

## 30 villages in Kurigram inundated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Reddish water from upstream in Assam, India, has been flowing into the rivers of Rowmari upazila in Kurigram resulting in flooding at 30 villages across three unions.

Water of Jinjiram, Kalur and Dharani rivers of the upazila have overflowed due to the onrush of upstream water.

According to residents in Rowmari upazila, reddish water started flowing from Assam on Saturday afternoon. The water submerged villages, roads and croplands. Locals were having difficulty travelling on roads due to the flood.

Sarabesh Ali, chairman of Jadurchar Union Parishad, said nearly 30 villages have been inundated or have faced water-logging. Some flood-affected people have moved to safer areas with their cattle and other belongings, he added.

Rowmari upazila Agriculture Officer Kayum Chowdhury said the reddish water is very harmful for crops.

"Crops covering about 200 hectares of land have now been inundated. There is a risk of crop loss if the water does not drain from the land within 2-3 days," he said.

Rowmari upazila Education Officer Nazrul Islam said 21 schools of the upazila were inundated and regular teaching activities in these schools have been suspended.

Asked, Abdullah Al Mamun, executive engineer of Kurigram Water Development Board (WDB), said it will take 2-3 days for the water to recede due to the constant rains. He also said they are preparing a list of affected people.



The residents of Kurigram's Rowmari upazila have been going through an extremely challenging time as reddish water flowing from Assam, India have flooded 30 villages across three unions. Roads are inaccessible, crops are submerged and in the face of such difficulty, many residents have moved to safer regions with all their belongings.

PHOTO: STAR



## 24 hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 24 people were hospitalised with dengue in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Among the new cases, only one is from outside Dhaka.

Eighty-five dengue patients, including 81 in the capital, are now receiving treatment at hospitals across the country.

This year, the DGHS has recorded 571 dengue cases and 486 recoveries so far. The directorate has not yet reported any death from the mosquito-borne viral disease.

A total of 105 dengue patients, including 95 in Dhaka division, died in 2021, according to data of DGHS.

## Nazrul memorial centres failing to attract visitors

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The memories of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam are at risk of slowly fading away in the very same places where he created those moments.

The two "Nazrul Smriti Kendra" in Mymensingh's Trishal upazila are failing to attract visitors, as the centres have not been updated with new collections for a long time.

The centres started their journey in 2003, and even after 19 years, they are yet to be enriched with more of Nazrul's memorabilia, said locals and visitors.

Nazrul, born at Churulia village of West Bengal's Bardhaman district in 1899, came to Kazir Shimla in Mymensingh's Trishal upazila in 1913 with Kazi Rafizullah, a police sub-inspector, then posted at Bardhaman.

The two centres are located at Kazir Shimla and Namapara of Trishal's Darirampur -- places that are surrounded by the childhood memories of the poet.

The memorabilia at the centres include rare gramophones and records released by His Master's Voice Company; hand-written scripts of the poet in Bangla, English, Hindi and Urdu; some photographs of Nazrul and his family members, and a couch, centre sources said.

The libraries at the centres have not been updated for many years.

Mehtabin Mishu, a college student, said the library's collection should be expanded with works of Nazrul and those who wrote about him to draw in more visitors.

"The few visitors who visit the centres are bored of seeing the same collection, that too in poor condition."

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## Inter-district robber gang busted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

They used to only rob trucks carrying paddy, rice, cow or fish feeds.

For the robbery, they stopped the trucks using laser light -- mostly used by policemen these days -- in different points of a highway.

Soon after, the robbers -- carrying local arms -- used to beat up drivers and loot the truck. Then they used the looted trucks to conduct similar robberies.

Police's Detective Branch disclosed the findings yesterday, following arrest of four member of an inter-district robber gang from Shah Ali area in the capital.

The arrestees are -- Makbul Hossain Prokash alias Mangal Hossain Babu, Aslamul Haque Aslam, Rafiqul Islam and Hasan Howlader. Based on information that robbers gathered in Shah Ali area to conduct robbery, detectives conducted a raid and arrested them, said Md Harun Or Rashid, DB joint commissioner.

Aslam is the ringleader of the gang, who is wanted in connection to some recent incidents of robberies, he said.

Led by Aslam, the gang has conducted robbery in Chapainawabganj, Natore, Naogaon, Bogura, Sirajganj, Tangail, Jamalpur, Mymensingh, Manikganj, Dhamrai, Savar, Ashulia, Narsingdi, Shariatpur, Madaripur, Gopalganj, Faridpur and Jashore, said Harun.

He said two cases were filed against the gang.

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## Toxic smoke from brick kilns damages crops in Tangail



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Almost 100 acres of Boro paddy has been damaged in Kodim Deohata and Mir Deohata areas of Mirzapur upazila in Tangail.

Locals alleged that toxic smoke emitted from brick kilns was the reason.

Besides paddy, vegetables adjacent to the paddy fields are also getting damaged by this toxic smoke, they added.

In the last few years, about a dozen brick kilns were constructed at two villages under Gorai union adjacent to the crop fields. The brick burning process started during the beginning of the Boro paddy cultivation.

When the brick burning comes to a halt and the

chimneys are shut off, the smoke gets out through the shafts underneath the kilns. This smoke from the shafts damages the crops. Besides, the chimney's height needs to be about 130 feet so that they cannot damage the crops.

Consequently, as a result of this latent emission, the upper portion of the paddy leaves were burnt and damaged before harvest.

During a recent visit, this correspondent saw that the paddy in fields adjacent to the kilns were partially or fully damaged.

Nurul Islam of Mir Deohata village said he cultivated boro paddy on seven acres of land. The paddy leaves, however, started turning gray just after

planting the saplings and rice husks turned sticky, as a result of the emission, he said.

Farmer Abdul Khaleque of the same village said, "The brick kilns started getting constructed in the area about six years ago. In the last three years I didn't even get close to the yield I used to get before the brick kilns were constructed," he said.

Asked about the matter, Mohammad Ali, former UP member and owner of SMB-1 brick kiln, said the brick kiln's operation has been stopped before Eid. "None of the paddy got damaged for the brick kilns," he claimed.

Md Amanullah, owner of HSB Bricks, said height of the chimney of his brick kiln is

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Traffic movement was halted for hours in Dinajpur town yesterday as storm uprooted a giant roadside tree around 4:30am. It wasn't until three in the afternoon that the tree was removed, allowing vehicles to resume movement. This photo was taken in front of Dinajpur Government College.

PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER

## Buddhist monk found dead in monastery

A CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A Buddhist monk was found dead in a monastery in Bandarban yesterday.

The body of 74-year-old Bhadanta Nanda Bangsho Mahathero was found hanging at Minhajiri Para in Kuhlalong Union near Sadar upazila, said police.

UP chairman Mongpu Marma said when villagers reported the incident around 9:00am, he immediately informed police.

Kajain Pru Marma (55), younger brother of the deceased, said Bhadanta Nanda became a monk at the age of 9.

Villagers said he spent 13 years in Minhajiri Para as the head of the monastery till his death. OC Rafiqul Islam of Bandarban Sadar Police Station said, "As soon as Mongpu Marma reported the incident, we went to the spot, recovered the body, prepared an inquest report, and sent it to Sadar hospital for autopsy."

He said they are looking into the incident.

## Incinerator plants to dispose of medical waste

### Jica shows interest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Japan International Cooperation Agencies (Jica) is interested in establishing incinerator plants to dispose of medical wastes produced in hospitals under the city corporation areas.

It is also interested in installing a new water treatment plant following the public-private partnership (PPP) funding model at Chattogram Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa), said Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Ito Naoki.

The ambassador expressed the interest to Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Minister Md Tazul Islam during his visit to the ministry yesterday.

The minister welcomed the proposal to establish a water treatment plant and incineration plant with Japan's aid. He said "The ministry will inform its decision after the proposal is formally made through a letter."

Tazul also said they have taken different kinds of steps to manage medical waste in a disciplined manner.

He said they have already given instructions to the government and private hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres to hand over the medical waste to garbage collectors keeping it in separate bags.

## GRAFT CASE AGAINST KHALEDA'S BROTHER SC clears way to run trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday cleared way for the lower court concerned to run the trial proceedings in a corruption case against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's younger brother Shamim Iskander.

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique passed the order.

The ACC filed the case with Ramna Police Station against Iskander on May 5, 2008, on charges of concealing information about wealth worth Tk 20.47 lakh in the statement submitted to it and for amassing illegal wealth worth Tk 1.53 crore.