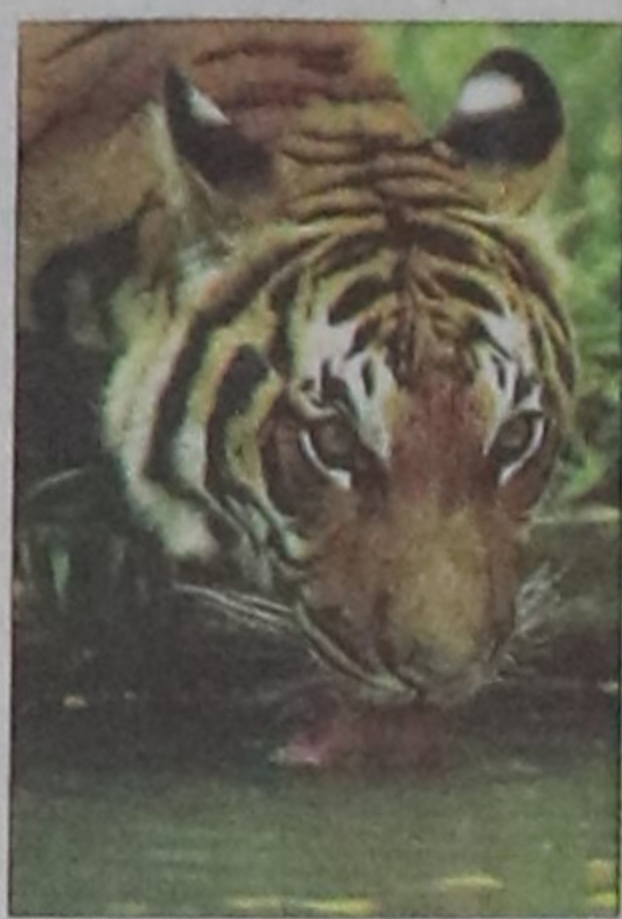


Tigers killing, getting killed for years

But authorities in slumber

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Incidents of killings by Sundarbans tigers and deaths of man-eating feline are going on around the mangrove forest as for years as the authorities concerned remain indifferent to saving their lives.



At least 120 fishermen, woodcutters and honey collectors were killed by the ferocious cats while 16 man-eaters were beaten to death by the villagers as they entered localities in the last 10 years.

According to forest officials, 12 fishermen, woodcutters or honey collectors were killed by tigers in 1999, 22 in 2000, 11 in 2001, nine in 2002, 18 in 2003, 15 in 2004, eight in 2005, 10 in 2006 and 13 were killed in each year in 2007 and 2008.

During the period, four tigers were killed in 1999, five in 2000, two in 2001, three in 2003 and one tiger each in 2004 and 2008.

While talking to this correspondent a member of poor fishermen, woodcutters and honey collectors said they have no other alternative to going to the forest knowing well about the looming danger as they are dependent solely on the forest resources.

They urged the authorities concerned to take measures to save their lives in the Sundarbans.

Contacted, assistant forest officer (AFO) Rajesh Chakma said, 'Despite all good intentions we are helpless. We cannot ensure security of their lives for lack of necessary staffs and sophisticated arms.'

HEAVY RAIN, WATER FROM ACROSS BORDER Someshwary turns furious, devours houses, croplands

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Erosion by hilly river Someshwary in bordering Durgapur upazila under the district has taken a serious turn due to heavy rain and rolling down of water from the upstream in India.

During the last few days, the river has devoured at least 200 dwelling houses and about 500 acres of cultivated land.

Around 800 people, rendered homeless by the erosion, have taken refuge in the nearby flood shelters or other villages.

During a visit to the areas, this correspondent saw devouring of a vast tract of land of Dakumara, Ranikong and Shibganj villages in Durgapur upazila by the Someshwary. Local people tried to resist erosion by dumping sandbags, bamboos and timbers but strong current of the river foiled their attempt.

Serious erosion by the river in the rainy season has become a yearly affair.

In last three years, the river has devoured most areas of Khamarkhal Bazar and Shibganj Bazar.

Over four hundred families used to live at village Dakumara four years ago. But the river Someshwary engulfed 500 acres of land leaving 250 families landless and homeless.

In last three years three kilometres of the five-kilometre Shibganj-Ranikong road in Durgapur upazila, the only link road between Durgapur upazila headquarters and bordering villages of Durgapur, went into the Someshwary river.

Local people told this correspondent that they repeatedly urged the authorities concerned to construct a four-kilometre protection embankment from Gaokandia to Ranikong along the Someshwary River but to no effect.

When contacted, Mohammad Didarul Alam, executive engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board, Netrakona, said, 'A Tk 62 lakh project for construction of 160-metre protection embankment on the Someshwary River has started at Shibganj and it will complete next year. The four-kilometre protection embankment will have to be made in stages.'

Locals, however, said construction work of the 160-metre embankment stopped shortly after its start. Besides, the said protection embankment will have very little to do to prevent floods from around four kilometre areas along the river, they said.

They have urged the authorities concerned to take necessary action immediately.

Nine sued for '71 killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Nine alleged collaborators of Pakistani occupation forces have been sued for killing a man in Dakshin Sunamganj upazila under Sunamganj district in 1971.

Bhanu Das of Brahmanagan village filed the case with Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court, Sunamganj, yesterday.

The accused are Abdus Sattar, Noaz Ali, Khowaj Ali, Bashir Ahmed, Farid Miah, Abdur Rouf, Syed Ahmed and Zohed Ullah of Ujanigan village, and Mohammad Ali of Pagla village under the upazila.

In the case statement, the complainant said the accused stormed into their house on December 6, 1971 and picked up his brother Kripendra. They took him to Ahsanmara on Sylhet-Sunamganj road and killed him.

Four suspected JMB militants sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Four suspected cadres of outlawed Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), arrested on Sunday night, were sent to jail yesterday.

The arrestees are Shakil Hasan, 31, of Gradoba village in Ganjoni upazila of Meherpur, Zahidul Islam, 30, of Durgapur village in Matlab upazila of Chandpur, Shimul Hossain, 21, of Binni village and Atiqur Rahman, 26, of Shraffata village in Harinakundu upazila of Jhenidah.



Locals form a human chain in front of Baufal Upazila Parishad Complex yesterday demanding punishment to a couple for alleged torture on 10-year-old Sathi, inset, employed as domestic help at their Dhaka residence. With serious injuries, the girl is undergoing treatment at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

FUND ALLOCATED FOR SACKED MONGLA DOCK WORKERS No benefit for over 1000 unregistered dockers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Government has allocated Tk 14,36,67,000 conditional loan to Mongla Port Authority (MPA) to clear the dues of 1,758 registered sacked dockers.

Mongla Port Authority received a letter in this regard on Wednesday and the payment is expected to begin next month.

Meanwhile, over a thousand unregistered sacked dockers are preparing to start fresh agitation demanding financial benefits from the port authority.

They have vowed to go to the court, if necessary, said general secretary of Mongla Port Sramik Sangha Shahabuddin Ahmed.

About 4,000 dockers were sacked by the port authority following abolition of Dock Workers' Management Board (DWMB) on May 4 last year by the caretaker government.

The authority introduced Berth Operating System (BOS) from August. Under the system, the stevedores are solely authorised to appoint dock workers for cargo handling operations which was previously controlled by the DWMB.

The board allegedly used to take frequent decisions under political influence.

After abolition of DWMB, the sacked dockers along with members of their families started agitation demanding payment of their dues and other financial benefits.

They formed human chains several times and staged demonstrations wearing shrouds and went on fast-unto-death to press home their demands.

The port authority, in the face of series of agitations, finally asked for allocation of Tk 19,15,67,000 from the government fund for payment of dues and other financial benefits only to 1,758 registered dockers.

The ministry of finance allocated the aforesaid amount on condition that the entire money must be paid back within 20 years with five per cent interest. The remaining Tk 4 crore 79 lakh would also be given shortly, it said.

But the Mongla Port Authority is yet to take any decision as to how the money will be paid to the registered sacked dockers. Port officials are now waiting for a guideline in this regard from their chairman.

The ministry of finance has asked the port authority to distribute it within next month which is one of the conditions

30 fishermen hurt in clash with Meghna pirates

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least 30 fishermen were injured, three by bullets, during a clash with pirates on the Meghna under Monpura upazila of Bhola district on Sunday night.

Of the injured, three are undergoing treatment at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital while the rest at Monpura Upazila Health Complex.

Meanwhile, six pirates were arrested on Baleswar River in Mathbaria upazila under Pirojpur district the same night.

On Sunday night, a gang of armed pirates attacked fishermen in Arntali area on the Meghna. On information, fishermen from the adjacent areas rushed to the spot and cordoned off the trawler of the

pirates that led to a clash between the two sides, police and fishermen said.

At one stage, the pirates opened fire on the fishermen and managed to flee the scene, police said.

Mathbaria police, acting on a tip-off, arrested six pirates and seized two boats and a trawler on Baleswar River on Sunday night.

The arrestees are Mutalib, 58, Ripon, 20, Jamal, 18, Mustafa, 40, Amjad, 31, of Togra under Zia nagar upazila of Pirojpur and Mafidul, 30, of Charhogla under Morelganj upazila of Bagerhat district.

The pirates were later handed over to Patharghata Police Station under Barguna district in connection with a murder case filed against them on May 16, 2009 for killing a fisherman.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS



Timber procured from roadside trees in Shahjahanpur upazila of Bogra is kept on the yard of a sawmill. A member of Khottapara UP allegedly cut the trees on Saturday morning but he refuted the allegation saying that the trees fell down in a storm.

Jubo Dal man murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Jubo Dal activist was killed by unidentified assailants at village Piarakhali in Ishwardi upazila last night. Police said criminals attacked the house of Abdur Razzak alias Raju, 35, son of Abdus Samad at midnight and shot him dead. Raju's elder brother Zakaria Pintu was the former convener of Ishwardi upazila unit of Jatiyatobadi Chitra Dal (JCD), locals said.

Indefinite transport strike

A CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

Gopalganj District Road Transport Owners and Workers Oikya Parishad has called an indefinite transport strike from tomorrow protesting operation of local buses by some quarters without approval of the parishad. At least 320 local buses will stop plying in the district. No transport will ply also on the Dhaka-Khulna highway if the authorities did not stop local buses plying on various routes of Kotalipara, said transport leaders on Sunday.

Boy drowns in pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A two-year old boy drowned in a pond at village Bakchara in Sadar upazila yesterday. Nayan, son Mintu Mali, fell into the pond when he was playing near it, locals said. Villagers recovered his floating body from the pond.

Goods train derails

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Three wagons of a stone loaded Lalmonirhat bound goods train from Burimari land port station derailed near Voltmari railway station of Kaliganj upazila yesterday noon. Train movement on Lalmonirhat-Burimari route came to a halt. We are still rescuing the derailed goods train, an official at Lalmonirhat railway control room said in the afternoon.

Tiger kills crab catcher

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A crab catcher was killed yesterday by tiger in Sapkhali canal of the Sundarbans. Victim Shahinur Gazi, 35, was son of Abul Hossain Gazi of village Matiabhangha in Koira upazila under Khulna district.

Child drama festival held

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A day-long child drama festival was held on the premise of Hatibandha Sahoruddin Sarker High School yesterday. Child organisations from four unions Gotamari, Nawdabash, Barokhata and Singimari of Hatibandha upazila took part in the programme. Funded by PLAN Bangladesh, the festival was organised by Rupantor, an NGO.

Gang rape victim cries for justice

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Victim of gang rape a week ago, a housewife is undergoing treatment at Kotchandpur Upazila Health Complex while police is yet to nab the criminals.

The victim filed a case accusing Anwar (Chantu), 30, Shariful Islam, 25, Halim, 25, Hasan, 26, Jamal Mondal, 27, Khoka Mia, 19, and Shaif, 30.

The woman lived in a tinshed room adjacent to the chatal of a rice mill owned by Abdul Wahab of Jalalpur village where she took job a few months ago as her husband was imprisoned, police quoted the victim as saying.

On early Monday, the seven criminals dragged the woman to a nearby field, gang-raped her, and left her in a critical condition, the victim said.

Informed, Abdul Wahab took her to Kotchandpur

Upazila Health Complex in the morning. As the victim along with Abdul Wahab was going to file a case with Kotchandpur Police Station, union parishad member Abdur Rashid of the village prevented them saying that he will 'settle' the matter through village arbitration. Later police interfered and helped the victim to file a case with Kotchandpur Police Station under Women and Children Repression Prevention act.

Locals have demanded immediate steps to punish the criminals.

Human rights organisation Bangladesh Manabdhiker Sangstha Jhenidah chapter has conducted an investigation into the gangrape incident.

Organisation members said they will extend all out help for the victim to get justice.

Advertisement for Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd. (DESCO) including an invitation for tenders for Procurement of Energy Meter Test Bench. The ad lists company details, tender specifications, and contact information for Khandaker Najibul Alam, Manager (Procurement & CM).

Advertisement for 'পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন দেশের সামাজিক উন্নয়নের প্রতিশ্রুতি' (Rural Electrification is the promise of social development of the country). It lists various services and rates provided by the organization, including electricity supply, water supply, and other community services.