



Environment activists and local people form a human chain on the riverbed of dried up and nearly dead Mahananda river in Rehaichar area of Chapainawabganj town yesterday demanding an end to pollution and grabbing of the river.

PHOTO: STAR

Save Mahananda

Speakers tell C'nawabganj rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Speakers at a human chain in Chapainawabganj town yesterday demanded an end to pollution, filling up of the Mahananda river and dredging of the river.

Environment activists and people from all walks of life joined the human chain that was organised by Save the Nature Chapainawabganj, to press home their demand to save the Mahananda.

They formed the hour-long human chain in Rehaichar area in the town around 10:30am.

Addressing a rally at the venue, the activists demanded freeing of the Mahananda from illegal encroachment and ensuring pollution free water by dredging the river immediately.

The speakers said Mahananda river, one of the mighty rivers, is drying up at different places and has turned into cropland due to siltation and mindless encroachment.

Because of this, local farmers and fishermen are suffering a lot as their activities are being hampered.

Drastic fall in water level is threatening biodiversity in the area as the river is gradually dying, and if the situation continues it might turn into a desert soon, the said.

As the width of the river is getting narrow, they also demanded immediate dredging to restore water flow in the river.

The speakers urged the authorities concerned to protect the river from encroachment and pollution to save the life and livelihood of the local people.

Originating from Nepal's Himalayas, the 95 kilometre waterway enters Bangladesh through Bholahat upazila of Chapainawabganj and falls into the Padma river in Rajshahi's Godagari upazila.

Save the Nature Chapainawabganj Chief Coordinator Rabiul Hasan, Coordinator Shahidul Huda Alok, Chapainawabganj Press Club President Golam Mostofa, its General Secretary Kamal Uddin and social activist Shafiqul Alam also spoke.

DINAJPUR BLAST JMB men confess crimes

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

Two members of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) confessed to their involvement in exploding bombs at a jatra near Kantaji Temple in Kaharol upazila on December 5 in 2015.

Six people were injured in the bomb blast, said police.

Manik Mia, 27, son of Hanif Mia, and Zakir Hossain, son of Azizur Rahman of Nasratpur village in Chirirbandar upazila, were the charge sheeted accused in the case.

The two gave confessional statement before the Senior Judicial Court of Gopal Chandra Roy on Monday.

Earlier on Friday, the same court granted three-day remand for the two arrested JMB men, said Court Inspector Shaheed Sarwardi.

SHOOTING OF MAGURA EXPECTING WOMAN

BCL leader among 17 people charged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A charge has been framed against 17 people in a case for shooting a pregnant woman, wounding her unborn child in the womb and killing a man in Magura during a clash in 2015.

The charge was framed at the Court of Magura Additional District and Sessions Judge Sayed Arafat Hossain yesterday.

The court also fixed May 8 for hearing the evidence, said Prosecutor Sayed Firozur Rahman.

The accused are Sen Suman, Ali Akbar, Mujibur Rahman, Suman Ali, Faridur Rahman, Sagar, Bappi Gazi, Illias Mollah, Sohel Mia, Liton Mallik, Milton Mallik, Nazrul Islam, Sobhan Sheikh, Solaiman Hossain, Tayabur Rahman Tota, Md Sumon and Ainal Sheikh.

Sen Sumon, vice president of Magura Chhatra League, and Tayabur Rahman Tota, general secretary of Samabaya League in the district, are among the accused.

On July 23 in 2015, eight-month preg-

nant Nazma Khatun was shot in the abdomen during a clash between two rival factions of Jubo League at Doarpar in Magura town.

Apart from Nazma, the incident left one Momin Bhuiyan killed and another person injured.

The baby girl, Suraiya, suffered bullet wounds in her mother's womb. A bullet pierced through the baby's right shoulder and also injured her right eye.

The incident sparked a huge outrage across the country.

Miraculously, the baby survived after a two-hour caesarean operation on her mother at Magura General Hospital on that day. The 35-year-old mother survived too.

The baby's relatives brought the newborn to Dhaka Medical College Hospital on July 26. A 10-member medical board was formed to ensure proper treatment of the injured newborn.

A case was filed with Sadar Police Station in connection with the clash, accusing 16 people, including Sen Suman.

3 fishermen shot in Barguna

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Patuakhali

At least 15 fishermen were injured as forest robbers attacked two fishing trawlers in the Bay on Sunday.

The injured include Zafar Akhan, 28, and Nasir Uddin, 30, of Pathorghata upazila and Zakir, 35, of Barguna Sadar.

They were admitted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital with bullet injuries, said SM Ziaul Haque, officer-in-charge of Pathorghata Police Station.

The two trawlers carrying around 30 fishermen came under attack by a gang in the Bay about 150 km south-east from Pathorghata, said Barguna Fishing Trawlers Owners' Association President Golam Mostafa.

Adur Rahim Majhee said a gang of 20/22 attacked the trawler with firearms.

Early summer vegetable growers all smiles

Many farmers are busy getting their lands ready for cultivation of the summer crop in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Farmers in the district who had started cultivation of summer vegetables earlier are reaping good harvest, while others are busy getting their lands ready for cultivation.

Seeing the good production, the farmers are expecting to get a good profit this season.

District Deputy Assistant Agriculture Officer (DAAO) Farid Ahmed said Sadar, Shajahanpur, Sherpur, Nandigram, Gabtoli and Shibganj upazilas have the highest production as the lands in those places are most suitable for growing all kinds of vegetables and seed beds.

Around 6,500 hectares of land have been fixed for cultivation of summer vegetables with production target of over 1.23 lakh tonnes, Farid said. Over 3,000 hectares have already been taken under cultivation, of which vegetables on 50 per cent of the land are ready for picking, he added.

Vegetable grower Nazrul Islam of Majhira area under Shajahanpur upazila said that he has been nursing the new vegetables plants and removing the dried plants from his land.

Farmer Abu Bakkar said they have been using fertilizer and removing the weeds from their lands for cultivating the summer vegetables.

Farmer Bikash Roy said the weather in winter season was favourable for growing vegetables and they also got high prices for their produce.

Deputy Director (horticulture) of the district DAE Abdur Rahim said the season for summer vegetables began in the middle of March, and brinjal, radish, sweet pumpkin, water pumpkin, bitter gourd, drumstick, red spinach, cowpea, lady's finger and some other vegetables are grown during the season.

Delay in road repair causes sufferings

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Commuters on Lalmonirhat-Burimari highway have been experiencing untold sufferings for over a year due to slow progress in repair work.

Although the repair work of about 28 kilometres dilapidated road was completed about three months ago, another three kilometres of the 31 kilometre-long road still remains uncompleted due to unknown reason.

Due to the situation, accidents are taking places on the highway at regular intervals and often causing traffic jams.

Nabiul Islam, 45, a truck driver from Bogra, said they are compelled to drive vehicles on the vulnerable road as it is the lone connecting road between Burimari Land Port and the rest of the country.

Bus driver Soleman Mia, 48, of Lalmonirhat town said due to the dilapidated condition and unplanned repair work

of the highway they need some additional time while crossing Palashi area under Aditmari upazila of the district before reaching their destination.

"We have to face serious traffic jams everyday due to the delayed repair work of the highway," said Harunur Rashid, 52, of Kakina village in Kaliganj upazila.

Officials of Roads and Highways Department (RHD) in Lalmonirhat said construction firm Kamal Associate was given the work order to repair the 31 kilometre of the 100 kilometre-long road at a cost of Tk 17.17 crore and was supposed to complete it by December 2016.

Sanjoy Chowdhury, site engineer of the construction firm, said they are trying their best to complete the repair work in a month or so.

Executive Engineer Sajedur Rahman of Lalmonirhat RHD said the repair work would be completed by the end of April this year.

Star journo gets award in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Jhenidah

Jhenidah district correspondent of The Daily Star Azibor Rahman was awarded a crest and Tk 10,000 by Hunger Free World, a Japan-based NGO, for his reports on vermin culture and compost fertilizer in the district.

On Sunday, local lawmaker Anwarul Azim Anar handed over the cheque and crest to the correspondent and praised him highly for his inspiring news.

This programme was held at Government Naldanga Bhusan Pilot Secondary School field on the occasion of Independence Day.



PHOTO: STAR

A farmer takes care of his vegetable field in Majhira area of Bogra Sadar upazila. The photo was taken recently.



PHOTO: STAR

The Lalmonirhat-Burimari road near Palashi village in Lalmonirhat's Aditmari upazila is in a terrible state, mainly due to poor maintenance and repair, disrupting vehicular movement.

মোটরযানে সংযুক্ত অননুমোদিত বাম্পার, এ্যাশেল, চোখালো-খারালো হক এবং বাম্পার সংযোজনের জন্য ড্রাইভার কেবিনের সম্মুখস্থ চ্যাসিসের বর্ধিত করা অংশ আগামী ১৫ এপ্রিল, ২০১৭ খ্রি: তারিখের মধ্যে অপসারণ সংক্রান্ত বিআরটিএ'র বিজ্ঞপ্তি।

মোটরযান বিশেষ করে বাস, মিনিবাস, ট্রাক, কভার্ডভ্যানের সামনে-পেছনে অননুমোদিতভাবে বাম্পার ও দুপাশে তিনকোনা লোহা/স্তিলের পাত (এ্যাশেল) লাগিয়ে আকার/আকৃতি বা কাঠামো পরিবর্তন এবং ট্রাকের বডিতে চোখালো-খারালো হক সংযুক্ত করা হচ্ছে, যা সম্পূর্ণ অবৈধ ও সড়ক দুর্ঘটনার একটি অন্যতম প্রধান কারণ। অবৈধ এসব বিপজ্জনক সংযুক্তি অপসারণের বিষয়ে বিআরটিএ'র পক্ষ থেকে ইতিপূর্বে ব্যাপক প্রচারণা করা হয়েছে। কিছু কিছু ক্ষেত্রে বাম্পার খোলা হলেও বাম্পার সংযোজনের জন্য ড্রাইভার কেবিনের সম্মুখস্থ চ্যাসিসের বর্ধিত অংশ অপসারণ করা হচ্ছে না।

২। এমতাবস্থায়, আগামী ১৫ এপ্রিল, ২০১৭ খ্রি: তারিখের মধ্যে মোটরযান হতে এ্যাশেল, অননুমোদিত বাম্পার, ট্রাকের বডিতে সংযুক্ত চোখালো-খারালো হক এবং ড্রাইভার কেবিনের সম্মুখস্থ চ্যাসিসের বর্ধিত করা অংশ অপসারণ করতে পুনরায় অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। উক্ত সময়ের মধ্যে অপসারণ করা না হলে আগামী ১৬ এপ্রিল, ২০১৭ খ্রি: তারিখ হতে বিআরটিএ'র পক্ষ হতে ব্যাপক অভিযান পরিচালনার মাধ্যমে কঠোর আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

পরিচালক (রোড সফটি), বিআরটিএ।