



Hilsa being loaded in trucks at Alipur fish landing station in Patuakhali district yesterday as a section of unscrupulous fishermen have continued defying ban on hilsa catching in the peak breeding period from October 15 to 24, right, huge jatka (young hilsa) caught with the help of current net is brought to Fisheryghat in Cox's Bazar.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOIKH

CONFLICT OVER NEW PATUAKHALI BODY

Red Crescent office locked for 5 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Patuakhali Red Crescent office has remained closed for five days as some people locked all of its three rooms following alleged conflict over the newly formed district committee of the organisation.

A group of people, apparently disgruntled at the newly formed Patuakhali unit committee, came to the Red Crescent office in launch ghat area of the town on Monday evening and put extra locks on the three rooms, said locals.

None of the officials and volunteers came to the office since then.

Central committee of Bangladesh Red Crescent formed a new committee for Patuakhali district with Prof Abdus Salam as president and Khan Mosharraf Hossain as secretary after tenure of the previous committee expired on September 20.

Mosharraf Hossain is also secretary of the district unit of Awami League.

"I was astonished to see double lock in the office," said a Red Crescent volunteer wishing anonymity.

When contacted, Prof AKM Shahidul Islam, secretary of the immediate past district committee, said, "I heard that a new committee has been

formed for the district unit but I am yet to get any instruction from the central committee. I did not go to the office for some days as there is no emergency job and I am also busy with my personal affairs. I do not know who locked the office."

Asked about the matter, Patuakhali Deputy Commissioner Md Reaz Ahmed said, "I heard that some people made a noisy situation there. But nobody formally informed me about it."

Meanwhile, the previous committee is yet to formally get papers on the newly formed body and the latter could not start their work.

Please, don't hang me, jail me for life

Self-confessed serial killer begs favour

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

"Sir, I have committed crime. I have killed all the 11 women in Chandpur. I request you not to implicate me in any other killings except those in Chandpur. Please don't hang me, give me life term."

Self-confessed serial killer Rasu said this to Chittagong range DIG of police Md Asaduzzaman Miah yesterday when he came to visit Chandpur model Police Station.

Police Superintendent Krishnapada Roy, local journalists and other officials were present at the police station at

that time.

Rasu Khan said, "Journalists write different things in the newspaper at different times. They said I am a robber and miscreant. But I am a miscreant, not a robber. I was a dye worker and also committed theft. Later, I murdered the women. But they (journalists) say I have committed all types of crimes."

Rasu looked very depressed yesterday. Tears rolled down his cheeks while speaking in the room of the officer-in-charge (OC) of Model Police Station in front of the DIG and journalists.

DIG Asaduzzaman

enquired about the food he was being given and directed police to supply him good food.

He told newsmen that police would look into the cases regarding Rasu with special care. "No innocent people would be harassed or detained in connection with the cases. All are equal in the eye of law."

Sub-Inspector (SI) Nazrul Islam of Chandpur Model Police Station said they will produce Rasu in the court on Sunday (today) on expiry of his three days' remand and seek further remand for the serial killer.

Barisal vet instt shut for over a month now

Frustration grips its 350 students

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Frustration grips around 350 students of Barisal Veterinary Institute (BVI), which has remained closed since September 2 following student agitation on the campus.

Students of the institute under Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) launched an agitating programme demanding restoration of their internship for one year and scrapping of changes made by the authorities in the curriculum.

The PSTU academic council later expelled six students, served show cause notices on 10 students and made two teachers of the institute OSD.

PSTU Registrar Nirmal Chandra Saha told The Daily Star that actions against the students and teachers were taken according to the decision of the academic council meeting held on September 27 after reviewing the report of the probe committee headed by Prof Nizamuddin.

The expelled students are Palash Kumar, ABM Mustafa Kamal, Kamrul Hassan, Md Shaifuddin, Abu Bakar Siddik and Fakrul Islam Sarkar. They all were expelled for one semester.

Ten students of different semesters were asked to explain by October 15 why they would not be expelled for their involvement in creating chaos on the BVI campus.

Associate Prof Abdul Matin of dairy and poultry science department, and Associate Prof Anisur Rahman, of veterinary medicine and surgery department, have been made OSD and closed to PSTU for "instigating" agitation on the campus.

The students claimed six months' internship instead of one year and changes in the curriculum will seriously hamper education of the old batch students who may face problems during admission to other institutions for higher studies.



PHOTO: STAR

People from all walks of life gather on the premises of Central Shahid Minar in Chittagong yesterday to pay last respect to Probal Chowdhury, an artiste who inspired the nation through his songs on Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra during the Liberation War.

4 Bandarban gang members held, arms recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Roangchhari police in a raid yesterday morning arrested four suspected members of Chittagong Hill Tracts Nationalist Front (CHTNF), a newly formed terror group in the district.

Six LGs, one 2.2 bore pistol, five cartridges and four sets of uniform were recovered during the raid.

Police with the help of locals caught Sumon Chakma, 22, Jibon Chakma, 28, Rassel Chakma, 24, and Subarno Chakma, 25, from a local car centre near the upazila bazar.

As per their statements, police recovered the firearms and ammunition from the spot near Baghaichhari Jhiri, a canal, 4 kilometre off Roangchhari Sadar.

Police suspect, the arrestees might be directly involved with the killing of three indigenous youths in Ruma on October 11.

Earlier, Ruma police arrested Sumon Bikash Chakma, Teji Chakma, Shipon Chakma and Shanti Chakma from Kaikhong Jhiri on October 13.

Police said all the arrestees are permanent residents of Rangamati district.

Local inhabitants of Ruma said that the CHTNF group was formed by 12 youths. Among them, three were shot dead in factional fight, four arrested on October 13 and four others arrested on October 17. The 12th man is on the run.

They further said that the group along with some outsiders is carrying out the criminal activities in Ruma area for a long time.

Indefinite bus strike called in 8 dists from tomorrow

UNB, Bagerhat

Bus owners and workers in southern region called for indefinite strike from tomorrow in eight districts to press their four-point demand.

The leaders of a joint committee hailing from Bagerhat, Khulna, Pirojpur, Jhalakati, Bhola, Patuakhali and Barguna districts held a joint meeting and decided to continue strike until their demands are met.

The demands include stoppage of movement of state run BRTC bus, human haulers Nasiman, Kariman and Bhatbhati in the region and withdrawal of all cases filed against the joint committee leaders.

They also submitted copies of a memorandum to the deputy commissioners of the eight districts.

The leaders of the commit-

tee declared indefinite strike in the region for the fifth time in last two years, sources said.

Two leaders Sardar M Shah Alam and Azizur Rahman told UNB that they have been incurring huge losses due to plying of BRTC buses and human haulers - Nasiman, Kariman and Bhatbhati - in Khulna and Barisal divisions.

They said they time and again urged the authorities to stop plying of those vehicles to save them from incurring losses but no step has yet been taken in this regard.

Deputy Commissioner of Bagerhat M Moazzem Hossain told the news agency that the matter has been informed to the higher authorities. He said negotiations are on with the committee leaders to resolve the issue.

Six get life for murder in Barisal

UNB, Barisal

A court here on Thursday sentenced six people to life term imprisonment in a murder case.

The lifers are Abdur Rashid Howladar, Sonar Ali, Abdul Khalek Howladar, Harun Howladar, Jasimuddin and Hasina Begum.

The last two were tried in absentia.

The court also fined them Tk 25,000 each, in default, to suffer one year more rigorous imprisonment (RI).

According to the prosecution story, Shohel Khan, 26, son of Selim Khan was residing at the house of his maternal uncle Ramizuddin at Maulata village in Hizla upazila to continue his study there.

Shohel later fell in love with Asma Begum, daughter of Abdur Rashid Howladar, neighbour of his uncle.

At this the accused abducted Shohel and brought him to Azampur in Mehendiganj upazila and beat him dead on May 31, 2001.

Victim's grandfather Moyezuddin lodged a murder case against 13 people on August 6, 2001.

Later, police, after investigation, submitted charge sheet against the six on September 26, 2002.

After examining the witnesses and records, District and Sessions Judge M Shahidullah pronounced the verdict.

1 killed, 10 hurt as rivals clash in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

One person was killed and 10 others were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers over capture of a land at Chalkbatta village under Kendua upazila of the district yesterday.

Police and locals said two rival groups--one led by Nazrul Islam and the other by Abul Khalaque Fakir of the village--clashed over capture of the land at around 10:00am.

The feuding groups used lethal weapons during the clash that left Nazrul Islam dead on the spot and 10 others from both sides injured.

Two of the injured were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital while the rest to Kendua Upazila Health Complex.

Following a case filed by Nazrul's family with Kendua Police Station, police arrested Abul Khalaque Fakir in the afternoon.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Fire kills elderly woman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

An elderly woman was burnt alive in a fire in the city's Sholokbahar area early yesterday. Victim Moyura Begum, 70, was wife of late Abdul Malek. Fire Service and Civil Defence sources said the fire broke out at a house on the ground floor of a two-storied building of one Mohammad Lokman at around 2:00am and spread to two other adjoining houses. The fire originated from leakage of a gas pipeline of the victim's house. Critically injured Moyura was sent to Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH) where she succumbed to her injuries at around 3:00am, hospital sources said. Four fire fighting units from city's different fire stations rushed to the spot and doused the fire at around 3:15am.

11 rescued from traffickers

UNB, Benapole

BDR jawans yesterday morning arrested 11 youths while being trafficked to India through Sadipur point. The arrestees are Subroto Majumdar, Babul Majumdar, Chandra Roy, Jahangir Alam, Abu Bakkar, Wadud Sheikh, Omar Faruq, Enayet Sheikh, Faruq Sheikh, Shakil Islam and Tayeb Ali. They hail from Khulna, Bagherhat and Gopalganj districts. Acting on a tip-off, a team of BDR-21 Rifles Battalion raided the area at about 7am and arrested them. Sources said, a gang of human traffickers took them to the border area in the name of giving better job in India.

'Clean Patuakhali' campaign

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A campaign to keep Patuakhali town clean was held here yesterday. Organised by local NGOs, the programme, titled 'Clean and Green Patuakhali', was formally opened by Sadar upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) Md Khorshed Alam. The programme started at the central bus terminal and concluded at Launchghat by cleaning several places in the town. Later, a hand washing programme was held at Swanirvar Road slum through distribution of soaps in the shanties. At a street corner meeting, the UNO urged all to keep their houses and the town clean. Earlier, a procession was brought out in the town. Processionists paraded the main streets of the town.

Housewife murdered

UNB, Sirajganj

A woman was murdered allegedly by her husband at Barokura village in Kamarkhand upazila on Thursday night. Victim Lamia Parvin Lipi, 30, was wife of Sirajul Islam. Locals said, Sirajul beat Lipi dead following a family feud at midnight and fled the house. Police recovered the body Friday morning and sent it to Sirajganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Boy injured in blast

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A boy was injured in a bomb blast yesterday at Kalijira Bazar in the city. Members of Rapid Action Battalion in Barisal (Rab-8) went to the spot, recovered from there another live cocktail and defused it. Victim Saimon, 7, is son of Jamal Hossain of Kalijira Bazar. He was rushed to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College and Hospital (SBMCH). Rab-8 said, Saimon found two handmade bombs in the bazaar area. A bomb went off when he was playing with it.

Press club executives

A CORRESPONDENT, Companyganj (Noakhali)

Anwar Toha, Companyganj correspondent of the daily Inqilab and Jafar Ullah Palash of the daily Ittefaq, have been elected president and general secretary of Companyganj Press Club. The election of the club's executive body was held here recently. Farid Uddin Ahmed Rashed of the daily Naya Diganta and Nazim Uddin Khokon of the daily Manobijomir were elected vice presidents. The other office-bearers are: Abul Bashar of the daily Amar Desh- joint secretary, Praohanto Suvas Chandra of the daily Amader Somoy-organising secretary, Md Ibrahim Jahir of the daily Jai Jai Din-publicity secretary, Kazi Abdur Rahim of the daily Sangram-literary and cultural secretary, Belayet Hossain Chowdhury Sumon of the daily Bhorer Kagoj-treasurer and Tabibur Rahman Tipu of the daily Dinkal, Salauddin of the daily Khabor patra, Abu Naser of the daily Sachitra and Nazim Uddin of the daily Sangbad-members.



PHOTO: STAR

Police destroy huge addictive substances including heroin, phensidyl, local-made wine and ganja on the premises of the Collectorate Building yesterday. Law enforcers seized the drugs during recent drives conducted across the district.

One killed in mud collapse

UNB, Sylhet

A man was killed and two others were injured on Tuesday as a heap of mud collapsed on them from a hillock at Dhakadoni.

Munshipara village in Golapganj upazila, police said. Ahmad Ali Makhoi, 38, son of Kutu Miah of Kanishail village died on the spot and two others received injuries in the incident while they were removing earth from the hillock illegally at about 10am. On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Sylhet Osmani Medical College and Hospital for autopsy.

Principal confined for 2 hrs

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Lalmonirhat Technical Training Centre (MTTC) students yesterday morning confined their principal to his room for two hours demanding holding of regular classes. The students told this correspondent that they often miss classes for absence of teachers. 'We urged the principal for resolving the problem but he did not pay heed to the appeal', they alleged. 'As a result, our academic life has become uncertain', they said. However, the students postponed their programme at about 1 pm when MTTC Principal Mokhsedul Alam assured them of taking steps for regular classes, campus sources said.