



The historic Darbar Hall, built by Maulana Bhasani in Santosh under Tangail, is in bad condition and can collapse at any time. Inset, a display item in Bhasani Museum is in bad shape due to lack of proper care.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

Maulana Bhasani memorabilia

Items are getting ruined due to lack of proper care and preservation

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

The memorabilia, especially the Darbar Hall, of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani in Santosh under the district are being ruined due to lack of proper care and preservation.

Born in 1880 in Dhanpara village of Sirajganj, Bhasani fought against the imperialism and oppression of Pakistani rulers. The devoted leader of the common people spent almost his entire life for the oppressed masses, which earned him the title Mazlum Jana Neta, meaning leader of the oppressed. He passed away on November 17, 1976.

Bhasani's close aide and coordinator of Bhasani Research Centre Syed Irfanul Bari said Bhasani built the Darbar Hall as a

symbol of communal harmony where people of all religions as well as the rich and the poor could come to voice their complaints without any fear.

The tin-roof Darbar Hall, built between April and August in 1970, has wooden pillars and is surrounded by a 3-foot-high brick boundary. It has space for 500 to 600 people. There is a 2-foot-high stage where Bhashani used to sit while giving speeches.

The first all-party conference to establish independent Bangladesh was held at the hall on January 9 in 1971. During the Liberation War, the Pakistani military tried to burn the historical hall but failed.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman went to Santosh on March 8 in 1975 and

took his meal with Bhasani in the hall.

Bhasani is no more, but the Darbar Hall is still standing beside his grave in Santosh as a witness to the glorious past.

During a recent visit to Santosh, this correspondent saw that the roof of the hall leaked and the wooden pillars and frames had decayed.

The many other memorabilia of Bhasani in the museum, which was established in 1986 adjacent to the Darbar Hall, were also in bad condition due to lack of care.

The Darbar Hall and the museum were under the Islami University Trustee Board, but the hall came under the Maulana Bhasani Science and Technology University in 2003.

Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof Mohammad Alauddin said the condition

of the hall is so bad that it could collapse in a storm.

"The university authorities are thinking of constructing a modern conference complex in Bhasani's name, keeping the historical Darbar Hall inside," he said, adding that the Bhasani museum will also be renovated for preserving the memorabilia of the great leader properly.

Irfanul said the memories of all democratic movements and the Liberation War of the country are tied to the historic Darbar Hall. "So it must be preserved like other important memorabilia of the Liberation War," he said.

"Moreover, the university authorities will have to do everything to keep the sanctity of the Mazar (grave) of Maulana Bhasani," he added.

Gold worth Tk 2.46 crore looted

Condition of bullet-hit SI critical

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Robbers looted 600 tolas of gold ornaments worth Tk 2.46 crore from a jewellery shop in Satoria upazila headquarters on Wednesday night.

One policeman was shot and three others sustained injuries while chasing the armed gang.

Injured sub-inspectors Md Aslam and Waheduzzaman and two constables of Satoria Police Station were admitted to Manikganj Sadar Hospital.

Later, Aslam and Waheduzzaman were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Condition of SI Aslam was stated to be critical, said Superintendent of Police Mahfuzur Rahman.

The SP said a gang of nine swooped on Nag Jewellers around 7:00pm and looted the gold ornaments from there at gun point. They exploded bombs in the area and fled the scene.

On information, police rushed to the spot and set up check posts at different regional roads and highways in all the areas of the district.

The robbers fired bullets and threw bombs on the policemen when they challenged a microbus in Satoria bus stand area around 8:00 pm.

SI Aslam was shot in his stomach while SI Wahiduzzaman and two constables were injured in bomb blast.

Police arrested an alleged robber with six bullets, 11 bombs and some gold ornaments.

Arrestee Sohel Molla Saiful, 26, of Bhandaria upazila in Pirojpur, confessed to committing robbery at the jewellery shop, said the police official.

Shop owner Chandan Nag said a gang in a white private car and a microbus posing themselves as DB men entered the shop and seized the gold ornaments at gun point. The incident was recorded in the CC camera of the shop.

Meanwhile, local jewellery shop owners closed their shops yesterday, protesting the incident.

DRIVE AGAINST CATCHING JATKA Five cops injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

Five naval policemen were injured in a clash with fishermen in Bishkhali river in the district on Wednesday during a drive against catching jatka.

The clash began when a team of Naimati naval police sub-station launched the drive to prevent the fishermen from catching jatka, said Sub-Inspector (SI) Atik.

He said they arrested two fishermen and recovered 3000 metres of current net during the drive and took the net and the arrestees for producing them before a mobile court.

He said around 50 fishermen attacked them with sticks and sharp weapons as soon as they conducted the mobile court. The fishermen snatched the arrestees, injuring the policemen as they tried to resist them, Atik added.

Critically injured Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Md Afzal Hossain and Nayak Md Rejaul Islam were admitted to Rajapur Upazila Health Complex.

A case was filed with Rajapur Police Station against 17 identified and about 40 unnamed persons, said Officer-in-Charge Md Shamsul Arefin. He said they were trying to arrest the accused.

'Robber' killed in mob beating

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A suspected robber was killed in mob beating at Dharbila village in Pabna Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Mukul Hossain, 40, a resident of Shibrampur village in Mujibnagar upazila of Meherpur.

Officer-in-Charge Mohammad Abdur Razzak of Sadar Police Station said a gang of seven to eight robbers swooped on the house of one Abul Kashem of the village around 3:00am.

As soon the gang entered Kashem's house, family members raised a hue and cry.

Hearing their screams, villagers rushed to the scene, encircled the house and later chased the gang.

At one stage, they caught one of the gang members Mukul while the other members of the gang managed to flee the scene.

The villagers then gave Mukul a good beating, leaving him critically injured.

On information, police went to the spot, rescued Mukul and took him to Pabna General Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Farmers count loss as rain flattens paddy

They face difficulty in harvesting the crop

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Hundreds of farmers are facing difficulty in harvesting the paddy that was flattened by the heavy rain and storms that swept over the district a few days ago.

District Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) Deputy Director (DD) GM Abdur Rauf said the target for cultivation of Ropa Aman was 99,150 hectares of land in six upazilas of the district in the 2017 season, while the achievement is 99,355 hectares.

Unfortunately, 12,500 hectares of matured paddy were flattened due to heavy rain and storms that hit the district recently. The farmers are facing problems in harvesting the flattened paddy and will incur losses this year.

Farmers at Kulfadanga village in Sadar upazila said they spent Tk 10,000 on one bigha of land and expected to harvest around 25 to 30 maunds of paddy, but they are getting only 15 to 18 maunds per bigha, which can be sold for around Tk 12,000 only.

Badal Mondol of the village said they are victims of natural disaster and will incur loss this year.

"Man proposes but God disposes. We will not only incur loss, there will also be a fodder crisis this year," farmers Shaharul Islam and Madhob Kumar Mondol of Bishoykhali village said.

DD of DAE said he hopes that paddy farmers will not incur loss, but vegetables growers face loss due to excessive water in the fields.



Farmers in Bishoykhali village under Sadar upazila of Jhenidah harvesting paddy that was flattened by heavy rain and storms. The photo was taken a few days ago.

PHOTO: STAR



Traders look at the fish in Harta Bazar under Ujirpur upazila of Barisal, the biggest wholesale fish market in the southern region.

PHOTO: STAR

Harta night fish market biggest in south region

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Harta Bazar wholesale fish market under Ujirpur upazila of the district has become the biggest such market in the southern region.

Local fish worth around Tk 2 crore to Tk 3 crore are traded in the market from midnight to 4:30am every day. Fish traders from different parts of the country come here to buy fresh and large local sweet water fish.

Fishermen have been bringing freshly caught fish from different areas of Sandhya and Sugandha rivers and hundreds of beels in Ujirpur, Agailjhara and Kotalipara upazilas to this market for twelve years.

One will be amazed to see the quality and big size of sweet water fish like rui, katla, mrigel, silver carp and telapia, said Narendranath Baroi of the market.

Seventeen wholesalers and thousands of fishermen are engaged in trading in the market, he added.

Not only big fish, but some small local fish like koi, magur, taki, puti and soul, are also available here, said wholesaler Nikhil Biswas.

The best local sweet water fish can be bought for Tk 300 to Tk 400 per kg, and big size rui and katla will cost Tk 400 to Tk 500 per kg, said Uttam Baroi, another wholesaler.

There are five ice factories here, and a cold storage is also needed, said Chairman of Harta Union Parishad Haren Roy.

Upazila Fishery Officer Abul Kalam Azad said traders from different areas of the country do business of over Tk 2 crore to Tk 3 crore of sweet water fish every day. This market is the most important wholesale fish market in the southern region, he added.

The market is in the middle of Gopalganj, Kotalipara, Madaripur and Barisal riverine areas, so it is easy to bring fish in trawlers. Due to this, the importance of this market is increasing day by day.

Traders are afraid of their security because a dacoity took place in the market a year ago, traders in Harta Bazar said.

Deputy Commissioner Md Habibur Rahaman said they are planning to build Harta Bazar as a model market, adding that a police camp has been set up in the area to solve the security problem.

bKash agent held for abducting Saudi expat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a youth for his alleged involvement in abducting a Bangladeshi in Saudi Arabia.

They also seized Tk 90,500, 25 SIM cards and 10 mobile sets from his possession.

Shohag Bepari, 30, a local bKash agent, was held in Madaripur on Tuesday. He hails from the area.

The victim is Saudi Arabia expatriate Delwar Hossain, 30, son of Dudh Mia of Kasba upazila.

The captain of Rab-14 Bhairab camp said Delwar was kidnapped from his workplace in Saudi Arabia on November 10. However, Saudi police later rescued him.

On November 14, Dudh was asked to send Tk 10 lakh for his son's release through a bKash number by calling illegal VOIP number.