

SNAPS

Housewife commits 'suicide'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira
A newly married housewife allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at Bagati village under Kaligonj upazila recently, police said.

Rozina Khatun, 18, daughter of Amanat Gazi was married to Musa Gazi of Khanjia village under the same upazila two weeks lack.

She came to her father's house on June 14 and took poison two days later. The cause of the incident could not is not known immediately. A case was lodged with Kaligonj police station.

Inter-district robbers held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira
Police arrested two alleged ringleaders of a gang of inter-district dacoits from Baliadanga village in the Sadar upazila Monday night.

They are Abdul Kader and Abdul Gaffar of Baliadanga village in the same upazila, police said.

Acting on a tip- off, SI Fashiur Rahman raided a house at about midnight and caught the two while the gang was preparing to commit dacoity in a nearby village. Others fled away.

The arrested persons have long been wanted in several criminal cases, police said.

Boy killed in road mishap

UNB, Comilla
A minor boy was killed in a road accident at Mukimpur in Brahmanpara upazila on Comilla-Brahmanbaria road on Monday.

Police said Shafiullah, 7, son of Abu Musa of Mongouch village was crushed under the wheels of a pickup van. Local people caught the driver of the van, Abu Hossain Swapan and handed him over to police. A case was filed.

30 injured as villagers clash

A CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A clash between two groups of villagers left at least 30 people injured at Foyzullahpur village in Minpur upazila on Monday.

The clash occurred over holding of a fair in the village.

Sources said, some local leaders of the ruling party organised a month-long fair Junniadeh Bazar without approval of the local administration. The fair started on June 10.

They alleged that various anti-social activities were going on at the fair. This angered local people.

As some people of the area asked the organisers to stop the fair, some local youths attacked them, resulting in the clash.

They said police were informed of the clash but they did not go there.

Two spars in Jamuna dam washed away in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj.

Over 100 metres of the 150-metre spar in at Vatpiare under Sadar pazila and another 10-meter spar at Meghai under Karipur upazila have been washed away by the Jamuna river due to onrush of water.

At least 20 villages in the areas will be inundated if Jamuna water increases, local people said.

The Water Development Board (WDB) had constructed the Vatpiari spar last year at the cost of Tk 11 crore 12 lakh to protect the Jamuna

embankment from erosion to save lands and human habitations.

The original budget was Tk 9 crore. But as the under-construction spar was damaged last year, additional Tk 2 crore 12 lak was sanctioned and the project was somehow completed.

Local people alleged that the spar was damaged as the construction was done during monsoon. This year also, WDB floated tender for its reconstruction when the dry season was over.

They further alleged that the authorities have started dumping

concrete blocks and sand bags to save the spar, but it is an eye wash.

The spar at Meghai was constructed in 2001 at the cost of Tk 15 crore.

If the river water increases, reconstruction of the spurs will be hampered.

When contacted, WDB Executive Engineer Mojibor Rahman said the Jamuna embankment in entire Kazipur area is under threat now.

Teenager's suicide after gangrape evoke protests but police unmoved

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

The gangrape and suicide of teenager Halima at Dewli village in Mohammadpur upazila evoked protests by local political leaders, NGOs and the local people but the culprits are allegedly still at large.

Halima Khatun, 14, daughter of Nannu Mollah, committed suicide on June 13 after being gangraped allegedly by four local youths earlier on the day.

Before taking poison, she told her parents that she was violated by Khairul, Alamgir, Monjur and Al-Amin of the same village, her parents told journalists during a visit on

Tuesday.

Halima's uncle Farook Molla filed a case with Mohammadpur police station.

Her tragic end has drawn many local political leaders, police officials and NGO activists to the remote village.

Magura Police Superintendent Biswas Afzal Hossain, upazila Nirbahi office (UNO) Hazera Khatun and other officials visited Halima's family on Tuesday and talked to the victim's parents and neighbours. The SP promised that the culprits would be arrested and punished.

During the officials' visit, the

villagers brought out a procession demanding immediate arrest and punishment of the culprits.

Talking to journalists, some of villagers complained of inaction by local police in arresting the culprits.

"The culprits should be punished so that no girl faces the fate as of my daughter", Halima's mother Khadiza Begum said.

However the officer-in-charge (OC) of Mohammadpur thana, Nazrul Islam, said a police team comprising one sub-inspector, one assistant sub-inspector and seven constables has been formed to nab the culprits.

Five held while fleeing leaving body of woman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Five persons including a woman were caught by people while they were fleeing after leaving a body of a young woman at an abandoned brick field in Akua Daskhin Para area in town on Tuesday.

They were handed over to Kotwali police.

The five had brought the body in a microbus. The five are Rashida, 25; Sumon, 28; microbus driver Billal; its helper Eron and Rusel, 25.

They jumped into the river, swam ashore and disappeared in the darkness.

The incident took place at a gamblers' den Kala Shardar bazaar in Pirganj on June 11.

But to the surprise of all, constable Dulal Mia is still on duty despite complaints against him, local people said.

The people swooped on the den at night, removed it and caught the constable along with the gamblers' leader Gafoor. Others escaped.

Cop caught from gamblers den still on duty

Retaliation feared

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Local people led by some youths caught the police constable along with a gambler, made them sit and stand consecutively by holding ears and chased them to the nearby river.

They jumped into the river, swam ashore and disappeared in the darkness.

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The local people are now happy.

But the apparent success has now created fear and anxiety among those who led the drive. They now apprehend retaliation because the gambles allegedly enjoyed blessings from police, who collected toll from the den regularly.

Local people said they had complained to police but to no effect.

Crimes including snatching had increased in the area due to the gamblers' den in the market, they said. Dulal used to collect toll from the den, they alleged.

Talking to this correspondent, some local people demanded withdrawal of constable Dulal Mia from the police station and steps against gambling in the area.

Three killed in road mishap in Kushtia

A CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Three persons were killed and six injured in a road accident on the Kushtia-Rajbari road near Choraikol in Kumarkhali upazila on Tuesday.

The dead were identified as Farid Ali, 30, lojen, 36 and Hossain, 38.

They were fish traders from Haripur village.

Police said, the accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound

fish-laden truck with 15 people on it skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch.

On information, police rushed to the spot, recovered the bodies and sent them to Kushtia Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Four of the injured – Ajimuddin, 40; Amin, 40; Nasiruddin 24 and Babu 30 – were admitted to the local health complex.

Police seized the truck but the driver and the helper escaped.



A perennial problem Be it wet or dry season, most of the drains in Sylhet city remain filled with filth and mire and sources of mosquito and stench. Photo shows some of the drains at Tantipara, Naiorpara and Dhopadighipara. Will the city fathers wake up!

23 educational institutions 'blacklisted'

UNB, Narsingdi

Twenty-three educational institutions in five upazilas of the district have been 'blacklisted for debacle in last SSC examinations'.

The education board also issued show cause notice to these institutions and warned to withdraw MPOs if the results in next examination are

not satisfactory.

District Secondary Education Office sources said of the black-listed schools, 14 are in Monohordi upazila.

It also said over 1,000 students of these schools and madrassahs failed to come out successful in the last SSC and Dhakhil examinations.

One held in Jubo League leader murder case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

Police arrested a suspect in the murder of Jubo League leader and former Union Parishad (UP) chairman Ali Hossain.

Nozu was arrested from Daulatdiar by Chuadanga Sadar police on Sunday.

Ali Hossain, former chairman of Jurampur UP under Damurhuda upazila, was shot and hacked to death on the premises of Chaudanga Sadar Hospital on the night of June 8.

Pineapples in plenty but growers fear price slump

No preservation facility, marketing network poor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

There has been a bumper production of pineapple in the district this year due to favourable weather conditions.

But farmers and traders apprehend substantial quantities will perish due to lack of preservation and marketing facilities.

There is no cold storage for preservation of pineapple and transportation facilities are too

inadequate and costly.

Wholesale markets in Moulvibazar and Sylhet, the main pineapple producing areas, have been flooded with pineapple, which has drawn a large number of traders from across the country.

Growers said the prices and demand are reasonable. Depending on quality, the fruit is being sold at between Tk 500 and 1,125 per 100 at wholesale markets in Sreemongal. But the price may come down when the peak season will come, they said.

According to sources, in Moulvibazar district alone, over 22 crore pineapples have been produced on 20,000 acres of land in Sreemongal and Kamalganj upazilas. Another three crore have been produced on 2,000 acres of land under Sadar, Rajnagar Kulaura and Beralekha upazilas.

'Bilati' or 'honey-queen' pineapples are popular for their taste. 'Kalenya' pineapples are of big, weighing 3 to 4 kg each.

At least 40,000 people are involved in pineapple cultivation and trade, the sources said.

Growers cultivate the fruit without any help from government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).



PHOTO: STAR

A pineapples wholesale market in Moulvibazar.