



A paddy field damaged by rain with gusty wind at Belka in Sundarganj upazila of Gaibandha.

PHOTO: STAR

Rain, gusty wind damage Aman, vegetable plants in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Rain with gusty wind for the last three days caused damage to Aman paddy and vegetable plants in different areas of Gaibandha.

The rainwater submerged paddy fields in many low-lying areas of the district.

The water from the untimely rain also got stagnant in the vegetable fields, much to the worry of growers.

“Just after the recession of floodwater, I planted Aman seedlings for the second time on

two bighas of land and the plants are now at the flowering stage. But the heavy shower with gusty wind caused the plants to get loosened at the bottom and lie flat on the ground,” said Tara Mia, a farmer of Santiram village in Sundarganj upazila.

Mozaffar Hossain, a vegetable grower of the same village, said the plants may die if the accumulated rainwater cannot be fully drained out from the fields quickly.

Locals said this untimely rainfall affected paddy and vegetables in vast lands, especially

in low-lying areas.

SM Ferdous, deputy director of The Department of Agriculture Extension, Gaibandha, said such natural calamities are occurring due to climate changes globally.

“Farmers have been asked to drain out the standing water from crop lands. Paddy of the fallen plants will continue to grow into the ripening stage if the crop land does not remain under water. However, the yield will be affected if the fallen paddy plants are at the flowering stage,” he said.

Finally, elderly couple to get house

A month after staying in a neighbour's cowshed, they were rescued on Saturday

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Local administration has started building a house for an elderly couple who stayed in their neighbour's cowshed in Rangabali upazila for a month after being cheated by their only son.

The prime minister asked local lawmaker Md Muhibbur Rahman to arrange a new house and a piece of land for Shukkur Dewan, 70, and his wife Sahura Begum, 65, after different newspapers published reports on the issue, said Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mashfiqur Rahman.

Being informed, the couple was rescued from the cowshed of Shahjahan Gazi in Kawkhali village on Saturday and they are now kept under the latter's custody, he said.

On Sunday, they started building a disaster-resilient house for the couple under a project named 'Disaster tolerance dwelling house building for homeless people, said the UNO, adding that it will take about a month to complete the construction work of the house.

Deputy Commissioner Md Matiu Islam Chowdhury also asked the UNO to give the

couple Tk 10,000.

One acre of land will be given to the couple and it is now under process, said the lawmaker, adding that the couple will also be brought under all kinds of social safety net programmes including adult allowance.

Shukkur Dewan said he is very thankful to the prime minister as she ordered to give him a new house.

It is mentioned that around three months earlier, the couple's son Mohammad Hasan tricked them into handing over all their property on 40 decimals of land in Kawkhali village.

The couple realised of their son's deception only a month ago when Hasan left home secretly and Shukkur's brother Tajem Ali Dewan evicted them from their house, claiming that Hasan had sold all their property, including their agricultural land, to Tajem.

Since then, neighbour Shahjahan Gazi sheltered Shukkur and Sahura in a cowshed. With all their four daughters married off and no other family member to care for them, their neighbours have been providing food to them.



Teachers and students of Bhatara School and College accompanied by locals join a human chain in front of the institution in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar yesterday demanding punishment of the rapists of a seventh grader girl of the institution.

PHOTO: STAR

Rape of 7th grader sparks protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Teachers and students of Bhatara School and College in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar joined a human chain yesterday demanding punishment of the criminals who raped a girl student of the institution on Thursday.

Violence against women is on the rise due to lack of proper implementation of law, speakers said at the programme in front of the institution.

When the seventh grader girl was returning home after classes on Thursday afternoon, two men forcibly took her to a nearby rubber garden and raped her, said Sanjoy Chakrabarty, officer-in-charge (OC-Investigation) of

Kulaura Police Station.

Hearing screams, locals rushed to the spot and rescued the girl while the perpetrators managed to flee, he said.

“Victim's father filed a case with the police station accusing Shanu Mia, 35, and Anis Mia, 32, on the same night. Hours later, police arrested Shanu from Bhatara area and drives are on to arrest the other,” the OC said.

The girl is undergoing treatment at Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital.

Dr Partha Sarathi Datta, superintendent of the hospital, said they found evidence of rape after conducting some initial tests on the girl.

Heated

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the council to expunge Prof Obaidul's speech, several members from the academic council told this newspaper.

Professor Mansur, Zeenat and Wahiduzzaman are the members of Awami League backed Blue Panel of Dhaka University teachers.

Vice-chancellor Akhtaruzzaman termed Prof Obaidul's speech “unparliamentary” and expunged the speech from council proceedings.

Contacted, the vice-chancellor did not give details and said the matter should remain within the academic council.

Jashore farmers succeed in growing turmeric

MOHSIN MILON, Benapole

Favourable weather conditions for turmeric cultivation this year in Jashore are making farmers hopeful of reaping a good harvest.

After making continued profits from the crop in past several years, turmeric farmers in all eight upazilas of the district are increasingly getting more confidence in investing in the crop again.

This year, turmeric will be grown on more than 645 hectares of land all over Jashore and the crop is likely to be harvested within the next fifteen days, according to Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) sources in Jashore.

A large number of farmers who usually grow other crops in the region

are also being drawn to grow turmeric in recent years. Besides, different spices including turmeric grow well in the region for its moderate rainfall as well as its suitable atmosphere and soil, the sources added.

Turmeric farmer Bablur Rahman from Baikola village in Sharsha upazila said he has been making good profits from turmeric for the last few years and he looked forward to making good profits again this year from his cultivation of the spice on 30 decimals of land.

He prefers cultivating spices to other crops for higher profits, he also said.

Hirak Kumar Sarkar, DAE's agriculture officer in Monirampur upazila, said compared to other

crops, profit margin in turmeric cultivation is very high as around Tk 30,000 can be made in profit from one bigha of land where nearly 100 maunds of turmeric can be harvested at a cost of Tk 30,000.

Farmers are now selling each maund of the produce for Tk 6,000 at wholesale markets while each kilogram of dried turmeric now sells for Tk 100 at retail markets, he added.

While speaking with this correspondent, DAE's Agriculture Officer in Sharsha upazila Sautom Kumar Shil said with turmeric cultivation on the rise in the area, the department has been taking measures to provide necessary support for farmers interested in cultivating turmeric and other spices.



A section of a turmeric field in Jashore's Bakra village under Jhikargachha upazila.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Bodies of teenage boy, cleaner found in Jashore, Mymensingh

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Police recovered two bodies from Jashore and Mymensingh yesterday.

The body of a teenage boy was found on the premises of an abandoned building in Adalat Para area of Jashore town yesterday morning, reports our Benapole correspondent.

The deceased was Rakib Hossain, 15, son of Mamun Hossain of Bangulia village in Sujanagar upazila of Pabna.

He lived in Adalat Para area and ran a tea stall there.

Informed by locals, police recovered the body from beside the abandoned building in the morning and sent it to Jashore General Hospital for autopsy, said Jashore Kotwali Police Station officer-in-charge (Investigation) Sameer Kumar Sarkar.

Our Mymensingh Correspondent reports: Police recovered the body of a cleaner from a paddy field in Tamat area under Bhaluka upazila of Mymensingh yesterday morning.

The victim, Mohammad Rafiq, 38,

of Tamat village in Bhaluka, worked as cleaner at local Tamat Bazar, police said.

On information, police recovered the body around 11:00am and sent it to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital for autopsy, said Mohammad Mainuddin, officer-in-charge of Bhaluka Police Station.

“Rafiq was a hysteria patient. He might have died after falling in the roadside paddy field. There was no injury mark on his body. A case was lodged with the police station,” he said.

2-year-old raped

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to police, she remained quiet initially, the OC said, adding that the child was taken to Mollahat Health Complex and was later moved to Bagerhat Sadar Hospital.

Seeing the victim's condition deteriorating, the mother finally filed a case against Fahad with Mollahat Police Station on Sunday.

Police said they were trying to arrest the accused.

In Thakurgaon, a case was filed against Jahidul Islam, 18, Md Jashim, 22, and Md Rashed, 18, of Kanikoshalgaon in Sadar upazila on Sunday for raping a class-five student.

Jahidul and Jashim are

brothers, said Officer-in-Charge Chittaranjan Roy of Ruhea Police Station.

Quoting the victim's family, police said Jahidul and his friend Rashed abducted the girl while she was going to a toilet outside her home around 1:00am on Sunday.

They took her to a nearby bamboo cluster and raped her multiple times, said the OC, adding that the duo left the girl in her front yard around 4:00am and fled the scene.

The father of the girl filed a case against them and Jahidul's brother Jashim with Ruhea Police Station in the evening.

The victim was sent to

Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital for a medical test, said OC Chittaranjan, adding that the accused were on the run and police were conducting drives to arrest them.

Meanwhile, Police yesterday arrested a former Chhatra League leader who is among the five men accused of raping a woman in an isolated char of Bhola on Saturday evening.

Nazrul Islam, 30, the ex-president of Sakuchia Union unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) in Monpara upazila, was detained at a house in Sakuchia village, said Md Shakhawat Hossain, officer-in-charge of Monpara Police Station.

The woman was gang-

raped by four men in front of her two-year-old son on Saturday evening when she was returning home from Char Fasson by a speedboat.

Four passengers of the boat forced her into the forest of Chapilai and raped her there. Nazrul, who is also the boat owner, came to the scene later and extorted Tk 3,000 from the four passengers before he himself raped her, according to police.

The victim filed a case against six people including Nazrul the next day. The rest are passengers Bilal Hossain, 35, Kiran, 26, Rased Palwan, 25, Shahid Khan, 22, and boat driver Riaz Hossain, 25.

IT firm fined Tk 10.5 lakh

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authorised to send workers to Japan,” Masuma Parveen told The Daily Star yesterday evening.

Bangladesh and Japan have recently signed memorandum of understanding on labour recruitment. However,

those going to Japan will need no money at all as the Japanese employers will pay the service charge to the recruiting agencies enlisted by the government.

So far, ten private recruiting agencies were allowed to recruit

Bangladeshis for Japan. To conduct the recruitment job, the agencies must have a contract with a Japanese private company.

Anyone wishing to go to Japan must pass a language test and go through a 3-4 months long training, said expatriates' welfare minister

Imran Ahmad at a press conference on Sunday.

“We will have a zero-tolerance policy against those involved in any irregularities in recruiting our workers abroad,” he told journalists at the ministry.