

# 600-acre farmland waterlogged

Crops rot as culvert closure blocks water

ZAHANGIR SHAH with ANDREW EAGLE

At this time of the year, farmer Munser Ali from Dighi union in Manikganj Sadar upazila usually spends about Tk 20,000 to grow Aman paddy on his seven bighas of land. He usually harvests around 280 kilograms of paddy for a profit in the vicinity of Tk 80,000.

This year it wasn't possible. Some influential local people blocked a culvert to protect a newly-constructed road last year, leaving more than 600 acres of land, including Munser Ali's, currently waterlogged. His crop rotted in the field.

By tradition three crops are grown by local farmers every year. Between February and June IRRI paddy dominates, followed by Aman paddy and jute from July to October. In the winter season varieties of vegetables, mustard, wheat and maize are favoured crops.

Since the culvert's closure only IRRI paddy has been viable, leaving many farmers facing severe economic hardship.

The affected farmers, comprising more than 300 families from ten villages, want the culvert re-opened as a matter of urgency. They are threatening to start a protest movement if their demand is unmet.

According to them, water drainage was disrupted last year when one end of the culvert was closed with concrete slabs in

conjunction with the construction of an earthen road built with public funds by Garparpara union councillor Delwar Hossain. Since then other influential locals including one Dulal Pramanik have seized the opportunity to encroach on a four kilometre stretch of adjacent canal, constructing buildings there. The stagnant water build-up on the other side meanwhile, is an ideal mosquito breeding ground.

On 17 September 2017 Md Moazzem Khan, a farmer from Dautia village, complained to the deputy commissioner in Manikganj about the issue. Munser Ali raised the matter with the nirbahi officer of Manikganj Sadar upazila. As yet no remedial steps have been undertaken.

"I have assigned the matter to the assistant commissioner of land to investigate," says the deputy commissioner in Manikganj, Md Najmus Sadat Selim. "After the inquiry report is received we will take the necessary measures without delay."

Meanwhile the road builder Delwar Hossain says that the road was constructed according to public demand. Two of the alleged canal grabbers Dulal Pramanik and Jasim Uddin told The Daily Star that everyone fills canals to build houses; and that if others remove their buildings from canal land, they will too. The culvert was closed to protect the new road, they said.



Crops on vast tracts of land get damaged due to waterlogging this season as some local influential people closed the culvert (inset) on a canal near Dautia Bazar in Manikganj Sadar upazila last year.

PHOTO: ZAHANGIR SHAH

## Two arrested with firearms in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two alleged arms peddlers from Ishwardi upazila of the district on Sunday night.

They also seized five firearms, four magazines, three bullets, walkie-talkie and three bottles of liquor from their possession.

The arrestees are Abdullah Al Mamun, 30, of Aronkola village, and Mofikul Islam Mukul, 35, of Purbatengri village.

On secret information, the elite force arrested the duo with the firearms, bullets, liquor and walkie-talkie in Aronkola and Arzu market areas of the upazila, said Rab-12 sources.

## Newborn's mother dies in Panchagarh hospital

Relatives blame doctors' negligence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Mother of a newborn died due to alleged negligence of doctors at Panchagarh Sadar Hospital on Sunday night.

The relatives of the patient and local people encircled doctor and staff of the hospital.

Yasmin Akhter, 20, wife of Md Shishir of Panbara village of Atwary upazila of Panchagarh was admitted to the hospital on Thursday night with labour pain, said Shishir.

The next day Yasmin gave birth to a girl child through a normal delivery.

"On Sunday morning, her bleeding increased suddenly. But despite repeated request, doctors and other staff didn't visit the patient," Shishir alleged.

"The bleeding continued and my wife died around 7:00pm on Sunday," he said. After the patient's death, her relatives and

local people got furious and encircled the hospital.

Later, police brought the situation under control.

Resident Medical Officer Dr Monowarul Islam said the patient died due to excessive bleeding.

Replying to a query, he said the on-duty doctor and other staff were making preparation to transmit blood to the patient before she died.

Shishir submitted a complaint to Civil Surgeon Dr Pitambar Roy against the doctor and staff.

Contacted over cellphone, Civil Surgeon Dr Pitambar Roy said, "A three-member investigation team has been formed. After getting investigation report, departmental action will be taken against those who would be found guilty."

## Woman strangles her kid, kills self

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A woman allegedly committed suicide after killing her three-year-old son at Nawda Bahalbaria village in Mirpur upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased were Hena Begum, 24, wife of Abdul Karim of the area, and her son Asif Al Hasib.

Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station, said Hena often quarrelled with her husband over family matters.

The couple engaged in an altercation over a family issue yesterday noon. At one stage of altercation, Hena went to her room and locked it from inside, he said.

Later, she took her life by hanging herself from the ceiling after strangling three-year-old Asif.

The bodies were sent to Kushtia General Hospital morgue for autopsy, the OC said, adding that they will wait for the autopsy report and take next step.

Police are investigating the incident, said the police official.

## SONIA RAPE, SUICIDE CASE

# 2 accused surrender, sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A Panchagarh court yesterday sent to jail two accused in the case for raping and instigating a girl to commit suicide after they surrendered before the court and sought bail.

The accused are Monsur Ali Rajon, 32, son of late Soleman Ali of Mominpara village, and a ward boy of Tentulia Upazila Health Complex, and Atikuzzaman Atik, 33, son of Basir Uddin of Khuniaviata village under the same upazila, and a local agent of bKash.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Md Zahangir Alam delivered the order.

Rahima Akhter Sonia, 14, a Class VIII student of Kazi Shahabuddin School and College in Tentulia, committed suicide on October 10 at Kalaramjodh village under the same upazila, as the two accused, after raping the girl, threatened to release the video clips of the incident on the Internet.

The victim's mother Selina Begum filed the case with the local police station on Saturday accusing Rajon and Atik.

Earlier OC Suresh Chandra delayed filing of the case, saying that as an unnatural death case was filed with the police station in connection with the incident, there was no scope to file another case for the same.

On Sunday, hundreds of people formed a human chain at Tentulia Bazar that followed a discussion where socio-cultural and political leaders demanded removal of the OC for the sake of proper investigation of the case.



Innovative farmer Sebul Mia at his summer tomato field at Bahadurpur village in Juri upazila of Moulvibazar.

PHOTO: STAR

## Out-of-season vegetables

Sebul Mia of Juri upazila has gained success in his effort to cultivate off season tomatoes and gourds, drawing attention of people from different areas

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Sebul Mia of Bahadurpur village under Juri upazila of the district has gained success in his maiden effort to cultivate off season tomatoes and gourds that has drawn attention of people from different areas.

"I cultivated summer gourds and summer tomatoes on three decimals of land on experimental basis this season. The cultivation of tomato cost Tk 1000 and gourd Tk 1200," he told this correspondent.

toes worth over Tk 5000 and gourds worth Tk 3000. I hope to get Tk 5000 to Tk 8000 more by selling tomato and Tk 2000 to Tk 3000 by selling gourds," he said.

Sebul Mia said earlier he worked for good salary at a company in Dubai for 13 years.

"After returning home, I remained unemployed for sometime. Later, I became interested in agriculture with encouragement from neighbours Deepak Nath and Abhinathanath.

"I got training on 'integrated farming system' and planted 120 seedlings

of summer tomatoes and gourds on my land in last June. I have got good yield. I thank the upazila agriculture officer and other agriculture officials for their cooperation," he said.

Debal Sarker, upazila agriculture officer of Juri, said, "We encouraged Sebul Mia to start a new kind of cultivation. The agriculture office will extend all kinds of cooperation if people like him are interested in innovative agricultural work."

Local farmers will also be trained to cultivate vegetables on floating beds, he added.

## 2 killed in racing boat capsized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The bodies of two people, who drowned in the river Jamuna after a racing boat capsized on Saturday, were recovered yesterday.

Twenty-three people of Kamarjani union in Sadar upazila of the district were practicing for a boat race to be held at Rajibpur in Kurigram when the boat plunged into high waves and capsized. Two people drifted away while the rest swam ashore.

Officer-in-Charge of Sadar Police Station Khan Md Sharier said divers searched for the missing persons, but could not find them.

Later, police recovered the bodies of Abdul Latif, 32, from Bharatkhal in Shaghata upazila, and Ful Mia, 27, from char Kalasona in Fulchhari upazila.

## 2000 gas lines disconnected

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Bakhrabad Gas Distribution Company in a drive disconnected 2000 illegal connections to houses in Chauddogram upazila of the district yesterday.

Md Rabiul Haque, DGM of the gas company, said they removed 10km illegal distribution lines at Satbaria, Kandirpar and Noagaon villages in the upazila.

There are about 300km illegal gas lines and about 20 thousand consumers are using this gas illegally, said Rabiul Haque.

## AUCTION NOTICE NO. 24/2017-18

Sale of the attached Coastal Tanker "M.T. ASHA" by International Public Auction

In pursuance of the order dated 04.07.2017, passed by the hon'ble presiding Judge of the Admiralty Bench Mr. Justice A. F. M. Abdur Rahman, in the Execution Case No. 2 of 2013 (Arising out of Admiralty Suit No. 05/2002) regarding the sale in public auction of the Coastal Tanker "M.T. ASHA", now lying under attachment at the Jetty of Bashundhara Group, situated opposite Fatullah Pagla 50 Megawatt Power Plant, Fatullah, Narayanganj, it is hereby notified that the said Coastal Tanker "M.T. ASHA" shall be sold on "as it is where it is" basis by public auction in close bid system by the Marshal of the Court or his substitute at his office in the High Court Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court on 23/10/2017, 2:30pm.

Information regarding the said Coastal Tanker is available from the Office of the Registrar General & Marshal and the same may be inspected, upon Prior Permission, at the location. Interested local and foreign bidders may participate in the auction by submitting written proposal mentioning the proposed price in closed envelope at the Office of the Marshal on the date and time mentioned above. Foreign bidders or their authorized agents may also participate in the auction, subject to fulfillment of the requirements of the Foreign Exchange Control Regulations of Bangladesh.

The bidder, shall be required to deposit Pay-Order or Bank Draft of 10% of the bid Value from any scheduled bank in the name of the "Registrar General & Marshal of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh" as security money along with the bid in the closed envelop. The successful bidder may request for adjustment of his security money with his bid money, while the unsuccessful bidders will get their Pay-Order/Bank Draft deposited as security money returned immediately.

On acceptance of the highest bid by the Marshal (subject to confirmation by the Admiralty Court) the successful bidder shall be informed. On the next 72 hours of information, successful bidder must pay 25% of the bid price to the "Registrar General & Marshal" at office time by Pay-Order or Bank Draft from any scheduled bank in the name of the "Registrar General & Marshal of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh" failing which his bid will be cancelled and the security money will be forfeited. The balance 75% of the bid price shall be paid by Pay-Order or Bank Draft in the same name within 14 (fourteen) days of confirmation of the sale by the Hon'ble Court. In case of failure to deposit the balance 75% of the bid price within the stipulated period, the security money along with 25% of the bid money deposited earlier, shall stand forfeited.

The Marshal reserves all rights to cancel the auction and the highest bid and to hold re-auction without assigning any reason.

### Description of the Vessel in Brief:

1. NAME OF THE VESSEL	: M. T. ASHA
2. PORT OF REGISTRY	: CHITTAGONG.
3. REGISTRATION NO.	: C-1161
4. YEAR OF BUILT	: 1983
5. GROSS TONNAGE (GRT)	: 994.00 MT.
6. DEAD WEIGHT (DWT)	: 2350 MT.
7. LENGTH	: 72.50 m.
8. BREADTH	: 12.00 m.
9. DEPTH	: 5.70 m.
10. TANK CAPACITY	: 2440 MT.
11. CLASS	: NOT CLASSED.
12. LAST DRY DOCKING	: NOT KNOWN.
13. HULL CONDITION	: NOT STANDARD.
14. FORECASTLE DECK	: NON OPERATIONAL.
15. CARGO TANKS	: DAMAGED AND CORRODED.
16. PUMP ROOM	: 2 CARGO PUMPS.
17. PROPELLER	: SUBMERSED UNDER WATER.

GD-2175