

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Wife beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A woman was killed allegedly by her husband at Hakimpur-Fatapara village under Sadar upazila yesterday, police said. Taslima Begum, 28, was mercilessly beaten up and strangled by Harun-ur-Rashid, 30, at her house at about 12:30 am. Police recovered the body yesterday afternoon and sent it to Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy. Locals caught Harun and handed him over to police.

Security for CHT tourists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

To ensure security of the tourists, the government plans to raise a special force for Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) soon. Bandarban SP Kamrul Hasan disclosed this to the journalists at his office yesterday. He said a proposal in this regard has already been sent to the police headquarters last month. Earlier, Additional Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nobo Bikram Tripura told a meeting at Bandarban last year that 'Tourist Police' will be raised for the CHT.

JCD men beat up five

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least five students were beaten up by JCD cadres who ransacked two rooms of Shaheed Alamgir Hostel of Syed Hatem Ali College (SHAC) of Barisal on Friday night. The victims were treated at local hospitals and clinics. They alleged that city and district JCD organised a procession in the city on Friday afternoon to greet their newly announced central committee. A group of JCD activists attacked and ransacked the rooms as they were not allowed to participate in the programmes, they said.

Vegetable retailers trained

PRESS RELEASE, Mymensingh

Development Wheel (DEW), an NGO, last week organised a two-day training of vegetable retailers on 'business counseling and client management' under its sustainable livelihoods for poor producers (SLIPP) project at Mymensingh Horticulture Centre. The project is funded by the European Union and TradeCraft Exchange UK. The objective of the five-year SLIPP project is to reduce poverty among poor and marginalised communities by increasing income and employment opportunities. Consultants from Mardarsak, India, Arup Rai Baruah and Abhishek Choudhury conducted the training. The NGO organised a similar training in Netrokona before the one in Mymensingh.

Two get life for rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A court on Thursday sentenced two to life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) and fined Tk 10,000 each in an abduction and rape case. District and Sessions Judge Abdul Kuddus Mia announced the verdict in presence of the culprits who raped a class nine student after kidnapping her on April 23, 2008. The convicts are Zahangir Alam, son of Suruj Mia of Betila village and Shariful Islam, son of Fazlul Haque of Char Mokimpur under Sadar police station. The victim is daughter of Mohidur Rahman of Char Matta and student of Char Mokimpur High School.



Students of Sunamganj SC Girls High School bring out a procession yesterday demanding arrest and punishment of the offenders who recently teased a schoolgirl.



Boats plying inundated Chhatak-Doarabazar road in Sunamganj district, left, and flooded homesteads at Gobordhon village of Aditmari upazila in Lalmonirhat.

Over 2 lakh marooned as fresh areas flooded

STAR NATIONAL DESK

With inundation of more low-lying areas, the flood situation in Netrakona, Sylhet, Sunamganj, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram and Gaibandha worsened further yesterday.

Heavy rains and onrush of water from hills across the border have aggravated the situation in the flood-hit district, marooning over two lakh people.

Our Netrakona correspondent reports: The low-lying areas of Kalmakanda, Durgapur, Madan, Mohonganj, Barhatta, Netrakona Sadar and Khalajuri upazilas have been submerged, leaving about 75,000 people marooned, Netrakona Water Development Board (WDB) sources said.

Four rivers—Shomeshwari, Kongsha, Magra and Dhanui—the district are flowing above the danger mark. Road communications between the district headquarters and Durgapur, Kalmakanda and Khalajuri upazilas have been snapped. Downpour and onrush of water from hills across the border have submerged the low-lying areas of five upazilas in Lalmonirhat district.

According to a correspondent, Teesta and Dharla rivers in Lalmonirhat district

are flowing 11cm and 2 cm above the danger mark, leaving at least 45,000 people marooned in the low-lying areas of Hatibandha, Kaligoni, Aditmari, paigram and sadar upazilas.

The Dharla river erosion in Mogholhat area of Sadar upazila has also taken a serious turn due to downpour for the last four days. The affected people have taken shelter on the Teesta embankment. Our staff correspondent from Sylhet says, The flood situation in the different upazilas of Sylhet and Sunamganj deteriorated further due to heavy rains and onrush of waters from the hilly areas of India.

The met office in Sylhet recorded 87 MM rainfall during 24 hours until 4:00pm yesterday. Surma was flowing 41 cm above the danger level yesterday.

Over one lakh people remained marooned in Zakiganj, Kanaighat, Companiganj, Gowainghat and Zaintapur upazilas of Sylhet. Aman seed beds on over 5,000 acres of land have gone under water in those upazilas.

Extraction of stones and sand in seven quarries in Gowainghat, Companiganj and Zaintapur upazilas remained suspended for the fourth day yesterday.

In Sunamganj, villages in Doarabazar,

Biswambharpur, Chhatak, Tahirpur and part of Sunamganj Sadar upazilas have been inundated due to downpour and onrush of water from upstream. Fifty families have sheltered at two local primary schools.

In Kurigram, about 50 villages in the district have been flooded as the rivers flowing through the districts swelled further.

According to a local Water Development Board (WDB) source, water level in Dharla, Dudhkumar, Brahmputra and Teesta rivers market a further rise yesterday, reports our correspondent.

The UNO of Nageswari upazila said about 1,500 families of Ansererhat, Muria and Bhelianirpar under Bamondanga Union, Char Balorumpur under Ballober Khash Union, Khelar Bhitia under Berubari Union and Katgir under Kaliganj Union have been badly affected.

Our Gaibandha correspondent adds: Fresh areas under Gaibandha sader, Fulchhari and Shaghata upazila have gone under water as the Jamuna swelled further due to onrush water from upstream.

The badly affected areas are Goderhat, Boali, Badiakhali, Rasoolpur, Bhaaserpara, Balashi, Ketkirhat, Kalasona, Ratanpur, Mashamari and Nilkuthi.

WIFE BRINGS FRAUD CHARGE Acting mayor on the run to evade arrest

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Cox's Bazar Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court has issued arrest warrant against acting mayor of Cox's Bazar municipality Sarwar Kamal in a fraud case filed by his second wife. Police, however, could not arrest the acting mayor despite several raids in the town yesterday.

Sarwar Kamal married Roksana Parveen of Tekpara in the town on April 29, 2005 as his second wife.

Roksana Parveen said after two months of the marriage her husband Sarwar borrowed Tk 13 lakh from her saying he would use the money in business. An agreement was also signed in this regard. But as Sarwar did not return the

money after two years, a feud arose between them.

Roksana alleged that at one stage he started physical torture on her.

Roksana filed a fraud case against Sarwar with Cox's Bazar Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court on July 26, 2007.

Sarwar took anticipatory bail in the case but did not appear before the court later.

As he did not appear before the court on July 2 as per schedule, the court issued arrest warrant against him, said advocate Mostafa Kamal who stood for the plaintiff.

'My divorced wife Roksana filed a false case against me to tarnish my social reputation and to harass me,' Sarwar Kamal said.

Sad tales of two mothers

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A mentally disturbed mother yesterday committed suicide after trying to kill her two children by hacking with sharp weapons at Shibrapur in Magura town.

In Nilphamari, a mother committed suicide on Friday night as remorse haunted her for months after her daughter committed suicide following reproach for wanting food.

Our Magura Correspondent reports: Tahera Khatun, 40, mother of three children, left her husband's house in Shalikhia upazila a few years ago and began to live at his father Hashem Ali's Shibrapur house as

she was suffering from mental disease, police said quoting family members.

The woman hacked her daughter Popy, 8, and son Antor, 10, when they were sleeping in her room in the early hours of Saturday.

Hearing screams of the children, locals rushed to the spot and took them to Magura Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

Meantime, Tahera committed suicide by hanging herself from a tree.

Police recovered her body yesterday morning.

Lalita Rani, 40, wife of day labourer Sanatan Roy of Ramnagar village of Nilphamari Sadar upazila, lost her mental balance as she held herself responsible for the death of her daughter

Lata Rani, 12, who committed suicide seven months ago, according to our correspondent.

Lata Rani, a student of class six of a local school, wanted food before going to school but her mother, failing to give food, rebuked her as her poor father could not earn enough the day before to buy rice for the family.

Lata went to school and returned duly but she did not touch the food that her mother had managed somehow. She closed the door of her room and committed suicide by hanging herself with a rope from the roof.

Overcome by remorse and guilt complex, Lalita Rani became mentally ill and finally committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling of her house on Friday night.

Teacher indeed!

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Principal of Bhawal Badre Alam University College Prof Md Azizul Haq was seriously injured by a colleague following the principal's objection to the latter's private coaching at the BNCC office on the college campus yesterday.

Police detained the offender, Muhammad Shafiqul Islam, a lecturer of Bangla department of the college.

As Shafiqul punched the principal on his face and nose several times, he started profusely bleeding when other teachers rescued him.

Students brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus demanding Shafiqul Islam's removal. They also assaulted him and set fire to his motorcycle.

Review convening body of Ctg city BNP within 7 days Aggrieved leaders' ultimatum

CU CORRESPONDENT

Aggrieved leaders of Chittagong city BNP yesterday demanded inclusion of the dedicated leaders in the 51-member convening committee of the unit.

They gave a seven-day ultimatum to the party high command to meet the demand, otherwise they threatened to launch a tougher agitation programme and form a counter convening committee.

The aggrieved BNP leader made the demand at a press

conference at Chittagong Press Club in the afternoon. They also demanded formation of a review committee comprising two senior leaders of the central committee.

Terming the leaders of the convening committee controversial, they said the committee was formed blackmailing the party chief.

'Some leaders who went into hiding after 1/11 and switched to other parties were included in the new convening committee. The dedicated leaders, who remained with the party during the crucial time, were dropped in the process,' they claimed.

The aggrieved BNP leaders and activists will exchange views with all leaders of 41 ward committees and form a human chain in front of Chittagong Press Club on Saturday next to press home their demand.

Former Chittagong city BNP vice-president Shamsul Alam, joint secretaries MA Sabur and MA Sattar, former presidents of JCD Chittagong city unit Mosharraf Hossain Dipti and Nazimur Rahman and general secretary Ahmedul Alam Russel attended the conference among others.

The BNP leaders, who were dropped from the convening committee, brought out a procession, held a rally and set fire to an effigy of Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, convenor of the newly formed convening committee on Thursday.

Vacancy Announcement United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh invites applications from highly qualified, energetic and experienced professionals who wish to join UNDP's dynamic working environment, for recruitment in the following position for the 'Promoting Access to Justice and Human Rights in Bangladesh' Project.

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