



Train communication on Chittagong-Dohazari rail route has remained suspended for a week following damage to Sairer Pool rail bridge near Boalkhali Bengura station. (Inset) The damaged bridge.

Ex-minister Aminul gets bail in 2 cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Rajshahi court yesterday granted bail to former post and telecommunications minister Aminul Haque in two cases.

The Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court granted the bail prayers in the cases filed during the last caretaker government.

The cases were filed for misappropriating corrugated iron sheets meant for relief in Tanore upazila and cheating a man in name of providing him with a job in Godagari upazila.

Aminul's bail prayers in three other cases were rejected, said his lawyers. He was also convicted in a case for abetting militancy in the country.

The former minister was produced in the court during hearings of his bail prayers.

Villagers get safe drinking water at nominal cost

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

People at Rabaitari village under Fulbari upazila of the district are receiving safe drinking water as Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA) has taken a programme to supply arsenic and iron free water among the people through activating the unused deep tub-wells of BADC.

The villagers, who had been taking water polluted with arsenic and iron for long, are happy to get safe water for a nominal cost.

Md Jafor Ali, lawmaker from of Kurigram-2 constituency, inaugurated the programme as the chief guest

on June 4.

The deep tub-well of BADC started operation at the village in 1982 but after supplying water for four years, it remained inoperative for 20 years. The BMDA in 2005 arranged connection of electricity with the water pump after necessary repair in the tub-well and about 80 bighas of land was brought under Boro cultivation in last year.

For 240 to 300 families in the village, an overhead water tank with 25,000-litre capacity has been set up at a cost of Tk 10 lakh, BMDA office sources said. Water is collected through the deep tub-well three times a day. Each family has to pay Tk 30 a month to get pure drinking water.

"As we are getting pure drinking water, we will remain free from water-borne diseases," said Abu Hasan, manager of the 'beneficiaries association'.

BMDA will extend the drinking water supply programme to other places in the district where the deep tub-wells of BADC have been set up. BMDA Executive Director Md Shahidur Rahman said.

"BMDA earlier initiated drinking water supply programme in Rajshahi and Chapinabaganj districts as there is water crisis. Now the programme has started in Kurigram district where water pollution is common," he said.



People of Rabaitari village in Fulbari upazila of Kurigram district gather near the overhead water tank constructed by Barind Multipurpose Development Authority to ensure safe drinking water for the villagers.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Three Shibir leaders held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Baralekha police arrested three leaders of Islami Chhatra Shibir along with four billhooks, two Chinese axes and one dagger in their possession on Sunday night. The Shibir leaders are Delwar Hossain, Lokman Hossain and Abdul Quyum. They were arrested on charge of attacking police and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at Baralekha Degree College on Saturday, police said. Moulvibazar district unit leaders of Shibir at a press conference at a local restaurant in the district town yesterday afternoon blamed Baralekha police for harassing their leaders. They demanded their immediate release.

Goods worth Tk 30lakh gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Goods worth Tk 30lakh were gutted in a fire at Hili under Hakimpur upazila yesterday morning, police said. The fire originated from a warehouse of an importer at about 7.30am. Soon it engulfed the entire warehouse burning all imported goods. Being informed, fire fighters from Pachbibi upazila in Joypurhat district rushed to the spot and doused fire. Electric short circuit was the cause of fire, said warehouse staffers although fire brigade officials termed it 'mysterious'.

Woman stabbed to death by son

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A woman was stabbed to death by her son at village Bathil in Kahalu upazila yesterday. Rowshan Ara was stabbed to death by her son Raihan for not giving share of land to him. Raihan used to live at his father-in-law's house at nearby Kazipara, police said. He came to his father's house at about 9 in the morning and demanded share of land from his father Abdur Rahman Bachchu. On refusal, he beat up his father. At this stage, his mother tried to resist him. But he repeatedly stabbed on chest and back of his mother. His mother died on way to hospital. He also stabbed his father, younger sister Rabeya Khatun and aunt Masuma Khatun injuring them all who were admitted to Kahalu Health Complex for treatment. Later, Rabeya filed a murder case against her elder brother.



Naser Ahmed, director of External Affairs of Chevron Bangladesh, handing over computers to Sylhet Press Club president recently.

Girl electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A girl was electrocuted while working at a handloom factory at village Kuripara in Sujanagar upazila yesterday morning. Ill-fated Nasima Khatun, 14, daughter of Qayum Uddin was also a student of class eight of Kuripara Dakhil Madrasa. Critically wounded Nasima died on way to Sujanagar hospital. Because of poverty of her family, Nasima worked at the handloom factory to earn money for pursuing education, her teachers said.

1 falls from top of ship, dies

CU CORRESPONDENT

A night guard fell from top of a ship and died at a ship-breaking yard at Madambibir Hat in Sitakunda upazila in the early hours of yesterday. The dead is Abdul Karim, 27, who worked at the ship-breaking yard of Mahin Enterprises and son of Mohammad Nur of Link Road in Cox's Bazar resort town. Sitakunda police station sub-inspector (SI) Abul Hasan said Karim slipped from top of the ship while patrolling at night causing his instantaneous death. The body was sent to CMCH for autopsy, he said.

Killed for refusal to be case witness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A man was killed while three members of his family sustained injuries in an attack by some villagers at village Gunoi in Baniachang upazila yesterday. Ledu Miah was killed for his denial to become a witness in a case filed in connection with possession of land for graveyard at Habiganj, police said. The attackers equipped with sharp weapons raided the house of the victim at about 12 noon. They struck him with a sharp weapon causing his instantaneous death. Three of his family members were also wounded during the attack. Police arrested three people.

ATTACK ON Ex-MP KHALEDA ROBBANI'S HOUSE

Moulvibazar BNP factions go tough against each other

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Internal feud in Moulvibazar BNP has surfaced again as two factions of the unit took tough stand against each other following Saturday night's attack on the house of district BNP Joint Convenor and former lawmaker Khaleda Robbani.

Khaleda Robbani's husband Golam Robbani filed a case in connection with the attack while leaders of the two groups have held separate press conferences blaming each other for the incident.

Fourteen BNP activists were made accused in the case filed by Golam Robbani with Moulvibazar Police Station on Sunday.

Saifur Rahman's son M Naser Rahman was made convenor and Begum Khaleda Robbani joint convenor of Moulvibazar BNP as the convening committees of the party's district units were announced on June 9.

A group of BNP activists allegedly loyal to Naser Rahman, son of former finance minister M Saifur

Rahman, attacked the house of Khaleda Robbani, leader of another faction, at about 10:00pm on Saturday, said a few adherents of Khaleda Robbani.

Five people were injured and a nursery, a motorbike and the gate of the house were damaged during the incident.

At a press conference at the house of Khaleda Robbani on Sunday evening, BNP leaders loyal to her blamed M Naser Rahman for Saturday's attack on Khaleda Robbani's house.

Speakers at the press conference said as most of the senior and dedicated leaders of Moulvibazar district BNP were not included in the convening committee formed on June 9, leaders of Moulvibazar BNP had demanded that BNP central committee co-opt senior leaders in the committee.

Responding to this demand, the BNP central committee later reconstituted the convening committee of the party's district unit by including senior leaders, they said.

"Being dissatisfied with the reconstitution of the convening committee of Moulvibazar BNP, Naser Rahman bargained with the central committee.

But Naser failed to get desired results and he became furious against the senior leaders. Consequently, his supporters attacked the house of Khaleda Robbani," said a BNP leader at the press conference.

Loyalists of Naser Rahman also held a press conference at a local restaurant on Sunday evening.

Blaming Khaleda Robbani's supporters for the unwanted situation, Naser loyalists at the press conference said a group of JCD activists, who are close to Robbani supporters' leader Mizanur Rahman, are responsible for the attack on Robbani's house.

Meanwhile, Khaleda Robbani, also former president of Moulvibazar district BNP, and her supporters have demanded removal of M Naser Rahman from the position of convenor of Moulvibazar district BNP.

Following reconstitution of Moulvibazar district BNP convening committee, it has now 69 members while all other district convening committees of the party comprise 51 members each.

Eight face war crime charges in Feni, Sylhet

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Eight people have been sued for their alleged involvement in war crimes in Feni and Sylhet during Liberation War in 1971.

In Feni, a case was filed with Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court yesterday accusing five people, including Chairman of National Credit and Commerce (NCC) Bank Tofazzal Hossain, of killing freedom fighter Abdul Wahab at Govindapur village under Sadar upazila 1971, according to a correspondent.

The other accused are Md

Abdus Sattar of Baraia village, Noor Mohammad of Govindapur village, Md Abdus Sattar of West Chilonia village and Noor Islam of Majbaria village.

Shahabuddin, son of martyred freedom fighter Abdul Wahab of Govindapur village filed the case. The complainant in his case statement said the accused were the members of Al Badr and Al Shams. They picked up his father from their house on August 10, 1971, took him to a place nearby and shot him dead.

He further alleged that the accused also looted valuables

from their house and set fire to it.

The court asked Feni Sadar Police Station to take necessary action in this regard.

Our staff correspondent from Sylhet reports: Three people were yesterday sued here on war crime charges.

Md Abdul Gafur of Noapara Akhalia in the city corporation area filed the case with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court against the then rajakar commander Osman Miah, Md Abdul Hannan of Noapara and Ramzan Miah of Brahmanashon area for killing his two brothers.



With rise of water in Louhajang River in Tangail Sadar upazila, enthusiastic people have set fishing devices there. However, many of them have to return empty-handed as the river is no longer abundant with fish resources even in the rainy season.

Physically challenged want reserved seats in trains

RU CORRESPONDENT

An 11-member delegation of physically challenged people yesterday met Rajshahi Railway West Zone general manager (GM) Musfiqur Rahman at his office and handed over their 11-point demand to him.

After narrating plight of physically challenged people, the delegation led by Rajshahi unit coordinator of Action on Disability and Development (ADD) Sarkar Helaluzzaman Liton submitted their demands to the GM.

The demands include reserve seat for them at every compartment of train, their separate ticket counters at railway stations, separate restrooms and toilets for them, reservation of 10 per cent recruitment quota at railway sector for them, providing wheel chairs for pregnant and elderly women, providing food to them at half the price at trains, half tickets for them and protection from all sorts of harassment at railway stations.

Later, the ADD coordinator told newsmen that the GM assured immediate fulfillment of their demands.

Bhadon Protibondhi Sangstha coordinator Sheikh Abu Tareque Mukul, secretary Nazrul Islam, members Kumari Aloka, Asaduzzaman Rassul, Sohel Rana, Rakhi Khatun, Atara Khatun, Abdul Karim, Hafizur Rahman and Mominul Islam were present at that time.

Female patient commits suicide

CU CORRESPONDENT

A female patient allegedly committed suicide by jumping from fifth floor of Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH) in the early hours of yesterday. Shilu Shil, 24, wife of Mintu Shil of village Satbaria under Chandanish upazila was undergoing treatment at Gynaecology Ward along with her newly-born baby on the fifth floor of CMCH. Shilu jumped from balcony of the ward at around 1:00am and sustained critical injuries, CMCH sources said. She was brought to emergency unit of the hospital where on-duty physicians declared her dead. Family dispute might be the cause of her suicide, they apprehended.

3 including Indian national get life for possessing heroin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A court here on Sunday awarded life imprisonment to three people, including an Indian national, for possessing heroin.

The convicts are Alamgir Hossain, Jahangir Alam and Indian national Tarak Debnath.

Judge Md Sekander Ali of the Speedy Trial Tribunal delivered the judgment. The court also fined the convicts Tk 50,000 each, in default they are to suffer three more years in jail.

Another accused Ibrahim Sarder was acquitted by the court as his guilt could not be proved.

According to the prosecution, members of the Narcotics Control Department arrested Jahangir Alam and Ibrahim on March 11 last year at

Durgapur under Benapole Police Station. They seized 800 grams of heroin from Jahangir and 200 grams of Heroin from Alamgir Hossain.

Tarak Debnath carried the heroin from India. He was picked up from Alamgir's house following his statement.

AM Hafizur Rahman, deputy director of Jessore Narcotics Control Department, filed a case with Benapole Police Station the same day.

Inspector Shahajal Khan of Jessore Narcotics Control Department, who investigated the case, submitted the charge sheet against the accused to the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate on May 5 last year.

The case was transferred to Khulna Speedy Trial Tribunal on January 14 this year.

Bid to recapture Satkhira college, 10 Shibir men held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Police yesterday arrested ten activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) as they tried to recapture Satkhira Government College campus.

Shibir leaders and activists were ousted from the college by BCL men last month. Sources said the Shibir men, equipped with lethal weapons, yesterday swooped on the BCL men, leaving ten of them injured.

Four of the injured BCL activists--Jewel, Farid, Mofizur Rahman and Subrata Kumar--were admitted to Satkhira Sadar Hospital while the rest given first aid.

Police rushed to the col-

lege and arrested ten Shibir activists from the campus. The arrestees are Jahangir Alam, Omar Farooque, Monjurul Alam, Suruj, Rokonzaman, Rashed Iqbal, Shahidur Rahman, Abdul Wahab, Abdul Bari and Bazlur Rahman.

Campus sources said a group of Shibir activists suddenly attacked the BCL men when they were discussing the organisational matters on the campus at around 1:00pm.

Police have been deployed on the campus following the incident. BCL Satkhira Government College unit condemned the attack and demanded exemplary punishment to Shibir men involved.