

Nine missing as trawler with bridal party sinks

A CORRESPONDENT,
Madaripur

A trawler with 42 members of a bridal party on board capsized in the Arial Kha river after a collision with another sand-laden trawler in Shibchar upazila on Wednesday night.

Of them, 33 people,

including the bridegroom and bride, managed to swim ashore while the rest remained missing as of 6:00pm yesterday.

The missing people are Duttapara Union Awami League Vice-President Barek Farazi, 70, his grandson Mizanur, 8, Barsha, 5 and Bristi, 7, Rajib, 8, and

Kamran, 5, Soma, 7, Hasan, 8 and Alamgir Sheikh, 28.

Search for the missing people is going on. Their relatives and a number of locals are waiting on the banks of the river. Wailing of the relatives has created a heart-rending scene there.

Local lawmaker Noor-e-

PHOTO STAR

Anxious relatives wait on the bank of Arial Kha River in Shibchar upazila of Madaripur district yesterday as nine people went missing after a trawler carrying a bridal party capsized on Wednesday night.

Police seized the sand-laden truck, but its driver managed to flee.

Shibchar Upazila Nirbahi Officer Bipul Chandra Biswas, Upazila Vice-Chairman Shamsuddin Khan, OC Abdul Jalil are monitoring the search operation from the spot.



7 get life for rape, murder of college girl in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
B'baria

A court here yesterday sentenced seven people to life imprisonment for killing a college girl after rape in Ashuganj in 2007.

The convicts are Fakir Mohammad Moshahed Ullah, 29, Md Sadan Mia, 22, Md Rubel Mia, 22, Mashed Kamal, 25, Md Jamal Uddin, 26, Rabillah Robin, 24, and Habibur Raman Kamal, 26.

Judge Md Mohsin Molla of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal also fined the convicts Tk one lakh each, in default they are to suffer six months more in jail.

According to the prosecution, the seven picked up HSC student Hosna Begum, 17, of Talshahar village under Ashuganj upazila while she was going to her college at Ashuganj upazila head-

quarters on May 5, 2007. They took Hosna to a nearby paddy field, raped her and then killed. Locals found the body the following morning and informed the police who recovered the body and sent it to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Victim's brother Md Neaz Kazi filed a murder case with Ashuganj Police Station on May 6, 2007, accusing the seven of the same village of killing his sister.

After investigation, Sub-Inspector Md Abdul Wahab, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, pressed charges against the accused.

After examining the records and witnesses, the judge pronounced the verdict.

Advocate Tajul Islam Khan, special PP, stood for the complainant while Advocate Hamidur Raman for the accused.

HUMAN CHAIN IN GAIBANDHA Villagers allege repression, bid to grab land

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Gaibandha

Hundreds of people including women and children formed a human chain in the district on Wednesday protesting alleged bid to grab land, repression and extortion in two villages under Katabari union in Gobindganj upazila.

They brought out a procession and barricaded Gobindganj-Ghoraghat Road for an hour creating a huge tailback.

People of Nesarabad and Malekabab said during the partition of Bengal in 1947 over a hundred families migrated from India and took shelter as refugees in the two villages of Katabari union under Gobindganj upazila.

All of them were retired personnel from British army.

The then government ordered rehabilitation of those families as permanent settlers in the same villages. Accordingly, the deputy commissioner (DC) of Rangpur acquired 555 acres of fallow land at Katabari union under LA Case No 146/1952-53.

The settlers later set up residential structures, schools, madrasas, mosques and other social organisations in those two villages.

But a few local influential people, backed by some ruling party men, are recently trying to grab the land of refugees. They even threatened to oust them from the refugee colony, the settlers said.

The settlers earlier appealed several times to the upazila administration to take steps in this regard but to no effect, they said.

They are Yunus Ali Mridha, his son Nasir Mridha, Masud Mridha and two brothers Khaleq Mridha and Zakir Mridha.

The court also fined Tk 50,000 to each, in default, to suffer one more year in jail.

According to the prosecution story, Hassan Shikdar, a businessman, was chopped to death in a dispute over land properties and his body was thrown into a ditch at Hogalbunia under Sadar upazila of Patuakhali district on October 27, 2003.

Retired SI Nur Hossain Shikdar, brother of the victim lodged a case against 32 the next day with Patuakhali Sadar police station.



PHOTO STAR

Dwelling houses in Maizbari village under Kazipur upazila of Sirajganj district go under water as the rain-fed Jamuna River flooded large areas of Kazipur, Shahzadpur, Chowhali, Belkuchi and Sadar upazilas under the district, forcing about 5,000 people to move for safer places and making 20,000 others marooned.

KCC to free 28 more canals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna City Corporation (KCC) authorities will resume their drive against unauthorised structures on watercourses soon as they have decided to free 28 more canals from encroachers.

A meeting of KCC's 19-member demolition drive committee held at Nagor Bhaban on Wednesday afternoon marked the new canals raising their number to 50.

Convenor of the committee, panel member Ajmol Ahmed Tapon presided over the meeting.

Earlier on July 3, the KCC launched a drive to demolish illegal structures on 22 canals of the city and its suburbs following the committee's first list made on July 1.

But only eight of the 22 canals could be

freed as the demolition drive suffered setback after the July 11 murder of ward councillor Shahid Iqbal Bithar, the first convenor of 19-member demolition drive committee.

Following inspection and on-the-spot survey of the sites, the committee had submitted a report to the city mayor in last March.

The city dwellers often face waterlogging in the rainy season as unauthorised structures on the canals and drains hinder flow of rainwater from different city areas.

"Demolition drive against illegal structures on the canals will again start on Monday with commitment to free the canals from encroachers without any fear, favour and compassion. It is needed to rid the city people of waterlogging during the monsoon,"

KCC Mayor Talukder Abdul Khaleque said yesterday.

The KCC has also decided to realise fines from encroachers as compensation for the fund spent to conduct demolition drive on the canals.

Help of police will be taken to nab encroachers if they do not pay fines, said convenor of the demolition drive committee.

The structures erected on the 50 canals and drains include residential houses, shops, roads, a mosque, a madrasa, schools, KCC Pump House, bus ticket counter, a city councillor's office, a health care centre, government nurses quarters, rickshaw garages and enclosures for fish cultivation.

A few residential houses constructed on the canals belong to officials of civil and police administration.

5 get life for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Barisal

A Barisal divisional court yesterday sentenced five people, including a father and his son, to life term imprisonment for killing a business man in Patuakhali.

They are Yunus Ali Mridha, his son Nasir Mridha, Masud Mridha and two brothers Khaleq Mridha and Zakir Mridha.

The court also fined Tk 50,000 to each, in default, to suffer one more year in jail.

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