



A truck on a ferry, crossing the route from Firingi Bazar terminal in Chittagong city, remains highly vulnerable to accident as the safety barrier on the edge of the vessel is not used during its plying.

PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

BB PROBE ON KHULNA BRANCH INCIDENT

4 sacked, 8 suspended for bank note theft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A three-member investigation committee from Bangladesh Bank (BB) head office has identified twelve staff of different rank and status as responsible for the theft of punched and non-issuable currency notes worth about Tk 13 crore 72 lakh from Khulna branch of BB.

Non-issuable currency notes of different denominations amounting to Tk 13,71,95,540 was stolen from the BB branch from May 28 to June 3 this year, according to the report of the probe committee comprising BB General Manager Ashim Kumar, Deputy General Manager Md Imdadul Islam and Deputy General Manager Khandakar Abdur Rashid.

The probe committee has suggested taking legal action against the twelve responsible officials and employees and handing them over to law enforcement authorities.

The committee has also suggested installation of close circuit cameras at all sensitive places of the bank and round-the-clock monitoring of its daily affairs to check such crime in future.

The probe committee members who came to Khulna on last August 25, submitted report on their findings to higher authorities of BB head office in Dhaka on September 2 pointing out evidence in support of allegations against eight officials and four employees for stealing the huge amount of punched and cancelled currency notes from shredding section of the bank branch in Khulna.

Following the probe report, general manager Abdus Sattar, deputy director Syed Hafizur Rahman, deputy manager Mozammel Haque, assistant managers Sajjad Hossain, Ashok Kumar Sen, Kohinur Akhter, Shiuly Biswas and Rehana Akhter were suspended on

September 3 for negligence of their duty.

On September 4, Joint Manager (Banking) of BB Khulna branch Govindo Lal Gayen filed a case with Khulna Sadar Police Station accusing four employees Sheikh Shahadat Hossain, Md Mizanur Rahman, Sheikh Amjad Hossain and Abdul Malek for their involvement in the incident and the bank authorities sacked them.

It was mentioned in the general diary that the eight suspended officials were also responsible for theft of the punched notes as they neglected their duties and were careless in monitoring works of the respective departments.

The twelve officials and employees will be sued soon after getting 'green signal' from the higher authorities, acting General Manager of BB Khulna branch Nurul Alam Kazi told this correspondent yesterday.

Krishak League leader killed in Bogra

Pirojpur Krishak Dal protests killing of dist unit president

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A Krishak League leader was stabbed to death on Sunday in Bogra while Pirojpur Krishak Dal yesterday protested the recent killing of its district unit president.

Our Staff Correspondent in Bogra reports: A rival group stabbed to death ruling party's ward level Krishak League leader Rabbi, 18, at Naruli in the town on Sunday night.

Police said, they arrested a youth, Jumba, 17, on charge of his involvement with the incident.

Krishak League Bogra district unit president Mansur Rahman Monno said, Rabbi was the president of Krishak League ward no 20.

Investigation officer sub-inspector (SI) Rafique said, a gang of 5 to 6 criminals stabbed Rabbi at Naruli at around 7:30 pm. Seriously injured Rabbi was rushed to hospital but he died there at around 9:30 pm.

Meanwhile, leaders and activists of Krishak Dal Pirojpur district unit, a front organisation of opposition BNP yesterday formed a human chain in the district town protesting the recent murder of Gazi

Salauddin, district president of Krishak Dal.

The Krishak Dal also held a rally in front of their party office at Club Road. It was presided by Iqbal Yusuf Bin Taj, secretary of the organisation, reports our Barisal correspondent.

At the rally, the speakers demanded a fair investigation into the killing of Salauddin and exemplary punishment to the culprits.

Gazi Salauddin was critically injured during a clash on September 3, 2009, between two groups, one led by district JCD president Hasanul Kabir and the other by secretary Riazuddin Rana over observing the day of BNP joint secretary general Tarique Rahman's release from jail.

Injured Salahuddin died at LabAid Hospital in the capital on September 5, 2009.

Gazi Giasuddin, brother of the victim lodged a murder case with Pirojpur Sadar police station accusing nine people on September 6, 2009.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Pirojpur Sadar police station Gazi Md Ibrahim told The Daily Star yesterday that they investigated the case but none could be arrested till date.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Octogenarian Sattar Khan of Baliadangi village in Magura district sells garlands of flowers for a living as his self-respect would not allow him to seek compassion from others.

Student crushed under train

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A college student was crushed under the wheels of an inter-city train at Parshadanga of Vangura on Sunday evening. Victim Monzur Kader Biddut, 21, was son of Mojibar Rahman of village Tengbari in Chatmohar upazila. Biddut was a student of first year BA of Vangura Haji Jamal Uddin Degree College. The incident took place when Ishwardi-bound inter-city train Padma Express hit Biddut at Parshadanga. Police said, the accident took place as Biddut was walking by railway line unaware about the train coming. Later, the body was recovered from the spot and sent to hospital for autopsy.

Youth commits suicide

UNB, Chittagong

A young man allegedly committed suicide by swallowing poison at West Boikhali village in Chandanaish upazila early yesterday. Family sources said, Bishu Talukder, 30, son of Himangshu Talukder of the village killed himself after a family feud. He took poison at his house at midnight, they said. Bishu was rushed to Chittagong Medical College and Hospital where the on-duty doctors declared him dead at about 2am.

Farewell to 4 teachers

UNB, Rangamati

Four retired senior teachers of Rani Doyamoyee High School were accorded a farewell at a function here Sunday. The four teachers are Badal Kanti Dhar, Gouri Chakraborty, Dilip Kumar Mohajan and Konika Barua. They retired from job after serving 30 years in the school. Deputy commissioner (DC) Sourendra Nath Chakraborty attended the function as chief guest. Barrister Debashish Roy, chief of Chakra circle, Sunil Kanti Dey, president of press club, Kumar Nandit Roy, UNDP official and Ranatosh Malik, headmaster of the school attended on the occasion.

Trainee ansar men remanded

UNB, Shariatpur

Twelve trainee ansars, who were arrested for alleged involvement with banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), were taken on a three-day remand on Sunday. Judge of Chief Judicial Magistrate Court Ashok Kumar Dutta granted the remand when they were produced before court seeking remand. Police arrested them from Shariatpur ansar barrack on Wednesday night.

Housewife murdered

UNB, Bogra

A housewife was strangled allegedly by her husband's friend at Shakpala village in Shajahanpur upazila on Saturday night. Victim Peyara Begum was wife of Shanti Miah, a resident of the district town. Police said, her husband's friend Shamim invited Peyara to his house at nearby Shakpala village. In response, she came to Shamim's house with her son Shahin. After dinner, Shamim tactfully sent back Shahin to their house. When Shanti came to take back Peyara to his house, he found her body lying on the floor. Neighbours said, Shamim strangled Peyara as a sequel to previous enmity. He along with his family members went into hiding. On information, police recovered the body on Sunday morning and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.

8-year-old girl raped

UNB, Mymensingh

An eight-years-old girl was raped by a local at Paserkanda village in Gouripur upazila on Friday night. Victim Ruma Akter, 8, was daughter of Nekbor Khan of the village. Quoting locals police said, Ruma went to a nearby shop to buy biscuits at about 9pm. While returning home, shop owner Shahabul forcibly took her to the bank of a nearby pond and raped her. Hearing her screaming, Ruma's elder sister rushed to the spot but Shahabul fled away.

Rocket launcher found

UNB, Comilla

Police on Sunday afternoon recovered a rocket launcher from a canal at Chandala village in Brahmanpara upazila. Locals said, labourers found it while digging earth. Being informed, police rushed there and recovered the 4-kilogram rocket launcher.

Tea workers stage strike

UNB, Sylhet

Dhaldhali Tea Garden workers here abstained from work for two consecutive days demanding payment of their wages. Hundreds of workers took out a procession and held a rally in the town on Sunday. Speakers alleged that they had received half of their wages as what they said several officials including the manager misappropriate the rest amount. They sought intervention of the national tea company chairman and chief whip Abdus Shahid for mitigating their sufferings. They were still abstaining from work till filing of the report yesterday noon.

Killing of pry teacher sparks protest in Mymensingh

Students, locals hold rally; shopkeepers hoist black flags, keep shutters down

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Students of different educational institutions and local people held a rally at Ambikaganj College ground under Mymensingh Sadar upazila yesterday demanding exemplary punishment to the killers of Delwar Hossain, a teacher of Nayapara registered primary school.

Delwar Hossain went missing on October 6. Following a case filed with Kotwali Police Station on October 8, police arrested Alal Uddin of Nayapara village on October 10 and recovered Delwar's body from beneath the floor of his house on October 11.

On his confessional statement, police later arrested Farhad Hossain, Mannaf and Nawab Ali of the village.

Police later produced Alal Uddin in a court where he

confessed to killing Delwar and disclosed the names of four other accomplices.

Yesterday's protest rally was addressed, among others, by Abdur Razzaq Master, Abdul Khaleque Master, Shahidul Islam, Ambikaganj College Principal Jahangir Mohammad Hafiz Uddin, Md Hazrat Ali and victim's children Habiba Sultana Ruma and Anisur Rahman Rubel. Former chairman of Paraganj Union Parishad Abdul Jalil presided.

The speakers demanded exemplary punishment to those involved in the killing. They said the accused, who are still at large, are putting pressure on victim's family to withdraw the case. They urged the law enforcers to immediately arrest the four others involved in the killing.

Students of Ambikaganj College, Mukti Bidyapith,

Mirkandapara High School, Paraganj High School, Nayapara registered primary school, Faliamari government primary school and shop owners of Ambikaganj Bazar joined the rally and later brought out a procession at the bazar.

Black flags were also hoisted atop all shops at Ambikaganj Bazar and the shopkeepers kept their shutters down during the programme.

Locals said Delwar gave some money to Alal Uddin to run a shop in the area. He had an altercation with Ala Uddin on October 5 over return of the money, they added.

Contacted, Sub-Inspector Borhan Uddin of Kotwali Police Station, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, said they are yet to unearth the real motive behind the killing.



PHOTO: STAR

A speaker addresses a meeting on Ambikaganj College ground in Mymensingh Sadar upazila yesterday demanding punishment to the killers of schoolteacher Delwar Hossain.



PHOTO: STAR

Successful production of a special variety of malta, developed by Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute in Khagrachhari, bears bright prospect for farmers in the hill area.

Malta grows in plenty

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

Six years after starting malta (sweet orange) plantation in the hill district, the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI) is expecting a bumper harvest this year with local farmers showing interest in growing the juicy fruit.

BARI officials here expressed the hope that this year's malta harvests from about 2,000 trees on its own premises and three of its demonstration sites would fetch Tk 25 lakh.

A good harvest of Malta-1, the variety developed by the BARI scientists, at its demonstration sites has generated much enthusiasm among the local farmers and at least 2,000 farmers in Khagrachhari this year collected over 5,000 malta plants from BARI, said officials.

Malta-1, initiated here in 2003, has great potentials in hiltops, hill slopes and hill valley in Chittagong Hill Tracts (GHT), sources said.

Dr Mohammad Abdur Rouf, Senior Scientific Officer of BARI, Khagrachhari said they have about 1,000 malta

trees in the Institute's own orchard while about a thousand more in three demonstration sites in Panchhari, Matiranga and Mohalchhari upazilas in the district.

This year, he said, they are getting 400 to 500 maltas from each of the trees and they are expecting to earn Tk 25 lakh by selling maltas grown in 2,000 trees.

Chandra Kanta Das, Scientific Officer (Entomology) said cultivating malta is very easy and simple as it is generally free from attack by any deadly diseases or dangerous pests. Sometimes, it is affected by leaf miner, lemon butterfly, fruit fly and by citrus bug or black spot disease, he said adding that if the farmers use scientific method of malta cultivation and take necessary precautions nothing can cause any major damage to the fruit output.

Deputy director (DD) of District Agriculture Extension (DAE) office Mohammad Abdul Malek said there is over 3 lakh acres of barren hill lands in Khagrachhari district and government can take a plan to use this land for malta cultivation. The soil of Chittagong Hill

Tracts is very fertile and suitable for production quality of malta, said Malek adding that if half of barren hills are brought under malta cultivation then exportable surplus can be produced after meeting the domestic demand.

Dr Md Mohabbat Ullah, Chief Scientific Officer of BARI, Khagrachhari said considering hiltop, hill valley and hill slopes and weather of this region BARI initiated Malta-1 variety. Malta cultivation is possible in both drought and rainy weather but malta trees cannot withstand waterlogging for long, he said.

At least 5,000 farmers sought assistant from BARI for malta cultivation after observing bumper production of Malta in current year. In response, BARI distributed 5,000 malta plants to around 2,000 farmers to encourage the locals in malta cultivation.

BARI officials in Khagrachhari said, malta helps people to fulfill the demand of Vitamin-C. Its important for each adult is to take 30 mg Vitamin-C per day. Juice, jam, jelly and marmalade can also be prepared from malta, they said.