

Facade of heritage bldg being demolished to make walkway

RAFIQUL ISLAM, Barisal

Barisal City Corporation (BCC) has started demolishing the main gate of century-old Chowdhury Bari building on Sadar Road two days ago to construct footpath and drain beside the road.

The gate was the entrance of a two-storied stately building owned by Khan Bahadur Ismail Chowdhury, a renowned Zamindar of the region.

The premises also included a nahbathkhana, a katchari and a rich library.

When contacted, a senior official of Archaeology Department said they are unaware of BCC's decision to demolish the gate with archaeological value.

Eminent citizens of Barisal have expressed grave concern over the 'mindless act'.

"Khan Bahadur Ismail Chowdhury was involved with many socio-cultural-educational activities of the city. He was the founder of Halima Khatun Girls School. And so the places related him should be preserved," said Manabendra Batabyal, convener of Barisal conscious citizen committee.

"Decency of the historic building will be spoiled if the gate is demolished. The building is in good condition," Shamina Chowdhury, grand daughter of Ismail Chowdhury, told The Daily Star over cell phone.

Old buildings and monumental structures like the house of Ismail

Chowdhury should be preserved with full architectural decency as has been done in case of Aswini Kumar Hall and Collectorate Building. With preservation of such buildings, we can marvel at the accomplishments of our ancestors," said cultural personality Mintu Bose.

The gate should be renovated and its architectural beauty should be preserved if possible, said SM Imanul Hakim, an eminent teacher of history at Barisal BM College.

Admitting the fact of demolishing the gate, BCC Executive Engineer Abdul Motaleb said, "After completing the construction work, the BCC will construct a gate on that premise for safety and security of the residents."



A portion of century-old Chowdhury Bari including the main gate on Sadar Road in Barisal city is being demolished as the city corporation has decided to construct pavement there.

Dowry greedy man throws wife into river

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A dowry greedy man threw his wife into Kalliganga River from Tora bridge on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Ghior upazila of Manikganj on Monday night.

The victim, Sofia Begum, daughter of Kashem Ali of Mirzapur village in Ghior, is now undergoing treatment at Manikganj Sadar Hospital.

After marriage with Sujon Mia, son of Abul Hossain of Laota village in Manikganj Sadar upazila, eight months ago, her family gave Sujon Tk 20,000 and a bicycle as dowry and promised to give one tola of gold later, she told this correspondent at the hospital yesterday.

After some days of their marriage, Sujon and his family members started torture on her as her poor family failed to give the promised gold.

In the name of medical check up, Sujon took her on Tora bridge on Monday night and threw her into the river, she said.

Fishermen rescued an unconscious Sofia at night and reached her to her father's house yesterday morning.

Sofia's husband or his family members were not available for their statement.

Hospital sources said Sofia is now out of danger.

When contacted, Manikganj Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Azizul Haque said he does not know anything about the matter as nobody went to the police station in this regard.

Back from tiger's paw

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Two fishermen yesterday afternoon fought a half an hour battle with a tiger in the Sundarbans and survived the attack.

Critically injured Jamal Hawladar, 36, and Khalil Gazi, 26, are now undergoing treatment at Satkhira Sadar Hospital. Hailing from village Napitkhali in Shyamnagar upazila, both received serious injuries in head, chest, hands and back.

Sources said, Jamal and Khalil along with three others went to Saphkhal canal under Kaikhali Forest Range for catching fry on Sunday. All on a sudden, a man-eater tiger swooped on them, Jamal and Khalil Gazi fought with the tiger for about half an hour as their three companions fled the scene.

Finally, the tiger gave up and left the spot when three other fishermen, present in the nearby area, joined them.

They were immediately taken to Shyamnagar Upazila Health Complex in a critical condition and later shifted to Satkhira Sadar Hospital.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS



PHOTO: STAR

Workers removing a dredger from the Jamuna River at Motishahaber Ghat near Sirajganj Town Protection Embankment yesterday as the district administration took prompt action against the illegal sand lifting that an influential quarter tried to resume after a stoppage for two weeks.

Outlaw killed in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

An alleged cadre of an outlawed party was chopped to death at village Mongolgram of Faridpur upazila in the early hours of yesterday. Shahidul Islam alias Shahadat, 35, son of Sayed Ali of village Lakhimpur in Santhia upazila is a hardened criminal and regional leader of Janajudha faction of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP), police said. Police said rivals chopped him to death at a field. Being informed, they rushed to the spot and recovered the body from the spot at noon yesterday. Police later sent the body to Pabna General Hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with Faridpur police station in connection with the murder.

Housewife 'commits suicide'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Asma Begum, 25, wife of Kiran Mia of village Challisa under Sadar upazila allegedly committed suicide Monday midnight. Netrakona Sadar police went to the spot yesterday morning and found her body hanging from the ceiling of the house. Police and locals said, Kiran beat up Asma last night for dowry. A case was filed with Netrakona Police Station in this connection. Officer-in-charge (OC) of Netrakona Police Station said Kiran used to torture Asma for dowry. He apprehended that Kiran might have killed Asma and hanged her body from the ceiling.

Girl rescued, trafficker held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Satkhira BDR Monday night rescued a teenaged girl from Boikari border area in Sadar upazila while she was being trafficked to a neighbouring state. Police also arrested a woman in this connection. Shapna Akhtar Bonya, 18, daughter of Shaheb Ali Gazi of village Gajolia in Chitolmari upazila in Bagerhat district was taken to the border area on Sunday on promise of a lucrative job across the border, police said. BDR arrested alleged trafficker Salma Akhtar Juthi, 24, daughter of Wahab Ali Sheikh of village Dhulihar in Sadar upazila of Satkhira but two of her accomplices however managed to escape.

Son kills mother

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A son allegedly killed his mother at Satol Mohollah of Chapainawabganj municipality area yesterday morning. Victim Rahima Begum alias Gajoli, 75, was wife of late Taimijuddin. Police said, at a stage of a family feud, day labourer Jaijuddin, 50, hit his mother with a sharp weapon at around 5:30 am. Receiving information, police recovered the body from his house and sent it to Chapainawabganj Adhunik Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy and arrested Jaijuddin on charge of murder.

Body recovered from river

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Decomposed body of a young man was recovered from the Isamoti River near Baghdadanga frontier under Moheshpur upazila on Monday. The victim could not be identified till filling of this report yesterday evening. Police said, locals saw a body floating in the Isamoti. They informed the matter to police. Officer-in-charge (OC) of Moheshpur police station said, criminals might have abducted him from anywhere and threw the body into the river after killing. He added that the body was sent to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Boy's body exhumed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Parbatipur police on Sunday exhumed the body of a boy allegedly murdered last month. A Dinajpur court directed police to exhumed his body for fresh autopsy after a case was lodged on July 13 accusing eight people including Shadhin, Mukur Sarder, Sajib and Arman. Reazul Islam, father of the slain boy filed the case with Dinajpur magistrate's court. Family sources said, some villagers on June 24 lured Milon to Dhaka for giving job. Four days later Narsingdi police rescued critically stabbed Milon from a rail gate and admitted him to a hospital. The boy later died at Rangpur Medical College and Hospital on July 1.

Recognise rights of indigenous people

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

World Indigenous Day was observed here yesterday with a call for constitutional recognition to the rights of indigenous people.

To mark the occasion, Research Development Collective (RDC) in Dhaka and Adivasi Samaj Kalyan Samity in Magura jointly organised a day-long programme in the town.

The programme includes colourful rally, discussion, cultural function and distribution of prizes among child artists from Adivasi community.

General Secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Odhikar Andolon (BAOA) Prof Mesbah Kamal inaugurated the programme while Language Movement veteran Sree Yu Suey was the chief guest.

Addressing a discussion meeting, U. Suey urged the government to ensure

constitutional recognition to the rights of indigenous people, take steps against encroachment on land in the hilly region, stern action against encroachers and to make the land commission more effective.

Human rights movement will not succeed unless basic needs of the ethnic groups are addressed, he added.

Prof Mesbah Kamal said mainstream people's support is a must to protect the rights of the ethnic groups. He urged the government to take immediate measures to stop encroachment on the land of the indigenous people.

Chaired by Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Dilwar Bakht, the discussion meeting was addressed, among others, by Rakhi Mrong, Md Altaf Hossain and advocate Hasan Siraj Suja.



PHOTO: STAR

A colourful procession marking World Indigenous Day parades the main streets of Magura town yesterday.

Dockers besiege Mongla port office for arrears

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Cargo handling at Mongla port was yesterday disrupted as over 2,000 dock workers laid siege to the office of Mongla Port Authority (MPA) for four hours from 11:30am to press home their four-point demand.

The demands are revival of Dock Workers Management

Board (DWMB), payment of arrear festival bonus and dress allowance, payment of monthly allowance to the families of dead dockers and introduction of call station system.

Later, leaders of Mongla Bandar Samik Sangha sat in a meeting with Chairman Commodore M Farukh and senior officials of Mongla Port Authority and discussed the

demands of the dockers.

It was unanimously resolved in the meeting that the port authority would consider payment of arrear festival bonus, dress allowance and allowance to the families of dead dockers.

No decision could be reached in the meeting about introduction of call station system and revival of Dock Workers Management Board. "These are the matters related with decision to be taken by the government," said Mongla UNO Saidur Rahman and Member (finance) of Mongla Port Authority MA Mannan who were present among others in the meeting.

Over 3,000 dock workers have been agitating since abolition of Dock workers' Management Board (DWMB) and introduction of berth operating system in August last year.

Under berth operating system, stevedores got sole authority to appoint dock workers which was previously done by Dock Workers Management Board (DWMB).



PHOTO: STAR

Dock workers lay siege to the office of Mongla Port Authority to press home their four-point demand including payment of arrears.

Jessore docs observe strike

Demand punishment to Dr Shafiq's killers

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Doctors and medical staff observed a daylong strike at Jessore General Hospital, upazila health complexes under the district and clinics in the city protesting killing of Dr Shafiqul Islam, joint secretary of Jessore unit of Swadhinata Chikitsok Parishad.

A large number of patients coming to the city had to return without taking treatment due to the strike.

Outdoors were closed at all medical centres in the district. However, emergency treatments and indoor visits continued during the strike.

Doctors and medical staff brought out a procession and held rallies at Daratana intersection and on the hospital premises where Dr Baharul Islam, president of Swadhinata Chikitsok Parishad of Khulna

division, Dr Atiqur Rahman, Dr Salauddin, Dr Kamrul Islam Banu spoke.

They demanded punishment to the killers and announced that a human chain will be formed at Daratana intersection from 10:00am and the all-medicine pharmacies will remain closed from 11:00am to 12:00pm today (Wednesday).

Dr Shafiqul was laid to rest at Karbala Graveyard yesterday afternoon.

Earlier in the morning, his coffin was brought to Jessore General Hospital where people from all walks placed wreaths. His namaje janaja was held on the hospital premises and at Boshundia in Sadar upazila.

Hacked by unknown criminals at his Jessore chamber on the night of July 29, Dr Shafiqul succumbed to his injuries at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital on Monday.

No headway in 4 yrs in Sylhet cinema blasts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) could not unearth clues to the bomb blasts that took place simultaneously at two cinema halls in Sylhet city on this day four years ago.

The CID could not even arrest any of the masterminds behind the incidents that left a boy dead and 15 others injured.

The blasts took place at Rangmahal Cinema at Bandarbar and at Monika Cinema in Bagbari area at around 9:00pm on August 5, 2004.

Twelve-year-old Shahed, son of day labourer Anwar Hossain of Zaintapur upazila, died at the entrance of Rangmahal Cinema while 10 others sustained injuries. The other blast incident occurred at Monika Cinema at the same time, leaving five people injured.

Besides, an unexploded bomb was recovered from Abokash Cinema in the city soon after the incident. Bomb experts of Bangladesh army from the capital reached Sylhet the following day and defused the bomb at Luckatoora Golf Club.

Sub-Inspector Mokhesur Rahman of Bandarbar police outpost filed a case in connection with the Rangmahal blast. Shahed and 12 others were made accused in the case. He suspected Shahed as bomb carrier.

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Police arrested injured Soleman Ali Khan of Chhatian under Madhabpur upazila of Habiganj district in connection with Monika Cinema blast. Sub-Inspector Morshed of Kotwali Police Station filed the case under Explosives Substances Act accusing Soleman and one Masum Ahmed. Police also arrested one Akhtar Hossain in the city's Bhatalia area.

A team of the Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC) later took the three to the capital and quizzed them there. But the team failed to get any clue. Later, the CID took up the investigation and ASP Munshi Atiqur Rahman was made the investigation officer of the case.

As he went into retirement, Inspector Zobayer replaced him and submitted a charge sheet against the lone accused Soleman.

After investigation into Rangmahal Cinema blast, Zobayer gave a final report making Shahed as the lone accused in the case. He dropped the names of 12 others as their involvement in the blast was not found.

Zobayer, now serving as the officer-in-charge of Osmaninagar Police Station, told The Daily Star yesterday that they could not go ahead with the investigation as the bomb carrier Shahed died in the blast.

ডিজিটাল টুডে
Digital Today

বাংলাদেশে প্রথম একবিংশ শতাব্দীর ম্যাগাজিন

ডিজিটাল টুডে আধুনিক এবং অগ্রসর পাঠকের ম্যাগাজিন।

ডিজিটাল টুডেতে থাকছে, সামাজিক যোগাযোগ পাতা ফেইস বুক ফেইসবুকে আপনি আপনার বন্ধুকে আপনার অনুভূতি জানান। এই পাতা অনুভূতির মেলবন্ধন।

ডিজিটাল টুডে: আগামীর বাংলাদেশ

লেখা পাঠাবার ঠিকানা

সম্পাদক

ডিজিটাল টুডে

প্র্যানার্স টাওয়ার (৮ম তলা)

১৩/এ, সোনারগাঁও রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০।

ফোন : ৮৮৮-০২-৯৬৬০১০০, ৯৬৬৯৬৮৮, ৯৬৭৭২৬৩

মোবাইল : ০১৭১৭ ৭০৮৮৮২

হকার/এজেন্টরা অবিলম্বে যোগাযোগ করুন।

প্রাবনভূমিতে মাছচাষ দিন বদলের সুবাতাস গণবিজ্ঞপ্তি

চলতি বছর ৩০ জুলাই-০৫ আগস্ট পালিত হচ্ছে জাতীয় মৎস্য সপ্তাহ-২০০৯

- প্রাবনভূমিতে সমাজভিত্তিক মাছচাষ করে মাছের উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি এবং জনগণের আর্থিক চাহিদা পূরণে অবদান রাখুন।
- স্থানীয় জলজ সম্পদের সুষ্ঠু ব্যবহার ও ব্যবস্থাপনার মাধ্যমে মাছের উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি করুন।
- জীববৈচিত্র্য রক্ষায় সকল প্রকার জলজ প্রাণিকে বাঁচতে দিন।
- বিপন্ন প্রজাতির মাছ রক্ষায় প্রাবনভূমিতে সব ধরনের মাছের পোনা ধরা থেকে বিরত থাকুন।
- কর্মসংস্থানের সৃষ্টি ও মৎস্য উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধির লক্ষ্যে নদীতে খাঁচা মাছ চাষ এবং হাওর এলাকায় পেনে মাছ চাষ করুন।
- প্রজনন মৌসুমে ডিমওয়ালা মাছ ধরা থেকে বিরত থাকুন এবং অন্যকে তা মেনে চলতে বলুন।
- খাল-বিল, ডোবা-নালা সেচে বা শুকিয়ে মাছ ধরা থেকে বিরত থাকুন এবং নিষিদ্ধ ঘোষিত জাল ব্যবহার থেকে বিরত থাকুন।
- কৃষিজমি ও জলাভূমিতে অপরিমিত কীটনাশক ব্যবহার করা থেকে বিরত থাকুন।
- মৎস্য আইন মেনে চলুন, মৎস্যসম্পদের সুষ্ঠু ও সঠিক ব্যবহারে ভূমিকা রাখুন।
- কই জাতীয় মাছের সাথে দেশীয় ছোট মাছের চাষ করুন।

আসুন, জাতীয় মৎস্য সপ্তাহ-২০০৯ সফল করতে আমরা সবাই এগিয়ে আসি।

মৎস্য অধিদপ্তর, বাংলাদেশ

জিডি-৩৫৬৫ জনসচেতনতায় মৎস্য ও পশু সম্পদ তথ্য দপ্তর