

Prepare to face cyber war

Palak tells Natore workshop

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

State Minister for ICT Division Zunaïd Ahmed Palak said it seems there is now no world war but there is cyber war.

He said this at a workshop organised by Trinomuler Tathyjanala wing of ICT division at Natore deputy commissioner's office conference room yesterday.

"To counter the war, we have to be very skilled in the information communication technology," said the minister.

Government is now providing training to 10,000 entrepreneurs of 4,500 Union Digital Centres on writing reports and features for developing them as info leaders, he said.

DC Shahina Khatun, district council administrator Sajedur Rahman Khan, senior journalist Ajit Kumar Sarker and Natore municipality mayor Uma Chudwary Joly, spoke at the programme.



A vast tract of fertile land in Taherpur upazila of Sunamganj lies buried under sand brought by flash floods caused by coal-mining upstream in India.

PHOTO: STAR

Seed crisis upsets potato growers

Thanks to BADC's inability to supply in Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Acute seed crisis has upset a large number of Lalmonirhat potato farmers, thanks to the authorities' inability to supply seeds.

Many tobacco growers, who have prepared their lands for potato farming from this year after leaving the previous harmful cultivation, are also facing the same crisis.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) has supplied only four percent of the demand due to low capacity of its cold storages, said Sohel Rana, senior assistant director of BADC (Seed) in Lalmonirhat.

As the farmers got expected profit from selling the vegetable last year, Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) brought 6,500 hectares of land under potato cultivation while it was 5,250 hectares in 2015, said local DAE officials.

Abdul Hakim of Patantari village in Aditmari upazila said "This time, I prepared my five bighas of land for farming potato instead of tobacco as tobacco is a harmful crop but I could collect seeds for three bighas of land till now."

Delwar Hossain, of Mahendranagar village in Sadar upazila, said he has prepared his ten bighas of land for farming potato by collecting seeds from open market at high rate due to inadequate supply by BADC.

Nabirul Islam of Aditmari said he purchased one kg of potato seed at Tk 28-35 from a BADC dealer while the same quantity was sold at Tk 30-40 at local market.

They have written to the higher authorities to increase the capacity of the cold storages to mitigate the crisis of potato seeds, but to no avail, said the BADC official.

Child marriage on rise

28 jailed, 19 fined in Shajahanpur upazila in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Child marriage is on the rise in Shajahanpur upazila of the district despite the local administration's efforts to prevent it.

Although a mobile court, led by Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Shafiqul Islam, in separate drives jailed 28 and fined 19 people for arranging marriage of underage girls and boys in the last five months, it is increasing.

Husne Nur Rashid Rupali, district project officer of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) in Bogra, said illiteracy, poverty, greediness of getting dowry money and superstitions are the main reasons behind early marriage.

Building awareness among school students and public representatives is their first priority to eradicate child marriage, she said, adding that they are working on it.

The convicts include illiterate guardians, dishonest marriage registrars, imams and public representatives like union parishad chairmen and members.

Asked about the reason behind the rise in early marriage, the UNO blamed the ill motive of a section of vested quarters and matchmakers.

As child marriage is now a social disease, awareness against its bad impact will be built among all for eradication, he said.

Accused flees from police custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

An accused in a narcotics case fled from police custody in Belkuchi upazila of Sirajganj on Friday.

The arrestee, Modasserul Islam, 35, son of Reaz Mollah of Shernagar village, is an accused in a drug peddling case.

Police said they arrested Modasserul from Sayedabad area on Friday and started heading towards the Belkuchi Police Station on a CNG-run auto-rickshaw.

As they reached Enayetpur-Sayedabad link road Modasserul jumped from the police vehicle and managed to escape.

The law enforcers could not recapture him till filing of this report as of 4:00pm yesterday, said OC Sazzad Hossain.

Sand from upstream ruins vast tracts of fertile land

Coal mining in India threatens livelihoods, environment in Sunamganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Sand brought by water flowing in from India has covered about 3,500 acres of fertile land, resulting in damage to the ecology and destruction of livelihoods of thousands of families in Sunamganj.

The affected villages are Chanpur, Rojoni Line, Maram, Burungamara and Rajai under Taherpur upazila.

Deputy Director of Sunamganj Department of Agricultural Extension, Zahedul Haq said flash floods caused by coal mining upstream in India bring in a huge amount of sand. He said he had visited the area and reported the matter to the higher authorities.

Zahedul, however, said the actual area covered by sand is less than what the people say.

Joint Secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon Sharif Jamil told this correspondent

that it is not the first time that the people in the border areas in the upazila are facing such problems, adding that steps have to be taken by both Bangladesh and India to protect the people, biodiversity and economy.

Jamal Uddin, former chairman of Borodol Uttar union, said at least 3,500 acres of fertile land have become covered by sand in the past eight years, halting agricultural production in the district.

He said the crisis was triggered on July 20 in 2008 when a landslide buried the houses, roads and paddy lands in North Bordol and around the floodplains of the Jadukata river, adding that unplanned and unregulated mining upstream of Taherpur is the root cause of such landslides.

President of Chanpur Bazar Committee Abdur Razzak said many lowlands have become

barren due to mining in Meghalaya, and there have been reports that fish have died for unknown reasons in Jadukata river. So the impact is not limited to only Bordol or Taherpur, it has a larger impact in and around the Tanguar Haor and Surma Basin, he added.

Andru Sholomar, a leader of the Khashi community, and resident of Rajai village, who lost 20 acres of arable land to sand intrusion, said he could not produce any crop on the land over the past few years, although he produced harvests thrice a year previously.

He also said he had lost three more acres of land in the past two weeks because of the sand brought in by the rain-triggered floods from the nearby hills in India.

Locals said the government was yet to take any initiative for saving the area's ecology or removing the sand by excavation or dredging.



Tanja Aktar, a teacher of Abdur Rahman Khan Kindergarten in Bhandaria upazila of Pirojpur, sees a ray of hope after local administration takes some measures for saving the institution.

PHOTO: STAR

HONOUR TO SLAIN FF SALAM KHAN

Steps to run his school smoothly

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalokathi

Local administration has taken several necessary steps recently for running Abdur Rahman Khan Kindergarten to honour its slain founder and freedom fighter Abdus Salam Khan.

After a story titled "Who's going to love us" was published in The Daily Star on November 20, Bhandaria upazila nirbahi officer (UNO), upazila chairman and officer-in-charge (OC) of Bhandaria Police Station visited the school on November 24.

While visiting the school at Uttar Shialkathi village in Pirojpur's Bhandaria upazila, the UNO also directed Bhitabaria union parishad (UP) chairman to form a school managing committee soon to continue its academic activities smoothly.

Pirojpur Deputy Commissioner (DC) Khairul Alam Sheikh said after reading the story in the newspaper, he sent chocolates and some playing instruments for the school kids.

"I have also directed the Bhandaria UNO to visit the institution and take all necessary mea-

asures to continue the school," the DC added.

Bhandaria Upazila Chairman Uzzal Talukdar said he was delighted to see the beautiful structure and atmosphere of the school.

"I will try to arrange the salaries of the teachers and visit the school at least once in a month, Uzzal added.

Bhitabaria UP Chairman Enayet Hossain Khan said he will form the school committee soon.

With around 100 students and six teachers, Salam, 65, a retired primary school-teacher, founded the kindergarten in 2014 and named it after his late father.

On November 14, Shah Alam, president of Ward-6 of Jubo League, waylaid Salam and started beating him for trying to meet a female teacher at Sauria of Rajapur upazila in Jhalakathi to discuss some issues and give her some money.

Injured Salam returned to his home and went to bed without saying anything to his family. Family members found him dead the following morning.

Three Jessore

Jamaat leaders arrested, 50 others sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Three leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami of Jessore were arrested with 'bomb making materials' and books on Friday night and over 50 other leaders were sued by the police in different cases.

Police arrested Mashiur Rahman, Sirajul Islam and Shafiqul Islam from an under-construction building at Nilganj Shahapara in Jessore town while they were planning subversive acts, said Sub-Inspector Aminur Rahman of Kotwali Police Station, plaintiff of the case.

The accused include leaders of the upazilas, wards of Jessore municipality, and union level presidents and general secretaries under Sadar upazila.

Sammy keeps Kings kicking

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dramatically for the Kings. Sammy had a below-par start to the league, scoring a total of 81 runs in his first six games. However, in the last two games he has hammered 115 runs without being dismissed.

His unbeaten 44 against the Rangpur Riders led the Kings to an unlikely win over the league leaders on Friday and it was his thunderous 71 off just 34 balls that led his team to a brilliant nine-run win over the Khulna Titans in Mirpur yesterday. The win has helped them post eight points and they are now a good contender for the playoffs.

What was brilliant about Sammy's innings was the way he revived his entire team. Rajshahi were struggling at 88 for 6 in 15 overs and at that point Sammy had scored just 12 off 12 balls.

He hit Mosharraf Hossain for a four in that over and took the team to 96 for 6 at the end of 16 overs, before deciding to unleash himself. He took Junaid Khan and dismissed him for a six and a four.

In the next over he pulled and drove Shafiqul Islam over mid-wicket and down the ground for two sixes and a four. And finally, he smacked Shafiqul for two more sixes in the last over to help the Kings post 154 and put the pressure back on the Titans, after his side scored 66 runs in the last five overs.

Although the Kings managed to come back well, it was still a total that you would have expected the Titans to chase down on a good batting track. However, the Titans lost both Shuvagata Hom and Hasanuzzaman within the first three overs, leaving Riki Wessels and skipper Mahmudullah Riyad trying to stitch things back with a 47-

run stand for the third wicket.

However, Sammy came back and knocked Wessels over with a slower delivery in the 11th over, but his departure did not matter that much as Nicholas Pooran arrived and smacked 28 off just 12 balls. Pooran looked deadly and feasted on Mehedi Hasan Miraz.

He first slogged him for a six and a four in the 12th over and then hit him for two consecutive sixes off the first two balls of the 14th. From 88 required off 54 balls, he brought the equation down to 54 required off 40. However, his attempt to dispatch Miraz for yet another six ended his innings and the game took another turn with his wicket.

Off the very next delivery, a slower one from Abul Hasan, Mahmudullah Riyad was bowled and there were now two new batsmen at the

crease. All of a sudden 46 off 30 with five wickets in hand seemed quite far away.

Kevon Cooper and Ariful Haque did well to eke out a boundary an over and brought the equation down to 31 off three overs. A brilliant Forhad Reza over which gave away just five runs meant that the Titans needed 26 off two overs.

Umar Akmal took a good catch to his wrong side to dismiss the dangerous Cooper off the first ball of the 19th over off Mohammad Sami. Ariful though managed to get a boundary in that over and that meant that they needed 19 off 6 balls.

Some good bowling from Farhad in the last over, combined with some good fielding from Sammy and Sabbir down the ground, gave away just nine runs and the Titans were eventually restricted to 145 for 6.

Youth killed by friends

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A young man was stabbed to death allegedly by his friends at Mymensingh Homeopathic College premises in the district town on Friday.

The deceased, Mehedul Hasan Robin, 25, son of Mustafa Kamal, was a resident of Shehora area in the town.

Quoting locals, police said Robin locked in altercation with his friends while consuming drugs at the college playground over a trifling matter around 9:30pm.

At one stage of altercation, Robin's friends stabbed him mercilessly with sharp weapons and fled the scene, leaving him critically injured.

Locals rescued Robin and took him to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) where the doctors declared him dead, said Officer-in-Charge Kamrul Islam of Sadar Police Station.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, police yesterday arrested Jibon, one of Robin's friends, for his alleged involvement in the killing.

Electrician electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

An electrician of Palli Bidyut Samity under Choumohony sub-centre was electrocuted in Choumohony bazar area under Dupchanchia upazila of the district on Friday evening.

The deceased was identified as Mizanur Rahman, 35, son of Azgar Ali of Moksdepur village under Sherpur upazila.

Deputy General Manager of the Dupchanchia office of the Samity Abdur Rahim said the victim was repairing a disconnected line when he touched a live wire. He was rushed to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

LAND ACQUISITION

Protest continues

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Char people in the district reiterated their demand to spare their homesteads and farmlands from acquisition.

The demand was made at a human chain formed on boats in the Brahmaputra river in Binpara area under Char Jalkhana village.

Inhabitants of Binpara organised the programme on Friday.

The speakers at the rally expressed deep concern at losing their ancestral homesteads and farmlands for development of Mymensingh division.

They also urged implementation of the first phase covering 1220 acres of land and start of divisional activities soon.

The local administration has made a list of 4,366 acres of land for infrastructure development of Mymensingh division.

The speakers urged the administration to use khas lands on both sides of the river on priority basis to avoid losses to thousands of poor villagers.

Char people have been continuing their protest against the proposed list of land acquisition for the last one month.