

SNAPS

Lightning kills school boy

UNB, Benapole

A schoolboy was killed by a thunderbolt at Shamlagachi here on Monday morning.

The victim was identified as Rabiul Hossain, 12, son of Fakir Ahmed.

Family sources said Rabiul went to nearby field to till land with the tractor when lightning struck him.

Girl reunited with parents

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Niphamari A girl has been reunited with her parents after five years.

Majida Akhtar Shilui, daughter of day labourer Ajjuddin of Chihoto Rauta village under Domar upazila, was missing from Dhaka in 1998. She landed at Narayanganj Jail. The Jatjio Ainjibi Samity headed by Salma Ali got her released, and sheltered her and trained her on self-employment.

Recently, the Samity handed over her to her parents in presence of the Domar municipality chairman, local newsmen and elite.

Four arrested with heroin

BSS, Bandarban

Four persons including two Myanmar citizens were arrested with 750 grams of heroin from their possession in a passenger jeep at Reparari security check post on Sunday.

The arrested persons are: Hlaprue Rakhaie, 25, Tenching Khumi 46, (Myanmar), local tribal Mangkra Mro, 26, and Nayidue Mro, 27.

Man convicted for refusing to accept wife

BSS, Narail

Women and Children Repression Prevention Court Judge Md Masdar Hossain on Sunday sentenced a retired jail guard Naba Kumar to life term for refusing to accept and recognise his wife.

The court also fined him Tk 20,000, in default, to undergo one year RI more.

Naba Kumar converted himself to the religion of Islam and changed his name as Nabir Hossain. Then he married to Arjina Khanam of village Dhabirpara under Lohagara upazila. Later, Nabir refused to accept and recognise his wife. Arjina Khanam filed a case against her husband.

4 dists in Barisal division flooded again

55,000 marooned, WAPDA's 'inaction' protested in Bhola; two-thirds of Patuakhali town under water

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Vast areas of Barisal, Jhalakathi, Patuakhali and Bhola districts have been flooded again as the Meghna river is in spate in the downstream.

About two-thirds of Patuakhali town have gone under two to three feet water.

In Bhola, at least 55,000 people are marooned in the Sadar, Borhanuddin, Tazumuddin and Daulatkhani upazilas, according to reports reaching here.

The inundated areas in Patuakhali town include Chawkbazar, Puranbazar, Katpata, Sadar Road, Municipality Road, Ekota Road, Munsefpara, Charpara,

Natunbazar, Jubilee School, Patuakhali Girl School and court premises.

The Barisal city, Bhola and Jhalakathi towns have been partially inundated. Palashpur, Bandh road, Port road and Rupatali areas in Barisal city are under water.

A three year-old boy Kalu—son of Makbul Munshi, drowned in Jhalakathi, sources there said. But this could not be officially confirmed.

Most of the flooding has been caused by lack of embankment, sources in the areas alleged.

At Bhola, the affected people brought out a procession and laid a siege to the WAPDA office demanding adequate flood protection mea-

sures.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharrif Hossain Shahjahan on Sunday visited some of the flood affected areas.

In Bhola Sadar, the flood protection embankment has been washed away at several points, inundating vast areas in Muradnagar, Ilisha, Tulatali Bazar, Korar Hat, Dhania, Kachia and Bapta. Several hundred houses have been damaged and scores of shrimp farms inundated.

In Borhanuddin upazila, over 15,000 people are marooned as the embankment gave in to water pressure at Mirza Kalu.

At least 20,000 people are marooned in eight villages in

Syedpur union under Daulatkhani upazila. Over 2000 cattle heads and fifty houses have been washed away.

Another at least 20,000 are marooned in four villages in Sonarpur union under the Tazumuddin upazila, sources there said.

Low lying areas in Jhalakathi town and in the Sadar, Nalchity, Kathalia, Razapur upazilas have reeled under water following rise in water levels of Sugandha, Dhansiri, Basanda, Bishkhali, Gabkhan rivers.

The district administrations say the situation is under control. No relief measure has yet been taken in any of the districts.

4 Pabna villages attacked, houses torched AL, BNP blame each other as 500 remain shelterless

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

About 500 people including children in four villages in Chartarapur union in Pabna are living in inhuman conditions after their houses were burnt by miscreants on August 29.

Most of the male persons fled homes fearing police harassment and further attack by the miscreants, some women told this correspondent during a visit there on Monday.

They also alleged that the villages were attacked in presence of policemen.

This correspondent saw police led by a magistrate guarding the area.

Meanwhile, Pabna district Awami League (AL) blamed local leaders and activists of the ruling Four-Party Alliance for the attacks and claimed

that the victims were AL supporters.

On the other hand, district BNP leaders claimed that "villagers torched the houses of extremists and their associates".

This correspondent saw a large number of houses gutted.

The destroyed houses were being rebuilt by village elders, women and children. They had shortage of food as their male bread earners are on the run.

It was gathered from the women and children that on August 29 a group of "armed extremists" from Kachipara village swooped on their houses.

As the villagers resisted, the attackers opened fire injuring two persons named Altaf and Khalek.

Four hours after the clash, police teams came from Pabna and Shujanagar.

In the afternoon, a magistrate came with police reinforcements.

Deputy Inspector General of Police of Rajshahi Range Delaware Hussain visited the villages and assured the people of action against the attackers.

Some of the villagers alleged that Pabna police refused to accept a case.

On the other hand, BNP activist Mahatab Uddin of Kachipara village filed a case against 32 men of the four villages, it was gathered. Most of the accused are AL supporters.

After visiting the villages on August 30, Pabna AL President Wazuddin Khan said, "Four-Party Alliance activists at Kachipara are to be blamed for this (attack)".

Beware of snake at CU

CU CORRESPONDENT

A snake phobia gripped students of Chittagong University (CU) after a snake bit a female student at a dormitory.

Tandra, a resident student of Shamsunnahar Hall, was bitten by a snake near the bath room when she was going to her ground floor room (No 127) at about 7:30pm on August 27. The snake fled away. She was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) and released after a day. However, doctors advised her regular check-up for about a month.

Happy, a resident student of the dormitory, told this correspondent that a big snake was caught from its compound in the same evening.

After the accidents, resident students of the hall met the vice-chancellor and demanded steps to make the hall snake free.



PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN

A fresh breath... Patenga sea beach near Chittagong port attracts a large number of people from the city and other areas during weekend.

Padma dyke at Bagha washed away one week after repair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Rajshahi

The Padma flood control embankment at Bagha has been washed away only a week after its renovation, posing a serious threat to adjacent villages.

The Water Development Board (WDB) sources claimed that the embankment was repaired at Sorer Hat, Khaer Hat and Brahmandanga in Gorgori union.

But local people alleged that the

embankment developed cracks only four days after renovation.

Sources said Tk 1.5 lakh was allocated for renovation of 700 meters of the embankment but so far only 120 meters have been completed.

Talking to this correspondent Gorgori Union Parishad also Chairman Nazrul Islam alleged that the WDB contractor did 'nominal' repair work at only one point of the embankment leaving three other points 'untouched'.

Tk 6 lakh rice 'missing' from Barisal CSD godown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Rice worth Tk 6 lakh is 'missing' from the CSD godown in Barisal.

This was revealed during stock-taking by a team led by a magistrate following an allegation.

The team in its report submitted to the authorities on August 28 said 43.611 metric tons of rice worth Tk 6 lakh are "missing" from CSD godown No 10. The stocktaking was started on August 10.

Godown-in-charge Shahidul Huq is absent from his work place since start of the inquiry.

Kaiyum Mia, Manager, Barisal CSD, lodged a case on Sunday accusing Shahidul huq, the sources said.

When contacted, food department officials here acknowledged the fact and said action will be taken as per law against the defaulters. department

Rally, procession at Patuakhali for Padma Bridge at Mawa

A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A rally was held and a procession brought out at Patuakhali town on Monday demanding the proposed Padma Bridge at Mawa.

The Mawa Padma Setu Chai Andolan Parishad organised the rally. A memorandum was submitted to the deputy commissioner after the rally.

The procession started from Alauddin Children's Park and terminated in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office.

President of the Andolan Parishad Alhaz Kanchan Ali, its secretary Golam Kibria, Prof Bahauddin Bahar, Farhad Jaman Badal addressed the rally, held in

front of the Deputy Commissioner's office.

The speakers said a bridge at Mawa will reduce the Dhaka-Patuakhali road link by about 100 miles and improve road communication with southern district, promote tourism in Kuakata and the Sundarbans and increase exports from Barisal division through the Mongla port.

The bridge will facilitate supply of gas to Barisal division.

They said a bridge at Mawa will benefit larger number of people than that built at Aricha.

The people of Barisal division will launch a greater movement if a decision is not taken to set up the proposed bridge at Mawa, they said.

No Asstt Judge in Sunamganj!

4 asstt commissioners against 20 posts, only 3 Class-1 magistrates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet.

Acute shortage of judicial officials in Sunamganj district has been prevailing for long, delaying justice and increasing piled-up cases.

There is no Assistant Judge in the district. The lone Assistant Judge for Jagannathpur Upazila court is now on four month's training.

Nine out of 10 posts of Assistant Judge are vacant for long.

In addition to their normal work, the two Joint District Judges have to hear cases filed with Assistant Judge's courts.

On the other hand, shortage of magistrates at the district Collectorate is also hampering the

district administration.

Many of the 32 posts of District Magistrate are also vacant for long. These include those of Nezarat Deputy Collector (NDC), Land Acquisition Officer (LAO), General Certificate Officer, Assistant Director (Local Government) and Assistant Engineer (Revenue).

Only four assistant commissioners are working against a total of 20 posts.

Only three Class-1 magistrates have to preside over Cognisance Magistrate Courts for 10 upazilas also.

Besides, all these officers have to shoulder additional responsibilities to run the district administration.

16 given jail terms in Patuakhali

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two courts in Patuakhali recently sentenced 16 persons to various jail terms for robbery and snatching.

A correspondent from Patuakhali reports: A court here sentenced 13 men to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for dacoity, committed four years ago.

The court also fined them Tk 5,000 each, in default, to suffer six months more RI.

The convicts are Sabuj Howlader, 30, Abbas Gazi, 35, Mijanur Rahman, 40, Md Yunus, 35, Shafiqul, 28, Abdul Aziz, 35, Atiqur

Rahman, 30, Mamun Howlader, 32, Nasiruddin, 35, Nasiruddin-2, 30, Afzal, 25, and Ripon, 30. Another was tried in absentia.

Assistant District and Sessions Judge Abdur Rahim delivered the judgement on August 30.

Another court sentenced three persons to 14 years imprisonment for snatching three years ago.

The convicts are Shamsul Haque, Babul and Alamgir. The court also fined them each Tk 10,000, in default to suffer one year more RI.

Special Tribunal Judge AKM Jahurul Alam delivered the judgement on August 23.



Ten districts in the northern area of Bangladesh have been brought under cellular network of CityCell. Dealers and distributors working in the region are seen discussing upcoming new services and future development of CityCell network at a recent meeting in Rajshahi.

Gas supply Rally in Rajshahi on Sept 18

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Rajshahi Protection Movement Council (RPMC), a citizens' forum, has called a 'grand rally' in the city on September 18 to press its demands which include gas supply, introduction of three trains on Dhaka-Rajshahi route and reopening of silk and textile factories.

The RPMC is also demanding reintroduction of double-decker BRTC bus service, stopped recently following resistance by private sector bus operators.

The decision on the rally was taken at a meeting of RPMC, held at its office in the city on Tuesday with Rajshahi Bar General Secretary Mohammad Yahia in the chair.

The meeting was addressed by, among others, RPMC Convenor Zamat Khan, journalist Hasan Millat, Rajshahi University teacher Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan and Debashish Panik.