

SNAPS

2 killed in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
A construction worker fell to his death from a building and an identified youth was run over by a truck in front of two incidents in the city on Saturday.

Police said, construction worker Abdul Haq, 45, died soon after he fell from an under-construction building at Al-Falah lane under Khulshi thana at around 10am.

Haq who hailed from Shuchipara village in Shaharasti thana in Chandpur district died while being taken to hospital.

The unidentified youth was run over and killed by a truck in front of Jetty Gate No. 5 at the port in the afternoon.

Police seized the truck and arrested its driver Mizan.

Two cases were filed.

Fratricide

UNB, Chuadanga

A man was killed allegedly by his younger brother at Bogadi Bhatapara village in Alamdanga upazila on Thursday.

Police said Ansar swooped on his elder brother Shamsheer, 45, following a quarrel over a land dispute and injured him grievously with a sharp weapon.

Ansar and his another brother Monser also hacked their sister-in-law Shubashi when she came to save her husband Shamsheer.

Shubashi and Shamsheer were rushed to the Sadar hospital. Later, Shamsheer was shifted to Khulna where he died.

Ansar and Monser went into hiding after the incident. A case was filed.

Shortage of judges in Pabna courts

UNB, Pabna

Posts of nine judges including the District and Sessions Judge has remained vacant hampering the judicial process seriously.

The posts of District and Sessions Judge, Additional District Judge and seven other assistant judges have been lying vacant since long.

Judicial proceedings are being delayed causing financial and mental sufferings to the litigants.

Govt's blind eye to death trap

Launch disasters blamed on inadequate signalling

AKTER FARUK, Barisal

How much the government has to spend to improve the signalling system in the country's river routes?

This question is now being asked by vessel operators and people here after the July 10 launch disaster in the Meghna that claimed several hundred lives.

The 159km Barisal-Dhaka route becomes virtually a death trap for passengers at night mainly due to very poor signalling system, Idris Ali, Master of triple-decker MV Emdad Khan said.

Inadequate signal lights, underwater shoals and absence of danger marks about river currents have made naval routes from Barisal to other districts most unsafe.

Most of the beacon lights and buoys remain out of order because their spares are either stolen or power supply gets snapped.

Navigation signals are needed at least at 40 points on the Barisal-Dhaka route, but actually less than one third exists now, sources said.

Added to these, there are flagrant irregularities by greedy launch operators.

Due to absence of signal, triple-decker launch MV Dipraj hit an under construction shoal near Bhasanehar, about 45 minutes after start on 15 July, and was stranded there for hours. Its passengers were forced to board another passing-by launch, M V Parabat-3.

On the night of July 17, another

launch -- Parabat-2 -- lost its way in absence of signal lights. It was back on the route in the morning and reached Dhaka about ten hours behind schedule.

Emdad said said at least forty more beacon lights and buoys are needed in the Barisal-Dhaka route now because the rivers are in spate and very risky at the downstream.

But even the out-of-order signals are not repaired, not to speak of installing new ones, he regretted. There is no signal in Lengutia, Charprokash canal, Badarpur, Merderhat and Showla areas, he said.

Same is the condition on the Hularhat-Bhandaria route.

On the Barisal-Chittagong route, only one of the eight beacons is in

order in Ramgoti-South Gazipur area, sources said.

Vessels ply without signal in South Kashari Char, Aman Bazar and Chowkighata areas, making journeys extremely risky and delayed by six to eight hours.

"We depend on Allah while plying the route", said the Captain of BIWTA ship Abdul Matin.

Khorshed Alam of the Barisal Launch Owners Association said BIWTC is earning cores of taka but is not taking any step to ensure safety in river routes.

He said temporary and permanent buoys and signal lights are required at least at 60 points on the major river routes in the southern region of the country to ensure safety.

New twist in college girl Zahida rape, murder case

Involvement of 2 more youths suspected

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

College girl Zahida rape and murder case here has taken a new twist following its transfer to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police this month.

The CID investigators got new clues on alleged involvement of two more youths in the killing, who are yet to be arrested.

Earlier four youths were accused and charge sheeted in the case.

The case was transferred to CID for further investigation and submission of a fresh charge sheet following a 'naraji' (no confidence) petition to the home ministry by plaintiff Royeuddin, elder brother of the victim.

"Investigation revealed that two

more youths involved in the cruel incident were not brought to book earlier mistakenly as Sazzad and Traial, elder brothers of principal accused Mamun, misguided the investigators through confessional statements under Section 164", investigation officer CID Inspector Nazrul Islam told 'The Daily Star' on Sunday.

Zahida Khatun, daughter of poor farmer Raihanuddin Joarder of Boroichara Village in Sreepur upazila, appeared at the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination last year from Dariapur College.

She secured first division in HSC from Humanities group. But she could not know the result as she was raped and strangled by some local miscreants on July 5, 2002, a few days after the examination.

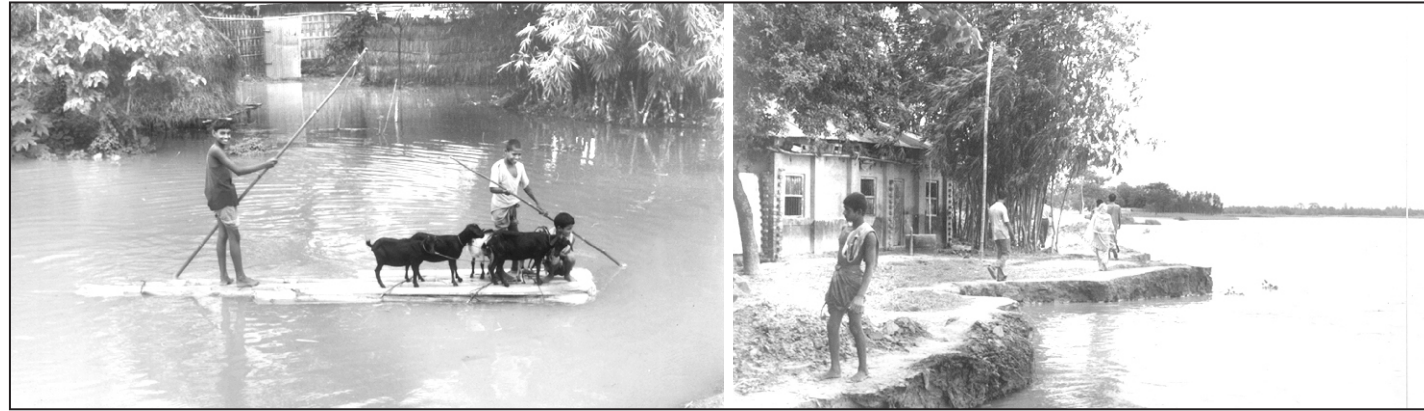
Zahida was returning home

from her friend's house during daytime. Some miscreants allegedly led by Mamun of Dariapur village dragged her to a jute field and killed her after gangrape.

Local people said Mamun was handed over to police by his elder brother on the same day to save him from public wrath. After a few days, he was released on bail.

The local administration, at a meeting on August 27, last year, put the case on the list of "sensitive" cases and sent it to DB (detective Branch) police for investigation.

After investigation for about eight months, DB Inspector Shahidul Islam submitted two charge sheets on April 26 under Section 302/34 of Bangladesh Penal Code and Section 9(G) (Kha) of the Woman and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000.



Saving the indispensable in rural life... Two boys carrying their goats to a high land in flood ravaged Gobindaganj in Gaibandha district, left, may be, it is only days that the homestead at Khalshi village as shown in the photo will disappear due to unabated erosion by the Karotoa, making a family homeless. The photos were taken on Sunday.

PHOTO: KM REZAUL HUG

Woman killed after gangrape, man killed by dacoits

FROM STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two murders were committed on Friday in Kushtia.

According to police, an armed gang of dacoits swooped on the houses of businessmen Tabor and Elahi Molitha at Porhadia village under Daulatpur upazila at midnight.

While going away with the booty including money and gold ornaments worth over Tk two lakh, they hacked one Amir Pramanik to death for resisting them. Four persons of families of the two businessmen were also injured in the armed attack.

In another incident, Nargis Begum, 24, wife of fish trader Mukul Shah of Arkhandi village of the same upazila was abducted by unidentified miscreants on Friday evening. Her body was recovered from a bush in the same village next day.

Police said Nargis was killed after being gangraped.

Two cases have recorded with Daulatpur thana in connection with murders.

Ctg port workers demand 'Stop transfer of magistrate, scrap deal on container terminal'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Leaders of Chattagram Bandar Rakhma Committee (Chittagong port protection committee), a conglomerate of port labour organisations, have demanded cancellation of transfer of magistrate Munir Chowdhury from Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) to Mercantile Marine Department (MMD).

At a press conference here on Sunday, they demanded his reinstatement as port magistrate "in the interest of the port".

They said Munir Chowdhury helped the CPA recover about 50 acres of its land worth around Tk 300 crore from encroachers, bring back discipline in the jetty and contributed a lot to check environmental pollution and illegal dredging in river Karnaphuli.

He might have been transferred at the behest of some corrupt people who had been facing challenges in their wrongdoing, they alleged.

The committee leaders also urged the government to rescind the agreement with a 'controversial' consulting firm, appointed by CPA for implementation of the proposed Newmooring Container Terminal (NCT). They demanded quick implementation of the project by forming an expert team comprising engineers from CPA and BUET.

The report submitted by the firm will not benefit Chittagong port, they claimed.

The leaders also protested the recent reduction of tariff by CPA on different items and demanded withdrawal of the decision.

Secretary general of the committee and president of Bandar Jaiyo Sramik League Mahfuzur Rahman Khan read out the written statement at the press conference, held at Chittagong Press Club. Committee convener and president of Dock Bandar Sramik Karmachari Federation Sirajul Islam, joint conveners of the committee Md. Yakub Ali, Air Ahmad and Abu Jafar Azad also attended.

Five killed in Barisal road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal.

Five persons were killed when a bus collided head-on with a tempo on Wednesday at Dehergoti near Guthia in the district.

The dead are Abul Basar Vasi, 60, Moslem, 50, Shaidd, 25, Jamal, 30, and Aziz, 26. They died soon after they were taken to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH).

Eight drown, 2 die from snakebite in three dists

Flood deteriorates in Shariatpur

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Eight people including four children drowned and two others died from snakebite in Shariatpur, Gaibandha and Lalmonirhat districts in the last three days.

A UNB report from Shariatpur said four people drowned in floodwater and another died from snakebite in the Sadar upazila on Saturday and Sunday.

Of them, Hiru Sarder, 30, Abdur Razzak, 32, Jagdish, 12, and Abu Alem, 17, were washed away while Hazera Begum, 14, died from snakebite.

Meanwhile, overall flood situation in the district continued to deteriorate Sunday as the rivers Padma, Meghna and Kirtinasha continued to overflow their banks.

The river Padma was flowing 88 cm above the danger mark at Sureswar point, the Meghna 82 cm above the mark at Gosairhat and the Kirtinasha 60cm above the mark at Rajganj points, Water Development Board officials said.

In last three days, some 300 dwellings in Shureswar, Halaisar, Palerchar, Kunderchar and Naopara have been washed away by the swelling Padma, rendering

some 1600 people homeless.

Our Lalmonirhat correspondent reported that two children drowned and an old man died from snakebite on Friday.

Jahangir Alam, 10 and Bacchu, 8, drowned in the Sadar upazila and Mohar Ali, 65, died from snakebite at Sindurna village under Kaligonj upazila.

Our Gaibandha correspondent said Sumi, 7 and her younger brother Sumon, 3, drowned at Moheshpur village under Palashbari Upazila on Friday.

Local people recovered the bodies later.



Justice MA Matin of the High Court Division of Supreme Court speaking as chief guest at a discussion on limitations in application of law to curb terrorism against women, held at a hotel in Sylhet on Friday. Judges of special tribunals and public prosecutors took part in the discussion.

PHOTO: STAR

Attack on Jubo League leader condemned

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Leaders of the Tripura Kallyan Foundation and the Tangamati town unit of Jubo League (JL) have condemned the attack on JL leader Jhinuk Tripura by unidentified terrorists last week.

Jhinuk is now being treated at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) for cut injuries on his head, neck and back.

Prity Kanti Tripura, president of Tripura Kallyan Foundation, in a statement condemned the attack and demands immediate arrest of the attackers.

The Jubo League held a rally in the town protesting the attack.

Accused produced in court

Tk 66 lakh scam at Sylhet Rly station

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet.

The railway employee, who allegedly misappropriated at least Tk 66 lakh from ticket sale proceeds at Sylhet railway station was put on five days remand on Sunday by a magistrate court for interrogation.

Shahjahan Ali, booking in-charge of Sylhet railway station, was arrested on Friday from his maternal grandfather's house at Gopalpur village under Shahjadpur upazila in Sirajganj

district. He was absconding since June 15.

Ali was entrusted to deposit ticket sale proceeds with Agrani Bank. He misappropriated the amount by using fake bank receipts. The scam came to light during investigation by two committees.

The Station Master was arrested on July one and the Station Manger was transferred to Chittagong after the scandal went public.

3000 Indian trucks stranded at Petrapole check post

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Over 3000 Indian trucks laden with imported perishable and non-perishable goods are stranded at Petrapole border opposite to Benapole land port since Friday morning.

The trucks are not being allowed to enter Benapole landport allegedly due to obstruction by Indian customs authorities.

As a result, garment industries in Bangladesh will suffer setback, Benapole customs officials said.

2 get life term for throwing acid

BSS, Cox's Bazar

The Additional District and Session Judge court here on Sunday sentenced two persons to life for throwing acid on two persons in May 1992.

Judge Motajidur Rahman also fined the two convicts -- Soltan Ahmed and Lutfar Rahman -- Tk 20 thousand each, in default, to suffer rigorous imprisonment for two more years. Both are from Jaliakata village under Chokoria upazila.

On May 4, 1992, a group of armed people led by Soltan Ahmed and Lutfar Rahman attacked Abdul Aziz and his brother Hossain Ahmed of the same village. During the attack, acid was thrown on them causing severe burn injuries.

The court examined 14 witnesses and acquitted three others accused in the case.

24 yrs' RI for keeping illegal arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The Barisal Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal (STT) sentenced one person to 24 years' imprisonment for possessing illegal arms.

Judge M A Qudus Mia on Sunday handed down the punishment to Selim Gazi of Kalapara in Patuakhali district.

Selim Gazi was caught by people at Kalapara on 15 July 2002 and handed over to police, who recovered one LG gun with three bullets from his possession.



Oikyabaddha Nagorik Andolon (united movement of citizens) organised a rally at the outer stadium at Manikganj town on Sunday protesting price hike of essentials and violence against women.

PHOTO: STAR