



Baha Utsab, one of the biggest festivals celebrated by the Santal community to welcome the season's bloom, was held yesterday at Gaibandha. The indigenous community celebrated the occasion with religious and cultural rituals, including songs and dances.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Man dies in Badda fire

Three of family suffer burns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed and three of his family members — including two children — sustained burns in a fire at their house in Dhaka's Badda area early yesterday.

Saeed Hasan (37), a trader of Kaptan Bazar in Gulistan, who sustained 98 percent burns, succumbed to his injuries in the ICU of National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery around 6:30pm, said SM Ayub Hossain, resident surgeon.

His wife Rekha Akhter (35), their daughter Safa (10) and son Safiyan (8) were undergoing treatment at the institute.

Rekha sustained 30 percent burns while their children had 11 and 25 percent, respectively.

The incident took place around 3:45am on the top floor of a three-storey building in Beraid area while they were asleep.

Two firefighting units doused the blaze around 4:15am.

Halting river route to build bridge

Launch movement stopped on Galachipa-Dhaka route; passengers, traders in distress

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Since Friday morning, navigation on Galachipa-Dhaka river route has remained suspended for constructing a bridge over Lohalia river, adjacent to Patuakhali town.

The stoppage came into effect as per instructions of Patuakhali district administration, whereby all naval services, including four double-decker launches that ply the route, have ceased operation. As a result, passengers of Galachipa and Rangabali upazilas of the district have been suffering, with traders in the area particularly hurt over the disruption of goods transportation.

"I buy goods from Dhaka, transport them by launch and sell them at Galachipa. But movement on the route has completely ceased, while transportation costs are also increasing," said a frustrated Abdur Rahman, a trader from Galachipa town.

According to locals, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) started constructing the 576.25 metre long and 9.65-metre wide bridge over Lohalia at



The bridge is expected to be completed by December this year.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

a cost of Tk 47.19 crore, with the aim to improve road connectivity with Bhola district. The bridge is expected to be completed by December this year.

On February 20, a decision was taken at a meeting of Patuakhali District Development Coordinating Committee to halt navigation on Galachipa-Dhaka

route for at least two and a half months to accommodate construction of the bridge's middle part.

Later on March 9, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Md Kamal Hossain sent a letter to the assistant director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

CLIMATE CHANGE

'It's time to step up'

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has called for sincere commitment and urgent action from developed nations to fight climate change and ensure a gender-equal, sustainable world.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Fazilatunnesa Indira made the call while delivering the country's statement at a session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN headquarters yesterday.

I'm embarrassed

Says CCC mayor on failure to contain mosquito menace in port city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury has expressed his embarrassment at not being able to contain the mosquito menace running rampant in the city.

At a press conference yesterday, he said, "I went to visit a canal recently. As I threw a brickbat in it, hundreds of mosquitoes came flying out immediately."

"CCC workers sprayed anti-mosquito medicine in the area just three days ago. But people are still suffering all day and night," the mayor said, adding, "I'll not disagree, I am embarrassed with the situation."

CCC organised the press conference at its auditorium to mark the completion of Mayor Rezaul's one year of taking charge.

The mayor said no illegal occupier of canals and drains will be spared, however influential they may be.

He said city dwellers have been suffering from mosquitoes as stagnant water across different areas are creating environments conducive of their breeding. These are areas where temporary embankments have been built in canals under the project to address waterlogging in the city.

He added that the mosquito menace will not end until the project is completed.

"The mosquito menace will not ease until the current of water in canals becomes normal. So, we will have to wait until the completion of the project for addressing waterlogging," he said.

A pioneer of female education

Library inaugurated in memory of British-era visionary Shukurunnesa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Shukurunnesa Begum was devoted to the cause of female education in the country during the British era. She was one of the first to establish a school just for female students in 1931, in the remote village of Pabna's Madhupur, called Madhupur Balika Biddyaloy.

The school was later developed by her family members. Now named Dr Ismail Hossain Memorial School, in remembrance of her brother-in-law, it has turned into one of the leading educational institutions for female students of the district.

On Monday, a library was inaugurated at the school in Shukurunnesa's memory.

"There was no library for the students at the four-storey school. So the school authorities set up a modern library, named after Shukurunnesa," said Md Monirul Islam, headmaster of the school.

Makid Hyder, prominent author and Bangla Academy award recipient, inaugurated the library as chief guest, while founder of the library Marufa Mashruk Nira, also a granddaughter of Shukurunnesa, spoke as special guest.

"My grandmother pioneered female education at remote villages during the British period, braving all kinds of hurdles," Marufa said.

"We decided to name the library after her to preserve her name and her glorious achievements."



PHOTO: STAR

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