

SNAPS

Road mishap: 3 killed in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Three persons were killed and 22 others injured in a road accident at Kolohori on the Tarakanda-Goatola Road in Fulpur upazila, Mymensingh on Friday night.

Police and eye-witnesses said the driver of a Goatola-bound bus coming from Tarakanda lost control over steering at Kolohori and fell into a roadside ditch.

Two passengers were killed on the spot and another one died on way to hospital.

The two dead victims are Eklasuddin, 35, of village Hatibanda in Fulpur upazila and Azizul Islam, 25, of village Bildora in Haluaghat upazila, Mymensingh. Another dead is yet to be identified.

Sundarganj health complex ransacked

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

People on Friday night ransacked Sundarganj Upazila Health Complex following death of a patient without treatment due to absence of physician there.

According to eye-witnesses, Checharu Dev Nath, 35, of Sundarganj upazila was rushed to the health complex with severe heart complaints on the fateful night. But no doctor was available in the emergency department. As a result, the patient died without treatment after fighting for some time.

Two 'outlaws' arrested at Syedpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Two alleged activists of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (ML-Red flag) were arrested by police at Syedpur Railway Station on Friday night.

According to police sources, Rezaul Karim Sukur, 32, son of Jasimuddin Sarder of village Amirpur in Raninagar upazila, Naogaon is a fugitive accused in 20 murder cases. Another arrested is Rabiul Alam Tarek, 32, son of Abul Hossain of village Panchupur in Atrai upazila, Naogaon, according to police sources. Tarek was the Second-in-Command of 'K area' consisting of Rajshahi, Naogaon, Chapainawabganj and Narore districts. He is a fugitive and an accused in 50 murder cases including the sensational Six-Murder of Noidighi village in Atrai upazila.

However, another unidentified outlaw escaped arrest.

Police also recovered two mobile sets, 37,000 taka in cash, a diary and important papers from their possession.

Police told this correspondent, the arrested fugitives came all the way from Naogaon to avoid arrest where a crackdown on outlaws is going on. The two arrested outlaws were sent to Noagan for extensive interrogation on Saturday evening.

Waterlogging a perennial problem in Patuakhali

Town protection embankment-cum-drainage project undertaken 5 years ago yet to be approved

MD SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Patuakhali town dwellers suffer a lot due to inundation of town areas during flood or high tide.

An embankment-cum-drainage project was taken up five years back to mitigate the sufferings of people, but the project is yet to be approved.

Besides flooding and erosion, water-logging is a constant problem in the low-lying coastal town.

The embankment-cum-

drainage project was undertaken following visit of former Agriculture Minister Majid-ul-Haque and the then Bangladesh Water Development (BWDB) secretary to Patuakhali in 1997. The Water Resources Ministry approved the project, but the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) is sitting on it, Patuakhali municipality chairman Mostaq Ahmed told this correspondent on Friday.

A project was undertaken in the sixties to protect Patuakhali town

and the coastal upazilas of Bauphal, Dashmina, Kalapara, Galachipa and Mirjaganj from flood and saline water. Later, the town was excluded from the project.

Afterwards, a new project titled 'Patuakhali Town Protection Embankment-Cum-Drainage Project' was taken up. At present the town inundates even after normal rise in river water. The most vulnerable areas in the town are Puran Bazaar, Kathpatti, Nabab Para, Shimulbagh,

Muslimpara, Adalatpara, College Roadpara, Sabujbagh, Arambagh, Kalikapur and Jainkati where water remains stagnant for days together after high tide or rain.

The new project was designed to protect the town from flash flood, erosion and to remove stagnant water.

The project includes construction of 4.20-kilometre flood control embankment, eight water drainage sluice gates, 28 outlets, one kilometre wall and installation of four power pumps.



PHOTO: STAR

A passer-by wades through stagnant water on the Post Office Road in Patuakhali town on Friday. Rickshaw-pullers are also striving to pull their rickshaws to their destinations through knee-deep water. Waterlogging is a chronic problem in the coastal town.

Steps needed to bring back lost glory of cottage industry



A housewife working in a cottage industry at Sarupkathi. She earns only TK 8 each day by wrapping chocolates there.

Sarupkathi upazila in Pirojpur district was once famous for small and cottage industries.

The cottage industries grew up on both sides of the river Sandha. While travelling by launch or other water transport, anyone can still observe lots of people's dependence on small industries. But its name and fame are on the wane. Now time has come to do something to bring back the lost glory of 200-year-old cottage industries of Sarupkathi.

Sarupkathi was named after Hindu Zaminder Sarup Dutt. It was learnt that backward Muslim community used to earn a living by pursuing various trades.

About 200 years back small and cottage industries grew here due to people's necessity and easy availability of raw materials. Gradually local products gained popularity. Over 500 cottage industries flourished in and around Sarupkathi municipality, Sutiakathi, Sarengkathi, Mahmudkathi, Sohagdal, Baldia, Aklam, Rajabari and Guarekha unions. Chocolate, handloom products, salt, cricket bat, coir, doll made of clay, bakery,

textile, fried rice, poultry, poultry feed and products made of coconut fibres are produced here.

Half of the population of 140 villages in the upazila comprising an area of 71.67 square-miles are dependent on the cottage industries.

Female workers still dominate the cottage industries although most of them work at a nominal wage. Laizu who is in her late forties is such a worker. From her childhood days she saw her mother producing jute ropes and other products while her father selling those to buyers during weekly market days. Laizu informed that at present she produces the products and her son sells the products in markets. Sultana Begum, Awal Hossain and Siddique Mia also earn a living in the same manner.

Sultana of Aklam makes dolls from clay, while Awal Hossain of Nanduhar village builds boats and Siddique Mia of Razabari area prepares fried rice.

People have created their own culture sticking to their ancestral

trades. New entrepreneurs have also come forward while some others changed their ancestral profession.

The then Pakistan government established the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) industrial estate on 24.74 acres of land at a cost of 52.88 lakh taka in 1961.

But local products failed to compete in an uneven competition of free market. This is because of age-old technology, scarcity of raw materials and lack of promotion of

products, BSCIC official Majibur Rahman told this.

The age-old communication system is also a major obstacle in its development. Despite its bright prospect, the cottage industries have been facing ruination.

Time has come to take appropriate measures to develop the small and cottage industries. Will the government and other organisations come forward to protect the industry from total ruination?

--- Mass-line Feature.

2 women among 20 hurt in Kalaroa clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

At least 20 persons including two women were injured, eight of them seriously, in a clash between two rival groups over a disputed land at village Diganta in Kalaroa upazila on Saturday.

Quoting local people, police said there had been a long standing dispute between Jaker Ali and Sirajul Islam over 30 decimals of land.

The clash ensued when a group of people led by Sirajul Islam went to occupy the disputed land. The

other group resisted. Both the groups used lethal weapons during the clash that lasted for about an hour.

The seriously injured were admitted to Kalaroa Upazila Health Complex. They are Jaker Ali, 60, Hajer Ali, 65, Emam Ali, 45, Rahima Khatun, 35, Mazida Khatun, 33, Nurul Islam, 38, Sirajul Islam, 35, Rafiqul Islam, 42, and Seli, 30.

On contact, sub-inspector Mafizul Islam of Kalaroa thana said to this correspondent on Sunday morning that nobody recorded any case.

Syedpur poura chairman sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Newly elected Syedpur Pourasabha (municipality) chairman Akhtar Hossain Badal was sued within seven days of taking charge of the municipality.

Seventeen municipal employees filed the case against him as he termed their appointment illegal.

According to court sources, ex-chairman of the municipality

Amzad Hossen Sarkar appointed the employees in 17 vacant posts of the municipality. The posts included accountant, assistant tax collector, market inspector and some other posts.

According to an information available here, the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development recommended the appointment on May 20 and the newly-appointed employers joined their jobs on May 25.

Akhtar Hossain Badal took over as chairman on May 29. Immediately after taking charge he declared the appointment given by the outgoing chairman as illegal. He ordered the employers not to put their signature on the attendance register of the municipality. Under the circumstances the new employees filed the case against him. They also applied to the ministry concerned to help solve the problem.



PHOTO: STAR

Believe it or not, this is a street in textile area of Barisal City Corporation. Will the city father take step to repair the road to mitigate the sufferings of tax-paying citizens?

UP chairman, 5 others sued for injuring four in Tala UZ

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Dhandia Union Parishad (UP) chairman and five others were sued on Saturday for injuring four persons including a woman at village Katakali in Tala upazila (UZ).

Abdus Samad Mallik filed the case with a magistrate's court after being rejected by Tala police in

recording the case.

The accused are Arifur Rahman Chanchal, chairman, Dhandia UP, Kamal Karikar, member, Dhandia UP, Akbar Mallik, Rafiqul Islam Gazi, Ashraf Mallik and Sekandar Ali.

According to court sources, both Abdus Samad Mallik and Abdus Sattar Mallik were in possession of three decimals of land, they

inherited as paternal property. The accused chairman and others wanted to turn the land into an Eidgah ground without consent of its land owners. On June 2, a group of people led by chairman Arifur Rahman went there for the same purpose. As the land owners resisted, they attacked them with lethal weapons leaving four persons injured. The injured were

7x3

12x2