

Body found after 8 days of disappearance

From Our Correspondent
GAIBANDHA, Dec 23: Body of one Anisur Rahman (18) who disappeared 8 days ago was recovered by the police from nearby marshy land at village Talukjamira under of Palashbari thana.

The victim was a medicine trader and had a shop at Talukjamira market.

On November 16 at night he was called out from his residence by some unknown miscreants. They stabbed the victim near the marshy land, concealed the body under the water hyacinth. Meanwhile, family members of Anisur launched vigorous search but could not get any trace of Anisur. After 8 days of his disappearance a group of fishermen went to fishing on the spot and found the decomposed limbs of Anisur. On being informed Palashbari thana police rushed to the spot and recovered the corpse of Anisur and sent to morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Palashbari thana. None was arrested in this connection so far.

Equipment to make forged currency notes recovered

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Dec 23: The Civil Investigation Department (CID) police nabbed two persons with equipment for manufacturing forged Bangladeshi currency notes from local town at night on Dec 16.

According to police acting on secret information, a contingent of police, headed by CID Inspector Jessore, Monwar Hossain raided a house on Mujib Sarak in the town and arrested Kibria Farasi and Amjad Hossain. They also recovered two bundles of white paper equal to size of Taka 500.00 note, two glasses of note size powder substance and a bottle full of chemicals from their possession.

Two killed in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Dec 23: Two persons were killed and six others sustained injuries in two separate incidents at Sadullapur and Palashbari thanas.

On December 12, a bloody clash ensued between two groups at village Shakua under Palashbari thana over the issue of felling a tree.

One of the groups wanted to cut a tree on a disputed land which was protested by rival group. A quarrel took place between the groups. Soon there ensued clash using deadly weapons after exchanging hot words in which six persons received injuries. One Rostunali, 50 succumbed to his injuries on way to hospital.

In another incident one Motizmia, 70, a bicycle rider was killed when he met an accident with a motorcycle rider at Ghaperhat under Sadullapur thana on December 11. The victim was removed to RMCH in critical condition where he died Tuesday night.

Statue found in Feni

FENI, Dec 23: A valuable 400-kilogramme black stone idol of Durga was discovered in Jatrasiddhi village of sadar thana here yesterday, reports UNB.

The 3.5 feet by 2.5 feet statue was retrieved by Abul Khair, a local farmer, while he was digging a pond, police said.

Local administration has arranged to send the statue to the National Museum in Dhaka.



MOULVIBAZAR: Finance Minister, M Saifur Rahman, addressing the inaugural function of the Moulvibazar District Judge court building, which was held recently at the old District Collectorate compound. — Star photo

Traditional fish disappearing from markets in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Dec 23: Scarcity of fish became extremely acute throughout the Pabna district. Although it is noticed that supply of fish traditionally becomes abundant and also considerably cheaper during winter. This year, however, the supply of fish is extremely meagre and it is being considered on exceptional phenomenon. Prices are also too high.

Pabna district once known as a district of abundant fishes, meat, eggs and milk. This however a matter of history. Specially since the mid seventies when canal digging programme was taken national level, fishes virtually began to disappear, it is observed. It is stated by the fishermen that these unplanned digging of canals caused irreparable damage to the traditional khals, beels and small rivers from where water was flushed to the fields and thus these 'original' sources of surface water got silted.

Secondly, due to massive cultivation of quick-growing crops like Irri-Boro paddy etc. unprecedentedly high use of chemical fertilisers, fish in these almost silted rivers and

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Thirdly, main source of water derived from traditional rainfalls in the rainy seasons, has also been virtually fallen due to abnormal shortfall of rain water almost every year and also due to artificial barriers caused by the construction of innumerable flood-control embankments. Furthermore, extra water is not coming down from the hilly areas and have culminated in massive siltation of all big and small sources of water and thus fish cultivation has been rendered virtually impossible.

Over and above, hundreds of ponds throughout the district have been filled in by real-estate agencies for residential purposes both in urban and rural areas. Thus heavy damages have been to the cultivation of fish.

The big rivers, namely Padma which floods through the south of the district and Jamuna, flowing through the east and their innumerable tributaries have also gone dry and innumerable chars have already appeared which, in turn, have also caused damage to fish cultivation.

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The ultimate result is that the cultivation of fish has been almost rendered impossible due to the siltation of traditional rivers, beels, khals and ponds and hence severe scarcity of fish is being noticed everywhere in the district.

Thus there is no fish in the markets. Traditional supply of protein is no more here and this calls for immediate arrangements for huge and large-scale cultivation of fish by creating new sources of water and its preservation. Alternative measures are also needed like large-scale marketing of sea-fish and at the same time, production of quick growing fish of foreign origin and also adoption of drastic measures against fishing of immature size.

Disappearance of fish from the market has, in turn, caused massive unemployment of fishermen — many of whom are being compelled to opt for alternative profession or migration to big cities. Both of these steps are causing huge loss to the fish cultivation sector. Efforts needed to protect the fishermen society by easy-term loans.

Three notorious robbers held

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Dec 23: Sunderganj thana police in collaboration with Pargacha thana police in a raid arrested three notorious dacoits and recovered a country made pipe gun with ammunition from village Manmoth under Sunderganj thana recently.

A police contingent of Pargacha thana in collaboration with Sunderganj police raided the house of one Subol Chandra and arrested three notorious criminals namely Abul Kashem of village Dulistrpur under Rangpur district, Tara Mia of village Ghagotpara under Rangpur district and Suroj of village Sreenagar of Dhaka district and recovered 10 rounds of bullets and a sword from their possession. The house owner, however was absconding during the raid.

Another report says: Inmates of four families were rendered homeless in a devastating fire incident that broke out at village Khamer Narail under Palashbari thana recently.

The fire originated from the kitchen of Nurunnabi Mia and soon the flame spread to the adjacent houses. Seven dwelling houses including all its belongings of four families were reduced to ashes. Properties including jute and paddy worth about Taka one lakh fifty thousand were damaged.

8 robbers arrested in Moulvibazar

SYLHET, Dec 23: A gang of eight robbers was caught by Moulvi bazar Police after committing dacoity at a depo of Acme Laboratories here on Friday, reports UNB.

The arrested people were identified as Babu, Khokon, Golam Hossain, Salahuddin, Zamal, Mazon, Mannan and Tengra. However, some Rab, leader of the gang, managed to escape arrest.

Police said the gang of dacoits came to Sylhet by a mini bus (Dhaka-02-0849) from Dhaka and launched an attack at the depo of Acme Laboratories at Housing Estate here in the early hours of Friday.

5 hurt in clash over possession of land in Bhola

BHOLA, Dec 23: At least 5 people received injuries and 45 dwelling houses were burnt to ashes in a clash over the possession of charlands of Sadar thana on December 14, reports UNB.

The injured Gafur (35), Jomodar (50), Kulsum (25), Honufa (20) and Motin (20) were admitted to Sadar hospital.

Police said, the clash ensued when rival groups tried to take possession of the disputed land equipped with sharp and lethal weapons. At one stage one group set on fire the dwelling houses of the poor farmers.

Jatiya Krishak Samity council held at Paksey Menon urges BNP to follow blueprint of 3 alliances

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Dec 23: The General Secretary of Bangladesh Workers Party, Rashed Khan Menon, MP, in his speech at the two-day first Central Council meeting of the Jatiya Krishak Samity held at the premises of Paksey Railway Institute of Pabna district on December 18 evening asserted that the present political 'impasse' could have been avoided if BNP government ran the administration in the light of the blueprint of the three-alliances that launched the anti-Ershad movement during long nine years till 1990.

He accused that instead of following the said blueprint, the government flouted their commitment of repeating the Special Powers Act and other black-laws, turning radio and television into autonomous bodies and following the ideals of the Liberation War of 1971. Flouting these commitments, Menon further accused, BNP did not even hesi-

tical crisis, Rashed Khan Menon said, that neither by tendering resignation from the Jatiya Sangsad nor by holding bye-elections to the innumerable vacant seats thus caused, the deadlock could be removed. He asserted that all these "power-games" not at all connected with democracy or constitution or serving the interest of the common people.

Recalling his event of the historical red-capped peasants' conference held 25 years ago under the leadership of the fire-brand national leader Late Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, Menon said that the great Moulana then launched the slogan "Krishak Sramik Astro Dharo — Purbo Bangla Swadhin Karo." The toiling peasants and workers in crores ultimately took up arms against the Pakistani military junta in 1971 and liberated Bangladesh, but the sufferings of the peasants and

Tipoo Biswas in his speech stressed the need for launching united movement by the peasants and workers and hence both these clashes of people must build strong organisations of their own. He said that BNP, Awami League, Jamaat-e-Islami and Jatiya Party all represented the richer communities who were against the interests of the poorer classes. Hence, none of these parties would solve their problems.

Comrade Abdul Matin in his speech said that out of the total population of 12 crore, ten crore were peasants and of them six crore were landless. He called upon the peasants to be organised under the banner of Jatiya Krishak Samity for changing their lot.

The conference passed resolutions for distribution of entire agricultural land to the tillers who were the real producers in the agricultural sector. Resolution opposed abse-



PABNA: The General Secretary, Bangladesh Workers Party, Rashed Khan Menon addressing as chief guest the inaugural session of the two-day central council meeting of the Jatiya Krishak Samity held recently at the Paksey Railway Institute premises. — Star photo

Chittagong still does not possess a monument to recall martyrs

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 23: In an effort to uphold the spirit and memories of Liberation War of Bangladesh, Chittagong City Corporation will soon start building a sculpture, 'Aparajayabangla' similar to one constructed in the capital, at the 'Revolution Park' (Biplob uddyan) here at Sholashahar.

The City Corporation officials said that work-order had already been issued to construct the sculpture at a cost of Taka 14 lakh.

The project, financed by the corporation, is expected to be completed by the middle of next year, sources informed. However, the project work is delayed since the plan was taken up, sources said. The corporation officials said, they had no other plan or project of this type to erect any monument.

Meanwhile, long 23 years have passed into oblivion since the independence of Bangladesh, but efforts are still underway to establish other memorial on Liberation War or Victory-Day in Chittagong in order to uphold its historical role of revolution.

The nation achieved victory on December 16, 1971 after nine months of struggle when the occupation forces surrendered to the allied forces comprising the Eastern Command of the Indian Army and Bangladesh Freedom Fighters.

During the independence movement, Chittagong played a pioneering role to carry forward the struggle towards suc-

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cess. Unfortunately Chittagong could not witness erection of any memorial of independence.

The officials added, that memorials of independence including mausoleum and artificial fountain were constructed in the capital to uphold the holy memories of hard-earned independence but no such initiative had so far been undertaken in Chittagong.

Only a park was constructed

Australian envoy visits BARD

Australian High Commissioner to Bangladesh K W Aspinall and R Aspinall visited the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD), Comilla recently. He met the senior faculty members of BARD in a session where Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, Director General, gave a brief introduction about BARD's activities.

He was apprised about the achievements, existing programmes and future plan of the Academy. The high commissioner praised BARD for its significant role played for the rural development of Bangladesh. He visited the physical facilities of BARD including the library. Later on he also visited Mainamati Museum, archaeological sites, war cemetery of soldiers of World War II and village cooperative society.

on a small piece of land named, 'Revolution Park' at Nusrabad during the President Ziaur Rahman's rule. This park lacks proper facilities. It may be recalled, the declaration of independence was made from Chittagong Radio Station. When the Liberation War began the people of Chittagong fought against the occupation forces shoulder to shoulder with the Bengal Regiment soldiers in the division.

The Freedom Fighters of Chittagong during the nine-months war in 1971, fought series of fierce and tragic battles with Pakistani occupation forces and were able to take control of most of the parts of this hill-bound Chittagong well ahead of December 16. In the face of heavy resistance by the Freedom Fighters the occupation forces during the last days of war retreated and pushed almost in a cornered in the city.

Chittagong, enriched with the glorious heritage of the revolutionary exploits of J M Sen, Master-da Suriya Sen, Kalpana Dutta and other patriots and martyrs as historic place pioneered the cause of all past revolutions and movements. It is still a shame that Chittagong do not possess a monument to recall those brave fighters who sacrificed their lives.

As a place of historical and traditional importance, many foreigners happen to visit Chittagong known as 'The Queen of the East'. EOM.



The Bangladesh Photo Journalists Association and the World Press Photo jointly organised a one-day workshop for the photo journalists of Chittagong recently. Mayor of the Chittagong City Corporation Mohiuddin Chowdhury (standing in cap) is seen with some of the journalists. — Star photo

Date juice good for kidney

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Dec 23: Faridpur is famous for date molasses locally called 'khejurer gur'. It is made of date juice which is available only in winter season, from late November to early February. The man who help in extracting juice is locally known as 'gachi' and it is the gachi who collects juice locally called 'Rash' by using a unique processes.

Date tree juice is very tasty. This juice is good for kidneys, too, as the doctors say. It is also useful for jaundice patients. It also keeps the liver well.

The Juice is boiled into gur which is of two types namely hard gur locally known as 'patali' and treacle locally called 'jhula gur'. 'Jhula gur' is a must for eating 'chhatu' in the month of 'Chaitra'. Date molasses (khejurer gur) is also used in making different kinds of cakes or 'pithas' — such as 'vapa pithas', 'semal pitha', 'wezaina pitha' and 'kuli pitha' specially in the winter season.

A number of gachis earn their livelihood by selling date juice and 'gur' during this season in the district. patali khejurer gur of superior quality is now selling at Taka 25 to 30 per kg in the local markets. A medium sized glass full of juice is selling at Taka 10 to 15 here.

Mat made of date tree leaves is locally called 'khejurer pater madur'. The mat is very popular in rural ar-

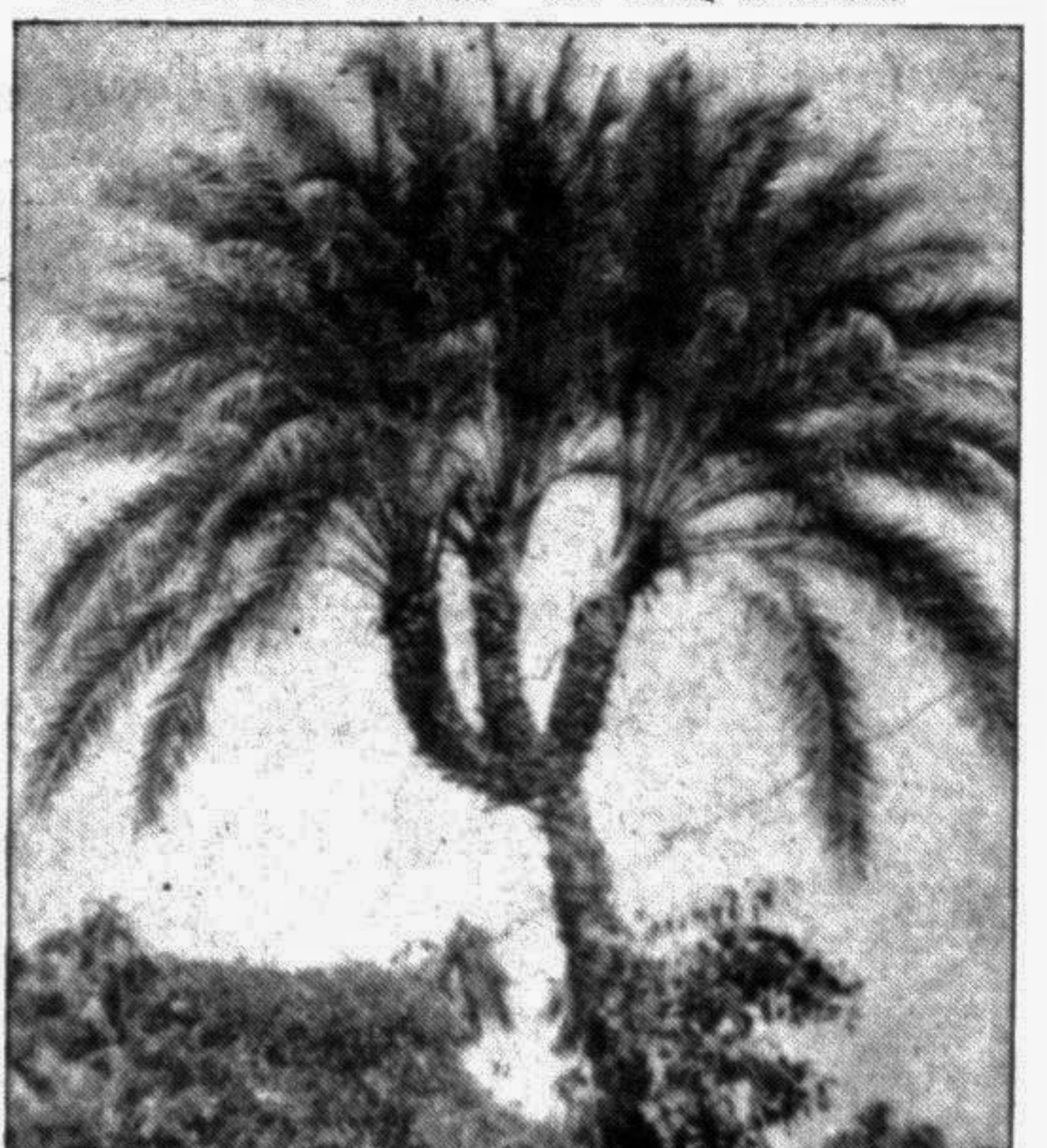
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ea. Poor unemployed women interweave such mats during this season. These mats are in high demand in the local markets. A number of destitutes make living by selling this date leave mats in the local hats.

More over, date trees are

used not only as fuel but also as elements in domestic works. But at present a large number of date trees are cut and supplied to brick fields as fuel.

Thus a huge number of trees are being destroyed.



ABOVE ALL ODDS: Juice is collected from two branches of this 3-head date tree. — Star photo