

## 126 arrested in Bagerhat anti-drug drive

Action follows MP's warning

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

At least 126 people have been arrested till now following a three-day ultimatum given by local lawmaker to quit the sale of drugs in the district.

Sheikh Sarhan Naser Tamoy, the newly elected MP from Bagerhat-2 (Sadar-Kachua) constituency, came up with the ultimatum at a view exchange meeting with local Awami League leaders and workers at the auditorium in Bagerhat municipality on Wednesday night.

The administration will take stern action if the sale of drugs is not stopped during the period, he said at the meeting.

Fifty-one drug dealers and addicts were arrested in nine upazilas on Thursday and the previous day. 14 cases were filed against the detainees. On the other hand, 31 drug addicts were arrested from different upazilas of Bagerhat in a special drive of police from Thursday night to Friday morning and seven cases were filed against them.

Apart from this, 44 drug addicts were detained from the upazilas yesterday and the day before in the anti-narcotics campaign of law enforcing agencies in Bagerhat.

Five cases have been filed against the detainees, said Pankaj Chandra Roy, superintendent of police.



Boro saplings are grown on vast seedbeds for transplantation in Shalutikor area of Gainghat upazila in Sylhet. Right, Haor Bachao, Sunamganj Bachao organises a human chain at Altaf Square of Sunamganj municipality yesterday demanding early embankment construction to save their crops from flooding.

PHOTO: STAR



Haor Bachao, Sunamganj Bachao organises a human chain at Altaf Square of Sunamganj municipality yesterday demanding early embankment construction to save their crops from flooding.

# Haor farmers worried as embankment building delayed

Boro cultivation in full swing in Sunamganj; locals form human chains demanding steps to protect crops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, sylhet

Locals formed human chains in 10 upazilas of Sunamganj district yesterday morning demanding steps to protect Boro harvest of the haor region.

"Haor Bachao, Sunamganj Bachao" organised the programme.

They demanded forming Project Implementation Committees (PIC) after public hearing, prompt construction of Haor protection embankments and stopping the construction of unnecessary embankments.

As per the policy, all works related to the embankments must start by December 15 and have to be finished by February 28.

But the work is yet to start in full swing as it was delayed because of the parliamentary elections on December 30.

Although the administration is hopeful of finishing the reconstruction on time, farmers and rights activists are worried about the quality of the work.

In March-April of 2017, flash floods hit the district and other haor areas of north-east region, and the whole Boro cultivation was washed away.

Following corruption related to the construction of the embankment, the ministry filed cases and had to revise its policy related to reconstruction.

According to the revised Kajer Binimoye Taka (Kabita) Policy of 2017 of Water Development Board (WDB), all works related to the embankments must start by December 15 and have to be finished by February 28 every year.

As per the policy, the administration will form Project Implementation Committees (PIC) headed by the upazila nirbahi officers (UNO) by November 30 every year. The PICs are responsible for the reconstruction work of embankments.

The policy also determines that all schemes must be submitted to WDB by the district committee before September every year. The district committee is formed with the deputy commissioner as president and WDB executive engineer as member secretary.

Sunamganj WDB Executive Engineer Abu Bakar Siddique Bhuiyan said they planned to form 553 PICs to reconstruct 553 projects in 37 haors of 11 upazilas in the district this year.

"The total work will cost Tk 94 crore and the ministry concerned has already sanctioned one-fourth of the amount to start the work. Till last Monday, 243 PICs had been formed and only seven of them have started working, but the work will start in full swing soon," he said.

"The work was delayed due to the national election, but we are hopeful of finishing it in time," said the executive engineer, also member secretary of the district committee for embankment construction.

This year, 450 kilometres of embankments are being reconstructed by the WDB, while it was 1,300 kilometres last year. No flash flood hit the Boro cultivation last year.

Abdul Hakim, a farmer of Jamalganj upazila in Sunamganj, said Boro cultivation is going on in full swing although the embankment work has not started yet, which is worrying the farmers.

"All embankments need time to be strong enough to protect farms from flash flood, but if the work is finished in a hurry, then it will be of poor quality," said Kasmir Reza, president of Paribesh O Haor Unnayan Sangstha.

"We should remember the situation the country faced due to the flash flood of 2017 that washed away the Boro crop totally. We will submit a memorandum to the administration soon with the demand for quality work in time," he said.

Boro is being cultivated on 217,600 hectares of land in the district this year as the weather is favourable, said Bashir Ahmed Sarkar, deputy director of the Department of Agriculture Extension in Sunamganj.

The farmers are afraid of occurrence of flash flood as the work is being delayed, he said.

Deputy Commissioner of Sunamganj Abdul Ahad said, "Hopefully the work will be finished in time. As the method of working is machine-based now, the quality of work will be ensured before the finishing."



A gang fells some 119 acacia trees beside a road in Ghatai upazila of Tangail on Thursday night.

PHOTO: STAR

## 119 roadside trees felled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Some 119 acacia trees beside a road in Ghatai upazila have been felled.

The incident occurred beside the three-kilometre road of Local Government and Engineering Department from Chaitarbaid to Malenga under Chourasha Forest Beat in Deopara union on Thursday night.

Locals found the branches of felled trees on the two sides of the road on Friday morning.

Local people said a local organised gang of tree thieves was involved with the incident.

Abdur Rashid Bhuiyan, beat officer of Chourasha Forest Beat, said they have no responsibility over the roadside trees owned by a non-governmental organisation.

Main Uddin Talukder, chairman of Deopara Union Parishad, said he had also asked the local forest beat officer about the matter but he could not give any answer.

## BAU scientists go for safe broiler

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Poultry scientists of Bangladesh have been successful in producing safe broiler chickens and are at the first stage of supplying their product to local restaurants.

Poultry scientists of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) said this at a press conference at Mymensingh Press Club auditorium yesterday.

Small-scale production has been started, maintaining all steps to make the chickens free from different types of harmful ingredients, the scientists said.

They said the chickens available in the market are not free from antibiotics and their feed contains harmful chemicals.

Prof Md Akhteruzzaman Khan of Poultry Science Department of Faculty of Animal Husbandry at BAU said a group of 19 masters students of the department are now working for safe chickens. "I, along with some other professors of the faculty, am assisting the students with consultation," said Khan.

"We also monitor the Safe Broiler Farm set up at Kazirishimla in Trishal

on regular basis to check whether there is anything harmful for human health in the chickens," Khan said.

"We started our mission to produce safe broiler chicken and we have been successful," claimed masters student Ahsan Habib, a member of the farm.

Habib also said their chickens are free from antibiotics, adding that they use herbal medicines instead of synthetic medicines.

"We also prepare the feed using natural ingredients, including 'neempata,' and maintain strict bio-security in all respects," said Prosenjit Mondal, another member of the farm.

The price is a little higher than that of broiler chickens available in the market as the production cost is also higher, the scientists said.

Later, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Safe Broiler Farm and local restaurant Avanti.

Prof Mohammad Anowar Hossain of the Department of Bio-Chemistry and Molecular Biology of the faculty of Animal Husbandry and restaurant businessman Khandaker Sharif Ahmed were present at the press conference.

## Labourer killed, 10 injured in clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

An elderly man was killed and 10 others were injured in a clash between two neighbouring families over a trivial matter in Kamalganj upazila of the district on Friday night.

The deceased, Munibjit Rabidas, 58, a construction worker, was a resident of Dewchhara Tea Garden under Shamshernagar area in the upazila.

Quoting local people, police said Munibjit had been working as an assistant of neighbour Gariba Rabidas, 45, a mason, for the last couple of weeks.

On Friday morning, Munibjit locked in an altercation with Gariba as the latter appointed another worker to replace Munibjit.

At around 10:00am, the two neighbouring families and their relatives attacked each other with bamboo sticks and spears and the clash left 11 people injured.

Locals rescued the injured and sent seven of them, including Munibjit, to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital, where he died at 9:00pm.

"After hearing the news, we visited the spot and detained Narayan and Sagar Rabidas for their alleged involvement in the murder," said Kamalganj Police Station OC Arifur Rahman.

Police sent Munibjit's body to hospital for autopsy, the OC said, adding that they were preparing to file a case in this regard.

# Man killed by wife, another badly injured

Two alleged culprits arrested

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A man was brutally killed allegedly by his wife at Mashinda village under Gurudaspur upazila of Natore, while another man sustained serious injuries as his wife cut his penis in Balitha area of Dhamrai upazila in Dhaka early yesterday.

The victim in Natore was Kabil Biswas, 32, son of Narshed Ali of Dhankuri village under Chatmohor upazila of Pabna, reports our correspondent.

Gurudaspur Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Md Selim Reza said Kabil Biswas married Rumi Begum four months ago. Since then, Kabil used to sexually harass his wife after taking sex stimulating drugs.

Two weeks ago, Rumi and Kabil had an altercation over the matter and Rumi returned to her father's house.

Kabil went to his in-laws' house at Mashinda village on Friday and again harassed Rumi after taking the stimulants.

At one stage, Rumi cut her husband's testicles with a sharp weapon, leaving him dead on the spot.

Police arrested Rumi from the spot and

## Three workers injured in Rooppur plant

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Three construction workers were injured as a part of a crane fell on them at the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant site on Friday evening.

Site Officer of the plant Ruhul Kuddus said the workers were busy with the construction work of the turbine building near the reactor of the plant. The accident took place at about 6:00pm when a part of a 10-tonne crane broke and fell on the workers, leaving three injured, Ruhul said.

The victims Ibrahim Hossain, 35, Danish Miah, 30, and Md Wasim, 32, were taken to Ishwardi Upazila Health Complex. Ibrahim was referred to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital on Friday night as his condition turned critical.

The two others are out of danger, Ruhul said.



Above, Thakurgaon Deputy Commissioner KM Kamruzzaman Selim helps a kid to wear a jacket as One for Another, a cultural organisation formed by a group of students of Thakurgaon Government Boys' High School, gave warm clothes to 100 primary school students in Sadar upazila. Right, School Friends Network, a voluntary organisation of Bindubasini Government Boys' High School in Tangail, gives warm clothes to poor people in Sadar upazila.



PHOTO: STAR