

SNAPS

Shrimp trader abducted for ransom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A shrimp trader of Bagerhat town was abducted from his house at Bijoypur village in Sadar thana on Monday. The abducted trader is Amjad Hossain,30. A group of miscreants abducted him for ransom amounting to Tk one lakh. They also threatened to kill him or 'pay the ransom by Tuesday', according to police. A case was filed with Bagerhat Sadar thana.

2 cops beaten for demanding toll

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two constables of Khulna district police were roughed up by mob for demanding illegal toll from a shopkeeper in Battala area of Batiaghate thana on Monday. The constables are Abdul Malak and Mazharul Islam. Both of them were closed to police lines.

5 outlaws nabbed from trawler

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Five outlaws were arrested from a trawler in Kazibacha river in Batiaghata upazila on Monday midnight. Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested Swapon Mia,30, Panna Farezi,55, Shiluli Begum,25, Nasima Akhter,30, and Rina, 20, and sent them to district jail on Tuesday on charge of fish trader Iqbal Murder Case in Paikgachha thana.

JS team visits Khulna Newsprint Mills

BSS, Khulna

A team of the Fourth sub-committee of Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Industries Ministry visited the Khulna Newsprint and Hardboard Mills on Tuesday. During the visit, team members consisting of Sub-committee Advisor Whip Md Ashraf Hossaina, Convener Md Shahidul Alam Talukder and other expert members saw the infrastructure and machines of the mills. After the visit they had a meeting with the officials concerned and workers of the mills and reviewed the overall situation here. They learnt about the number of manpower, fund and raw materials required for re-starting its operation. They also discussed prospects of the two mills after re-starting operation. They would submit recommendations to the Industries Ministry in this regard.

Big hauls of spurious medicines, fertiliser in Rangpur

Adulterated medicine supplied to RMCH, Rangpur Jail, police suspect

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Detective Branch of Rangpur Kotwali police in two drives in last three days detected two illegal factories in the town and seized huge quantities of adulterated fertiliser, cement, life saving medicines and cosmetics along with machinery and equipment used in their production.

Police arrested two persons. Acting on a tip-off on Sunday night, a DB team led by Sub Inspector Ashok Shingh raided Moulana Boshir Uddin Cold Storage at Hazir Hat and recovered 285 bags of adulterated cement of different local brands, 572 bags of powder and 435 bags of lime stone used for producing spurious fertiliser, 350 bags of chemicals, 5600 empty cement bags, and one mixer machine.

Police arrested Zahirul Islam and Masud Alam and recorded a case against 13 people.

Police said they had been marketing adulterated fertilisers and cement in northern districts for long.

Tipped-off on Tuesday, Asok Shing and his team raided Ruma cinema hall at about 3:00 pm and recovered huge quantities of different kinds of tablets, syrup and cosmetics.

The medicines were supplied to Rangpur Jail and Rangpur Medical

College Hospital, police suspects. Police also arrested Mahfuz Amin, a fake chemist from the cinema hall. Owner of the cinema Joynal

Abedin could not be arrested till writhing of this report. It was alleged by local people that Hurmuz Ali Sarder, a former CBA

leader of Rangpur Medical College Hospital employees, was at the cinema hall during the raid but he was not arrested.



PHOTO:STAR

Part of the seized adulterated fertiliser and cement bags at Boshir Uddin Cold Storage at Hazir Hat in Rangpur

Army pulled out of two vital Rangamati points

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A sudden withdrawal of army from two strategic checkpoints at Manikchhari and Rabur Bagan at the entrance of Ranamati hill district has created concern among people about deterioration in law and order.

Army was withdrawn from there about two weeks ago without prior consultation with the district administration, official said.

Police now man the checkpoints. Many people this correspondent talked to said they are concerned about security because subversive elements may sneak into the district.

Many residents in Manikchhari and Betunia have appealed to the adminis-

tration to reinstate army at the two points. Deputy Commissioner Dr Jafar Ahmed Khan said while talking to this correspondent on Tuesday.

"I talked to higher authorities but there was no response till yesterday (Monday)", he said.

"They should have consulted the district administration and political leaders before the move", he said.

When contacted, army sources termed the troops withdrawal as "adjustment due to shortage of forces".

"There is no threat to security", an army officer in Rangamati said seeking anonymity.

He did not say anything when asked whether it was done on orders from higher authorities.

50 hurt in Patuakhali road accidents

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least 50 persons were injured in two separate road accidents here in two days.

In an accident, 20 persons including three women were injured, 16 of them seriously on the Patuakhali-Barisal Road on Wednesday.

The accident occurred when a Barisal-bound bus overloaded with 50 passengers hit a roadside tree in Shially area when its driver lost control over steering, according to injured passengers.

Injured passengers were Nurpur Akter, 25, Nurun Nahar, 30, Hazrat Ali, 35, Nargis, 40, Shipra Dewri, 35, Meherunnesa, 35 Piara Begum, 34, Nasrin Akter, 35, all of Patuakhali town, Nasiruddin, 30, Nurjahan, 30, Sajib, 18, of Subidkhali, Aiyub Ali, 25, of Badarpur, Afia Akter of Moukaran, and Sobahan

Fakir, Nuruzzaman, 35, and Rafiqul Islam of Galachipa.

However, the driver and helpers of the bus fled away.

In another accident, at least 30 passengers were injured, 10 of them seriously, in a road accident on the Patuakhali-Galachipa Road on Tuesday. Injured passengers told this correspondent, the accident occurred when an overloaded Patuakhalibound bus plying with 52 passengers turned turtle and fell into a roadside ditch.

Injured passengers are Jalil, Abdul Bareq, 40, Yunus Ali, 55, Suvash Chandra, 30, and Dulal, 35, of Rangabali village, Babul, 32, Nandi, 25, and Fakiruddin of Galachipa town and Jahangir of Amkhola village. They were admitted to Patuakhali General Hospital. Most of them sustained head injuries, according to physicians of the hospital.

GENEVA UN WORKING GROUP MEET

Govt urged to protect rights of indigenous people

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The 22nd session of UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations held in Geneva has urged Bangladesh government to take steps to protect rights of indigenous people in the country.

Violation of rights of indigenous people in the country was the main topic of discussion on the second day of the five-day session held on July 19-23, said a press release issued by the three-member Bangladesh delegation that attended the conference.

The delegation comprised PCJSS (Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samiti) leader Mongola Kumar Chakma, Chakma Circle chief King Devashish Roy and a leader of PCJSS's student wing Pahari Chatra Parishad. They returned home recently, the press release said here yesterday.

The Working Group sent a letter to

Prime Minister Khalada Zia expressing concern at "violation" of indigenous people's rights in different areas of the country and urged her to take steps to stop those, the press release said.

They also appealed to the Prime Minister to take prompt steps to resolve the remaining unresolved issues related to indigenous people.

The conference also discussed the CHT Peace Agreement signed between Bangladesh government and the PCJSS in 1997 and expressed the opinion that said its full implementation was the only way to ensure rights of tribesmen there and establish peace in the region, the press release said.

"The letter sent to the Prime Minister said the CHT accord provides a sound basis to ensure peace and justice in the long-neglected region (CHT)", Mongol told this correspondent.

"The CHT Peace Accord was discussed after we put it up at the confer-

ence. "We also raised the Mohalchhari (in CHT) incident on August 26 last year and sought an independent and impartial probe".

"Delegates at the conference appealed to the Prime Minister to conduct an impartial inquiry into the (Mohalchhari) incident that left one person killed, nine women raped, 25 injured and 400 houses torched in 12 indigenous villages."

They urged the government to fully implement the CHT agreement and withdraw army from the area, Mongol Kumar said.

Delegates from the USA, France, Japan, Netherlands, Germany, Canada, Switzerland, Sweden, Peru, Philippines, Malaysia, Nepal, Holland, Australia and Greenland attended the conference, the press release said.

Relief for non-existent villages in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

About 20 metric tonnes of relief rice have been shown supplied to six non-existent villages in Dhunat upazila, it is alleged.

The villages were devoured by the mighty Padma 15 to 20 years ago.

The villages are New Shariakandi, Baysbaki, Shoharabari, Radanagar, Baythuarvita, Kachagari in Bhandarbari union.

Sources in the District Relief and Rehabilitation Office (DRRO) admitted the anomaly, saying the supplies were made under a fake list prepared by the upazila administration in connivance with the local Union Parishad chairman. The matter has been brought to the notice of the district administration, they said.

A former chairman of Bhandarbari Union also admitted that the six villages were eroded long ago.

Three other villages in the upazila -Bhaniazan, Pukuria and Shemulbari -- were shown "seriously affected" by flood though at least 50 per cent of the villages were devoured by the river long ago, the sources claimed.

It could not be gathered how many people got relief under the fake lists.

Half day hartal observed for UNO's removal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A half-day hartal was observed at Sadullapur upazila yesterday at the call of an all party committee for removal of the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO).

Police said no untoward incident took place during the period and a procession was brought out in the upazila headquarters during the hartal period but no untoward incident was reported, police said.

The hartal call was given against the backdrop of a feud between the UNO and Bongram Union Parishad chairman, who are blaming each other for corruption.

Earlier, the UP chairman, Fazlul Kaiyum Huda, alleged that the UNO did not give a correct picture of the flood situation in the area, resulting in poor supplies from government.

He had demanded immediate removal of the UNO.

Later, an all party committee was formed with Fazlul Kaiyum Huda as its convenor to launch agitation against the UNO.

The UNO refuted the allegation and said the UP chairman, facing a charge for misappropriating UP funds, is instigation people against him.

On Tuesday, all government officials and employees at the upazila headquarters held a protest meeting and demanded arrest of Fazlul Kaiyum Huda for manhandling a fourth class employee, Mohammed Ali.

Speakers at the meeting blamed Huda for "creating anarchy" and making false allegations against the UNO.

On the other hand, the 'all party committee' led by Huda on same evening brought out procession, burnt an effigy of the UNO and declared a half-day hartal programme for Wednesday.

While contacted, the UNO said the administration functioned properly. Additional Deputy Magistrate Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal is investigating the matter, he added.

Bangabandhu murder: Human chain for verdict execution

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Speakers at a meeting here on Tuesday demanded immediate execution of the verdict of Bangabandhu murder case.

Gaibandha unit of Awami Jubo League organised the meeting on its office premises.

Earlier, a human chain was formed on the DB Road here.

It was followed by a procession which paraded the main roads of the town.

Gaibandha Jubo League President Masud Jahangir Kabir, Secretary Emarul Islam, Ashiqur Rahman, Shah Abdullah, Niranjana Gosh, SK Taher and Sarder Sayed Hossain addressed the meeting.



PHOTO: STAR

BNP First Joint Secretary General Tarek Rahman distributing relief at Gidari in Gaibandha Sadar on Tuesday (left) and Badhuadara Group in aid if Manikganj flood victims (right).

Police records case 11 days after suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Following an order by the Police Superintendent, Satkhira thana on Monday recorded a case against four persons in connection with alleged suicide of a girl on July 22.

The accused are Arshad Ali, Habibur Rahman and Shafiqul Islam of Chowbaria village and Romjan Ali of Buichana village in the Sadar upazila.

Tanzila Khatun, 24, daughter of late Kuddus Gazi of Komorpur village, and her mother had been living at her maternal grandfather's house at Chowbaria village in Sadar upazila since she lost his father at the age of two.

Arshad Ali of the village developed an illicit relation with her, promising marriage. As she became pregnant, he forced her for abortion. As the matter became known, she committed suicide. Habibur Rahman and Shafiqul Islam were involved in the matter.

Abul Hossain submitted an ejahar with Satkhira thana on July 23 accusing the four for "instigating" his niece to commit suicide. But police declined to record the case. He then appealed to the Police Superintendent.

When contacted, the Sadar thana OC said, "We are trying to nab the four absconding persons accused in the case".

Procession for 'death' to Netrakona UNO

Night guard murder alleged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

A procession was brought out in Netrakona town Tuesday evening demanding capital punishment to Netrakona Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Proshanta Kumar Das for allegedly torturing an office night guard to death.

UNO office night guard Giasuddin died at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital on July 6 following alleged torture by the UNO on the night of March 30. The body was buried without autopsy.

The body was exhumed on Monday in presence of Magistrate Nitai Kumar Saha and Netrakona thana Officer-in-Charge Aktharu-zzaman on a court order following filing of a case by the victim's wife with a magistrate court.

Autopsy of the body was done yesterday by a three-member team headed by Netrakona Sadar Hospital RMO Rafiqueul Islam. The autopsy report was yet to be submitted to police and court yesterday.

Netrakona Nagarik Committee

organised Tuesday's procession.

The victim's wife in her case alleged that her husband died due to torture by the UNO.

Land dispute: Acid attack on brother

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A man threw acid on his younger brother following discord over land dispute at Tilakpara village in Sadullapur upazila on Monday.

A quarrel ensued between two brothers Hyder, 30, and Wahed Ali, 40, over six decimals of disputed land. At one stage Wahed Ali threw acid on his younger brother Hyder who sustained severe burn injuries. He was immediately shifted to Pirganj Health Complex in a critical condition.

Wahed escaped after the incident.