Mymensingh highway under CCTV watch

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

Mymensingh police have set up a total of 220 closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway with an aim to tighten surveillance on the highway and check irregularities and crimes under their jurisdiction.

The cameras will cover a portion of the highway, stretching from Mymensingh town to Seedstore Bazar, Mymensingh Superintendent of Police Syed Nurul Islam said.

Beverage company Coca Cola donated 100 cameras to the district police to support the initiative, said the SP.

15 injured as BCL, JCD clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gaibandha*

At least 15 people were injured in a clash between the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Palashbari Government College campus in the district yesterday.

The clash took place over the issue of JCD council which was scheduled to be held yesterday, said party sources.

Students and locals said JCD Palashbari Government College unit brought out a procession over the council at the campus around 11:00am.

In a bid to foil the council, BCL men swooped on JCD activists, triggering a clash.

On information, police rushed to the spot and opened a few rounds of blank shots to bring the situation under control, said Principal Abdus Salam of the college.

Following the incident, JCD postponed the council, said Abdul Mottaleb Sarkar, convener of JCD college unit.

Additional police have been deployed in the area to avoid any further untoward incident, said Mahmudul Alam, officer-in-charge of Palashbari Police Station.

Abdul Mottaleb said they called a rally tomorrow to protest BCL's attack on JCD activists.

Wheat for the poor seized from AL man's shop

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Patuakhali*

Taltali upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) in Barguna on Wednesday seized six sacks of wheat under special Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme from the shoe shop of a local Awami League leader.

Acting UNO Tousif Ahmed said on secret information, they raided the shoe shop of Kashob Lal Shil, vice president of the upazila unit of AL, and seized the wheat.

Contracted, Kashob Lal Shil said he did not know anything about the wheat.

Natural carp breeding in Kaptai Lake

New research challenges accepted view that the lake is unsuitable for breeding

ANVIL CHAKMA *with* ANDREW EAGLE

Rangamati's 700-square-metre Kaptai Lake once teemed with fish but for many years naturally occurring fish stocks have been in decline. For more than a decade researchers thought this was because the relatively shallow waters in key parts of the lake were preventing carp from breeding. A new ongoing study into the lake's fish stocks however, has already returned a surprising result: in some areas carp still reproduce.

Three scientists, Mohammad Abul Bashar, Kazi Belal Uddin and Sanjeeb Basak of the river research substation of the Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute began the investigation into natural fish reproduction in the lake on 21 June 2016.

"On June 2, we were able to collect carp eggs from Mastan Tila near the reserve forest ghat in Longudu upazila," says one of the scientists, Belal. "We collected five kilograms of eggs."

Researchers have since discovered more active breeding grounds. "Carp are breeding in Kachalong, Karnafuli, Chengi and Rengkhong channels," says Abul Bashar. "It's quite a surprise since both the first study conducted in 1986 and the second in 2004 cast doubt on the lake's ability to support carp reproduction. It was thought decreased navigability had destroyed the breeding grounds."

The findings leave the scientists hopeful of a brighter future for fish stocks, as long as the use of natural fish traps, locally called 'jak,' can be properly controlled. "If operations against the use of jak continue," Abu Bashar says, "it is likely the lake can regain its former glory as an abundant source of fish." Kaptai Lake was once one of the largest sources of freshwater fish in the country.

The precise species of carp eggs collected on 11 June from Kachalong Channel meanwhile is yet to be identified. "The lake is home to 75 fish species," says Abul Bashar, "which includes four carp species. Carp prefer to breed at times of heavy rainfall and during thunderstorms when currents and waves are strong." According to the scientists the first carp eggs of each season can be expected to be mature by early May, with reproduction continuing through to early July.

Manager of the Rangamati office of the Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation Mohammad Asaduzzaman says the results indicate that initiatives taken by the corporation to combat the use of jak traps are working. "Bans on fishing are helping to protect the breeding fish," he says.

Iron rods replace bamboos

Committee formed to probe allegation of using bamboos instead of iron rods in constructing Bandarban Girls' College building

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bandarban*

Iron rods have been used after removing bamboo sticks following reports published in different newspapers that bamboos instead of iron rods were used in constructing a wall of Bandarban Government Women's College's academic building extension work.

Abdul Aziz, executive engineer of Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board's (CHTDB) Bandarban unit, confirmed the incident.

Meanwhile, CHTDB yesterday formed a three-member probe committee headed by its membr (Planning) Nurul Alam to investigate the allegation.

Additional Secretary Tarun Kanti Ghosh, vice chariman of CHTDB said they will make comment on the issue after receiving the report within seven days.

College official sources alleged that the construction firm often runs the work during the night and restrains people from entering the area.

Engineer Abdul Aziz said Tk 91 lakh was allocated to build the extension work of the academic building.

Contacted, Bir Bahadur U Shwe Sing, state minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Ministry, said he has already directed the authorities concerned to stop the work.

Local Awami League leaders Ujjal Das and Taposh Das were the contractors of the project. The duo denied the allegation and claimed that they never told the workers to use bamboos.

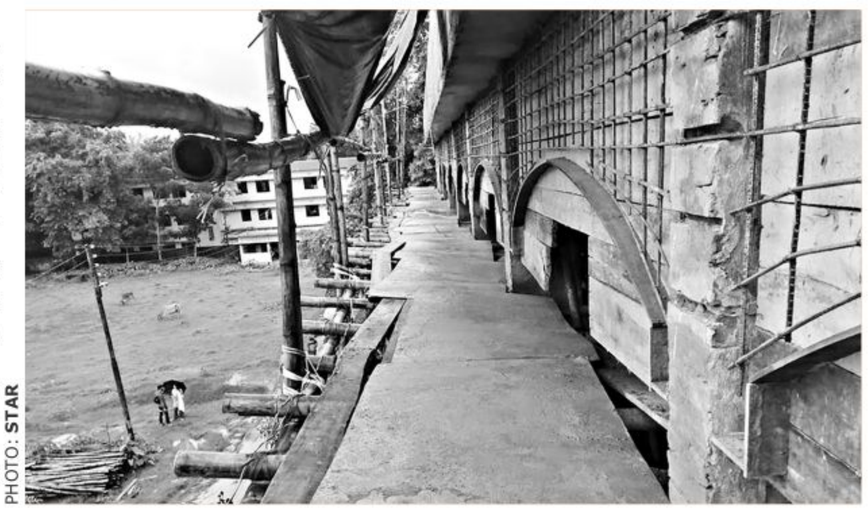

PHOTO: STAR

Iron rods replaced bamboo sticks yesterday after media reports on construction of a wall of Bandarban Government Women College's academic building.

2 fishermen die in Bhola trawler capsize

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jhalakathi*

Two fishermen died as their trawler capsized in the Meghna river in Betua Switch Gate area of Bhola's Lalmohon upazila yesterday.

The deceased were Kabir, 24, son of Hossain Ali, and Russel, 17, son of Faizullah of the upazila.

In the morning, 14 fishermen went to Meghna for fishing and their trawler was hit by a storm suddenly and capsized, said Humayun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Lalmohon Police Station.

Of the fishermen, Kabir and Russel drowned while the rest managed to swim ashore.

Tidal surge takes toll on Kuakata seafront

SOHRAB HOSSAIN *with* ANDREW EAGLE

Seasonal king tides over the past two months have caused extensive damage to the Kuakata foreshore. Around ten feet of the lone link road to the area has been washed into the Bay of Bengal, with the pedestrian zone having significantly narrowed due to erosion.

"The beach is being washed into the Bay with each high tide," says local small businessman Md Taiyubur Rahman. "We've lost part of the link road. The beach is littered with uprooted trees."

The Daily Star observed that a public toilet block on the beach is at risk of collapse due to the increased erosion associated with the monsoon season.

Further, a biogas plant owned by the Local Government Engineering Department as well as an old telephone and telegraph office have already been washed into the sea.

Kuakata municipality's Mayor Abdul Bareq Mollah says the concerned authorities need to take immediate action to protect the beachfront from further erosion, considering its national importance to tourism.

"A project proposal in this regard is already under consideration at the water resources ministry," says the area's executive engineer for Bangladesh Water Development Board, Md. Abul Khayer. "When due processes have been completed, work can begin."

The Kuakata seafront however faces such conditions at this time every year. "A portion of the beach gets washed away like this every monsoon season," says local resident Md Shahjahan Akhon.

A portion of link road at the Kuakata sea beach got washed into the Bay of Bengal due to seasonal tides. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ARIFUR RAHMAN

কৃষিই সমৃদ্ধি

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

তুলা উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
নির্বাহী পরিচালকের কার্যালয়
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পুনঃ নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

তুলা উন্নয়ন বোর্ডের অকেজো ঘোষিত নিম্নবর্ণিত ০৩ (তিন)টি গাড়ি নিলামে বিক্রয়ের জন্য আগ্রহী প্রতিষ্ঠান/ক্রেতা সাধারণের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে পুনঃ নিলাম দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক্রঃ নং	গাড়ির বিবরণ	গাড়িসমূহের বর্তমান অবস্থান	সিডিউলের মূল্য	দরপত্র জামানত
১।	মারুতি কার নং-ঢাকা মেট্রো-ভ-৮৭০২	তুলা উন্নয়ন বোর্ড, সদর দপ্তরের গ্যারেজ, ফার্মগেট, ঢাকা।	১,০০০/- (এক হাজার টাকা)	উদ্ধৃত মোট মূল্যের ২৫% হারে টাকা (ফেরতযোগ্য) ব্যাংক ড্রাফ্‌ট/পে-অর্ডার আকারে। দরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে।
২।	জীপ নং-যশোর-ক-০৪৭৮	তুলা উন্নয়ন বোর্ড, যশোর জোনের গ্যারেজ।		
৩।	মাইক্রোবাস নং-দিনাজ-ব-৯২৩৪	তুলা গবেষণা কেন্দ্র, সদরপুর, দিনাজপুর।		

শর্তাবলীঃ

০১।	দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির স্থান	ঃ	তুলা উন্নয়ন বোর্ড, খামারবাড়ি, ফার্মগেট, ঢাকা।
০২।	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	ঃ	১৭/০৮/২০১৭ইং তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।
০৩।	দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার স্থান	ঃ	তুলা উন্নয়ন বোর্ড, খামারবাড়ি, ফার্মগেট, ঢাকা।
০৪।	দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার তারিখ	ঃ	২০/০৮/২০১৭ইং তারিখ সকাল ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
০৫।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ	২০/০৮/২০১৭ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২.১৫ ঘটিকায়, দরপত্রদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হবে।
০৬।	দরদাতাগণ দরপত্র প্রস্তাব দাখিলের পূর্বে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে গাড়িসমূহ Pre-inspection করতে পারবেন।		
০৭।	দরপত্রের বিস্তারিত তথ্য সিডিউলে পাওয়া যাবে।		
০৮।	কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।		

ড. মোঃ ফরিদ উদ্দিন
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জিডি-১৪৬৮

Slight rain floods Lalmonirhat town

Roads become muddy, get submerged in stagnant water due to lack of drainage system

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Lalmonirhat*

People of the district town face immense suffering even after slight rain as the roads become muddy and get submerged in stagnant water that cannot flow away due to lack of a drainage system.

Besides, potholes have developed at many places, making it risky for vehicles and pedestrians to use the roads.

Mizanur Rahman, 44, a trader at BDR Gate, said the area is one of the main points of the town, but it becomes unfit for traffic and pedestrians after rain.

Rickshaw-puller Nurul Islam, 46, said rickshaw-pullers and passengers suffer due to the pot holed roads.

Azizul Islam, 55, of Sapatana Road said it is not possible to walk on roads as they become muddy after rain. "Rickshaw-pullers do not want to carry passengers on those roads," he added.

"Due to insufficient drainage facility in the town, the water becomes stagnant on the road after slight rainfall, and many roads have not been repaired for long," said Ashraf Hossain, 60, of Station Road.

The badly affected areas are, BDR Gate, Saptana Road, Hospital Road, Thana Road, Railway Bazar, North Bengal Road, Uttara Road and Puran Bazar.

Lalmonirhat Municipality Mayor Reazul Islam Rintu said he is very keen to mitigate the town dwellers' sufferings. Work for building new drains and roads, and repairing of old roads is going on in the municipality area under Urban Government and Infrastructure Improvement Project, costing Tk 30 crore, he added.

Institute of Remote Sensing
Jahangirnagar University (IRS-JU) jointly organizes
Training Workshop on Google Earth Engine

with ICIMOD (SERVIR-HKH programme of MENRIS) supported by NASA and USAID.

Google's GEE platform can be used for large- and small-scale scientific analysis and visualization of geospatial datasets. It stores, organizes, and provides access to a wide variety of satellite imageries and geospatial datasets, and offers global-scale environmental data analysis capabilities. In addition to the tools and cloud computational powers necessary for analyzing large datasets, the GEE platform also offers Application Programme Interfaces (APIs) in JavaScript and Python. GEE is widely used by researchers, non-profit organizations, educators, and governmental agencies to analyze large-scale geospatial data, and is available free of cost for non-commercial users.

This training offers participants an opportunity to gain hands-on experience using GEE to complete a series of real-world environmental remote sensing projects for beginners, intermediates, and experts. Participants will be able to develop an integrative project that encompasses remotely sensed data inputs, processing, and analyses for an environmental scientific investigation.

Date: 20 August to 24 August 2017 (Five days)
Venue: Jahangirnagar University Campus
Number of participants: 30

For more information, please visit http://www.icimod.org/?q=28222 and http://irs-ju.com/ Application link: http://www.icimod.org/?q=26784

The deadline for submission of applications is **30 July 2017.** Selection of results will be announced on **7 August 2017.**

For further information, please contact Dr Sheikh Tawhidul Islam, Director (IRS-JU) Jahangirnagar University.