

SNAPS

Life for 5 outlaws for killing UP member

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Five outlaws were awarded life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) by a court here on Saturday for murdering a Union Parishad (UP) member. Each of them were also fined Tk 5,000 each, in default to suffer five years more RI. The convicts are Noon Alam, Moiz, Ejahar, Jamil Shahid and Saidul Islam. They gunned down Shurkhali Union Parishad (UP) member Yunus Ali Molla at Burarababu village in Batalghata upazila on July 6 in 1998. Additional District and Sessions Judge (second court), Khulna, Kabita Khanam delivered the judgement. The five convicts are members of outlawed NBCP.

Two women held with Phensidyl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The Detective Branch (DB) of police on Sunday arrested two women from Gallamari area for possessing illegally Indian Phensidyl. The arrested women are Saleha Begum, 40, and Momena Khaton, 32. They were handed over to Sonadanga police. Police quoted arrested women as saying that they brought 32 bottles of Phensidyl from Alipur border in Sathkira district for a medicine shop in Paikgacha upazila, Khulna.

Life for six killers in Jessor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessor

Six persons were awarded on Thursday life term imprisonment by a court here for killing a student leader. Five of the convicts are absconding while only one of them is in prison. The absconding convicts are Enamul Islam Kajal, Ismail, Munna, Sohel Rana and Abdul Kashem and the arrested convict is Salahuddin Labu. They killed Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader Abu Sufian, son of Rabiu Siddique and a student of Upashahar Degree College here on May 9, 1998.

Relief distributed among fire victims

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury on Friday distributed relief materials among the owners of 10 shops, gutted by fire at Badghat bazaar here last week. Each affected shop owner got two bundles of CI sheets, 16-kilogram rice and Tk 2,000 in cash as relief. The relief goods were distributed at a meeting presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Prasanta Bhutan Barua. Property worth Tk 25 lakh were gutted by the devastating fire.

35 injured in B'baria clashes

UNB, Brahmanbaria

At least 35 people were injured in three separate clashes in the district in last two days.

Police and locals said, of them, 10 people were injured at Haripur in Sarail upazila in a clash over the occupation of a beel on Tuesday. Three of the injured were admitted to a local clinic.

In another clash over a trifile matter at Shahbajpur in the same upazila, 22 people were injured the same day.

In yet another incident on Monday night on Faridul Huda road in the town, three people were injured following a conflict over supplying sand through a truck.

They injured were admitted to the Sadar Hospital.

Upholding community spirit above all

Muslims and Hindus voluntarily rebuild road leading to a crematory in Gaibandha

K M REZAUL HAQUE, Gaibandha

Both the members of the Hindu and Muslim communities recently upheld the community spirit by voluntarily rebuilding a flood-damaged road leading to a crematory at Eshrampur village in Gaibandha Sadar upazila.

The important half-kilometre road is being used mainly by the members of Hindu community for cremation of their dead near and dear ones at the crematory. But the vital road was badly damaged during last year's recurring floods resulting in their great sufferings.

Local people appealed to the authorities concerned time and again to repair the road but in vain. Observing the plight of Hindu brethren, two young social workers, Emarul Islam Sabin and ward member Abdus Satter came forward to mitigate their sufferings. He called upon the people irrespective of religious faith to extend their helping hand to rebuild the road. People responded spontaneously and came forward with spade and basket to rebuild the damaged road.

"We worked there for three to four hours daily", Toffazal a volunteer worker told this correspondent.

People of both the Hindu and Muslim communities have shown the spirit of peaceful co-existence and healthy communal harmony by performing the great task, ward member Abdus Satter told this correspondent.

According to locals, the crematory and the temple were founded on the bank of the Ghagor about a century back by a devout Hindu named Guru Das. He established it on the land of his father's property.

Later, another Hindu devotee Bashonto Das donated 66 decimals of his land for extension of the crematory. Members of the Hindu community from far flung areas began to visit the temple of goddess Kali for regular worship.

In the meantime, local influential people grabbed part of the roadmaking it narrow. Land grabbers allegedly occupied 09 decimals of the land illegally, local people complained.



PHOTO: STAR

Members of both the Muslim and Hindu communities at Ishrampur village in Sadar upazila, Gaibandha have extended their helping hands to rebuild a flood damaged road leading to a crematory a

14 abducted fishermen released by BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Fourteen Bangladeshi fishermen were released by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on Saturday.

They are among 16 fishermen who have been abducted by the BSF from Bayersing area in Bangladesh territory on Thursday.

Two other fishermen are yet to be released, according to four released fishermen named Nur Gazi, Abdul Gazi, Bani Gazi and Hamid.

All of them were abducted during fishing in the Sundarbans, according to Ramjan Nagar Union Parishad.

(UP) Chairman Alamgir Haider and Kaikhali UP Chairman Shahjahan Siraj. Fish worth Tk 2 lakh including a fishing trawler were also seized by the BSF.

After the incident, Kaikhali company of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sent a protest letter to the BSF demanding the fishermen's release. The BDR also proposed for holding a flag meeting. Instead of replying to the BDR proposal, the BSF released 14 fishermen.

However, the BDR authorities are trying for freedom of the rest two fishermen.

22 flee homes in Satkhira fearing attack of criminals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Twenty-two persons have left their homes in two villages of Darea and Kashiadanga in Kalaroa upazila in fear of reprisal of local criminals led by Abdul Ahad, a gang leader of extortionists.

On the Eid day on January 22, Abdul Gafoor of Darea village and Ahad exchanged hot words over keeping shoes at the Eidgah. Later, Ahad and his men ransacked Gafoor's house. Villagers chased

Inu condemns killing of Kibria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haq Inu on Tuesday condemned the killing of former Finance Minister SAMS Kibria while addressing three separate public meetings at Mashan Bazaar, Amla Bazaar and Poradaha railway ground.

Inu said, 'it was pre-planned and more such killing will occur'.

'Opposition leaders are being killed intentionally because they are vocal against the oppression and tyranny of the present government,' he told. 'At least 200 people were killed in the country in last six months only by the government babnis' like Rab, Kobra and Chita', he said.

Mirpur upazila JSD President Safiul Alam presided over the meetings. Among others, Safiqur Rahman Babul, Mohammad Abdulah, Emdadul Islam Ata, JSD Kushtia district General Secretary Abdul Ali Sawapan, Joint Secretary Golam Mohsin and Principal Rezaul Haq addressed the meetings.

Woman killed by 'husband'

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

A housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband for dowry on Friday night. The victim is Amena Begum, 22, of Dashar village of Kalknri upazila. On the fateful night, her husband Salam Bepari beat up her and took her to Madaripur Sadar Hospital. Observing her critical condition, Salam and his family members fled from the hospital.

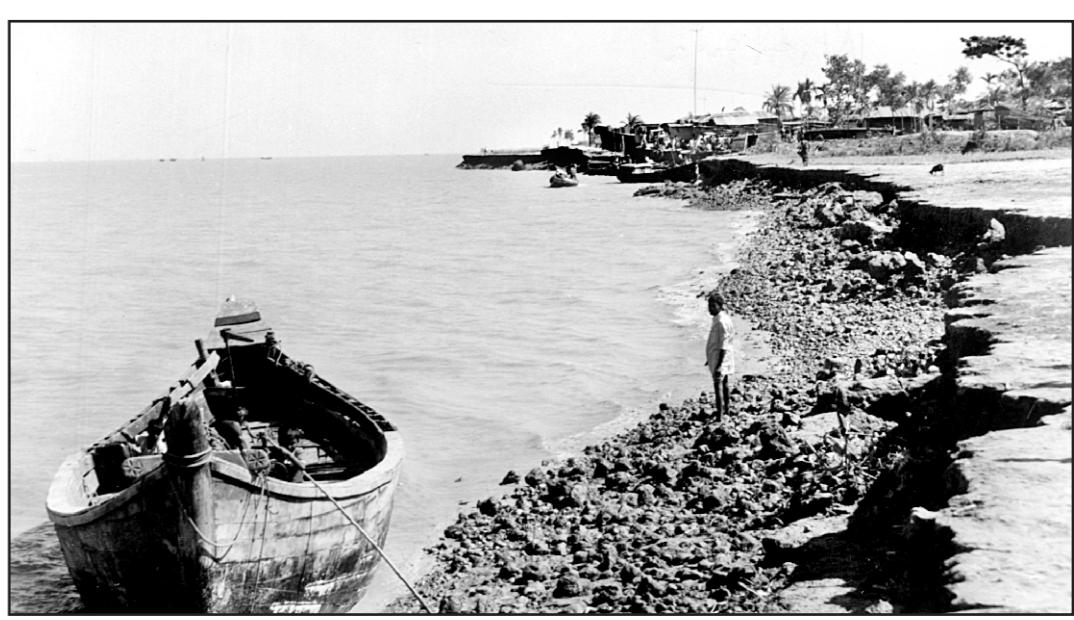


PHOTO: A K M MOHSIN

The mighty Meghna has devoured a vast tract of land in Hatiya, Noakhali. Unabated river erosion is going on in the area but no concrete step has been taken to halt the natural disaster.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

The council of Magura district Awami League (AL) was not held in last 12 years due to intra-party feud.

At present, dedicated leaders and workers of the party are totally frustrated.

'Top party posts are being held by same persons for years together. There should be a change. Dynamic leadership should come to strengthen the party and the ongoing oust-government agitation, told a district-level leader seeking anonymity.

AL Organising Secretary Abdul Mannan, at a special extended meeting here on December 26 last year, asked the district-level leaders to hold the party council within January this year. But it was also postponed due to internal feud, according to party insiders.

Party leaders and activists are

now divided into two groups. A group is backed by the district convenor of the party Md Altaf Hossain and the other group by local lawmaker Prof MS Akbar.

Initially the internal party feud

surfaced in January last year when two rival factions clashed during party councils at several upazilas and unions. Both factions wanted their men in leadership at different levels, party sources told The Daily Star.

At least 14 incidents of clashes

took place between the rival groups

here last year. After the clashes, party high command summoned top leaders to resolve the disputes.

Party chief Sheikh Hasina, at a meeting with the leaders at the party central office on March 8 last year, asked the district-level leaders to hold the Magura district council of the party on March 31. She also threatened to dissolve the district convening committee.

Notebooks on sale in Nilphamari despite ban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The official ban on sale of notebooks of classes one to eight is being defied here indiscriminately.

Most of the bookstalls have been flooded with various notebooks.

Unscrupulous notebook publishers in collaboration with bookstall owners and school authorities are engaged in such unethical act. In almost all the libraries of Nilphamari Sadar, Saidpur, Domar, Dimla, Jaldhaka and Kishoreganj upazilas, notebooks with attractive covers are on open sale. Shop owners term the books as guidebooks.

Representatives of Nayan Publishers, Gulshan Publication, Purbodesh Publication, Ivy Prokashani, Projapati Prokasan and other publishing companies allegedly influence the headmasters of schools in exchange of so-called donation. The school authorities also enlist the notebooks or guidebooks in their official book list. They make it compulsory to school students to buy the books.



PHOTO: STAR

Islam Bank Bangladesh, Nilphamari branch manager Md Amjad Hossain, extreme left, distributing warm clothes among the cold-stricken people at local Al-Helal Academy recently. Nilphamari Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) A B M Shariful Islam, 2nd from left, and others look on. Severity of cold intensified due to continuous drizzle and cold wind blowing throughout the district for the last few days.

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