

SNAPS

Lightning kills father, son

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

A father and his son were killed in lightning while catching fish in Bormir baor, a water body, in Tungipara upazila on Monday morning. The victims are Siraj Mollah, 35, and his son Al-Amin, 10, of Char Bashuria village in Tungipara upazila. They died on the spot. Police recovered the body and sent it to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. An unnatural death (UD) case was registered with Tungipara police station.

Killer gets life

A CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

A killer was sentenced to life term imprisonment by a court here on Wednesday. The convict is Imam Hossain, 25, of North Fashion village in Char Fashion upazila. Additional District and Sessions Judge of Bhola Farjana Begum also fined him one lakh taka. The criminal picked up a housewife, Kohinor Begum of the village at night on January 12 in 2002. He took her to a nearby pond. There he strangled her after rape. Next morning the body was recovered.

Tk 70,000 gold looted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Armed robbers looted a jewelry shop after creating panic by firing gun shots and blasting bombs in Kaliganj bazaar, Jhenidah on Monday. Ten armed robbers stormed into 'Ruporee Jewelry' and looted gold worth Tk 70,000 and cash amounting to Tk 7,000. They also confined the shop owner at gunpoint, according to police.

Goodbye to Hilsha?

Shoals of the sea fish no more enter Bangladesh coasts and estuaries because of low water depth

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The silvery Hilsha is now a fisherman's dream.

The delicious deep sea fish, once found in plenty and an export earner, no more comes in shoals to Bangladesh coasts and estuaries of Meghna, Bishkhali, Bura Gouranga, Paira, Darchirra rivers mainly because of low water depth.

The areas have become silted over the years, fishermen and other sources said.

There are places in the estuaries where the depth of water is only five feet during low tide, they said.

So Hilsha fishes now goes to Myanmar and West Bengal coasts, they said.

Scores of fishing trawlers and

boats are now anchored at ports in Barisal and other fishing zones after fishermen's futile attempts to net the fish in the Bay and the estuaries.

Fishermen, traders and ice factory owners are passing hard days and many of them are worried how to repay the loans taken from aratdars (fish merchants).

The very few Hilshas netted luckily are sold at exorbitant prices at the Barisal wholesale market.

A medium size Hilsha is being sold at between Tk 350 and Tk 400 per kilogram now.

It is unbelievable that a Hilsha weighing 1.50 kg to 2 kg is being sold at Tk 600 to Tk 700 each, a buyer said in a market.

Most of the wholesalers are sitting idle because bulk quantities

are virtually not available.

They said several thousand fishermen are passing idle days at fishing ports in the coastal areas and the southern region.

This correspondent during a recent visit found the Hilsha market at Barisal Port Road area virtually deserted. This is the biggest whole sale fish market in the region.

Abul Kalam, a fish trader, said in the last two weeks, few boats with very small quantities of Hilsha anchored at the port.

Now big, medium and small size Hilsha fishes are sold in the wholesale market at Tk 16000, Tk 9100, and Tk 5200 per mound respectively against Tk 9000, Tk 6000-6500, and Tk 3600 two weeks before, Abul Kalam said.

Rough sea is another factor, he added.

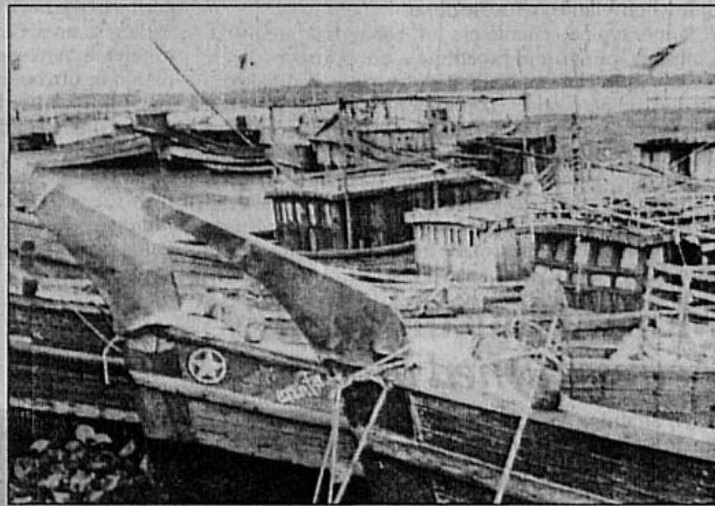
If this continues, many will leave the profession, he said.

Fishermen sources said, they are to spend Tk 25, 000 to 30,000 per week per trawler for fishing either in thesea or in the Meghna.

Even the expenditure can not be met with the small catches, they said.

Wholesale trader Zamal Hossain said he gave Tk 3 lakh dadon (loans to fishermen on buy back contract). He is now worried about the money, not to speak of profit from the trade.

Most of the 22 ice factories at the port are now closed because the very small quantities arriving do not need ice for packing.



Fishermen and traders lazing at a wholesale fish market (left) while fishing trawlers are anchored at Barisal port. The photos were taken on Sunday.

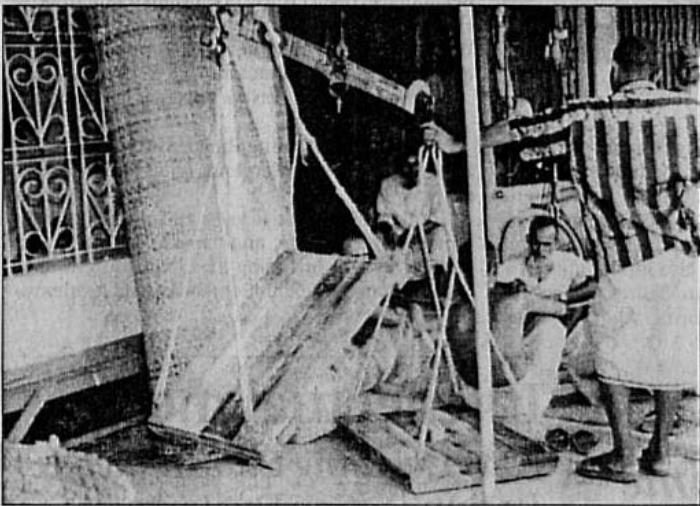


PHOTO: STAR

Ruling party leader faces 'attempted rape' case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

An indigenous woman faces a 'false' rape case filed to a ruling party leader as a 'reprisal' to an attempted rape case filed by her against him earlier.

Garo woman Matia Nakrak of Veduria village in Modhupur upazila filed an attempted rape case with Modhupur police station on July 6 against Golam Mostafa, vice-president of Modhupur upazila Jatiyatabadi Shramik Dal.

She alleged that he forcibly entered her house on the night of June 28 and attempted to violate her.

After filing of the case, Golam Mostafa created pressure on her and her husband to withdrawal the case. But they refused.

Golam Mostafa then filed a "false" case against them on July 11 that they stole pineapples from his garden.

Nakrak appeared before a Tangail magistrate court on Saturday and obtained bail, court sources said.

This correspondent tried to contact Golam Mostafa over cell phone but he was not available.

When contacted, the Officer-in-charge of Modhupur police station said both the cases are under investigation.

A cherished charity

170 to 200 patients get free treatment and medicines at a hospital in Magura village

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

A small but well equipped hospital, run on charity, is rendering a commendable service to the rural people, about 30 miles from Magura district town.

People in nearby areas are all praise for the doctor and other staff at the small four-bed Alhaj MA Khaleque Hospital at Kajoli village in

Sreepur upazila.

"It is a sacred place to us", said Saded Ali, 72, of Amtol village who went for treatment.

"We had to run to the district headquarter and spend huge amounts of money before setting up of the hospital", he told this correspondent during a recent visit.

"Except Friday, 170 to 200 patients are given free treatment

and medicines daily," said Dr Ajit Kumar Biswas, a full-time doctor working at the hospital.

"The hospital has all facilities for treatment of common diseases. Patients attacked with serious diseases like heart ailments and tuberculosis are given primary treatment and referred to Magura Sadar Hospital for better treatment," he said.

Md. Shamsul Azam, a noted industrialist and social worker from Kajoli village set up the hospital in 1994 on 30 a decimal land. He bears all the costs for running the hospital, including those for salary and medicines, the hospital staff said.

There is one MBBS doctor, one Palli Chikitshak (government trained rural physician), a nurse, two ward boys and a night guard at the hospital.

The hospital remains open for 24 hours.

"This hospital has also created health awareness among local people in the last 10 years", said Md Aminuddin a high school teacher in the area. The doctors are very amiable and sincere to their job. They attend patients even at night, he said.



PHOTO: STAR

Dr Ajit Biswas examining a patient at MA Khaleque Hospital at Kajoli village, 30 miles from Magura town.

10 hurt in Satkhira clashes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Ten persons including six women were injured in two separate incidents in Kaliganj and Shyamnagar upazilas on Monday.

In the first incident, seven persons including three women were injured, four of them seriously, in a clash at Nalta-Indranagar village in Kaliganj upazila.

Seriously injured are Rahima Khatun, 45, wife of Sohrab Hossain, Fatema Khatun, 15, and Rahela Khatun, 23, daughters of Sohrab Hossain and Arizul Islam of Nalta Indranagar village.

All were admitted to Sakhipur Health Complex. The clash ensued between two groups of Arshad Ali and Samsur Rahman over possession of a disputed land at the village, according to police.

The feuding groups used lethal weapons during the clash which lasted for over half an hour.

The injured belong to Arshad Ali's group, police said.

A case was filed against seven persons including Samsur Rahman with Kaliganj thana.

In another incident on the same day, three housewives were injured in an attack by extortionists for non-payment of extortion at Kulturi village in Shyamnagar upazila.

The critically injured are Taslima, 30 Samsun Nahar 25, and Aklima, 22 of the same village who were admitted to Shyamnagar hospital.

A group of miscreants at Sonaimuri village in the same upazila demanded 5,000 taka as extortion from Bimal Mondal, police said.

Bimal filed a general diary (GD) with Shyamnagar thana accusing six people. Infuriated by it, they attacked agricultural workers working on Bimal's land.

ADV ABUL MURDER CASE HC acquits death sentence of 7

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A High Court (HC) division bench on Monday acquitted seven persons who were awarded death sentence by a lower court in Advocate Abul Hossain Murder Case in Jhenidah.

The division bench consisting of Justice Ali Asgar Khan and Justice Ashrafur Islam announced the discharge order of the convicts from the case after examining the District and Sessions Judge Court verdict.

The acquitted persons are Mizanur Rahman, Ohidul Islam, Zulfikar Ali, Abdul Wahab, Asgar Ali, Ismail Hossain and Rabulul Islam of Haibatpur village in Sadar upazila, Jessore.

The division bench was formed for approving the death sentence after hearing reference.

According to the case, unidentified miscreants gunned down advocate Abul Hossain near Haibatpur Girls' High School at Haibatpur village when he was returning home from a local bazaar at about 9 pm on March 5 in 1997.

District and Sessions Judge Ainul Islam sentenced seven people to death on November 12 in 2002.

Rajshahi Mayor suggests closure of BRTC service

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Ignoring people's demand, Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu MP has suggested closure of state-owned BRTC (Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation) bus service in Rajshahi region.

He made the suggestion in a letter to the communications ministry on July 17, it was gathered.

He said in the letter that private bus operators would face 'heavy losses' if BRTC buses ply on self-arrangement and lease system.

"BRTC buses are unnecessary on Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj and Rajshahi-Naogaon routes as the number of private buses on these routes are more than needed", the letters said.

The Mayor also said in the letter that he suggested closure of BRTC bus service in the "interest of peace".

BRTC service in the area was stopped on June 29 following clashes with private bus operators.

It resumed on July 10 following demonstrations by people in different districts including Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj.

Many people this correspondent talked to said passengers were earlier hostage to private bus operators, who charged fares at will in absence of BRTC buses.

RU teachers protest 'distortion' of history

RU CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred teachers of Rajshahi University (RU) on Sunday brought out a silent procession on the campus.

The procession led by Progressive Teachers' Association convenor Prof Entajul Haque was brought out in protest against insertion of name of former president Ziaur Rahman as the first proclaimer of independence into the latest edition of 'Bangladesher Swadhinata Juddha: Dalilpatra'.

The processionists paraded the main streets of the campus and the procession ended at the Senate Bhabhan.

It was followed by a meeting on the campus where the teachers alleged that the government has distorted the history of the Liberation War of Bangladesh only to please the anti-liberation forces.

Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (RUTA) president professor Khalequzzaman presided over the meeting.

The university unit of Bangabandhu Parishad also brought out separate silent procession and held a rally on the campus on the same issue.

Bangabandhu Parishad President Prof Muhammad Yunus and General Secretary Prof Abdus Salam led the procession.

Meanwhile, the university unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) on the day brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus protesting killing of Tongi Jubo League leader and a key witness of

Ahsanullah Master MP murder case. Its president Ibrahim Hossain and General Secretary Ayeen Uddin led the procession.

Speakers at the meeting demanded a judicial inquiry into Sumon's killing.

Assassuni OC withdrawn for 'neglect of duty'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Mobaidul Haq, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Assassuni thana was transferred to Jhenidah after being withdrawn from there for negligence in duty.

The charge of diverting the twin murder at Sreeula village on July 13 was also brought against him.

Police source said a group of miscreants abducted Shahanara Khatun, 26, wife of Abbas Ali and her four-year-old daughter Masuma and killed them out of revenge. Because Shahanara filed a general diary (GD) with Assassuni thana on July 4 accusing Mizanur Rahman, Akbar, Bhutta, Palash and three others for abducting her husband on July 4.

But they tried to suppress the killing as suicide. They managed the aforesaid OC who diverted the case and filed an unnatural death (UD) case. He also helped safe escape of the killers.

Ershad wants gruel kitchen in flood affected N region

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Former President and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad on Monday demanded of the government to set up gruel kitchens in the flood affected areas.

The demand came while he was addressing the flood victims of Sayerpur in Fulchhari upazila and Gaibandha Sadar during his visit to the areas. He gave priority on supply of dry and ready-made food to the areas.

During his speech, Ershad recalled how he and his government

successfully overcame the flood situation in 1988.

"Nobody died of starvation during the crisis", Ershad told the distressed people adding, if voted to power, Jatiya Party will take steps to change people's fate including construction of flood shelter and controlling widespread erosion in undeveloped northern region.

He mentioned the present government has no experience in tackling such a disaster.

Despite limitations, Jatiya Party leaders and workers are continuing countrywide relief operation to the

needy, he informed.

Ershad visited flood ravaged Kanchipara, Bhaserpara, Kaiyerhat and Rasoolpur in Fulchhari upazila and Hashem Bazaar, Gideri, Kamarjan, Mat Bazaar and Purbo Kamarmal areas. He also distributed cash and rice among the needy.

Jatiya Party chairman was accompanied by party lawmaker Begum Rowshan Ershad, elected from Gaibandha-5 constituency, A B M Ruhul Amin Hawlader, Secretary General, Dr TIM Fazley Rabbi Chowdhury and other high ranking party leaders.



PHOTO: STAR

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad wades while visiting the flood affected areas of Fulchhari upazila in Gaibandha on Monday.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Senior Superintendent
Central Jail, Rangpur
Re-Tender Notice

Memo No-2731/Finance Section Dated: 01-07-2004

Sealed tenders are re-invited (3rd time) from first class jail enlisted contractors for supply of various kinds food stuff items of Rangpur Central Jail from 1-7-2004 to 31-12-2004.

1. Tender should be submitted in tender box kept at the office of Deputy Commissioner, Rangpur, Kotwali Thana, Rangpur & Jai Gate from 9-00 AM to 11-30 AM of 29-07-2004. Tender box will be opened on the same day at 12-00 Noon at the office of the Senior Superintendent. Tenderers/nominated representatives may attend the opening of tender.

2. Re-tender schedule (of 31 items) can be purchased on cash payment of prescribed price from the office of the undersigned up to 2-30 PM of the day before the date of submitting tender.

3. All terms & conditions of re-tender shall be attached to schedule.

4. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender.

Md Azizul Huq

Senior Superintendent

Central Jail, Rangpur

Phone No:62166 (Office)

DFP-17187-8/7
G-437A different campaign against trafficking
Motorcycle procession carrying banners on Satkhira roads

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The people of Satkhira witnessed a different scene yesterday--a motorcycle procession against trafficking. It was the first such programme in the district.

About 200 motorcycle mounted youths carrying colourful banner reading anti-trafficking slogans brought out the procession which crossed Satkhira Sadar, Debbala, Kalligoing and Shyamnagar upazilas to create awareness among people.

Hundreds of curious people lined up on both sides as the processionists crossed the roads with banners reading slogans like 'we are against trafficking', 'we will resist traffickers'.

It was jointly organised by the Bangladesh chapter of Action Against Trafficking and Sexual Harassment of Children (ATSEC), an international NGO and local NGOs Coastal Development Network (CDN) and Agragati Sangstha.

The procession started from the office premises of Agragati Sangstha in the town. It passed through Parulia, Kulia, Debbata, Bhomra, Kadamtala, Noor Nagar, Rotonpur, Shyamnagar, Banishpur, Bhethkhal, Nazimgonj, Alipur, Gazipur, Nalta and Moutala.

They stopped and held two roadside rallies at Noor Nagar and Banishpur villages in Shyamnagar upazila, which drew crowds in large numbers.

The speakers emphasized the need for creating mass awareness to check trafficking.

They also distributed leaflets calling upon people to resist trafficking.

Absconding convict held in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Brahmanbaria Sadar thana police arrested on Monday arrested a convict, sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment.

A team comprising policemen from Uttara thana in Dhaka led by SI Sulaiman Chowdhury of the Brahmanbaria Sadar thana raided Uttara Adam Ali Market and arrested Biplob 30, son of Md Taleb Ali of Bhadughar area of the district.

Police said Biplob faces several cases. He was absconding since he was sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment in one cases.

BCIC
Tender Notice

বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিলায়নে জাতীয় অর্থগতির প্রতীক

The Managing Director, Karnaphuli Paper Mills Limited, 92, Sadarghat Road, Chittagong hereby invites sealed quotation for supply of materials at mill stores, Chandraghona by the bonafide supplier's as under:

Sl. No.	Tender Number	Short description of goods	Date of opening	Cost of tender schedule non-refundable
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1.	PD/PT/KPM-01 dt. 6.7.2004	Talcum Powder 4000 M. Tons	11.8.2004	Tk 1700/=
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Tender will be received up to 11.00 AM on the date as mentioned above and will be opened on the same day immediately thereafter in presence of the tenderers representatives (if any).

Tender document with detailed specification, terms and conditions will be available for sale on cash payment (mentioned the amount against each tender) on all working days from the office of (i) BCIC Accounts Division, BCIC Head Office, BCIC Bhaban, 30-31, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka, (ii) BCIC Branch Office, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong, (iii) KPM Sales Accounts Section, 92, Sadarghat Road, Chittagong. No tender document will be sold on the date of opening of tender.

BCIC 22-8/7/04

DFP-17283-10/7/04