



Beekeeper Bellal Hossain holding a beehive he set up near a mustard field at Tanapocha village in Daulatdia union of Rajbari's Goalando upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Beekeeping thrives near mustard fields

Rajbari's Goalando upazila draws beekeepers from other areas for the trade

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Beekeepers from nearby areas are passing a busy time extracting honey at different mustard fields in Rajbari's Goalando upazila.

During a recent visit to different villages in the upazila, this correspondent saw a number of beekeepers from Rajbari and Kushtia set up about 380 bee colonies near mustard fields at different villages under Ujanchar and Daulatdia unions.

"I started the business about 11 years ago with only 20 bee colonies and now I have 200 bee colonies," said Bellal Hossain, a honey farmer from Kushtia's Khoksa upazila.

"I have set up all my bee colonies near a

mustard field in Tanapocha area under Daulatdia union and I get seven to eight maunds of honey every week," Bellal said, adding that he sell the honey at Tk 11,000 to Tk 13,000 per maund to the wholesalers from Dhaka.

"I have to spend 50 percent of my earning to meet the expenditure during the extraction period and feeding the bees in the off-season," Bellal added.

Another beekeeper Mukter Hossain, who set up 90 bee colonies in adjacent Edris Mia Para, said he got four maunds of honey from his 90 bee colonies in the last one month and sold the extracted honey at Tk 12,000 to Tk 13,000 per maund.

"I have set up 108 bee colonies in Annada Bazar area under Ujanchar union," Ibrahim Sarder of Basantapur area in Rajbari Sadar upazila said, adding that due to favourable weather he is expecting a good honey collection this year.

Goalando Upazila Agriculture Officer Mohaymen Akter said about 655 hectares of land in the upazila have been brought under mustard cultivation this year.

Every year, many honey farmers from other parts of the country come to the upazila to collect honey using their bee colonies, he said, adding that he hoped that the honey farmers would have a good production this season.

Hailstorm damages crops, houses in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A hailstorm coupled with rain left different crops on vast tracts of land damaged at 30 villages in Baghaichhari upazila of the district yesterday.

Besides, at least 15 to 20 tin-roofed houses were completely damaged as the hailstorm lashed through Baghaichhari, Saroatoli, Amtoli and Khedarmara unions in the upazila.

The affected villagers claimed that the extent of loss caused by the storm is around Tk 50 lakh.

The affected villages include Sijakmukh, Mohish Pujje, Baghaichhari, Kedarmara and Battola village.

Farmer Lalit Chandra Chakma of Mohish Pujje village in Saroatoli union, said he cultivated watermelon on five bighas of land this year.

The hailstorm has completely damaged all his watermelon, he said, adding that due to the storm he might have to count a loss of Tk 5 lakh now.

Tomato grower Bimolakkho Chakma of Dakkhin Sijak village, said the storm has destroyed his two bighas of tomato field.

Turkey farm owner Bappi Chakma of Sijakmukh village, said eight to ten turkeys of his farm sustained serious injuries during the storm and a few of them might die anytime.

Saroatoli Union Parishad Chairman Tushar Kanti Chakma said vast tracts of croplands as well as many houses in his union were badly damaged by the sudden hailstorm.

Officials of Department of Agricultural Extension in the upazila visited the affected villages and were working to assess the loss caused by the storm, he said.

Baghaichhari Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Nadim Sarwar said he already directed the project implementation officer to make a list of the affected farmers.

The affected farmers will get help from the local administration soon, the UNO added.



A cropland lies ravaged at a field of Sijakmukh village in Saroatoli union of Baghaichhari upazila under Rangamati hill district after a hailstorm lashed the area yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



Kalmakanda UNO Zakir Hossain fighting a fire beside Kalmakanda-Netrakona road on Saturday night.

PHOTO: STAR

UNO's swift move saves lives

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

An instant decision made by the upazila nirbahi officer of Kalmakanda saved damage to properties and possible loss of lives in his upazila under Netrakona on Saturday night.

Around 11:00pm, while UNO Zakir Hossain was on way to Netrakona Railway Station to catch a train to Dhaka, he took notice of a haystack burning right next to a couple of houses beside Kalmakanda-Netrakona road.

He along with his friends, who were accompanying him, immediately got out of his vehicle and rushed to the spot in their effort to douse the flame.

While they were crying out for locals' help in fetching water to douse the fire, the UNO had his driver turn on the siren of his vehicle in order to caution everyone against the imminent danger, said locals who answered to the distress call of the UNO.

Hearing a commotion outside, house owner Alim Uddin, a poor farmer, and

his family members woke up and came out only to find out that the UNO, his friends and others were trying to save his house from a fire with water brought from nearby places, said Rafiqul Islam, chairman of Pogla union parishad, quoting locals.

The fire was extinguished several hours later, he said, adding that there could be a huge damage to property, and lives of the 12 residents of the houses would be in danger unless the fire was put out at the right time.

Speaking with this correspondent later, UNO Zakir Hossain, who has a degree in Industrial and Production Engineering from Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, said the firefighting training he had received at a previous job with a private firm helped him take the right decision at the right time.

While Alim Uddin thanked everyone, especially Zakir Hossain, for saving their lives as well as his house, Zakir said, "I'm really happy that I could do something helpful for people."

Nine cops among 30 hurt in clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

At least 30 people including nine policemen were injured as two groups of villagers engaged in a clash in Sanerpara area under Rajoir upazila of Madaripur on Saturday evening.

The clash occurred after Sajal Howlader of Mollakandi village and Emon Sheikh of Bejerpara village in Rajoir locked in an altercation over taking sweet at Rajoir Thana More during a shop opening ceremony, locals said.

The three-hour-long clash left 30 people including nine policemen injured.

They were taken to Rajoir Upazila Health Complex.

"Informed, police rushed to the spot and fired 66 rubber bullets and seven teargas shells to quell the situation. Eight people have been detained," said Rajoir Police Station OC Ziaul Morshed.

Jubo League man murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A Jubo League leader was hacked to death allegedly by his intra-party rivals in Chowgachha upazila of Jashore yesterday.

The deceased, Abdul Barik, 30, son of Azizur Rahman of Charabari village in the upazila, was general secretary of Palsara union Jubo League, youth wing of ruling Awami League (AL).

Quoting the villagers, police said there was a rivalry between upazila AL President Habibur Rahman and its General Secretary Masud Chowdhury.

A gang allegedly loyal to Habibur hacked Barik around 11:00am.

Neighbours took him to Jashore General Hospital, where he was declared dead.

Slain Barik was accused in several criminal cases filed with Chowgachha Police Station, said Sub Inspector SM Akikul Islam.

'Implement CHT peace deal soon'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Speakers at a programme marking the 21st council of Pahari Chhatra Parishad's (PCP) Rangamati unit yesterday demanded immediate implementation of Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT) peace agreement that was signed 22 years ago.

PCP, student wing of Parbattya Chattogram Jana Samhati Samity (PCJSS), organised the day-long programme at Rangamati Cultural Institute.

"People in CHT can't move freely. False cases were filed against many PCJSS leaders, activists and general indigenous people. They were put into jail," former lawmaker Ushaton Talukder, also vice president of PCJSS, said while speaking at the programme as chief guest.

"It is the government's responsibility to implement the agreement but some quarters are hatching conspiracy against the indigenous peoples of the region," he added.

Sagor Tripura Nantu, assistant organising secretary of Parbattya Chattogram Jana Samiti's Rangamati unit, Jewel Chakma, president of PCP's central committee, Shanti Debi Tanchangya, assistant general secretary of Hill Women's Federation's central unit, and Avijit Barua, president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union's Rangamati unit, spoke at the programme presided over by Rintu Chakma, president of PCP's Rangamati unit.

In the afternoon, a new 21-member committee of PCP Rangamati district unit was formed with Rintu Chakma as president for the third term, Milan Kusum Tanchangya as general secretary and Palash Chakma as organising secretary. The committee has been formed for a two-year term.

One arrested with 4,400 yaba pills

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested an alleged drug peddler with 4,400 yaba pills at Babupur-Miratuli village in Shibganj upazila on Saturday night.

The arrestee is Kabil Haque, 35, son of Jobdul Haque of Chhatrajitpur village in the upazila.

On secret information, the elite force raided the area and arrested Kabil with the yaba pills, said Squadron Leader Sayeed Abdullah Al Murad, commander of Chapainawabganj Rab camp.

The arrestee was later handed over to Shibganj Police Station, said the Rab official.



Police seized this metallic British era border pillar, inscribed with East India Co, from a house of Patikelbari village in Nesarabad upazila of Pirojpur and arrested five people on charge of selling it on Saturday night.

PHOTO: STAR