

SNAPS

**Trawler capsizes:
Child dies, 60
injured**

BSS, Barisal

A trawler with over 150 passengers sank in the estuary of the Biskhali on Friday leaving a child dead and 60 more passengers injured.

Police said, FB Shaheen capsized due to overloading after two hours of starting journey from Patherghata of Barguna for Mohipur, about 40 kms away. Sheikh Sa'adi aged six months drowned while 60 injured passengers were given first aid at the local hospital.

**4 jailed for keeping
illegal arms**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Four persons were sentenced to suffer 10 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) each on charge of keeping illegal firearms on Monday.

The convicts are: Zahidul Islam Jhantu, son of Joyal of village Senihati under Digholia in Khulna district, Haroon Khan, son of Abdur Rahman of village Kallebari under Rampal thana in Bagerhat district, Imdadul Haq, son of Giasuddin Shikdar of village Badulbi in Gourmadi thana in Barisal district and Maniruzzaman, son of Idris Ali of village Paka Colony, Crescent Jute Mills in Khalishpur thana in Khulna district. Zahidul, Haroon, and Imdadul are absconding.

Bay devours scenic Kuakata

200 metres of land; 5,000 trees disappear



Kuakata under nature's wrath: The Bay of Bengal is devouring areas in enchanting Kuakata sea beach where tourists throng from home and abroad. Dumping of sand bags shown in the pictures (left) has proved futile to protect landmasses on the shoreline, while greens (right) along the beach are disappearing due to erosion and rise in the easter level. Short and long term steps should be taken immediately to protect the beach.

A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Some attractive tourist spots in scenic Kuakata sea beach are slowly disappearing into the Bay of Bengal.

The sea has devoured at least 200 metres in Lata Chapli in the beach. About 40 feet stretch of a feeder road to the beach there has been washed away and 5000 trees have disappeared in the last two

years due to tidal waves and rise in the water level, local people said.

Beautiful tamarisk and slender coconut trees and shrubs that added to the beauty are no more seen at Lata Chapli. They have disappeared as tidal water has devoured big chunks of soil.

The local people said the ferocity of waves increases during the rainy season.

Concrete structures including mosques have disappeared and shopkeepers have shifted their makeshift shops away from the shoreline. Some others are trying to protest their shops by dumping sandbags.

Shopkeeper Abdul Hannan said water level during the last rainy season was higher than in the previous year.

"Every year I have to shift my shop away from the shoreline", he told this correspondent.

They said planned afforestation along the beach is needed to protect the beautiful beach from gradual erosion. The process should be started immediately because afforestation will take at least 15 years and by that time landmasses will disappear, they said.

PHOTO: STAR

**4 women killed
in Comilla road
accident**

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Four women were killed and 10 others injured in a road accident on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway near Raypur under Daudkandi upazila on Sunday.

The dead were identified as Sheuli, 18, and Rasmi, 10, two daughters of Fazar Kaji, a villager of Mehar village under Chandina upazila, Laily Begum, 50, wife of Prof Abdul Kader of Mirganj village also under Chandina upazila and another unidentified teenage girl.

According to witnesses, a Comilla-bound passenger bus fell down a roadside ditch near Raypur as its driver lost control over steering causing spot death of four women passengers and injuring 10 other passengers. Local people rushed the injured to local hospitals.

A case was filed with Daudkandi police station.

**Five opposition
leaders held at
Mehendiganj**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Police arrested five opposition leaders at Mehendiganj in Barisal in two days.

Police and local sources said, on Saturday night and Sunday morning, Mehendiganj police arrested Awami League leader Nurul Islam, Mehendiganj upazila unit president of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Shamsul Bari Munir, Jubo League leader Badal, Krishok League secretary Radha Krishna Devnath and Swechhasebok League joint convener Jabbar Howlader.

Police claimed that they were the accused of a criminal case lodged by one person named Yunus Mia with Mehendiganj Police Station on Saturday.

AL claims slain man as its activist

**Police SI, ASI 'closed' for
ignoring security appeal**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Awami League has claimed that slain social worker Komoruddin Gazi of Paikgacha upazila was its activist and accused BNP for the murder. Paikgacha upazila BNP refuted the allegation.

Gazi Shahidul Islam, eldest son of slain Komoruddin, lodged FIR on Saturday night but did not name any accused.

Police on Saturday night arrested a young man -- Mizan Goldar -- from Rarhuli. He has been taken on four days remand for questioning.

Police said Mizan is an accused in several criminal cases, filed with Paikgacha and Tala police stations.

Sub Inspector Biddut Kumar Barua and ASI Birinchi Roy of Paikgacha thana have been closed to Khulna police lines allegedly for suppressing a written petition which Komoruddin had submitted seeking security of life after he was given death threat.

SI Barua and ASI Birinchi were in charge of Rarhuli police outpost.

OC Abdul Malek Mia has said that he will be able to arrest the killers shortly. "I have got a clue which will help me in the investigation", he said.

The Khulna Police Superintendent said Komoruddin played vital role in helping police recover seven rifles looted from Rarhuli police outpost in 1999.

**'Don't call us blind, we
want to live properly'**

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Blind 12 year-old Maniruzzaman, can read and write, thanks to the efforts by RDRS, an NGO.

"I can read and write", he told visiting newsmen at the RDRS' visually impaired project at Haribhanga in Lalmonirhat Sadar.

He said is hurt if called blind. "You write in newspapers so that no body calls us blind", he appealed.

"We are human beings. We want to live properly," he said.

A touchy scene was created when the loveable child, among 20 others others, talked to newsmen.

Maniruzzaman, son of day labourer Muzibar Rahman, said he is the 3rd among his three brothers and one sister.

His two elder brothers -- Surjjaman and Nuruzaman and

sister Sima Khatun stay at their Guriadaho village home in the Sadar upazila with parents and go to school as they are not blind.

He was brought to the RDRS shelter in January last year. Besides providing food and clothing, the RDRS is teaching him how to lead a good life.

"I want to be educated", he said. Some teenagers are there among the 20, learning to read and write.

They include Sudhir, 20, Jotsna 15, Sajahan, 17, Kanika, 10, Fancy, 14, Lucky, 12, Arizina, 8, Lipi 15, Alif, 11, Ato, 17, Manju Rashid, 7, Hasina, 8, Milon, 8, Swapna, 8.

All of them said they can read and write. But they have a problem. "We do not get books on literature, poem, story and magazines as our books are written in Braille language", Jitsna said.

**One shot in Pirojpur
JCD-Jubo Dal clash**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A Jubo Dal activist was seriously injured by gunshot during a clash between activists of his party and those of Chhatra Dal at Pirojpur government school ground on Sunday.

Manir Sikder is under treatment at Pirojpur Sadar Hospital.

Four other activists of the rival groups were also injured when a JCD group led by Pirojpur district JCD secretary Riazuddin Rana clashed with Jubo Dal activists led by Azam Talukder, witnesses and police

said. They exchanged shots and exploded bombs during the clash. Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Enmity between the groups started some months ago when some activists of Azam group hacked Rana and broke his legs and hands on August 5 in a dispute over supremacy in the area.

Rana had lodged a case. The accused went into hiding.

Tension mounted in the area as Azam and his accomplices including Tanin returned there after getting bail from court.



PHOTO: STAR

Joy of overcoming blindness: All smiles Maniruzzaman says he can read and write and will be educated. The photo was taken from RDRS' Visually Impaired Project at Haribhanga village in Lalmonirhat recently.

**11-party for
removal of
Jamaat
member from
Cabinet**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Gaibandha 11-Party Alliance brought out a black flag procession and held a rally in the town yesterday demanding ouster of the Jammata-e-Islami member from the cabinet.

They also demanded the BNP-Jammata government's resignation for its alleged failure to maintain security in public life, control the price spiral and politicisation of the administration.

The processionists carrying black flags paraded the main through of Gaibandha town and converged near the rail-crossing for a meeting.

The meeting was addressed by, among others, Ahsanul Habib Shyeed, Coordinator of the Alliance here, Gonesh Proshad of Ganotantri Party and Mihir Ghosh of CFP.

**4 killers convicted in Meherpur
Son to die for killing
mother in Sunamganj**

STAR NATIONAL DESK

One person was awarded death sentence for killing his mother by a court in Sunamganj while another court in Meherpur sentenced three others to death and another to suffer life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) for killing a youth.

Our Staff Correspondent from Sylhet reports: A man was awarded death sentence for killing his mother at a village in Chhatak upazila under Sunamganj district on Sunday.

The Additional District and Sessions Judge of Sunamganj, AKM Salimullah pronounced the judgment after examining 11 witnesses.

The convict, Dewan Jhulmul Raja Babul, son of late Kulmul Raja of Baragolla village under Chhatak upazila in Sunamganj struck his mother with a branch of tree during hot exchange of words at about 7 am on December 14, 1999.

As she fell down the ground, the convict chopped her with a sharp weapon. Her head was severed from the body causing her death on the spot.

Soon after the incident, he

informed people of the neighbourhood about the matter.

A neighbour named Abdul Malik filed a case with Chhatak police. Police arrested the killer son, Babul on the same day.

The Investigating Officer submitted charge-sheet against the lone accused under Section 302 of BPC.

The prosecution was conducted by APP Mashuk Ahmed while the defence was pleaded by Ainul Islam Bablu.

BSS reports from Meherpur: Three persons were sentenced to death and another was awarded life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) on Sunday for killing a youth at Dhigerpara village under Sadar Upazila here.

District and Sessions Judge M Abdul Hamid pronounced the verdict in a crowded courtroom after hearing both the prosecution and defence.

The convicted persons are Kader, Hossain and Yasin while Shaiful got life term.

According to the prosecution, the convicted persons chopped Mizanur Rahman, 28, to death when he was standing in front of a shop at Dhigerpara village on September 21, 1997.

Alleged politicisation

**UP chairmen boycott
meeting protesting
Jamaat MP's presence**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

All but one Union Parishad chairmen boycotted the Shyamnagar Thana Development Co-ordination Committee meeting on Sunday protesting presence of Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Gazi Nazrul Islam at the meeting.

The meeting was scheduled to begin at the Thana Nirbahi Officer's office at 10:30 am.

According to sources, all the 12 UP chairmen came to attend the meeting.

A short while before the scheduled time, adviser of the committee and Jamaat MP Gazi Nazrul Islam reached there.

As he approached the meeting venue, eleven UP chairmen came out of the venue protesting his presence.

The UNO rescheduled the meeting at 3 pm, but the UP chairmen did not attend it and the meeting was not held.

Asked, the UNO said the meeting was not held due to "misunderstanding".

When contacted, Romjan Nagar UP Chairman Alamgir Haider told this correspondent that they boycotted the lawmaker as he distributed cards for VGF (vulnerable group feeding) rice through his party men, ignoring elected representatives.

The lawmaker is also implementing development programmes through his party men, violating government order.

Gazi Nurul Islam could not be reached over telephone despite repeated attempts for his comment.

When asked for his mobile phone number, his wife said, "He is now out of mobile phone contact".

**2 'outlaws' held
in Satkhira**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Two alleged activists of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) were arrested from Nagarghata village in Tala Upazila on Sunday.

They are Mahsin Gazi, 26, and Shafiqul Islam of the village.

Police also recovered a country made pistol from their possession.

Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Mahsin, and on his confession, caught Shafiqul from his house.

Police said they were wanted in several cases.