

SNAPS

Three children drown

A CORRESPONDENT, Bhola
Three children of a family in Nilkomol union of Charfassion upazila drowned in a pond on Saturday.

The victims were identified Sharif, 7, Firoj, 3, and Rahima, 5, sons and daughter of Nur Mohammad..

The victims, in absence of their mother, were playing near the pond. Suddenly they fell down the pond and drowned.

Youth held with fake notes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira
A young man was arrested with 10 counterfeit notes of Bangladeshi Tk 500 denomination and another Tk 500 note of Indian currency on Monday from Kaligonj filling station.

The arrested was identified as Shafiqul Islam, 20, son of Jasim Uddin of village Kulia in Debhata upazila.

Quoting local people police said, two youths including the arrested one went to the petrol pump (Kaligonj filling station) and purchased one litre of petrol and gave the counterfeit note of Tk 500 to the pump staffer.

On suspicion, the pump staffer caught him and recovered nine other fake Bangladeshi notes of Tk 500 and one Tk 500 note of Indian currency. Later, they handed him over to police.

A case was filed with Kaligonj thana.

Relief rice looted

A CORRESPONDENT, Bhola
Rice of relief distributed was allegedly snatched away from destitute women by the ruling BNP activists in Jahempur union under Charfassion upazila on Tuesday.

According to the victims and police, Moriam, Golenoor and Momtaj got rice of relief from the Union Parishad office and set for house. On way a group of BNP activists snatched away their rice and assaulted them.

They went to the local chairman's house and informed the matter to him.

A case was filed with Charfassion thana. Police arrested three persons.

Shrimp enclosure staff found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira
A shrimp enclosure staff was strangled at Paranpur village in Shyamnagar upazila on Monday night.

The victim was identified as Ahmed Ali, 45, son of Wayez Uddin of Tengrakhalai village in Shyamnagar upazila.

Quoting local people police said, staff of a nearby shrimp enclosure found the body lying on the floor of the house.

Miscreants might have strangled him, police said.

A case was filed with Shyamnagar thana. None was arrested.

Peasants' rally protests 'repression' by Barind authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Hundreds of farmers of Barind region joined a huge peasant's rally at Godagari upazila on Sunday to protest what they said "continued repression on farmers" by the Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA).

Godagari Upazila Nagorik Committee, a citizen's forum, organised the rally with its president Afzal Hossain in the chair.

Former vice-chancellor of Rajshahi University Dr Abdul Khaleque attended the rally as chief guest. It was addressed by,

among others, Rajshahi Protection Movement Council Convenor Zamat Khan, politicians Fazle Hossain Badsha and Ohidur Rahman, lawyer Ekramur Rasul, engineer Shafiqul Islam, journalists Mustafijur Rahman Khan and a number of farmers.

The speakers alleged that BMDA, now headed by the brother of a minister, has constructed 11 kilometres of canals by forcibly occupying cultivable lands, making many farmers landless.

They said BMDA has been using groundwater excessively, endangering the ecology. It is also

realising irrigation charges at higher rates and has leased government waterbodies to outsiders, creating problems for farmers in irrigating their lands.

The head of BMDA, being a government official, has given an NGO--CARB-- authority on 50 bighas of government land, they alleged.

The put forward a 14-point demand that includes introduction of state-provided seed, irrigation, fertiliser and pesticides; implementation of the North Rajshahi Irrigation Project and rehabilitation of erosion-affected farmers.



PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN

The BIWTA continues dredging the Padma to keep the Daulatdia-Aricha ferry service running. The service is often stopped or disrupted as water level of the river has fallen drastically. The photo was taken recently from near Daulatdia ferry terminal.

Assault of Navy men in Bagerhat camp
Policemen replaced, 2 'closed'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Constables Abdul Karim and Bellal Hossain have been placed under suspension and 'closed' to Bagerhat police lines on charge of assaulting two personnel of Bangladesh Navy.

Bagerhat Police Superintendent Meshabuddin said on Monday the two policemen attached with the Joint Forces at Digraj camp under Mongla thana allegedly assaulted Navy men Shah Jalal and Shohag on

October 27 following an altercation over a trifling matter.

Police super who personally investigated the matter said the two constables were in civil dress when they came out of the camp without any assignment.

The incident created tension in the camp. Twenty-one policeman attached with the Joint Forces at Digraj Camp have been replaced with a team from Gilatala camp in Khulna city to ease the tension, the SP told this correspondent over phone.

Former BNP MP says

My brother was tortured to death without charge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Senior Vice-president of city BNP and former lawmaker Abdul Gaffar Biswas alleged that his younger brother Tipu Biswas was tortured to death by joint forces during the Operation Clean Heart.

He was tortured at the Joint Forces' camp on the night of November 30 last year without any specific charge. Gaffar told a crowded press conference in the city on Monday.

"I am surprised how the government saved the murderer of my brother by enacting a law in the parliament ... This unprecedented in the world", he said.

He bitterly criticised the government for enacting the law.

Darsana Sugar Mills begins production

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

The Darsana Sugar Mills started sugarcane crushing on Monday.

Al Haj Mozammel Hoque MP formally inaugurated the crushing at a simple function held on the mills premises.

The mill has fixed a target to produce 13,200 tonnes of sugar by crushing 160,000 tonnes of sugarcane in the current season, its authorities said. The sugar recovery rate is 8.50 per cent. Crushing will continue till April 1, they said.

Two commit suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Two housewives committed suicide by taking poison here on Monday.

Police said, Farida Parvin, 25, wife of Maniuzzaman of Joytindra Nagar village and Moina Khatun, 23, daughter of Khalilur Rahman of Dadpur village in Assassuni upazila committed suicide by taking poison on the day. Family trouble was said to be the cause of suicide, police sources said.

Dacoits loot house, gangrape woman in Bhola

Acid thrown on raped housewife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Dacoits looted a house, abducted gangraped a housewife at Char Tatia in Borhanuddin in Bhola district.

In another incident in the district, a housewife became victim of acid attack after rape at Char Kalmi village in Charfession.

Police said, a gang of dacoits attacked the house of one Mosharraf Howlader at Char Tatia on Friday night.

Then looted valuables and while fleeing abducted the wife of Mosarraf, mother of a child, to a nearby bamboo bush and gang raped her.

She was rescued by villagers and

sent to hospital.

Police arrested one Milon Bhuian after a case was lodged with Borhanuddin thana.

In another incident, acid was thrown on a housewife after rape at Kalmi Adarsa village in Charfession on the Eid night.

The victim was sent to Dhaka by a local NGO --Coast Trust-- for treatment.

Her father Saidullah Munshi lodged a case against Farid Bhuia and some others with Charfession thana but none was arrested till filing of this report.

Quoting villagers, police said Saidullah has land dispute with Farid for long.

All 12 accused chargesheeted in Biswanath double murder IO refutes allegation by victim's brother

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet.

Police have submitted charge sheet in the sensational murder of a pregnant housewife and her 18-month baby in Biswanath upazila.

Hosne Ara Lovely, 35, wife of Fatik Chowdhury, and her daughter Aklima were killed at her husband's house at Nobhagi village on the night of August 9.

All the 12 persons accused in the case filed by Fatik Chowdhury immediately after the incident have been included in the charge sheet submitted to a magistrate court, court sources said yesterday.

The investigating officer (IO) stated in the charge sheet that armed killers broke into the bedroom at about 3 AM to kill Fatik Chowdhury. Not finding him, they killed his wife and daughter.

Fatik Chowdhury was targeted by the killers due to his popularity and vocal role in different arbitration meetings in the village. The killers were angered by his role.

They are Mujib Ali, Sorab Ali, Abdul Bari, Ustar Ali, Shamshad Ali, Selim, Lechu Miah, Abul Hossain, Aftab Ali, Abdul Matin, Amir Ali, and Amir Hossain.

Among them, Abul Hossain, Abdul Matin, Aftab Ali and Amir Hossain are in custody and the

rest are absconding.

In the charge sheet, it has been stated that Mujib and Lechu Miah were the masterminds behind the incident. Amir Hossain, arrested on November 7, in his confessional statement in court under Section 164, named the killers and detailed their plan, the chargesheet said.

Police interrogated 31 people during the investigation.

The double murder sparked widespread agitation though out the district.

Mentionably, Jamal Ahmed, brother of Hosne Ara Lovely, filed a case with the magistrate court alleging that his sister was killed by Fatik Chowdhury's two brothers Farik Chowdhury and Manjur Chowdhury because of family feuds.

The murders were abetted by Swapon Miah, Dhonal and Siddek, Jamal said in his complaint. Hosne Sra's mother also made the same allegation.

They also alleged that being biased, police were trying to divert the case to hide the culprits.

But IO Sub Inspector Murshed refuted the allegation and said in the charge sheet that Jamal Ahmed filed the case nine days after the murders and his allegation was found untrue during investigation.

4 killed, 26 hurt in road mishaps in 3 dists

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Four persons including a woman and a child were killed and at least 26 injured in road accidents in Mymensingh, Barisal and Jhalakathi on Monday and the day before.

Our Mymensingh Correspondent reported that a 40 year-old woman--Anwara Khatun--was killed and 20 people were injured when a Dhaka-bound bus from Sherpur collided with another bus on the Mymensingh-Sherpur road at Kaxni in Phulpur on Monday. The victim was the wife of one Shaheed Ali of Indhanpur village in Sribordi

upazila in Sherpur district.

The injured were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) and other clinics.

Police seized both the vehicles but the drivers escaped. A case has been lodged.

Our Barisal Correspondent reported that three persons including a child were killed and six others injured in road mishaps in Barisal and Jhalakathi on Monday and the day before.

Pickup driver Ali Asgor, 26 and vegetable trader Prodip Kumar, 35, died at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital from fatal injuries they suffered when

their vehicle hit a tree on the Barisal-Dhaka highway at Rahamatpur in Barisal on Monday.

They were going to Barisal from Jessore with brinjal.

Three others travelling in the vehicle were injured. They are Kamal Hossain, Mintu Adhikari and Md Zillur. They were admitted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH).

On Sunday, child Sonia was killed on the spot when a bus knocked down three rickshaws near Jhalakati bus stand.

Three others were injured. They are M A Sattar, Ali Akbar and Maksuda Begum. They were taken to Jhalakati Sadar Hospital.

Barisal-Bhola link threatened

Sunken launch not salvaged in 7 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

River communication with Bhola is threatened with disruption as passenger launch that sank in the Pangashia channel on the night before the Eid is yet to be salvaged.

The narrow channel is the only waterway to Bhola.

MV Shagor King running on the Barisal-Bhola route sank after hitting a shoal at Veduria in the Ilisha river. None of the passengers died.

In the last six days, no serious salvage effort was made.

Khorshed Alam, vice president of the Barisal Launch Owners Association said Khawza Navigation Company of

Bhola, owner of Shagor King, are trying to salvage the launch on their own efforts, which is unlikely to succeed.

When contacted, BIWTA Deputy Director Shahjol Huq said the launch owner did not seek any help from BIWTA to salvage the vessel.

"We can send salvage ship Hamza only after payment and completion of other formalities by the owner of the sunken vessel", he said.

Sources said the sunken vessel is also accelerating deposit of silt at the spot, which will affect navigability of the waterway and also make salvation of the vessel more difficult.

Police source chopped to death

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

A police source was chopped to death by smugglers in Surzanagar area near Boara Bazaar under the Sadar upazila on the outskirts of Comilla town on Sunday night.

Witness and local people said to this correspondent, once a notorious armed robber, Mohammad Hossain of Krishnapur village under the Sadar upazilla of Comilla was working as a police source at Kotwali police station for the last five years.

On Sunday night when he was extorting money in name of police from local smugglers of Boara Bazaar, they denied to give him toll money. Afterwards, they beat him up severely and cut his legs and hands and struck his head with a sharp knife. He died on the spot.

Being informed by local people ASI Tayobur Rahman of Kotwali police recovered the dead body and sent it to Sadar hospital for autopsy.

A case was registered with Kotwali police station.