

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS



Human chain at Chandpur

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Angikar Bangladesh, Chandpur unit organised a one-hour human chain on Sunday afternoon on the bank of the Meghna River demanding steps to save the town from river erosion. President of the organisation Zakir Hossain Miaji led the human chain that started at 5 pm. More than 100 people of different professions, including freedom fighter Basudev Majumder, Prof Dabir Uddin Noman, Prof Shah Alam Tipu, Prof Tariqul Islam, Prof Kausar Ahmed, Mizanur Rahman Patwari, chairman Jitu Patwari, Saifuddin Khan, Sayem Patwari, Kader Chhaiyal, Md Redwan, Mamun Munshi and Omar Faruk joined the human chain.

Accident sparks protest

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Vehicular movement on the Jessore-Magura highway came to a halt for three hours yesterday as locals protested death of a schoolboy in an accident at Hashimpur Bazar. Victim Mostafa, 7, was son of Mofizuddin of Hashimpur village under Sadar upazila and a class two student of a local school. Locals and police said, the accident took place when Mostafa was crossing the highway on his way to school. A Jessore-bound truck crushed him under its wheels at about 10:00am. Agitated people put up barricade on the Jessore-Magura highway at Hashimpur Bazar resulting in a 10-kilometer long tailback on the road. The barricade was withdrawn at about 1:00 pm after local MP Khalidur Rahman Tito and district administration assured them of taking punitive action against the culprits.

Kidnapped girl rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A teenage schoolgirl kidnapped by a gang on Saturday afternoon was rescued at night by police from Bangdah area in Sadar upazila. Police also arrested the kidnapper, Abdullah Al Mamun, 22, son of Sirajul Islam Dhali of village Modhya Khalishabunia in Shyamnagar upazila. Zakia Sultana Sathi, 14, daughter of Abdullah of Puratan Satkhira in the town and a student of class nine was kidnapped while returning from her school. Victim's father Abdullah yesterday filed a case with Sadar police station accusing four people.

Youth gets life for rape

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

A Jessore court on Sunday sentenced a youth to life term rigorous imprisonment for raping a schoolgirl. The court also fined him 20 thousand taka, in default, to suffer more 5 years in jail. Convict Hakim alias Sagor, 24, is son of Sheikh Abdur Rahman of Dharmapur village under Keshabpur upazila. According to prosecution story, Sagor raped the class nine student of Chingra Secondary School several times on false promise of marriage. When she got pregnant, Sagor refused to marry her. The victim's father later filed a case with Keshabpur police station on 2001.

Shoe sellers stage strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Owners of shoe stores in Habiganj district town yesterday kept their shutters down from 6 in the morning to 12 noon to press for immediate release of their fellow businessman Ahmed Kabir Azad, who was implicated in an extortion case on Sunday last. Former president of Habiganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry Shahab Uddin Ahmed filed the extortion case against 10 people including Azad following a dispute over ownership of a pond. The accused appeared before the judicial magistrate court in Habiganj on Sunday and prayed for bail. The magistrate granted bail to nine while rejected Azad's prayer and sent him to the jail hajat.

MURDER OF YOUNG EXPATRIATE AT PATHARGHATA

Six coastguards finally closed, probe ordered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Sister of deceased Saudi expatriate Zakir Hossain has lodged a murder case against seven coastguard men including the commander of Patharghata contingent on charge of beating his brother to death.

Six members of Patharghata coastguard contingent have been closed to the regional station and a three-member probe committee has been formed to probe the incident, said Lt Musfiqur Rahman, the coastguard commander of Bhola region.

The probe committee headed by coastguard Commander Saidul Islam and comprising Lt Com Kibria and Lt Musfiqur Rahman have been asked to submit report within a week, he added.

Seven coastguard personnel including Patharghata coastguard Commander MA

Zahid have been made accused in the murder case filed on Sunday by Zakir's sister Taslima.

Zakir was playing cards with his friends near a coastguard camp at Patharghata on Thursday night, said the complainant quoting witnesses.

The coastguards raided the place at about 9:30pm and beat them on charge of gambling, Taslima said in the case statement.

After beating Zakir, the coastguard men threw him into the Bishkhali River and Zakir's dead body was found by the riverside on Saturday, she added.

Recovery of Zakir's body from Bishkhali River sparked angry protest by locals on Saturday.

Carrying body of Zakir Hossain, 30, of Mathbaria in Pirojpur, hundreds of agitated people brought out a procession,

cordoned the office of Patharghata upazila nirbahi officer, threw brickbats and ransacked sign board of the local coastguard camp.

They demanded trial and punishment of the coastguards for killing Zakir.

Later police with the help of local lawmaker Golam Sabur Tulu brought the situation under control.

Zakir's father-in-law Abdul Khalek, a resident of Kalmegha under Patharghata upazila of the district, on Friday night lodged a general diary mentioning that Zakir had gone missing since Thursday night.

Denying any incident of raid or beating anybody, a coastguard staff officer of south zone Saturday told the local journalists that they only focused their torchlight on them seeing a suspicious gathering.



An indigenous farmer at Reisa Talipara in Bandarban district prepares to start for a local market with mushroom produced at his land. Large-scale cultivation of the highly nutritious vegetable has brought solvency to many indigenous families.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Clerk sued for gobbling up Tk 1.13 cr

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The authorities of Darshana Carew's and Co in Chuadanga have filed a case against its head clerk Nasir Uddin for misappropriating Tk 1.13 crore.

The cases, filed on September 14 and October 31, were based on findings of an investigation committee formed to probe the allegations.

Process is on to file another case against another case against Nasir, as the latest report of the investigation committee, submitted on October 30, also found the allegation of misappropriating the money true and recommended legal action against Nasir.

The company has 16 distilleries across the country -- 13 for selling local product and three for foreign liquors -- and the

distilleries send their monthly income to the company's managing director (MD) through distillery section by demand draft (DD), said Carew's sources.

The money is finally deposited to bank in the name of the company.

Nasir Uddin, who looked after the matter, did not deposit Tk 1.13 crore sent by three distilleries at Srimangal, Santahar and Parbotipur during January to April and misappropriated the money, said company sources.

To probe the incident, a three-member committee headed by Additional Deputy Manager Abdul Matin was formed on August 28.

The probe body members examined documents, interrogated Nasir and recovered several DDs worth about Tk 63 lakh from Nasir's house.

After the committee submitted its investigation report to company MD Ali Ashraf on October 30, Nasir gave a written deposition to the MD.

In it, Nasir admitted to misappropriating the said money and made commitment to return it.

The company authorities, however, rejected Nasir's proposal, suspended him and continued the legal actions.

They also sent the probe report to the authorities of Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation asking directive in this regard.

When contacted, MD of Carew's Ali Ashraf told this correspondent over phone that all necessary steps will be taken to recover the government money and bring the responsible people under justice.

BARGUNA DOWRY VICTIM

'Bring Munmun's killers to book'

Husband still at large

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Barguna unit at a press conference on Sunday night protested the murder of Afroza Akhter Munmun allegedly for dowry and demanded punishment to the killers.

Munmun, 21, a third year honours student of management department of Barguna Government College, was found dead at her husband's residence at College Road in the town Saturday morning. Her husband Kazi Mehedi Hasan has been absconding since the incident.

Police found the body hanging from a ceiling fan and sent it to Barguna General Hospital for post-mortem examination.

Mahila Parishad Barguna unit Vice-President Baby Das and Secretary Khadiza Begum addressed the press conference at local press club. They demanded proper investigation into the killing and exemplary punishment to those involved.

Munmun's father Khan Mizanur Rahman filed a murder case with Barguna Sadar Police Station on Sunday against her husband Kazi Mehedi Hasan Miraj and four others of his family.

Victim's family said Mehedi married Munmun three years ago and they gave



Afroza Akhter Munmun

him Tk 50,000 as dowry at the time of wedding.

After one month of the marriage, Mehedi started demanding Tk 50,000 more and stopped visiting Munmun's parents' house, a family member said.

Mehedi's family said they took dinner together at around 10:00pm and went to sleep. They said they found Munmun hanging from the ceiling fan of her room in the morning and informed the police.

On Saturday, teachers and students of Barguna Government College brought out a procession in the town and then held a rally in front of the local press club demanding arrest of the killers of Munmun.

BCL rivals at BAU lock in fierce clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

At least 10 activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were injured in a factional clash at Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) here yesterday.

Two BCL factions--one led by BAU unit President Sarwar Morshed Akand and the other by Atiquzzaman Royal clashed over taking control of the campus, leaving 10 activists from both sides injured.

Two of the injured, identified as Rubel and Ananta Sarker, were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) while the rest given first aid.

Law enforcers from Kotwali Police Station went to the campus, fired 17 rounds of rubber bullets and teargas shells to disperse the clashing groups.

They also arrested nine BCL activists from the spot. They are Bappi, Joyal Abedin, Marfulul Haque, Tanvir Ahmed, Faruq Hossain, Shyamol Chandra, Golam Mustafa, Abu Horaira and Sumon.

Later, the law enforcers raided four dormitories of the university -- Bangabandhu Hall, Shamsul Haque Hall, Fazlul Haque Hall, and Nazmul Ahsan Hall and recovered sharp weapons. Campus sources said no one was arrested during the raids.

Contacted, BAU Proctor Prof Shamsuddin said the university authorities will investigate the incident and take necessary actions against those involved.

Additional police have been deployed on the campus to avert any further incident.

Adulterated fertilisers major cause of concern for Tangail farmers

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Adulterated fertilisers have flooded the local markets of Tangail hampering production, causing massive loss to

the farmers.

Sources in the Department of Agriculture Extension said, DAE recently sent 15 samples of fertilisers to Dhaka for examinations after collecting

those from different upazilas of the district and found most of the samples spurious.

Local farmers alleged that traders, especially in the remote areas of 12 upazilas,

are engaged in selling adulterated fertilisers to the farmers.

Crop production has already reduced in the district due to application of the spurious fertilisers, shattering hopes of the growers, they said.

However, sale of these adulterated fertilisers have been going on openly due to indifference of the authorities concerned, sources said.

Lebu Miah, a farmer of Elenga in Kalihati upazila of the district, said he has already applied 25kg urea, 10kg gypsum and 1kg zinc sulphate in his 40 decimal amon paddy field in two phases.

"Amon plants have turned reddish while the grains are yet to be matured because of spurious and substandard fertilisers," he lamented.

Kazimuddin, Mozammel Hossain, Abul Miah, Siraj Miah, Haji Shamsul, Abul Kashem and other farmers of Delduar and Sadar upazilas have also made similar complaints.

The agriculture officials in Gopalpur upazila recently seized 12 sacks of China TSP fertiliser from a fertiliser shop at Mahmudpur Bazar and sent samples to Dhaka for examination. The test found

that the fertilisers were substandard, sources said.

Jahangir Hossain, a sub-dealer at Putiajani Bazar in Delduar upazila, said farmers often complain of poor effect or no effect of the fertilisers. They have already informed this to the local agriculture officials, he added.

"We have little to do as we sell the fertilisers after buying it from the dealers," he said.

Agriculture officials in Sadar upazila said they were directed by higher authorities to send five samples of fertilisers to Dhaka for examinations. And we are working as per the directive, they said.

A few traders, however, claimed that the farmers are not getting satisfactory result from the fertilisers as they cannot use them properly.

Contacted, deputy director of Tangail DAE Haripada Ghosh told The Daily Star that at least 57 samples of different fertilisers from 12 upazilas in the district were sent to Dhaka for examination this year.

"We are yet to receive the test result of most of the samples. If we find the fertilisers adulterated, action will be taken against the offenders," he said.



PHOTO: STAR

Paddies turn reddish and grains remain undeveloped at a field in Kazipur under Tangail Sadar upazila allegedly for use of adulterated fertilisers.

Join Energis

Energis Power Corporation Ltd is looking for really deserving candidates for the following posts for its 55MW Power Plant at Shikabaha, Chittagong. Candidates having requisite qualifications and experience are requested to apply with photocopies of relevant documents including a passport size photograph on or before November 17, 2009 addressed to AGM (Admin), Energis Power Corporation Ltd., Mascot Plaza, 10th floor, Plot 107/A, Sonargaon Janapath, Sector- 7, Uttara, Dhaka-1230. Please mention name of the post on Top of the envelope.

Shift Engineers

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Experience Required: In case of B.Sc Engineers minimum 5 years experience out of which 3 years experience in operation and maintenance in power plant/process industry/big industrial production facility In case of Diploma Engineers minimum 7 years experience in operation and maintenance in a power plant/process industry/big industrial production facility

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