

Self-reliant through cap making

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Poor women and girls in the Jamuna and Ichhamati river basin areas in Dhunat upazila of the district are passing busy days in making export quality caps ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Around 80,000 women and female students in 221 villages have become self-reliant, by making caps, and can supplement the income of the men in conducting family affairs.

Ratna Roy, who got GPA-5 in her Higher Secondary Certificate examinations from Mathurapur GMC College last year, is now busy making caps. Ratna, daughter of Nibaran Chandra of Dheruahati village, said she makes cap during the vacation to support her education.

Housewife Momena Khatun of Choukibari village, said she earns around Tk 2,000 to Tk 2,500 per month by making caps.

Shamapri Khatun and Jesmin Akhtar, a student of Class VI of Mohishur UK High School, said they started making caps when they were in Class III and earn around Tk 400 to Tk 500 per month, which helps them in meeting their educational expenditure.

Shabiha Ranu, a student of Class VII of Choukibari High School, said she can make about 30 caps a month and earn Tk 600 to Tk 700.

Trader Bachchu Mia said they supply the necessary raw material for making caps to the women and buy the caps for Tk 40 to Tk 120 each, depending on size and design, after deducting the cost of the raw material.

There are many varieties of caps, like Nobboful, Kolaful, Bokulful, Talachabi, Star, Gutu Biscuit, Anarash, Mouchak and Spider's Net, he said.

The price of Nobboful is around Tk 90 to Tk 100, Anarash Tk 40 to Tk 45, Mouchak Tk 30 to Tk 35, Spider's Net Tk 25 to Tk 30 and Gutu Biscuit Tk 25 to Tk 30 per cap, Bachchu added.

Traders said they sell the caps in Chawk Bazar, Baitul Mokarram and many other markets in the capital. Some traders in the capital export them to the Middle-East, they added.

District Women's Affairs Officer Shahidul Islam said the local administration have been trying to manage loans, training and other kinds of support for the cap makers to boost the business in the area.



Girls and women in the Jamuna and Ichhamati river basin areas in Dhunat upazila of Bogra spend busy time in making export quality caps ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

PHOTO: STAR

3 Neo JMB men charged for plot to attack train

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A court here framed charges yesterday against three Neo JMB men for plotting to attack a train in Hakimpur upazila on June 21 in 2016.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Md Waliul Islam framed the charges against them and fixed July 23 for the next hearing.

They are Md Abu Nayeem, alias Faruki Azam, alias Nayem, 21, of Hakimpur upazila, Mozahidul Haque, alias Maftus, 22, of the upazila, and Galibur Rashid Galib, 23, of Ghoraghat upazila.

Additional Public Prosecutor (APP) Azizur Rahman said members of Detective Branch (DB) of the district arrested them from Dangapara village on June 21 when they were plotting to blow up a train.

The trio confessed to the plot before the court on June 25 last year, the APP added.

LONGADU ARSON ATTACK

Indigenous people want judicial probe, security

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Public representatives and eminent citizens at a press conference in the hill district town yesterday demanded judicial enquiry and adequate steps to ensure the security of the indigenous people who became victim of massive arson attack in Longadu of Rangamati district on June 2.

Chancu Moni Chakma, chairman of Sadar Upazila Parishad, read out a written statement at the press conference at a restaurant in the town, highlighting the demands.

'Relief collection and distribution committee' comprising representatives and prominent persons in Khagrachhari district recently visited Longadu and distributed relief materials and money to the affected indigenous people, he said.

"Talking with the locals, it appeared to the committee members that the arson attack was a planned one. When the settlers attacked the indigenous people's houses and shops the security force remained silent. And so, the settlers were encouraged to attack.

"The main purpose of the brutal attack was to intimidate and marginalise the indigenous people in the hills," said Chancu.

The committee placed a six-point demand including conducting a judicial enquiry, ensuring the security of indigenous

people's life and property, rehabilitating the victims and publishing a white paper by the government.

Sarbottam Chakma, chairman of Panchhari Upazila Parishad and president of relief collection and distribution committee, Rownik Rowasa, vice chairman of Sadar Upazila Parishad and member secretary of the committee, Super Jyoti Chakma, chairman of Laxmichari Upazila Parishad, and Dhiman Khisa, a social worker, were present at the press conference.

Following the death of a local Jubo League man, several hundred people from different Bangalee-dominated unions brought out a procession carrying the body and attacked indigenous people's houses in Tintila, Manikjhor and Baitapara villages in Longadu on June 2 morning.

Police on June 1 recovered the body beside Khagrachhari-Dighinala road at Charmile in Khagrachhari.

According to indigenous leaders, around 1,500 people of some 250 families left homes and took shelter in deep forest after the Bangalee settlers wreaked mayhem in the area.

Witnesses said a few local Awami League leaders led the procession from where the attack was carried out.

22 Bhasani univ students arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police arrested 22 students of Mawlana Bhasani Science and Technology University from a students' mess near the university on Sunday.

The arrestees are Shibir leaders and activists, said Nazmul Haque Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge of Tangail Model Police Station.

However, Dr Mohammad Sirajul Islam, proctor of the university, said "The university is free of politics. The arrestees are our students only."

The law enforcers also recovered five hand made petrol bombs, eight cocktails and jihadi books from the mess.

The arrest was made a few days after a group of students locked the main gate and administrative building, vandalised two cars of the teachers and a guest room during agitation at the campus for demanding smooth electricity supply, said campus sources.

IU excludes Zia's name as founder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The authorities of Islamic University (IU) in the district have published its diary after a break of seven years, excluding the name of former president Ziaur Rahman as its founder.

"We have followed the norm practised for publishing diaries in other universities," IU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Rashid Askari said while formally inaugurating the diary distribution yesterday.

Foundation of the university was set up by the then president Ziaur Rahman on November 22 in 1979 and its academic activities started in 1986.

In 1994, the then university administration started publishing a diary with different information about the university, mentioning the name of Ziaur Rahman as founder of the university.

That time BNP government was in power. The matter was protested by Awami League supported teacher's organisation Shapla Forum.

"We protested the matter as there was no such example in other universities of the country," said Professor Dr ANM Rezaul Karim, a senior teacher of economics department, now in LPR.

The diary publication continued till 2009 when the then administration stopped it after the teachers belonging to Shapla Forum and Bangabandhu Parishad at the university demanded publication of the diary removing the name of Ziaur Rahman.

After a long debate, the present administration has published the diary excluding Zia's name.

"It is a good decision of the present administration," said Prof Dr Mahbul Arfin, president of Shapla Forum.

Contacted, IU unit Zia Parishad President Prof Tozammel Hossain said, "It is a part of conspiracy of the present government where attempt is on to wipe out Ziaur Rahman's name from the country's history. We demand reinstating the name."

The vice chancellor said the decision for publication of the diary was taken after long discussions with different groups in the university.

Youth shot dead by BSF in C'nawabganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A youth was shot dead allegedly by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on Rokonpur border in Gomostapur upazila early yesterday.

The deceased was Shahlal alias Sikandar, 25, son of Sirajul Islam of the village, said Shahin Kamal, officer-in-charge of Gomostapur Police Station.

Quoting Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) officials, the OC said BSF men opened fire when some cattle traders were trying to enter the border area to bring cattle around 2:30am. Shahlal sustained serious bullet injuries and died on the spot.

On information, police rushed to the spot and recovered the body and sent it to Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Despite repeated calls, this correspondent could not reach Lt Col Mohammad Hossain, commanding officer of BGB-16, for his comment on the issue as he did not receive the phone.



A three-kilometre-long narrow path running through crop fields serves as the lone means of communication for the people of Govindapur and Boinnatoly villages to Fatepur union parishad office in Mirzapur upazila of Tangail.

Cry for a road goes unheeded

People in Mirzapur upazila have been suffering due to lack of a road for decades

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The people of two villages in Mirzapur upazila here have been suffering due to lack of a road for decades.

Around 500 residents, most of them from the Hindu community, live in Govindapur and Boinnatoly villages, about three kilometres from the Fatepur Union Parishad office, locals said.

The only communication of the locality with other villages is along a narrow walkway between croplands, they said. Besides, the walkway remains under water during the rainy season, they said.

Former chairman late Hasmat Ali constructed the walkway during the '80s and the following chairmen just

put some earth on it during their tenures, said several elderly residents of the villages.

Local farmers are deprived of fair prices of their crops as there is no road to nearby Patharghata and Rampur ghats from the villages, Monoranjan Sarkar of Boinnatoly said. They have to carry their produce on their heads to Fatepur and Tarapur markets, which are three-kilometres away, he added.

Around 40 children of the villages are to walk two kilometres to go to their school at adjacent Tarapur union as there is no primary school in the locality, said Swapna Sarkar of Govindapur village. They are to wade through water or go by boat or raft during the rainy season, taking great

risk, she added.

Though the residents of the two villages have been suffering due to bad communication system for decades, nothing was done to solve the problem, said Ashish Mondol of Boinnatoly village.

The villagers raise their demands for construction of a road and a school when chairman and member candidates come to seek votes during the elections. The politicians promise that they will meet their demands but forget after they get elected, he added.

"The previous UP chairman had assured us that he would construct the road, but he did nothing after winning the election," Ashish said.

Ninth grader gang-raped in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A schoolgirl was gang-raped allegedly by eight youths in Alipur area of the town on Saturday.

Sabbir Hossain, 19, and Ujjal Sikder, 26, of the area were arrested in this connection, said Rab-8.

The victim's sister said "My sister developed a relationship with Apu who lives in our area."

Apu took the ninth grader to an open field in Bahadur Kindergarten area where he along with his seven friends raped her, she said.

Sand lifting unabated

Extraction of sand in Jamuna river threatens housing project for the homeless

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Illegal sand lifting from the Jamuna river at Nilkuthi in Saghata upazila has threatened the protection embankment and a housing project for the homeless.

The sand lifting from the river has been continuing for the last few months by a group of sand traders with four dredgers.

Due to the unabated extraction during the dry season, deep ditches have been created and an area of about 100 square metres is on the verge of collapse.

If the extraction of sand is not stopped, an under-construction sluice gate, Gajaria housing project and the river bank protection programme will be affected in the rainy season, locals said.

Locals said they asked the sand traders to

stop lifting sand, but they refused to listen to their request.

Some local influential people have set up dredgers to extract sand and sell it at high price to contractors working at different construction sites, they added.

Local people submitted a memorandum to the Saghata Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), requesting him to stop the lifters from illegally extracting sand, said Bharatkali Union Parishad Chairman Shamsul Azad Siton, adding that the influential people, however, continued the illegal practice.

UNO Ujjal Kumar Ghosh said legal action is being taken against the criminals as the local office of Water Development Board has filed a general diary (GD) in this connection with Saghata Police Station.



Sand is being lifted by locally made dredgers from the Jamuna river at Nilkuthi in Saghata upazila of Gaibandha.

PHOTO: KM REZAUL HAQUE