

Death plunders little Megha's Eid dream

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

Little Megha had come to Dinajpur town from Biral upazila with her relatives for Eid shopping. But death plundered her dreams as she fell victim to an accident and succumbed to her injuries at a local hospital.

The three-year-old girl was critically wounded when a bundle of iron rod fell on her while passing by a truck from which the rods were being unloaded. The incident sparked fierce protest and the shops of iron rod traders and others were forced to pull down shutters.

Megha was daughter of Manzurul Haque of village Husna under Biral upazila of Dinajpur.

Police said the labourers of New Alamin Traders were unloading the iron rods at about 8:30 pm Tuesday from a truck parking in front of the shop on the busiest road at Munshipara. A bundle of rod slipped off and fell on Megha while she was passing by the truck with her aunt on foot.

Family members said Megha came to Dinajpur from Biral two days ago to buy a beautiful frock for Eid. And moments before the accident she and her aunt had finished their Eid shopping.

Locals rescued her in a critical condition and rushed to Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital but the attending doctors declared her dead.

As the news spread, locals burst into protest and locked several shops. The protesters alleged that they several times had complained to Dinajpur traffic authorities about unloading of goods in the middle of busy road but they all fell on deaf ears.



PHOTO: STAR

Indigenous women form a human chain in Khagrachhari town yesterday demanding punishment to the killers of Panay Mala.

PROTEST RALLY AT KHAGRACHHARI 'Arrest killers of Panay Mala'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khagrachhari*

Leaders of different indigenous organisations yesterday demanded immediate steps to arrest the killers of Panay Mala Tripura, 50. The indigenous woman was murdered on the night of September 3 at Crajongpara under Mohalchhari upazila.

At a protest rally in front of Khagrachhari Press Club, the speakers alleged that Panay Mala was killed in a planned way by some settlers to grab her land.

Blaming police, they said a sub-inspector (SI) was giving shelter to the accused in exchange of bribes. They also criticised Mohalchhari upazila nibahi officer (UNO) saying he did not take security measures to protect the woman.

They also asked the authorities concerned to arrest the

killers immediately and hand over the land and property of Panay Mala to her heir and ensure security of the victim's family.

The protest rally was presided by Jana Sanghati Samity district unit secretary Sudhakar Tripura.

Among others, Durban Network Khagrachhari district unit member Shapla Tripura, Bangladesh Tripura Kalyan Samity treasurer Ananta Bikash Tripura, ex-Pajurico chairperson Namita Tripura, Bangladesh Marna Students Council district unit president Sunendhu Marna spoke.

Earlier, about a hundred indigenous people formed a human chain in front of Khagrachhari Press Club for over an hour demanding immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to the killers of Panay Mala Tripura.

According to the witnesses, the clash ensued at around 2:00pm when several Shibir activists

Ex-expat in Feni buys freedom

One alleged abductor held, 20 sued

A CORRESPONDENT, *Feni*

A former expatriate bought his freedom for Tk 1.5 lakh after 52 hours of his abduction at Sonagazi in Feni on Tuesday.

Md Saidullah of Char Chanda village under Sonagazi upazila was kidnapped by a gang of miscreants from Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) area at Chanda at 10:00am on Sunday.

They took him to Abdullar Char near coastal belt Keora Bagan and demanded Tk 10 lakh ransom for his release. Saidullah's family immediately informed the Sonagazi police who used tricks to rescue him.

After bargaining for long 52 hours with Saidullah's family, the abductors agreed to release him in exchange for Tk 1.5 lakh. They took Saidullah to Chowdhury hat ghat under Companyganj upazila in a trawler at around 11:30am on Tuesday and handed him over to his family.

Saidullah was in Oman for several years and returned home a few months ago.

He filed an abduction case against 20 people with Sonagazi Police Station on Tuesday night.

Police yesterday arrested one of the accused

named Abu Kalam, 35.

Meanwhile, a blind man of Amirabad Union under Sonagazi upazila left the area on Sunday last in the face of threat by a gang of extortionists and took shelter in the district town.

Expelled local Jibto League leader Aru, chief of Aru Bahini, had earlier demanding Tk 50,000 from Alauddin who runs a small business in the area.

As Alauddin refused to oblige, Aru along with his gang members entered his house on Sunday night. They took Alauddin and his wife to a road nearby and asked him to pay Tk 50,000. At one stage, the gang snatched Alauddin's six-month-old daughter from her mother's lap and threw her on the ground.

Aru and his bahini men left the scene as Alauddin sought three days' time to pay the money. On Sunday night, Alauddin along with his family left the village and took shelter at a house in the town.

Alauddin described his ordeal to the journalists at Feni Press Club the following day.

Several families of Amirabad Union are now staying in Feni town, fearing torture by Aru Bahini and more than 100 families have been living in the area, paying toll to the notorious gang.



PHOTO: BANGLA CHOKH

People stand in front of their flooded house at Puratan Kasba Talikholi in Jessore. The recent downpour has caused massive inundation and waterlogging in different areas of southwestern region including Jessore, Khulna, Satkhira and Bagerhat districts.

Outlaws in Khulna division show no sign of let-up

QUAZI AMANULLAH, *Khulna*

Extremists have killed 22 people in four weeks in ten districts of Khulna division despite deaths of at least nine extremists in shootouts with law enforcers during the same period from August 1-27.

Following a home ministry directive to 'contain rise of extremists and crush their strongholds at any cost', law enforcers have launched several drives in the region but the outlaws seem too desperate to show any sign of let-up in their criminal activities including extortion and murder, law enforcement officials said.

In last nine months, extremists killed 55 people in the south-western region, mostly for not paying illegal tolls.

According to intelligence agencies, over 3,000 extremists who had gone into hiding after the declaration of emergency in January 2007, have reappeared in Khulna region, much to the worry of people.

Following extremists' death threats for refusal to pay tolls, a few political leaders and businessmen in south-western region have left their homes for safer places, their family sources said.

According to police, Lalpataka and

Janajuddho factions of outlawed PBCP, Gano Mukti Fouj and New Biplobi Communist Party are most active extremist outfits in the region.

Rab and police have prepared a fresh list of extremists while 14 underground parties have been marked for banning, said sources at DIG (Khulna Range) office, adding that the lists have been sent to the home ministry and police headquarters in Dhaka.

"Most of the extremists are trying to get political shelter. But they will not get this chance any more as we are determined to hook them," said DIG (Khulna Range) Sheikh Hemayet Hossain.

Intelligence reports say that extremists purchase smuggled AK-47 rifle, LMG, SMG, American pistol, Chinese rifle, .22 bore pistol and Indian arms from illegal arms traders.

Since 2003, over 500 extremists have been killed in 'crossfire' incidents during quite a few crackdowns by law enforcers including Rab, sources said.

Earlier in 1999, the then Awami League government declared general amnesty for extremists of south-western region and 2,850 outlaws surrendered to police and laid down 220 illegal arms.

BCL, Shibir clash at CMC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Chittagong*

Activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Islami Chhatra Shibir clashed at Chittagong Medical College (CMC) yesterday.

Shibir claimed that four of their leaders and activists including its general secretary (GS) were injured as BCL men attacked them when they were inviting general students to join the Shibir arranged Iftar party.

According to the witnesses, the clash ensued at around 2:00pm when several Shibir activists

were pressing some female students at the Sutapa Lecture Gallery near CMC library to join the Iftar. They hurled abuse at some pro-BCL students as the latter criticised them for not inviting any male students.

Within moments, supporters of both the organisations locked in an altercation followed by clash.

Later the BCL supporters took position at the main male hostel while Shibir activists gathered in front of nearby Sabur hostel of Chittagong college.

SNIPPETS

Jewellers agitate in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

Jewellery shop owners in the city yesterday protested arrest of a leading jewellery shop owner and police harassment. They also blocked the city's Bandarbari road for an hour causing serious traffic jam in the area. However, city mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran later went to the area and requested the agitators to withdraw the blockade assuring them of looking into the incident. The protesters alleged that Golapganj police arrested Shabbir Ahmed, owner of Wahid Jewellers yesterday morning as a suspect in a robbery. Besides, they often harass the jewellery shop owners and traders to extort money from them, they said.

RU vacation starts today

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University (RU) goes into a 21-day vacation from today on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr and Durga Puja. The male, female dormitories and the offices will remain closed from September 17 to October 01. RU Registrar Prof M A Bari said the classes of regular courses will remain closed from September 10. Meanwhile, the students of the university have already started for home to celebrate Eid with their near and dear ones.

15 houses gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Nilphamari*

A devastating fire Tuesday night gutted 15 houses at Jorabari village of Domar upazila. Locals said the fire originated at about 2:00 am from the kitchen of one Nuruzzaman of the village. It spread within a short time as most villagers were asleep. In the fire, several hundred maunds of rice, paddy, tobacco and jute were burnt to ashes. Fire brigade vehicles from Domar and Nilphamari reached the spot two hours after the incident. The damage was estimated at Tk 10 lakh.

One to die for killing wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bandarban*

Bandarban district and sessions judge in a verdict yesterday sentenced a young man to death for killing his wife. Convict Mohammad Belal and his wife Henuara Begum hailed from Baro Hatia village in Lohagara upazila in Chittagong district. Bandarban police on May 13, 2008 recovered the mutilated body of Henuara, 20, from a ditch in Sualok area in Bandarban Sadar. Belal was arrested five days after recovery of the body. He later gave confessional statement under Section 164 of Bandarban senior judicial magistrate Mohammad Faruq. In the statement, Belal confessed to killing his wife on charges of extra-marital affairs. The convict can appeal to the higher court within next seven days.

JMB militant arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*

Police arrested a Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) militant yesterday at Barabari Chowdhurypara under Pirganj upazila.

Arrestee Abdul Hakim, 20, is son of Zahirul Islam of Gobindapur village under Shaghat upazila in Gaibandha.

Officer in-Charge (OC) of Pirganj police station said a DB police team led by Assistant Commissioner (AC) Sanwar Hossain of Detective Branch, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, came to the district and raided Moktarul Alam's house at Barabari Chowdhurypara at about 1:00am and arrested Abdul Hakim and Moktarul Islam.

After interrogation, police freed Moktarul and arrested Abdul Hakim, the OC said.

Two wild elephants fall from hilltop in Rangamati, die

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangamati*

Two wild elephants died after falling from a high hill when they were searching food in the forest near Debyachhari of Sapchhari mouza, some 20 kilometres from the district town on Sunday night.

The two elephants, belonging to a herd, slipped from about a 150-feet high hill when they were roving in the forests at Debyachhari, said sources at Jhumi Control Forest Division.

After post mortem, bodies of the two elephants were buried at Debyachhari in the presence of forest staff, doctor from District Livestock Office and local village leaders on Tuesday evening.

"Receiving the news from locals, I passed an urgent order to trace out the two elephants. After a good search, our staff found the bodies at about 2:00am on Sunday night," said Md Abdul Barez, divisional forest officer of Jhumi Division.

A herd of 12 wild elephants came to Debyachhari of Amchamirkhola from Sitapahar Reserve Forest of Kaptai and then moved to the forest of Rangapani near the town on Monday. There are two calves in the herd, said locals.

With depletion of natural forests due to spread of human habitations and mindless felling of trees by loggers, wild elephants often come to localities in search of food.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Fire Service & Civil Defence Directorate

Kazi Alauddin Road, Dhaka

Memo No. FS&CD/Foreign/Rev-Chha-06/2009-2010/8632

Date: 03-09-2009

Invitation for International Tender

01. Ministry	Ministry of Home Affairs.
02. Agency & procuring entity	Director General, Fire Service & Civil Defence.
03. Procurement method	Open tendering method.
04. Source of funds	GOB fund (Cash Foreign Exchange).
05. Tender lot No.	17 (seventeen) lots.
06. Tender package name	Fire fighting appliances.
07. Tender document selling date	15-09-2009 to 01-11-2009.
08. Tender submission date and time	On or before 02-11-2009 at 12.00 hours.
09. Tender closing date and time	02-11-2009 at 12.00 hours.
10. Tender opening date	02-11-2009 at 12.30 hours.
11. Name & address of the office receiving tenders	Director General, Fire Service & Civil Defence, Headquarters, Foreign Procurement Section, Kazi Alauddin Road, Dhaka.
12. Name & address of the office for opening tenders	Director General, Fire Service & Civil Defence, Headquarters, Conference Room, Dhaka.
13. Contract details of official inviting tender	Md Shahiduzzaman (Dy. Sec.), Director (Admn & Finance), Fire Service & Civil Defence, Dhaka. Telephone: 9555555, Fax No. 9565657, E-Mail address: dgfire@btbb.net.bd
14. Tender inquiry No.	Description of fire fighting appliances
FS&CD/Foreign/Rev/001/09-10	Multi Purpose Fire & Rescue Vehicle
FS&CD/Foreign/Rev/002/09-10	Fire & Rescue Tender (Medium)(Foam, Water & Rescue Equipment)
FS&CD/Foreign/Rev/003/09-10	Fire & Rescue Tender (Small)(Foam, Water & Rescue Equipment)
FS&CD/Foreign/Rev/004/09-10	Towing Vehicle (Cab Type)
FS&CD/Foreign/Rev/005/09-10	Towing Vehicle (Pick up Type)
FS&CD/Foreign/Rev/006/09-10	Air Ventilator
FS&CD/Foreign/Rev/007/09-10	Fireman Suit
FS&CD/Foreign/Rev/008/09-10	Cold Cut System
FS&CD/Foreign/Rev/009/09-10	Portable Pump(M)