

SNAPS

Woman killed in road mishap

UNB, Munshiganj
A mentally impaired woman was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Jamaldi bus stand in Gozaria upazila on Monday night.

The identity of the ill-fated woman, aged about 25, could not be known immediately.

Youth commits suicide

UNB, Jhenidah
A frustrated youth being failed to get himself admitted to any university allegedly committed suicide by taking poison in Shailakupa upazila on Friday.

Family sources said Mukto, 18, son of Runu of village Garagang and a Sonali Bank officer took poison on Thursday night when his parents rebuked him.

Farmer killed by 'cousins'

UNB, Barguna
A farmer was killed allegedly by his cousins following a land dispute at village Uttar Kaunia in Betagi upazila on Monday.

Witnesses said farmer Nazem Ali, 55, and his son Ripon came under attack by Nazem's cousins Shahjahan and Ponu when they went to cultivate the disputed land in the morning. At one stage of altercation Shahjahan and Ponu beat them mercilessly killing Nazem on the spot and injuring Ripon seriously.

Villagers clash

UNB, Madaripur
A fierce clash between two groups of villagers left at least 40 people injured at Bhodrokholi village in Sadar upazila Saturday.

Police and witnesses said the clash erupted between Jalil Mollah group and Shahjahan group over past enmity and it lasted for about three hours. Five houses were ransacked and looted during the clash.

7 deaths from diarrhoea in Nilphamari, more areas flooded in Sirajganj

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The death toll from diarrhoea in flood affected areas of Nilphamari rose to seven yesterday.

At least four thousand people have been attacked with diarrhoea and other waterborne diseases in the district, according to unofficial sources there.

In Sirajganj, more areas reeled under flood water in the nine upazilas as tributaries of the mighty Jamuna swelled further.

In Mymensingh, five unions in the Sadar area were inundated as the Old Brahmaputra rose yesterday.

Our Nilphamari correspondent EAM Asaduzzaman reported that five of the seven who died of diarrhoea in the district are children.

The victims were Moton, 3, Moina, 5 and Mahmud Ali in Kismat Char village in Khagakharibari union; Noor Banu, 29 and Lucky, 7, in Jharsinhessor in Khalisha Chapani union; Lovely, 6 and Babu, 4, in East Chatnai village in East Chatnai union.

Prisoner dies at CMCH

UNB, Chittagong

An under-trial prisoner died at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital on Monday.

Hospital sources said Abdul Khaled, 46, accused in a murder case, was admitted to the hospital in the morning as he complained of severe abdominal pain. He died soon after admission.

The most affected unions are East Chatnai, Tepakharibari, Khalisha Chapani and Jhunaghach Chapani in Dimla Upazila, diseases, unofficial sources said.

The worst affected areas are in Dimla upazila, where the diseases are spreading fast, the sources said.

However, the district flood control room admitted death of three persons while the district health department control room said only one person died of diarrhoea.

The health department control room said 74 diarrhoea patients were treated and 19 others were admitted to different hospitals in the last 24 hours till Tuesday noon. They said 279 were treated in the last seven days.

Talking to this correspondent some people in the affected areas alleged that health workers were not available in times of need though officially 64 medical teams and a mobile team are working there.

Our Correspondent reported from Sirajganj that more areas in

nine upazilas were inundated as the Jamuna tributaries Korotoa, Fuljore and Gumani rivers swelled in the last 24 hours.

The Jamuna was steady but flowing 60 cm above the danger mark at 6 AM yesterday, officials said.

Many telephone exchanges in Sirajganj town have been inundated.

The floodwater washed away about 150 metres of Kazipur-Sirajganj road near Shimanto bazaar and inundated more areas of the road.

Road links have been snapped in many areas in the nine upazilas of the district.

About 470 educational institutions have been closed.

The worst affected upazilas are Kazipur, Sirajganj Sadar, Belluchi, Chowdhuri, Shahzadpur and Ullapara.

Acute crisis of drinking water is prevailing as about 3700 tube wells have gone under water.

Floods have so far damaged crops on 39,000 hectares of land, 966

km roads, 255 km embankments, and 110 bridges and culverts, official sources said.

Over 4.5 lakh people have been affected in the nine upazilas, district relief officials said.

The government so far sanctioned 150 tonnes of rice and Tk three lakh for the flood victims, of which 116 tonnes of rice and Tk 50,000 have been distributed, they said.

Our Mymensingh correspondent reported that five unions in the Sadar upazila have been inundated by flood as the Old Brahmaputra swelled further yesterday.

The unions are Kustia, Sirta, Boror Char, Khaghdalor and Char Iswardi.

Several hundred people marooned in charlands of the Old Brahmaputra are facing crisis of food and drinking water.

The Brahmaputra was flowing 35 cm above the danger level at Mymensingh at noon yesterday, official sources said.



PHOTO: STAR
Bardiya, an old river port in Lohagara upazila in Narail district is being devoured by the Modhumati. In the current rainy season, the river washed away many villages and vast tracts of lands, making hundreds homeless.

Villagers clash: 30 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

At least 30 people were injured, 3 of them bullet-hit, when rival groups clashed at Nayavapur village in Daulatpur upazila Monday night.

The clash ensued when efforts by a local BNP leader to arbitrate a dispute failed, police and some of the victims said.

The victims alleged that some of party activists who accompanied the BNP leader opened fire during the clashes, fuelling the violence.

Of the injured, Hanif Mollah, 30, Apang, 25 and Giasuddin, 30, were admitted to Kushtia General

Hospital.

Of the other injured persons, Motaleb, 71, Sharul, 25, Subraj, 38, Badal Mollah, 35, Rashid, 32, Badhu Mondol, 60, Sahidul, 40, Monirul, 42, Wahab, 26 and Bisharat, 62 were admitted to the local health complex.

Additional police forces have been deployed in the area to ward off further violence.

No case was filed till noon yesterday. Some sources claimed that police declined to record any case due to pressure from influential quarters.

The victim's family filed a case with police. Jalil is yet to be arrested.

One killed over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Rivals chopped a man to death at Chalkiagnathpur village under Daulatpur upazila Sunday night in a dispute overland.

The dead was identified as Alam Malitha, 40.

Police said an armed gang numbering eight to ten attacked Alam when he was returning home.

Villagers rushed him to the local health complex where doctors declared him dead.

Police arrested one Tarique Islam after a case was filed with Daulatpur police accusing 30 men.

Court summons Tala OC for suing innocent man

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A court here summoned the officer-in-charge (OC) of Tala police station on Sunday next for recording a false extortion case against an innocent person.

Tala police had arrested Abdur Rahman of Sempur village in Tala upazila. He was also charged.

The magistrate transferred the case to the district and sessions judge's court. Additional district and sessions judge No-1 took up the case.

At one stage of trial, the so-

called complainant of the case Noor Mohammad told the court that he did not file any case against anyone.

I know nothing about the case, he told the court.

Judge Tapas Kumar Dey then summoned the OC of Tala Police Station, Matiar Rahman, to appear before the court for recording the false case and harassing an innocent person.

When the OC came to know about the complainant's statement in the court, he arrested Noor Mohammad.



PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN
Undaunted ... Carrying stone is much harder than other work. But the day's hard labour can not take away the smile from her face. Many like her earn their living by extraction and carrying stones from quarries in Jafang in Sylhet district. The photo was taken from Sreepur stone quarry.

Wife killed by 'husband'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A young pregnant housewife has been beaten to death allegedly by her husband at Chak Radha Kanai village in Phulbari upazila.

Shefali Begum, 25, mother of a four-year-old boy, died at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital Sunday night after she was taken home with critical injuries following beating allegedly by her husband Jalil, police and hospital sources said.

Police said Jalil, a drug addict, used to beat his wife often to bring money from her father.

The victim's family filed a case with police. Jalil is yet to be arrested.

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Killing of mill worker's daughter protested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Sundarban Textile Mills Employees Union brought out a big procession in the town on Monday protesting the killing of a daughter of a mill worker.

Amena Khatun Khuku, 20, daughter of Ruhul Quddus, was abducted from Magura village in the Sadar upazila, raped and killed on July 10.

The protesters paraded the main streets of the town. CBA President Abdurrahman Sardar and Secretary SK Haroon-ur-Rashid jointly led the procession and handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) demanding arrest and punishment to killers.

Khuku was the wife of Shahiduzzaman Palash of Parulgachha village in Kaligonj upazila.

The body was recovered from a jute field near her father's house at Magura on July 11.

A case was filed with Satkhira police station accusing Palash, Mahiuddin, Pradip, Nazrul Islam and Jummat Ali. Police arrested her husband Palash.

Outlaw arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

An activist of the outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) was arrested from Hajrakati village in Tala upazila Sunday night.

Arrested Abdul Jalil, 38, of village Hajrakati was wanted by police in several cases filed with Tala Police Station.

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two persons have been given life imprisonment, one for abducting a four-year-old boy, for ransom in Barisal and the other for raping a housewife in Rajshahi.

Our Barisal Correspondent reported that Nurul Huq, judge of the Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression on Monday sentenced Salauddin Russell to life imprisonment in absentia for kidnapping his four-year-old cousin Fahim for ransom.

Russell had demanded Tk 2000 from his shopkeeper uncle Amir Hossain.

Being refused, Russell, with his friends Razib and Masud kidnapped Fahim in June 2000 and demanded Tk 50,000 ransom.

The court recorded depositions of 25 prosecution witnesses during the trial.

The sources said.

The people handed them over to the UP chairman along with the arms and demanded punishment as repeated requests to police to arrest them yielded no result.

But this turned to be a eye-wash, only to free the criminals, the sources alleged.

The UP chairman found Humayun and Jasim not guilty. He also allowed the rest three to walk away after make-believe lashes on them. Rafiqul, Razzaq and Alauddin were given 25, 20 and 17 lashes respectively.

Business circles in Monirampur said they are scared to challenge the UP chairman's action due to his alleged link with the BCP.

Local police officials refused to comment on the incident.

Extortionist killed in Ctg mob beating

UNB, Chittagong

An alleged extortionist was killed in a mob beating at Shayerkhali Bazaar in Mirersarai upazila on Monday.

The victim was identified as Nurul Huda, 40, of Mastannagar village in the upazila.

Police said shopkeepers caught and beat Huda as he and three of his accomplices went to collect toll. Huda's accomplices escaped.

Police rescued Huda in a critical condition and took him to Mastannagar Hospital. He was shifted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where he died.

BCL protest against 'repression'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Magura town unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday brought out a procession protesting alleged repression on leaders and activists of opposition Awami League.

The procession was followed by a meeting at Natun Bazaar in the town.

Magura BCL President Sheikh Selim presided over the meeting.

The speakers urged the ruling party and the district administration to stop "torture" on opposition leaders and activists. Otherwise, a greater movement will be launched, they threatened.