

SNAPS

Floating body recovered

UNB, Barisal

The body of a middle-aged man was recovered from the Kadamtoli river near Sathhajar Bigha village in Mehendiganj upazila on Monday.

Locals said Shajahan Mia, 50, remained missing since Sunday night. Some fishermen found his body floating in the river on the following morning. The body bore marks of injury.

Woman 'tortured' to death

UNB, Jhenidah

A woman was tortured to death allegedly by her husband for dowry at Dulalmundia in Kaliganj upazila on Thursday.

Family sources said that on the fateful day Azizur Rahman tortured his first wife Nahar Banu for failing to bring dowry from her parents leaving her seriously injured. Later she died.

Road mishap kills youth

UNB, Jhenidah

A young man was killed in a road accident at Kachatala in Kaliganj upazila on Sunday.

A brick-laden truck hit a van carrying Mozahidul Islam, 22, from behind, leaving him seriously injured, witnesses said. Mozahedul was rushed to Dhaka Orthopedic Hospital where he died.

Two electrocuted

UNB, Madaripur

Two people were electrocuted at Ghatak Char and Dutterhat villages in Sadar upazila last week.

Family sources said Jamuna Begum, 40, wife of Muzaffar Sardar of Ghatakchar village died on the spot on Friday when she touched the electrified fan of her house. Enayet Hossain, 28, son shamsul Haq of Dutterhat village came in contact with a live electric wire and died instantly on the same day.

Wife 'killed' by husband

UNB, Comilla

A young housewife was allegedly killed by her husband at Bangalmuri village in Choudhagram upazila for dowry on Friday night.

The deceased was identified as Parveen Akhter, 25, wife of Abdul Kadir.

Road development project undertaken

UNB, Panchagarh

The government under its Rural Development Project-21 has undertaken a road development scheme involving over Tk 3.34 crore in Atowary upazila.

Under the project 12-kilometer of Fakirganjhat-Lahirhat road will be paved under the supervision of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED). The work is expected to begin next month.

Workshop on local government

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A day-long workshop on strengthening local government was held at Gaibandha Zila Parishad auditorium.

The workshop, sponsored by the Hunger Project, was conducted by the Gaibandha unit of Citizen for Fair Election, an NGO.

Presided over by its convener Mosiur Rahman Khan, it was attended by Deputy Commissioner Abdus Sabur, Country Director of Hunger Project Dr. Badul Alam Majumder, Jahangirnagar University teacher Dr. Mohammed Mamun, former news editor BTW Rafiqul Alam Sarker and Gaibandha Pourashava Chairman Hasan Sabur.

A total of 45 chairmen from different union parishads in Gaibandha district attended the work-shop, held on June 8. The speakers emphasised greater participation of local people in developing effective and self-sufficient union parishads for their benefit. They also stressed the need for training of elected chairmen and members of union parishads.

Protests mount against increased holding tax, VAT in Rajshahi

Processionists parade streets

RU CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi Nagorik Committee and Rajshahi Bar Association jointly held a rally at the Zero Point and brought out procession on Tuesday demanding withdrawal of the increased holding tax on city dwellers and VAT on retail traders.

They also demanded resumption of BRTC double-decker bus service and introduction of three trains in Rajshahi-Dhaka route.

Rajshahi Bar Association President advocate Syed Ekramur Rasal, its secretary Md Yehea,

Awami Ainjibi Samity secretary advocate Israfil Hossain Mallick, Fajla Hossain Badsha addressed the rally and led the procession. The processionists paraded the main street of the city.

The 11-Party Alliance also brought out a procession from Ganakpara, protesting the increased holding tax imposed by Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC).

The procession was led by local CPB leader Abul Kalam Ajad and Workers Parties leader Liakat Ali Hikal.

Later, the Rajshahi city Awami League brought out a procession from Kumarpara and held a rally at the Zero point to protest killing of party leader and former MP Momtaj Uddin of Natore.

City AL President Mahabubujaman Bhola, its general secretary Khairujaman Liton and former vice-chancellor of Rajshahi University Prof Abdul Khaleque addressed the rally.

They alleged that BNP leader and state minister Fazlur Rahman Patel master-minded the killing of Momtaj Uddin.

17 die of diarrhoea, malnutrition in 6 Rangamati villages

Acute food crisis due to bad harvest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Diarrhoea and malnutrition due to acute food crisis claimed 17 lives in six villages under Sazek union in Baghaichhori upazila in May.

Of the victims, 10 were in Tuichui and Shialdailui villages, three in Vhuachhori, two in Lonkor, and one each in Batling and Joipui villages, according to Sazek Union Parishad Chairman L Thanga, who is now in the Rangamati town seeking food assistance from the district authorities.

He said people in the mountain villages are tribesmen who depend on jhum cultivation. Yields from

jhum becomes exhausted before June.

Every year the villagers face acute food crisis during May-June and try to survive on 'wild potato', bamboo roots and other uneatable things collected from forests.

Last year also, the jhum yield was bad, causing malnutrition and diarrhoea, he said.

The UP chairman said, he along with three UP members informed Major Moazzem, BDR commander at Marrisona and Baghaichhori Upazila Nirbahee Officer Musharof Hussain in mid-May about the food crisis.

Being informed, Rangamati

deputy commissioner allocated five tonnes of foodgrains on May 22 on an emergency basis but no medical team was set there, he said.

"Now malnutrition gripped the villages and there are diarrhoea patients in every house", L Thanga told The Daily Star.

He demanded emergency food assistance and urged the district administration to send medical teams to the area. Otherwise, there will be a diarrhoea epidemic, he said.

When contacted DC Jafar Ahmed Khan said, "Five metric tonnes of foodgrains were allocated two weeks ago and I do not know the recent developments".

Mass hunger strike for Bhomra port reopening

Protesters hold rally, burn effigy



PHOTO: STAR

Protesters burning an effigy of chairman of National Board of Revenue (NBR), in front of the collectorate building at Sathkhira town on Tuesday.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkhira

A day-long mass hunger strike was observed in front of the collectorate building here yesterday demanding reopening of Bhomra land port.

After the strike, the demonstrators held a rally and burnt an effigy of National Board of Revenue (NBR) Chairman alleging that he played the key role in closing the land port. Sathkhira unit of Greater Khulna Development Action Co-ordination Committee and Sathkhira Chamber of Commerce jointly organised hunger strike.

The rally was addressed by, among others, Dr Afjazzaman, Asarful Hq, Monsur Ahmed, Abu Ahmed, Kamrul, Kudrate-e-Khoda, Abdul Bari, Abdul Jalil.

They urged the authorities to reopen the port as early as possible or to face greater movement.

3 killed, 25 hurt in Gopalganj bus mishap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

Three persons were killed and 25 others injured in a road accident on Gopalganj-Kotalipara road on Monday.

According to police and witnesses, the accident occurred when Kotalipara bound bus from Gopalganj skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch at noon, killing three passengers on the spot and injuring 25 others.

The dead were identified as Elias 35, Bornaly 10, and Sonamony, 80. Of the injured, 12 were admitted to Kotalipara health complex.

Police recovered the bodies and sent them to Gopalganj Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy. Driver and helper of the bus fled the scene.



PHOTO: STAR

This is due to non-implementation of project in time. The Surma is devouring Mendibag area of Sylhet city and the erosion has taken an alarming turn near BRAC school after the recent downpour. Scared local people say the area could be saved had the Water Development Board completed the town protection embankment in the last dry season.

'Rapist' freed by police now threatens victim

A CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Daulatpur thana police released a rapist after realising Tk 25,000 and the rapist is now threatening the victim's family for complaining to police, it is alleged.

Jamal Uddin, a notorious criminal, entered a house at Sonaikandi village in Daulatpur upazila and raped a mother of two children when none was at home on May 23.

As the victim cried for help, neighbours came in but the rapist fled away but left behind some of his clothes.

On the following day, the victim with her relatives went to Daulatpur thana to file a case but police declined to record it.

Police however nabbed Jamal without filing any case against him and released him after taking Tk 25,000, the victim's family alleged.

Jamal is now moving freely in the area and threatening the victim's family of dire consequences for complaining to police, they alleged.

Villagers clash, 50 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

At least 50 people including two women were injured in a clash that ensued after a quarrel between a husband and a wife at Mohishber village in Nasiragar upazila.

Safi Uddin, 30, and Helena Begum, 27, of the same village were married 12 years back. They have three children. They quarreled often in the past, their neighbours said.

On Monday, they quarreled again, and, in a show of strength, called their relatives.

As mitigation efforts failed, their men in the village were locked in clash which lasted about two hours.

Thirty of the injured were admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital and the rest were given first aid there.

Villagers said both the groups were preparing to file case.

One held with arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Police arrested one alleged criminal—Rafiqul Islam alias Rafique—from a house near the Baghabari Milk Vita factory and recovered a pipe gun from his position recently.

Police said they raided the house acting on a tip-off.

Three jailed for hijacking motorcycle

UNB, Chapainawabganj

The Speedy Trial Tribunal here sentenced three young men to jail terms for hijacking a motorcycle.

One of the convicts—Major Ali of Khesba village in Nachole upazila—was sentenced to five years' RI in absentia. Meherul of the same village and Ahsan Habib of Ajmatpur village in Shibganj upazila were sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

Ali, Meherul and Habib waylaid Nachole upazila BRDB chief Golam Mostafa near Turkuni bridge at 8:00pm on March 24 and hijacked his motorbike. Local people caught Meherul and Habib and handed them over to police.

Judge Santosh Kumar Adhikari passed the verdict.

Sabita Rani gangrape, murder case

OC closed for 'bribery,' filing 'false' case against victim's father

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The officer-in-charge (OC) of Morrelganj thana, Yusuf Ali Khan, has been close at Bagerhat police lines for allegedly mishandling the case regarding gangrape and murder of Sabita Rani Halder.

The DIG Khulna Range has been asked to start a departmental case against him, official sources said.

One of the allegations against the OC is that he recorded a false case of extortion against Sabita's father Rathikanta. The OC allegedly took bribe from the complainant of the false case, filed by Sabita's brother Mintoo Sadial.

Sabita Rani was gangraped and strangled at Baharbania village under Morrelganj thana on Thursday last.

Six persons have been shown arrested in the case. They are Mahatab Shaikh, Noor Mohammad, Mohit Mallick, Nizam Farazi, Emdadul Haq and Yar Mallick.

Meanwhile, president of Baharbania union Jubo Dal Saiful Huq Mallick has denied the allegation that he planned the gangrape and murder of Sabita Rani. Rather, Alam-Ripon terrorist group backed by Awami League was involved in the incident, he said.

The Jubo Dal leader has demanded a judicial inquiry into the incident.

Leaders of Bagerhat district unit of Hindu-Buddho-Christian Oiykko Parishad have demanded arrest and exemplary punishment of killers Sabita Rani.

Police club job seekers, 20 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

At least 20 people were injured at Rajshahi railway station yesterday when police clubbed job seekers who barricaded the rail track as their scheduled tests were postponed.

Several thousand applicants gathered at Bangladesh Railway's Western Zone office in the morning for physical test for jobs in four posts.

When they learnt that the test was postponed following a High

Court injunction on Monday, they barricaded the rail track.

At one stage, they lay on the railway tracks and blocked the Padma Express at around 9am.

At 10.30am, authorities called GR police who virtually failed to control the situation. Later, riot police of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police came and dispersed them by charging batons.

The injured were given first aid at different clinics and at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Acid thrown on woman, her granddaughter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

An elderly woman and her granddaughter became victims of acid attack at Shalika village under Shahjadpur upazila recently.

Miscreants threw acid on Kodvanu Bewa, 65 and Nazma Khatun when they were asleep at the house at night, police said.

They were admitted to Bera Health Complex in critical conditions.

Drugs recovered, 7 arrested

A CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

BDR personnel arrested seven drug peddlers and recovered 200 bottles of phensidyl, 40 kilogram heroin, 250 kilogram cannabis from a house at Purbo Majampur in the town recently.

Police said, BDR raided the house of one Rashidul Islam, recovered the drugs and arrested him along with his six associates Monir, Mofiz, Bazlu, Murad, Majid and Milon.

They were handed over to Kushtia police. A case was filed against them with the Sadar police.

Two food officials transferred on bribery charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Ullapara upazila food controller and the official in charge of the upazila food godown have been transferred allegedly for demanding bribe from local rice mill owners' association, official sources said.

The two are Upazila Food Controller Nuruzzaman and godown in-charge Sirajul Haque. They have been asked to join duties in Gopalganj and Barisal.

According to a case filed with Ullapara thana, they demanded Tk 750 bribe per ton from traders for purchasing 979 tonnes of rice on Sunday.

Ullapara Rice Mill Owners

Association President Younus Ali and General Secretary Safiz Uddin then lodged a case with Ullapara police against the two officials.

The transfer orders were issued when higher authorities were informed after local member of parliament M Akbar Ali, Sirajganj Deputy Commissioner Ibadot Ali and Police Superintendent AKM Sahidul Haque visited the spot.

During the spot investigation, both the officials confessed demanding bribe, the sources.

Meanwhile he district controller's office started a thorough an investigation into allegation of earlier bribery at the Ullapara food office.

13 women flee centre for disabled

UNB, B'baria

Thirteen disabled women fled from the Training and Rehabilitation Center for Socially Disabled Women at Aur Kaur othe outskirts of Brahmanbari town Monday night.

A total of 15 women were staying at the center, run by the Social Welfare Department since February last. The women fled from the center breaking a window grill at dead of night.

Deputy Commissioner Shah Muksed Ali and high officials of Social Welfare Department visited the center after the women fled. A case was filed.

Jubo League leader held

A CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Mirpur upazila Jubo League general secretary Kamruzzaman Arefin has been arrested for alleged criminal activities.

Police said Arefin is involved in criminal activities in the area though there is no case against him with any police station.

Local units of Awami League and Chhatra League protested the arrest and demand immediate release of Arefin.

Arrested women confess shop-lifting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A taxi cab driver and two veil-wearing woman, caught on charge of lifting 40 ounces of gold ornaments from a jewellery shop at Shahjadpur last week, confessed to police their involvement in the incident, Sirajganj Sadar police said.

They are Masuma Khatun, 30, Selina Khatun, 29 and taxi driver Towhedul Haque of Mogbazar, Dhaka.

In the confession, they said that they along with two other women—Tasmi Khatun and Jesmi Khatun—came from Mirpur, Dhaka, in a black taxi cab (no, Dhaka Metro Pa-11-3230) and went to Joyguru Jewellery at Monirampur bazaar in Shahjadpur in the guise of customers.

The shop owner—Robindranath Adikary—showed them gold ornaments. At one stage, when the shop owner went inside, they took 40 ounces of gold ornaments and fled away.

The shop owner informed police immediately. Local police sent a message to Tangail police, who chased the taxi, caught them from near the eastern side of Bangabandhu Bridge and handed them over to Sirajganj police. Tasmi and Jesmi escaped, police said.

Dacoity in guise of JCD activists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Criminals posing as activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), ruling BNP's student front, entered two houses at Bonarpara railway colony in Shaghata upazila and looted cash and valuables worth over Tk one lakh recently.

Police said they entered the houses of Jasimuddin, and Fazlur Rahman and snatched gold ornaments and valuables on gunpoint.