

National

Seven commit suicide in Magura

MAGURA, Sept 4: Seven people, including four housewives, in two thanas of the district allegedly committed suicide in last 10 days, reports UNB.

Police said Arzoonara Begum, 28, wife of Sheikh Shamsuddin Ahmed of Doramatha village, Rahima Begum, 27, wife of Akram Hossain of Kashinathpur village, Mozam Sheikh, 75, of Monirampur village in sadar thana and Anwar Hossain, 30, son of Shomsher Molla of Sabinaagar village in Sreepur thana killed themselves by taking poison on August 26.

Depali Begum, 22, wife of Moktadir Hossain of village Daulatpur and Chuto Bibi, 45, wife of Isqua Ali of Champur, in sadar thana took their lives by hanging themselves on August 25 and 21.

Golam Quddus, 32, son of Ayenuddin Ahmed of village Shingardamgarh in sadar thana committed suicide by taking poison on August 21.

The incidents of suicides occurred following family feuds, police suspected.

Crime worst than murder

NARSINGDI, Sept 4: Three women were gang raped in Shibpur thana headquarters of the district, according to police.

One Shahidulla Mia of Masimpur village went to the thana town to enjoy a movie along with his wife Fatema, 19, and two nieces Laily, 18, and Lili, 16, on August 13.

A gang of armed youths numbering about 10 swooped on them while they were returning home after enjoying night show. They stopped them at College Gate, tied up Shahidullah, and raped Fatema, Laily and Lili indiscriminately leaving them in an unconscious state.

Later, all the victims were rushed to the Shibpur Thana Health Complex in a critical condition, police added.

Three die in Sirajganj incidents

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 4: Three people died in separate incidents in Sirajganj district on Friday, police and witnesses said, reports UNB.

Ganjer Ali, 52, was killed on the spot when hit by a Nagarbari-bound bus from Bogra at Sahebganj of Raiganj thana at 8 am.

The killer bus sped away from the spot immediately after the accident, local people said. A case was lodged with Raiganj police.

Azhar Ali, 50, a farmer, died instantaneously when he accidentally touched a live electric wire at 6 am. He was working in a field at Tetulia village in Sadar thana.

School girls kidnapped

MAGURA, Sept 4: Two school girls of villages in Sadar and Sreepur thanas of the district have been kidnapped by a group of people recently, reports UNB.

Police said group of people stormed the house of Ananta Kumar Saha of Basirhat village in Sreepur thana on August 26 at night and abducted his daughter Sifriti Rani Saha, 14, as she was asleep. She is a student of class nine.

Police have arrested her colleagues Abdur Rakib 35, and Mina Begum, 20, in this connection. They have been sent to jail.

Meanwhile, Radha Rani Ghosh, 14, daughter of Nirod Ghosh of Uttarbari village in Sadar thana, was kidnapped by a gang of youths on her way home from school on August 17.

Country needs a well revised fisheries policy: Moyeen

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Sept 4: State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan has said that the country needed a well-revised fisheries policy for the betterment of fishermen.

He said, this while inaugurating a two-day national seminar on "Sustainable Development of Marine Fisheries Resources in Bangladesh", organised on the occasion of the Fish Fortnight-94 in Cox's Bazar on August 29. The state minister said that a bank will be set up to provide loans to the fishermen.

The fisheries sector contributes three per cent to the national income and 10 per cent to export earnings providing livelihood to about 11.20 million people of the country, he added.

Presided over by Fisheries and livestock Secretary AZM

10 mishaps in 8 months

Marine accidents claim 60

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 4: Some 60 people were killed and more than one hundred injured in at least ten marine accidents during last eight months. Loss of wealth and cash money in these incidents were estimated at no less than Tk two crore.

It may be recalled that the first riverine accident occurred on the 17th of March this year when an Amtali bound passenger engine boat carrying about 50 passengers on board sank due to overloading in the confluence of Paira and Bishkhali rivers about 20 kilometres off Amtali of Borguna district where four passengers were killed.

Next day, one man, Abdur Rashid, drowned when a boat capsized in Tetulia river near

Halarhat, ML Sharif-2 hit a ferryboat where one, Mizan was killed. On the same day 10 passengers were drowned when ML Suravi, a passenger launch sank in the Bishkhali river hit by a severe tornado.

A double decker launch bound for Dhaka on June 12 hit a small launch, a trawler and a ferryboat one after another where an employee of the launch fell into water and drowned.

On 11th August, 14 fishermen were killed when a fishing boat capsized in the Bay of Bengal near Kalapara of Patuakhali district. No dead-body was recovered.

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Mchendiganj thana of Barisal. On August 17, ten fishermen drowned and six were injured when two fishing trawlers sank in the Bay of Bengal in stormy weather some 150 kilometres away from Kuakata. Eight passengers of an Amtali bound trawler were drowned when the trawler sank in the Paira river suddenly caught by a whirlwind on August 21.

In an another incident seven fishermen drowned in the Bay when a fishing trawler sank hit by nor'wester on the last day of March. Here it may be mentioned that every year particularly in southern districts many marine vessels sink in the rivers due to storm or other reasons that cost many human lives in the rivers

or Bay of Bengal.

The owners of the vessels get compensations from insurance companies as they have policies against their vessels only but not for the lives lost on board.

On the otherhand, passenger buses have insurance guarantee for their vehicles as well as for their passengers on board. So if a passenger is killed in a road accident his successors receive highest amount of Tk 20 thousand as compensation for the loss of life from the concerned insurance company.

The marine vessel owners should also take necessary steps to introduce 'passenger insurance policy' in the riverine routes.



SHERPUR: Unabated cutting of trees continues in the district. Ecologists have urged the concerned authority to protect the environment from such deforestation process. — Star photo

Cattle diseases claim 400 in Dinajpur, 5000 more attacked

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Sept 4: Cattle diseases have claimed 400 and attacked about 5000 more in all thirteen thanas of the district.

It is informed that most of the animals die without treatment. The employees of the Livestock Department are not visiting the affected villages after repeated requests.

Some of the owners of the cattle attacked with disease are treating their cows at their own costs. The medicines are not also available in the market. Due to the non-supply of vaccine and other necessary drugs, almost eighty per cent of cattle die, it is gathered.

It is reported that an organised group of dishonest people are engaged in this kind of criminal activities who are reportedly patronised by some well placed people of the district.

The ignorant people buy these sort of adulterated items in their good faith. They are ultimately attacked with various diseases. The poor customers usually prefer the items which cost less.

Some people of the town complained that the employees of the Health Department are seen inactive. The law enforcement agency members are

also indifferent regarding the matter.

Irrigation in about 9000 hectares of land in 23 thanas of three northern districts of Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh is being hampered following irregular supply of

power and continued load shedding. It is learnt that due to erratic power supply the shallow and deep tubewells of the districts remain inoperative causing setback in Boro and IRRI farming.

It deserves mention that cultivation of Boro and IRRI crops fully depends on surface water but that is not available in most of the rivers, canals, beels and other marshy places in the districts.

Meanwhile a vast tract of Boro and IRRI land in Dinajpur sadar: Chirirbandar, Ghoraghata, Bochanganj and Parbatipur in Dinajpur district, Panchagarh sadar, Thakurgaon sadar, Boda, Raritsankal and Pirkangj thana have been invaded by pests.

Acute scarcity of pesticides has been persisting in the affected areas. As such the farmers find it difficult to combat the pests. It is learnt. On the other hand the prospect of Aus crops also appears bleak in the district due to pest attack.

It is gathered that Aus crops of vast areas has been attacked by pests but no considerable measure is being taken by the local Agriculture office to arrest the menace. It is alleged.

The ignorant people buy these sort of adulterated items in their good faith. They are ultimately attacked with various diseases. The poor customers usually prefer the items which cost less.

The situation turns worst every year after Eid-ul-Azha when the unscrupulous skin dealers collect raw skins from different areas and preserve here and there in the town.

The sale of adulterated foodstuff throughout the district of Dinajpur is rampant and causing health hazards.

With the increase of popu-

lation, the towns, bazaars, hats, stations, ghats and other commercial places have been developed to cope with the demand.

Most of the hotels of these busy places are dirty and unhealthy. The owners of these hotels keep their items open. A very few owners have got licenses to continue their business, it is alleged.

A consumer of Dinajpur town told this correspondent that it is very hard to collect pure edible oil and milk from the market. For more profit, the sellers mix low quality oil with the mustard, soyabean oil, it is alleged.

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