

4 DHAKA SATURDAY AUGUST 16, 2025
BHADRA 1, 1432 BS
The Daily Star

CITY

JCD leader arrested over extortion

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Moudibazar

A local leader of Jatiyatabdhi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and his associate have been arrested by joint forces for allegedly extorting Tk 90,000 from a man in Madhabpur upazila of Habiganj.

Jamil Chowdhury, member secretary of Madhabpur upazila unit of JCD, along with his associate, identified as Monayem Khan, a Chhatra Dal activist, were handed over to Madhabpur police early yesterday.

According to police, the two allegedly held up a man named Arup Chowdhury in Kalikapur village under Baghsura union and demanded Tk 1.5 lakh.

Acting on a tip off, a joint forces team raided the area around midnight and caught the suspects with Tk 90,000 in cash, believed to be part of the extortion money.

Three other individuals -- Panel Mia, Md Rokon, and Nirjon Mia -- reportedly

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An artist paints pots ahead of the upcoming Manasa Puja, to be observed tomorrow. The pots are sold wholesale for Tk 80-100, depending on their size. The photo was taken at Himanandakathi village in Jhalakathi yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Show cause notice sent to former BNP MP

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Comilla

Cumilla division unit of the BNP issued a show cause notice to former MP and member of the district south unit, Abdul Gafur Bhuiyan, yesterday.

The notice, signed by Md Selim Bhuiyan, organising secretary of Cumilla division unit of the BNP, said, "Recently, a statement you made regarding the Cumilla Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education and the deputy commissioner has gone viral on social media. Furthermore, on August 11 and 12, according to reports published in national media, several union-level conferences of BNP's Nangolkot upazila unit were held in different educational institutions while keeping those institutions closed. In this regard, you are hereby instructed to submit your written explanation to the issuer of this notice within the next three working days."

Rainfall causes Tk 133.43cr loss in Jashore fisheries

MOHSIN MILON, Benapole

Continuous rainfall this year has caused losses of Tk 133.43 crore in Jashore's fisheries sector, according to the district fisheries office.

Officials said downpours inundated fish enclosures, ponds, and wetlands, resulting in unprecedented damage.

Fish farmers said the scale of losses has broken records over the past four decades, raising fears of a production shortfall in the district compared with demand. They urged the government to provide assistance to recover from the massive financial blow.

The district fisheries office reported that 6,219 fish farms across eight upazilas have been affected. Of them, 3,127 are in Sadar upazila, 340 in Abhaynagar, 360 in Jhikargachha, 540 in Monirampur, 260 in Keshabpur, 1,032 in Sharsha, and 560 in Chowgachha and Bagharpura.

A total of 5,408 farmers has been affected -- 2,893 in Sadar, 315 in Abhaynagar, 360 in Jhikargachha, 510 in Monirampur, 190 in Keshabpur, 760 in Sharsha, 160 in Chowgachha, and 220 in Bagharpura. The total affected area amounts to 4,781 hectares.

Officials said the downpours washed away 5,341 tonnes of fish and 83 million fingerlings, causing losses of Tk 104.48 crore in fish and Tk 28.95 crore in fingerlings.

Firoz Khan, owner of Firoz Fish Hatchery, said such damage has not been seen in the district's fisheries sector in the last four decades.

"This is the first time we have faced such

heavy rainfall. The extent of damage has gone beyond our expectations. If this continues for a few more years, farmers will stop fish farming altogether," he said.

Jashore District Fish Farmers' Association President Zahidur Goldar said, "On one hand, we are facing soaring feed prices, and on the other, extreme weather events -- heavy rains



and severe droughts -- are taking a heavy toll on farmers. At one time, the electricity rate for agriculture was 2.45 taka per unit, but now we have to pay 15 to 20 taka per unit."

He stressed that government assistance is essential to help farmers recover from this year's losses.

District Fisheries Officer Sarker

Muhammad Rafiqul Alam said this year's Tk 133.43 crore loss is the highest in recent years.

"We have applied to higher authorities for incentives for farmers, but we are yet to receive any response. A decision to reduce the electricity rate [for hatchery] has, however, been made," he said.

He added that in the 2023-24 fiscal year,

Jashore produced a total of 2.45 lakh tonnes of fish against a local demand of around 65,000 tonnes.

"As a result, the district had a surplus of more than 1.80 lakh tonnes, which was supplied to different parts of the country. But this year, that will no longer be possible," he said.

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