



This dam, built across the Ichhamati at Bahadurpur in Harirampur upazila of Manikganj, blocks flow of the river and snaps its connection with Padma, Jamuna, Kaliganga and Dhaleshwari rivers.

PHOTO: STAR

Three JMB men held  
OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Chapainawabganj

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in a drive yesterday arrested three suspected militants of 'Sarwar-Tamim group' of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila.

The arrestees are Mohammad Jenarul Islam alias Moin, 25, son of Enamul Haque, and Mohammad Rasul Box, 50, son of Zillur Rahman, and Mohammad Islam, 70, of Shibganj upazila.

A team of Rab-5, raided a mango orchard at Balabona village around 4:00am when a group of the banned outfit was holding a secret meeting and detained the three, said Rab-5 Commander Squadron Leader Mohammad Sayeed Abdullah.

They also seized a pistol, one magazine, three bullets, 1.1 kilogram explosive substances and three books on jihad from their possession, the commander said.

## Rash Mela begins November 2

Security tightened at Dublar Char near the Sundarbans

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Security has been tightened at Dublar Char near the Sundarbans ahead of the three-day Rash Mela beginning November 2.

The traditional festival will be held at Alorkol in Dublar Char, which will end on November 4.

Four patrol teams, consisting of forest department and police personnel, will be deployed for the protection of devotees and visitors in the Pashur, Salal, Bhola and Shiba rivers from November 1, said Mahmudul Hasan, divisional forest officer (DFO) of the Sundarbans.

The department has fixed eight waterway routes for devotees and visitors to go to Dublar Char. Thousands of people, irrespective of their beliefs, throng the festival at Alorkol, which is located on the coast of the Bay of Bengal in Sherkhola upazila. One will require permission from the forest department to attend the festival this year.

The visitors have to finish all festivities by November 4 and leave the place before sunset on the last day because no boat will be allowed to travel the area after sunset.

Everybody has to get permission after showing national identity card or chairman's certificate before joining the Rash Mela, the DFO said, adding that devotees will have to pay Tk 50 and visitors Tk 70 to get the permission.

Trawlers will have to pay Tk 1,500 for transporting people to and from the festival site. The boats need to have adequate stock of fuel for a three-day travel during the festival, Hasan said.

Carrying meat, explosives and firearms and playing music loudly will be completely prohibited, he added.

EXTORTION CHARGE  
AL men for  
expulsion of  
two leaders

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Manikganj

Leaders and activists of Manikganj district unit and Sadar unit of ruling Awami League (AL) brought out a procession in the town demanding expulsion of its joint secretary Kazi Enayet Hossain Tipu and Sramik League's district unit president Babul Sarker from the party.

Earlier, they held a rally at Manikganj Poura AL office premises in Manikganj town. President of Manikganj Sadar unit of AL Israfil Hossain presided over the rally.

The speakers at the rally said Kazi Enayet Hossain Tipu and Babul Sarker have been engaged in extortion in the transport sector for a long time. They are tarnishing the party's image.

They demanded the arrest of both of them and demanded their expulsion from the party.

## Ichhamati river dam removal stalled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

The local administration has lately postponed their decision to remove the controversial dam built on the Ichhamati river at Bahadurpur Bazar in Harirampur upazila under the district.

Following a report titled 'Held hostage by dams' on Page 16 of The Daily Star on October 24, the district administration discussed the matter with the district and upazila officials and Bangladesh Water Development Board (WDB) authorities.

Afterwards, decision was taken to break the dam at Bahadurpur yesterday, which was to be followed by breaking of another dam on the Ichhamati at Jelepara.

"I asked the WDB executive engineer to remove the dam at Bahadurpur and they set the time for breaking it at 10:30am on Sunday," said Harirampur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Kazi Rezwana Arefin.

The UNO, officer-in-charge of Harirampur Police Station, WDB officials, and chairmen of Gola and nearby unions were to be present during the event.

But WDB Executive Engineer Hasan Mahmud told this correspondent on Saturday night that the dam removal work had been postponed.

"The people supporting the dam removal and those opposing it took confronting

positions. And so, the administration has postponed the decision. After further discussions with all concerned, the dam will be broken, hopefully in a few days," he said.

Manikganj District Council Chairman Golam Mohiuddin, also president of the district unit of Awami League, said he had asked the deputy commissioner (DC) to break the dam on the Ichhamati river.

DC Md Nazmus Sadat Selim said, "Some local people including Awami League activists of Ramkrishnapur and Bahadurpur in Harirampur approached local lawmaker Mamatz Begum with request to prevent breaking of the dam. And the lawmaker has asked the administration for a few days so that decision can be taken after discussion."

Two temporary dams were built across the Ichhamati at Bahadurpur and Jelepara last year.

Many people in Bahadurpur and Ramkrishnapur led by some ruling party men oppose removal of the dams. They say the dams help protect the areas from erosion by the nearby Padma river while many others disagree.

Many locals said some ruling party men are earning huge profits from fish farming in the excavated three-kilometre river area after the dam was built.

There are also allegations that local fishermen are prevented from catching fish there.

Train kills  
youth while  
enjoying music  
thru' earphone

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Nilphamari

A youth was crushed under the wheels of a running intercity train while sitting on the rail track and listening to music through earphone on his mobile in Saidpur upazila yesterday.

The victim was Manik Hossain, 18, son of Delwar Hossain of Hatkhana Banipara in Saidpur municipality.

Witnesses said Manik was listening to music through earphone on his cellphone when intercity train Titumir Express from Rajshahi was going to Saidpur around 1:00pm.

The train driver saw Manik on the track and blew the horn so that he could move to safety, but the victim could not hear anything as both of his ears were blocked by the earphone and was crushed by the train.



This barking deer gave birth to a fawn at the shelter of Bangladesh Bonyo Prani Sheba Foundation in Sreemangal upazila of Moulvibazar on Saturday night. She was rescued from Sreemangal three years ago while her mate was brought to the shelter from Lawacherra last year. The species is listed as an endangered one in Bangladesh.

PHOTO:  
STAR



The lands in char areas of Sariakandi upazila in Bogra are still wet after the recession of floodwater, forcing the farmers to grow other crops instead of chilli this season.

PHOTO: STAR

## Chilli farmers opt for other crops

Lands in Bogra are still wet or waterlogged though floodwater receded

A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Farmers in the char areas of the district have started cultivation of alternative crops instead of chilli as the lands are still wet or waterlogged, caused by recent flood.

It would hamper at least 1.50 percent of national chilli production this season, said Md Faridur Rahman, district's sub-assistant agriculture officer of the Department of Agricultural Extension.

Faridur said chilli was grown on 7,000 hectares of land in winter last year, but at the same time this year it was only 2,600 hectares. The crop is also cultivated on 2000 acres of land in summer in the district.

He said farmers cultivate chilli on approximately 9,000 hectares of land

in a year, which is nearly five percent of total national area. The farmers of Sariakandi upazila grow more than 50 percent of chilli in the district, he added.

Farmers in Sariakandi are facing many problems in cultivating chilli this year as the wholesale and retail prices are high in the markets.

Lingering inundation and waterlogging on the char lands of the Jamuna river after the recent floods and the persistent rain forced the farmers to cultivate alternative crops like ganja rice (a local HYV variety), maize, jute, peanut, potato, etc.

Md Mokhlesur Rahman, 55, of Mourer Char village, said he cultivated chilli on four to five bighas of land last year, but this year he cultivated it on only 40 decimals due to

the incessant rain. "Large areas of my land are still waterlogged and if we cultivate chilli rather than paddy we will have to starve," he added.

Md Ramiz Uddin, 50, of Milkipur village in Shinganj upazila, cultivated hybrid chilli on two bighas of land, but the prolonged floods destroyed the whole crop. "I was upset at losing the chilli and now I cultivate other crops on the same land," he added.

"Due to the constant rain, the land remained wet for the last one-and-a-half months after the flood and farmers could not prepare seedbeds for chilli cultivation. They have turned to alternative crops like maize, peanut, rice and potato," said Md Abdur Rashid, upazila sub-assistant agriculture officer.

Being informed by the headmaster of the school, a police team detained them from in front of the school, the OC added.

He said farmers cultivate chilli on approximately 9,000 hectares of land

DEATH OF PATIENT  
'Bring interns to book'

A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Speakers at a rally in the town yesterday demanded exemplary punishment to those who were responsible for the death of a patient.

Some rights groups organised the programme.

On Thursday, Rahela Bewa, 75, of Joypurhat was admitted to Bogra Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital (SZMC) with old age complications.

Rahela's son Gaziur Rahman and grandson Rumman Hossain Shanto were beaten by the interns when Shanto addressed an intern as 'apa' (sister).

Later, doctors discharged the patient from SZMC without completing her treatment, said the speakers. Rahela died on Friday while being taken to Joypurhat hospital.

Three stalkers arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Patuakhali

Rangabali police yesterday arrested three youths from in front of Charganga High School on charge of stalking a girl student of the institution.

The arrestees are Mohammad Zahid, 20, Abu Taleb, 21, and Roni, 22. They all hail from Charganga village in Rangabali upazila.

The three arrestees used to tease a Class VII girl on her way to and from school regularly, Officer-in-Charge Milon Krishna Mitra of Rangabali Police Station said.

Being informed by the headmaster of the school, a police team detained them from in front of the school, the OC added.

He said farmers cultivate chilli on approximately 9,000 hectares of land

### তথ্য কমিশন

প্রতিতত্ত্ব ভবন (তত্ত্বীয় তলা)

ফ্রে-8/এ, আগারগাঁও প্রশাসনিক এলাকা

শেরে বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা, ফ্রারং ১১১০৬০৮

তারিখ: ২৯ অক্টোবর, ২০১৭

### তথ্য কমিশনের আইনজীবী নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

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