

SNAPS

Teen electrocuted

UNB, Laxmipur
A teenage boy was electrocuted at West Laxmipur village in Sadar upazila on Friday.

Mahrom Ali, 18, son of Farid Ahmed, met the tragic end of his life while he was repairing power line at his house.

Van driver shot dead

UNB, Bagerhat
A rickshaw van driver was shot dead at Falitla village in Fakirhat upazila on Friday.

Police said unidentified assailants sprayed bullets on Amol Roy, 45, when he was sleeping at the veranda of his house at night. He is believed to have been killed by hired killers over a land dispute. Police arrested one person named Chan Mia, 40.

Youth beaten to death

UNB, Cox's Bazar
A youth was beaten to death allegedly by his friend at Purbapara in St Martin island on Saturday.

Police said Mohammad Yusuf, 17, died on the spot when his friend Saiful beat him indiscriminately following an altercation over a trifling matter. Police arrested Saiful and sent the body to morgue for autopsy. A case was filed.

Seminar at RU

A RU CORRESPONDENT
The Islamic History and Cultural department at Rajshahi University organised a seminar on 'Islamic History and Cultural Photography' on the campus yesterday.

ABM Shahjahan chairman of the departmental presided over the seminar.

Robbers kill old woman

UNB, Cox's Bazar
Robbers killed an old woman-Rashida Begum, 60- and looted her cash and gold ornaments in Fishery Ghat area of Cox's Bazar town on Friday.



PHOTO: ANWAR ALI

(Left) A portion of the North Parulia Government Primary School in Nilphamari has been washed away and the rest is threatened by flood; (right) homeless people on the bank of Teesta Barrage. The photos were taken on Saturday.

'Devastation by Teesta is yet to start'

ROVING CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

"It is just the beginning of flooding by Teesta", said 65 year-old boatman Nurul Islam.

"The seasonal rainfall in the hill region (in India) will aggravate the situation in coming days", he said.

On board the boat, Abdul Bashar, said the river fell slightly in the morning but started swelling again at noon.

Bashar of Safitari village in Dimla upazila in Nilphamari district, a truck driver by profession, was moving to safety with his family.

On Saturday, this correspondent moved from place to place on boats to see the havoc by the Teesta and talked to people and officials.

"Flooding by Teesta depends

on Gajandoba Barrage in India", said a Water Development Board official.

Teesta rages when India opens the barrage gates. While receding, it erodes villages, he said.

"Devastation (erosion) by Teesta is yet to start", he said.

The river has devoured many villages along its banks in Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat and Rangpur districts in the last ten days.

In Lalmonirhat, official reports said, over 100 square kilometre area in Borokhata, Guddimari, Shin-gimari, Shindurna, Patik-apara, Dauabari, Dahagram, Shreerampur, Jongra, Jagotber and Baura unions have gone under water, affecting over one lakh people, damaging about 3000 houses and crops on over

1000 hectares.

Some 500 people left homes in Deuabari and Patikapara unions where at least 30 families become homeless on Wednesday as Teesta devoured their homesteads, local people said.

Part of the Parulia Government Primary High School has gone into water and the rest will vanish in a day or two, they said.

In Nilphamari, most areas of Chhotokhata and Shafitiri villages in Dimla upazila have been eroded by the Teesta, making over 1000 people homeless, Yasin Ali said.

Ali of Chhotokhata village, who along with others took shelter on bank of Teesta Barrage, said none came to see their miseries and provide relief.

Labourer Noimuddin, who is

among hundreds on the bank, said he heard that four kilogram rice per head was allotted for a few of them but nothing reached so far.

In charlands, thousands of people are marooned, with no supply of food and water.

A boatload of rice for them, allocated by the district administration, sank while being taken across the river, claimed Aynal Haque, Dauabari Union Parishad Mamber.

"The people there are suffering as they do not dare to cross the river", said Patikapara Union Parishad Mojibor Rahman.

At Patgram, nearly 80 percent of the municipal area has gone under water as the Teesta started rising again, relief official Osman Khondokar said.

9 more upazilas in Sirajganj flooded

Educational instts closed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Nine more upazilas in Sirajganj were inundated as the Jumuna, Korota, Boral and Fulzore rivers swelled further yesterday.

The Jamuna was flowing 47 cms above the danger mark at 10 am yesterday, official sources said.

The erosion by the rivers turned serious in the affected areas, local people said.

So far around 350 villages have been inundated by the floodwater gushing through the breach at Baokhola. Nutun Bhabngabari and Janpur areas of Sirajganj town have gone under water.

Sirajganj-Kazipur and Enayetpur-Shahjajpur road links have been snapped as floodwater is flowing over the roads.

The worst affected upazilas are Kazipur, Sirajganj Sadar, Belkuchi, Chowhali and Shahjajpur.

All educational institutions in

these upazilas have been closed.

Acute crisis of drinking water is prevailing as about 3000 tube wells have gone under water, the sources said.

The floods have so far damaged crops on 35,000 hectares of land and 800 km khtcha roads.

Prices of essentials are soaring as most of the rural markers have been inundated.

The government sectioned 50 tonnes of rice and Tk 50,000 for the flood victims.

SUST exams from July 13

BSS, Sylhet

The semester examinations at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) will now begin on July 20 instead of July 13, a press release said.

Viscera report 9 yrs after death!

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

Delay in receiving viscera report from the laboratory in Dhaka is delaying disposal of unnatural death (UD) cases.

Forty-eight cases are pending with courts only because of non-availability of viscera reports, court and police sources said.

Viscera test is done on the sample of a certain organ of a body to find out the cause of death.

Last year, 39 samples were sent to the viscera laboratory in Dhaka from Magura. But the authorities here are yet to receive report on any of the samples.

They said the lone laboratory usually takes a long time to send reports.

Sources in Magura Sadar police said they got the viscera report on the death of retired police sub-inspector Abdul Khaleque about nine years after the sample was sent.

The sample was sent in December 1994. The viscera report received in June this year said Khalek was "murdered".

Relatives of some victims alleged that local authorities also take much time to send samples to the laboratory.

When contracted, RMO of Magura Sadar Hospital Kari Rezaul Huq denied delay in sending samples. "It is hard for the lone laboratory in the country to send all the reports in time". More laboratories should be set up in divisional headquarters, he said.

Lightning kills 5, injures 7 in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Five persons, four of them women, were killed and seven others injured in lightning at Chilahati village in Domar upazila Saturday morning.

The dead are Fatima, Merina, Majida, Sharifa, Rabiul.

The injured were taken to Domar hospital in critical conditions.

Lightning struck them when they were chasing a thief from the village during downpour, said police and relatives of the victims at the hospital.

Life term for killing wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

The District and sessions Judge's court yesterday sentenced a man to life term for killing his wife in 1999.

The convict--Moshiur Rahman of village Satyer in Magura Sadar upazila--was also fined Tk 20,000, in default to suffer one year rigorous imprisonment.

Moshiur beat his wife Henamati on October 6, 1999, leaving her critically injured following an altercation. She died while being taken to hospital.

Judge Mohammad Shafuddin passed the verdict.

Free treatment by Indian surgeon

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Over 300 patients were treated free of cost by noted Indian orthopaedic surgeon Chandra Sekhar Dhar in Dhaka, Chittagong and Comilla.

The internationally reputed surgeon paid a five-day visit to Bangladesh from July 5 to July 10 at the invitation of Huq Foundation of Comilla, said a press release.

He treated the patients at Comilla Huq Foundation; Protigga Parisad, Comilla; Chittagong Holy Crescent Hospital and Sabuj Moti Swasthya Seba Kendra in Dhaka.

In Comilla, Dr Dhar also gave a lecture on use of modern technology in artificial bone grafting, prevention and cure of back, neck and waist pain and related diseases. Comilla Club organised the lecture.

Rangamati-Ctg bus service resumes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Bus service on Rangamati-Chittagong route resumed partially yesterday after five days' suspension.

Buses went off on July 8 as the Chittagong based Chittagong-Rangamati Bus Owners Association obstructed introduction of a luxury bus service on the route by Rangamati based Karnaphuli Service and stopped its maiden trip at Betunia. The Chittagong based association then called a bus strike on the route.

Yesterday, the Karnaphuli Service resumed bus service up to Betunia following an order by Rangamati Deputy Commissioner Zafar Ahmed.

The Chittagong Divisional Commissioner has called a meeting of both the parties at his office tomorrow to resolve the dispute and fully restore the service, official sources said.

Loans for goat rearing

BSS, Gaibandha

Loans have been disbursed among 20 destitute women of Boali union under the Sadar upazila for rearing black Bengal goat.

They received Tk 7,000 each under a government project. The loans were given at a simple function held at the upazla headquarter recently.

The function was attended by Upazila Nirbahi Officer ABM Nasirul Alam, Assistant General Manager of Janata Bank, Gaibandha branch Dulal Chandra Das, UP Chairman Abu Zafar Sabu and Regional Officer of Swanirvar Bangladesh Abdul Quddus.

8-year-old son killed by father?

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

An eight year-old boy was killed allegedly by his father at Bogra town on Friday.

Police recovered the body from a pond on Saturday.

The victim-- Rabbi -- was strangled by his father Shaheen Khan, said Rabbi's friend Alal, who saw the brutal act.

Rabbi lived with his mother Rabeya after his father separated from her to live with his second wife.

Alal told police that Rabbi's father had given him Tk 10 to give the money to Rabbi and bring him along. When Alal brought Rabbi to his father, Khan strangled him and threw the body into the pond.

Terrified, Alal went home but did not tell anyone about the incident that night. Next morning, as Rabeya went around looking for her son, Alal narrated the incident to her.

A case has been filed with Bogra Sadar thana. Khan could not be arrested till Saturday night.

Old bldg risky Prisoners to be shifted from Barisal jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The Barisal Central Jail authorities have decided to shift 150 prisoners to other districts as two old buildings of the jail have become risky for inmates.

Jail sources said the prisoners will be shifted to jails of Barguna, Patuakhali, Jhalakati, Bhola and Pirojpur.

The jail authority will declare the two buildings abandoned soon.



A freshers reception and a blood donation programme were arranged at the Wonderland amusement park in Dhaka by the Association of Comilla Old Cadets (ACOC) on July 11. Communication Minister Nazmul Huda (3rd from right) was the chief guest and Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence and former army chief Lt Gen (ret'd) M Mahubur Rahman MP (4th from right) was special guest at the function.