

SNAPS

3 drown in boat capsizes

A CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj
Three persons drowned, two of them of a family, when a mechanised boat capsized in Boaila lake near Aricha on Sunday.

Bodies of the two of a family were identified as those of Malancha Begum, 60, and her grandson Badsha. The other body of a woman could not be identified. The bodies were taken to Uthil hospital.

Two others on the boat swam ashore. All the victims were from Bharra village in Daulatpur upazila in Manikganj district.

3 held with explosives

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah
Three persons were caught with cracker-making explosives at Jhenidah bus terminal on Sunday.

They are Touhid, of Satikha village in Alamdanga; Asadul, of Jaisuka village in Chuadanga Sadar and Ansar Ali, of Chihoyghoria village in Damurhuda upazila in Chuadanga district, according to police.

As they were moving suspiciously, people caught them and recovered 100 grams of explosives from their possession. They were handed over to police. A case was filed with Jhenidah police.

Plundering of fish resources



PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN

Fishing by current net is banned, but unscrupulous fishermen do not care as the government does not have adequate manpower and logistics to enforce the ban in riverine Bangladesh. Because of such illegal netting of fish fries, production of delicious Hilsa and many other species of fish are declining alarmingly.

Dacoits try to stop state minister's motorcade

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Police foiled an attempt allegedly by dacoits to stop the motorcade of State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haq Milon by placing logs on the road at Nautara on Saturday night.

The state minister was going to Dalia in Dilmlia upazila from Kishoreganj.

Police said the miscreants fled away when policemen on the patrol van ahead of the motorcade saw the barricade and fired blank shots. The road was cleared and the motorcade crossed the area safely.

Police arrested three persons including two Ansar members--Amjad Hossen and Kebarat. The Ansars were guarding the Teesta irrigation canal in the area. The other arrested person is Abdul Karim.

The deputy commissioner and the police superintendent of Nilphamari and other officers and political leaders were accompanying the state minister.

A case has been lodged in Dimla thana.

Resumption of ETV demanded

A CORRESPONDENT, Panchagarh

Local people including journalists, lawyers, educationists and political leaders in the town in a joint statement urged the prime minister to take steps for resumption of ETV service.

They said the TV channel had earned good name within a short time for its objective news and good programmes.

Signatories to the statement include president of Panchagarh Bar Association advocate Wahiduzzaman Suja; JSD leader Abdul Majid Babul; Zila Natya Samity president Mizanur Rahman; freedom fighter SM Liakat Ali; Union Parishad Chairman Abdus Sattar and Panchagarh Press Club Secretary A Rahman.

Result debacle

98 educational institutions face cancellation of MPO in 2 dists

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Ninety-eight high schools and madrassahs in Magura and Gaibandha districts have been served with show cause notices by the Directorate of Education for their poor results in Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Dakhil examinations this year.

Our Magura Correspondent reported that five high schools and 27 madrassahs in the district have been asked to explain within 15 days their poor performance in SSC and Dakhil examinations, official sources said.

About eighty per cent of examinees of these institutions failed in the examinations.

The directorate said monthly pay order (MPO) of the institutions

will be cancelled if they can not improve their performance within a year.

The institutions are : Pucca Kanchampur Secondary School, Gangarampur Girls School, Jashabantapur Secondary School, Saraswati Girls School, Rainagar Sunrise Secondary School, Benel Samsundin Dakhil Madrassah, Buzruk Sreckundi Dakhil Madrassah, Madhukhali Aminia Dakhil Madrassah, Stadium Para Girl's Alim Madrassah, Uttar Birpur Quadir Munshi Dakhil Madrassah, Baitus Salam Mahila Madrassah, Barasia Dakhil Madrassah, Balukhali Islamia Dakhil Madrassah, Balidia Majhasul Dakhil Madrassah, Ghullia Dakhil Madrassah, Jhama BL Faril Madrassah, Nagrnipara Islamia Dakhil Madrassah, Rajpat

Rajapur Dakhil Dadrassah, Garerghat Kazi Ayesha Khatun-Dakhil Madrassah, Motbag Dakhil Madrassah, Pirruul A Hakim Mollick Dakhil Madrassah, Pyempur Islamia Girl's Dakhil Madrassah, Sandra Madinatul Ulum Dakhil Madrassah, Kadirpasa Sammilons Islamia Alim Madrassah, U Samsunna Yusufia Dakhil Madrassah, Amtoil National Tanabangha Dakhil Madrassah, Karali Islamia Dakhil Madrassah, Khamrpara Ahoomodialina mashrassah, Langalband Damul Islamia Alim Madrassah, Nabagram Kabir Ahammad Dakhil Madrassah, Rajapur Durgapur Sammilita Dakhil Madrassah and Talkholpur Hatem Ali Dakhil Madrassah.

Our Gaibandha Correspondent reported that notices were issued

on 66 high schools and madrassahs in the district for poor performance in this year's SSC and Dakhil examinations.

Thirteen schools failed to perform miserably in SSC examinations. These are Bairagirhat High School, Bardhan Kuthi Pilot High School, Rahamatpur MM High School, Langabazar Girls' High School, Jatosh Durgapur Girls High School, Mohipur Bazar Adarsha High School, Rawshanbag Girls High School, Saterpara MU Girls High School, Haripur High School, Burail High School, Joymandhi Girls High School, Nutan Dulal Bharat High School, Kalahata Hamjapur High School and Bholamani Girls High School.

Fifty-three madrassahs also did very bad results in the Dakhil examination.

'People want peace, parties want strife'**BNP, AL blame each other for damage of image of goddess**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

People want peace but politicians want strife, so said villagers at Brahman Para village in Domar Sadar union.

Tension is mounting in the remote village as leaders of both ruling BNP and opposition Awami League are trying to politicise an incident of damaging the image of a Hindu goddess at a temple there, they said.

Some unidentified miscreants damaged the image on the night of July 22. Local people did not file any case to avoid any untoward incident and police.

But the incident came to light when a news was published in two Bangla dailies.

Seeing the newspaper report, the Nilphamari Police Superintendent visited the spot and assured the local people of punishment of the culprits.

After his visit, one Suresh Chakravarty filed a case with Domar thana without naming any suspect.

Soon, leaders of BNP and Awami League started blaming each other for the incident.

Nilphamari district BNP joint convener Alamgir Sarkar alleged that the incident was a conspiracy to defame the government and that

Awami League as trying to fish in troubled water.

Chairman of Domar Sadar Union Parishad Monsurul Islam Danu and Domar upazila BNP president Modabbar Hosen Manu went one step further. They alleged that AL men damaged the image to embarrass the BNP government.

On Saturday, Awami League Central Publicity Secretary and lawmaker from Nilphamari Sadar Asaduzzam Nour and another AL MP from the area, Mrs Hamida Banu Shovha, visited the spot and held BNP responsible for the incident.

"Oppression and violence will

not demoralise us", they said and urged the local people not to be frightened.

During a visit to the area, some local people told this correspondent that they wanted to keep themselves away from politicians over the incident. Sixty-five year-old Phonibhusan Chakravarty said, "It was a conspiracy".

Farmer Mohini Chandra Roy, 55, said, "We want peace. We are against any provocation. We want justice from God."

Gram Police Hori Kishna, 50, said, "Politicians want to create trouble."

One dies as BNP factions clash in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

An activist of BNP, injured in a factional clash in Magura, died at Faridpur Medical College Hospital (FMCH) on Sunday night.

The victim is Asad, 30, of Soni Arpara village in Shalikhapuzaila.

He was seriously injured during a clash between two rival factions of the local unit of BNP.

Police and locals said, the two factions -- one led by Abdul Khaleque and the other by Azizur Rahman -- clashed on July 23, injuring at least 30 people, ten of them seriously.

The seriously injured persons were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital. As Asad's condition deteriorated, he was shifted to FMCH.

Reward for failure?

FROM STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police Commissioner Bazlur Rahman has rewarded Senior Sub-inspector of Khulna thana Abdur Rashid Mallick with a crest of KMP and Tk 2000 for good performance while in DB.

The awards were given on Thursday.

But the fact remains that on the night of June 16 last year, two notorious and most wanted armed cadres of PBCP -- Dabir Shaikh and Moim -- escaped with handcuffs from a patrol team led by SI Rashid soon after their arrest from the Jail Ferry Ghat under Khulna thana. The escapees are yet to be arrested.

Three constables and another police officer -- SI Liaquat -- who

were in the team were suspended and closed but SI Rashid was spared.

SI Rashid allegedly tortured listed criminal Mujibar Rahman Adarha to death during interrogation at the DB office in May last year. Mujibur was arrested from Rupsha Strand Road.

It was alleged that Mujibur's wife was allegedly threatened not lodge an FIR for death of her husband in custody, sources said.

SI Abdur Rashid is with Khulna thana since 1986. He got his transfer orders cancelled four times earlier.

Allegations have it that he is harbouring some listed criminals including Asaduzzaman Litu.

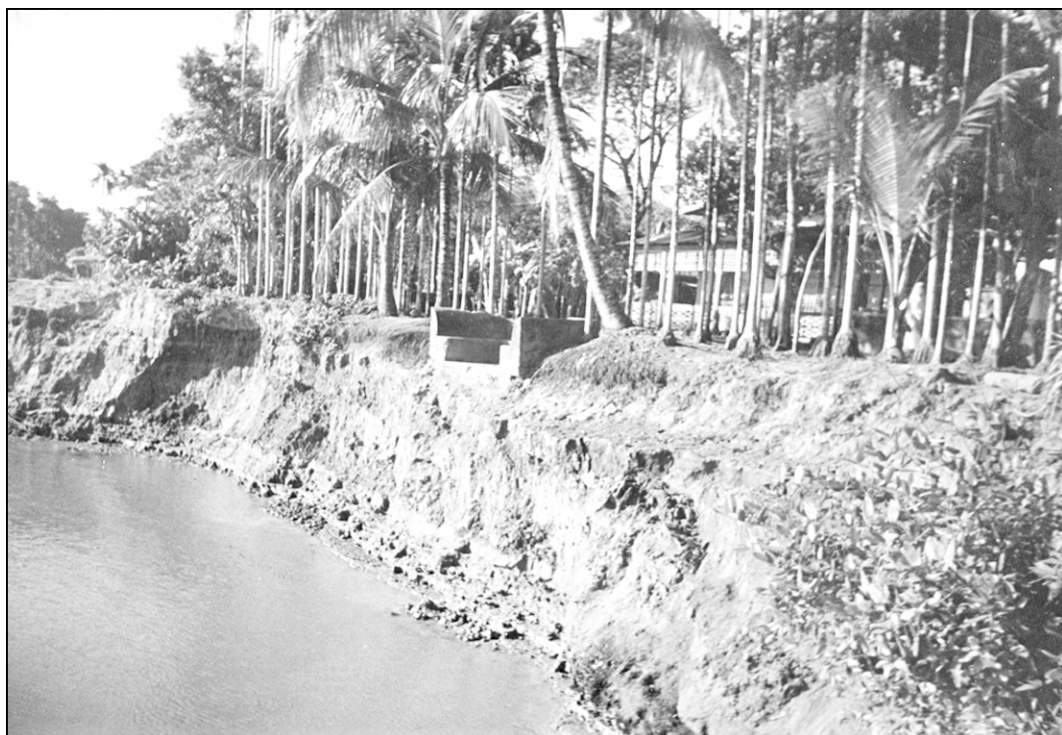
Kushiyara plays havoc, politicians give false promises**Lakhs made homeless as govts sit on projects**

PHOTO: STAR

The Kushiyara is devouring dwelling houses, bazaars and educational institutions in different upazilas of Sylhet district. Picture shows badly affected Dighalbak village in Nabiganj upazila.

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet.

Ministers assure the local before election and project proposals are submitted to stop erosion, but the Kushiyara is devouring vast croplands and habitats.

This process is going on for about fifty years.

By now, lakhs of people have become homeless and several educational institutions have vanished in Dighalbak union under Nabiganj upazila in Habiganj district; Raniganj, Paigaon and Asharkandi unions under Jagannathpur upazila in Sunamganj; Balaganj in Sylhet and in Moulvibazar Sadar upazila.

The Water Development Board (WDB) took projects several times, but none was implemented.

The river has devoured the renowned Dighalbak High school.

The school was shifted and construction of a new building is going on with help from expatriates. But the new building is also threatened with erosion now, local people said.

In late 1998, a loop-cutting project was prepared with an estimated cost of Tk 7.5 crore. But it

was not approved by the authorities.

The Divisional Commissioner of Sylhet visited the area in August 1999 and wrote a letter to the then water resources minister. The minister also ordered urgent steps to stop erosion, but the project was forgotten.

During the tenure of Awami League government, the then finance minister SAMS Kibria accompanied by the then WDB chairman visited the area, but things remained the same.

The latest appeal was made in June 2000 when the local people gave a memorandum to the secretary, ministry of water resources, who asked the Water Development Board chairman to take necessary steps to check erosion. But nothing happened after that.

Several other memos were given earlier. While talking to the Daily Star some local people expressed their utter disappointment at the role played by politicians and the successive governments.

Mansur Ali, a social worker, said, the erosion is now threatening road links in the areas.