



The radar system of Rangpur meteorological office has remained inoperative for the last seven years.

PHOTO: STAR

# Met offices in Rangpur need upgradation

The division's only radar remains out of order for seven years

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

It is difficult to predict the weather in Rangpur division as the meteorological offices here are conducting their operations with analog system equipment. Besides, the only radar in the divisional office, which cover eight northern districts, remained out of order for the last seven years.

There are six meteorological offices at Rangpur, Dinajpur, Kurigram, Panchagarh and Nilphamari's Saidpur and Dimlaupazilasin the division.

Adverse impacts of climate change have triggered recurrence of natural disasters like storm, flood, drought and earthquake. It has become a major cause of concern and the recent cyclone Fani, which lashed the division, has focused on necessity of upgrading the weather offices with modern equipment and skilled manpower.

Lokman Hakim, meteorological assistant in Saidpur office, said they collect data on rainfall, highest and lowest atmospheric temperature, humidity, rate of water evaporation, air pressure, wind direction, velocity, upper wind observation

and so on but cannot detect natural disaster directly which a radar can do.

"We have to use analog system equipment like rain gauge, wet and dry bulb thermometers, evaporation pan, soil thermometer, barometer and so on," he said, adding that if those are replaced with digital instruments, they would likely to give better results conveniently.

Meanwhile, the only radar set up in the divisional weather office has remained out of order for the last seven years, he said.

Mohammad Ali, assistant engineer of the office, said Japan government set up the radar in 1999 which went out of order in 2005 as thunder bolt struck.

After being repaired by Japanese experts, it worked well till 2012 and since then it is inoperative due to unavailability of spare parts, he said.

Md Mostafizur Rahman, assistant meteorologist, and also the in-charge of weather, radar and seismic observatory in Rangpur, said the government is going to set up ultramodern radar there with technical support of Japan which will provide relevant data automatically.

# Irregularities in distributing govt allocated rice

UP rep takes Tk 100 from each fisherman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Public representatives of Sikder Mollik union parishad (UP) in Pirojpur Sadar upazila have allegedly collected Tk 100 from each of the beneficiary fisherman, who came to collect their compensation rice yesterday.

Many of the beneficiaries alleged that Rafiq Howlader, UP member of ward No 5, demanded Tk 100 from them when they went to collect the compensation rice from the UP premises yesterday morning.

"As all the other beneficiaries paid the amount, so I had to pay the money for releasing the allocated 120 kilogram of rice," fisherman Ruhul Amin said.

"Earlier, we never paid any money for the compensation rice," said Mahar Ali, another fisherman from the union.

Altaz Hossain, a representative of Fishermen's Association in the union, said the UP representatives have illegally collected the money from the fishermen.

A number of fishermen alleged that

their names are not enlisted in the beneficiaries list this year though they were enlisted last year.

Asma Begum, wife of fisherman Rustom Ali, said though she received the compensation rice last year, her husband's name has been dropped from the beneficiaries list this year.

Contacted, UP member Rafiq Howlader said they have collected Tk 90 from each of the fisherman for distributing allocated rice of three months.

Sikder Mollik UP Chariman Shahidul Islam said they took Tk 90 from each fisherman as carrying cost of rice from the upazila headquarters.

Mentionable, the government provides 120 kilogram of rice to each fisherman family during the ban period of catching jatka, hilsa fry less than 10 inches, from November 1 to June 30.

Under the program, 259 beneficiaries from Sikder Mollik union have been enlisted for the compensation rice this year.



A representative of Sikder Mollik union parishad in Pirojpur Sadar upazila takes Tk 100 illegally from a woman, belonging to a fisher family.

PHOTO: STAR

# UP chairman murder accused held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on Sunday arrested a man on charge of killing a union parishad (UP) chairman in Joypurhat Sadar upazila.

The arrestee is Rajib Hossain, 34, son of Yakub Ali of Dakkhin Bulupara village in the upazila.

Acting on a tip-off, the elite force raided Gulshan area in Joypurhat municipality on Sunday night and arrested Rajib, said ASP Azmal Hossain of Joypurhat Rab-1.

On June 4 in 2016, Badsha UP Chairman AK Azad was stabbed to death, said the Rab official.

# Schoolgirl takes own life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A schoolgirl killed herself allegedly over a trivial matter at Diabari village in Harirampur upazila of the district on Sunday.

The victim, Ria Akter, a Class V student at Diabari Government Primary School, was daughter of Abdur Rouf of the village.

Quoting the deceased's family members, police said Ria's mother scolded her and beat her with a stick when she delayed in returning home from one of their neighbours house on Sunday night.

Later, she hanged herself with a scarf from the ceiling of her room, Officer in Charge of Harirampur Police Station Aminur Rahman said.



Speakers address a rally held on the occasion of 30th founding anniversary of Pahari Chhatra Parishad in Rangamati town yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

CHT PEACE ACCORD

# Twenty-one years on, key provisions still unimplemented

PCJSS leader tells rally marking PCP's 30th anniversary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Twenty-one years into the signing of the CHT peace accord, a few provisions of the agreement were implemented, so the government should take immediate steps to fulfil all the provisions of the treaty.

Ushaton Talukder, vice president of Parbattya Chattogram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), said this at a rally on the occasion of 30th founding anniversary of Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) in the district town yesterday. PCP, a student wing of PCJSS, organised the programme.

Ushatan also said "Nobody is not safe in CHT now. People can't move

freely here. Many false cases were filed against many PCJSS leaders, activists and ordinary indigenous people. They were put into jail. Someone is hatching a conspiracy to eliminate indigenous people in CHT and destroy CHT peace accord."

Ruhin Hossain Prince, general secretary of Bangladesh Communist Party, Alauddin Ahmed, vice president of Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree Central Sangsad, Shishir Chakma, cultural activist of CHT, Alik Mree, general secretary of Adivasi Chhatra Sangram Parishad and Arun Tripura, general secretary of Parbattya Chattogram Jubo Samity, Rangamati unit, among others, spoke.

Jewel Chakma, president of Pahari Chhatra Parishad, central committee, presided over the programme.

The speakers at the rally said indigenous people are still being tortured in the region as major provisions of the agreement are yet to be fulfilled.

Earlier, leaders and activist of PCP and hundreds of indigenous peoples brought out a procession on Rangamati cultural institute premises in the town.

Later, a new PCP central unit committee was formed at the programme. The 31-member new committee was formed with Jewel Chakma and Raam Vai Pangkhua selected as president and general secretary.

# Cop found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A policeman was found dead in Joyra area of the town yesterday.

The deceased was Shahidur Rahman, 40, of Rajapur Kahla area in Dhamrai of Dhaka. He worked at Manikganj court as police constable.

Officer in Charge of Sadar Police Station Rakibuzzaman said despite repeated attempts, Shahidur did not receive his phone calls in the morning.

Later, his colleagues went to his house and found it locked from inside.

After breaking the door open, they found his body lying beside the toilet inside the house.

The body was sent to Manikganj District Hospital for autopsy, said the OC.

Enamul Haque, brother-in-law of the deceased, said Shahidur was father of a baby girl. He lived at the rented house alone as his pregnant wife is now staying at her father's house in Dhamrai upazila.

The reason behind the death could not be known immediately, said police and family members.

# CASE AGAINST DEWANGANJ MAYOR Plaintiff threatened to withdraw case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Family members of a woman, who was beaten mercilessly allegedly by Dewanganj Municipality Mayor Shahnewaj Shah Shah on Friday, are being threatened with dire consequences unless her family withdraws the case against the culprits.

The victim, Julekha Begum, 55, wife of Noor Islam of Charbhobashur village in Dewanganj upazila and elder sister of mayor's second wife Shila Khatun, has sustained injuries on the head and is now undergoing treatment at Jamalpur General Hospital.

On Saturday, Julekha's daughter-in-law Rebeka Begum, wife of Abdul Based, filed a case with Dewanganj Police Station against seven people, including Mayor Shah Shah, by name and 15 to 16 others unnamed.

Earlier, Julekha's son Based, 30, lend Tk 1.5 lakh to one Ijol of Pashchim Gamaria village, also a close aide of Mayor Shah Shah.

But recently Ijol refused to return the money, saying he never borrowed any money from Based.

As a sequel, Based locked in an altercation with Ijol on Friday, Officer in Charge (OC) of Dewanganj Police Station Moinul Islam quoted locals as saying.

Hearing chaos, Julekha rushed to the spot and took her stance beside Based.

In the meantime, one of Ijol's men informed the matter to Mayor Shah Shah, who rushed to the spot on a motorbike and started hurling abusive words towards Julekha.

As Julekha protested his misbehaviour, the angry mayor beat her mercilessly, leaving her severely injured, the OC said.

Later, the mayor and his men entered Julekha's house and vandalized all the furniture of her house.

Being informed, police went to the spot, rescued injured Julekha and admitted her to Jamalpur General Hospital.

"Since filing of the case the mayor and his men continued threatening us to withdraw the case, otherwise, to face dire consequences," Based said.



Like the ones in the picture, workers of 24 tea gardens in Habiganj observe two hours work abstention yesterday for realisation of their seven-point demand including increase of daily wage to Tk 400, along with other facilities for the poor community. The meagre Tk 102 that the tea workers currently get as daily wage is too scanty in view of the market prices of essential commodities, said the stakeholders.

PHOTO: STAR