honorable members seeking information on factory inspection and status of remediation under Accord / Alliance / NAP (ILO). Those honorable members who have got the format but have not yet provided necessary information are requested to fill out the format and send it back to BGMEA (info@bgmea.com.bd) at the earliest. Those who have not received the format are requested to download it from BGMEA website (www.bgmea.com.bd/format.xlsx) and send it duly filled in. **Please contact if necessary :**
Engr. Md. Masud Karim, Cell: 01614003007 and
Engr. Md. Muniruzzaman, Cell: 01943429925.
Secretary General