

Villagers welcome Moni, Mukta at maternal home

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Moni and Mukta, the six-month-old conjoined twins who were separated after a successful operation at Bangladesh Shishu Hospital in the capital on February 8, reached their maternal grandfather's home at Ramroypur Chowdhury-Para village in Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur Sunday.

As they arrived at Ramroypur Chowdhury-Para amid festivity of relatives in the morning, villagers thronged the clay-made house to have a glimpse of the twins.

Earlier on Saturday morning, doctors released the two separated twins after a thorough check up and they along with their parents left Dhaka for Phulbari by a Dinajpur-bound coach on Saturday night.

The twins are in good condition although they suffered a little coughing due to sudden cold, family members said.

During a visit to their home at the remote village about 60km from Dinajpur town, this correspondent found that the twins were having nice time playing with relatives amid presence of a good number of people.

Joyprokash Pal and Trishna Pal, parents of the separated twins, said they were worried thinking about whether they would be able to get them back to their village home.

Expressing gratitude to the doctors who helped them get back their children in a good condition, they said villagers and relatives want to take them on lap, but they do not allow doing so because doctors forbade them doing so.

"We passed the last six months amid worry thinking about the

fate of the twins, Almighty God finally helped us," said Nioti Rani Pal, maternal grandmother of the separated twins.

"It seemed a curse for us as they were born as conjoined twins in August last year. By the grace of God, they were separated," said maternal grandfather of the twins, Debendra Nath Poul, a retired primary school headmaster.

Doctors at Dhaka Shishu Hospital on February 8 separated twin sisters Moni and Mukta, who had been conjoined at the lower part of their chests and abdomens, in the third such operation performed successfully in Bangladesh.

A 10-member team of surgeons and anaesthetists led by Prof AR Khan, head of surgery of the hospital, conducted the operation and the hospital bore the total cost for the purpose.



Six-month-old twins Moni and Mukta, separated from a conjoined state through an operation at Bangladesh Shishu Hospital in the capital on February 8, give happy look at their maternal grandmother's house Ramroypur village in Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur district yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

DINAJPUR TEXTILE INSTITUTE

BCL goes on rampage, foils exam procedure

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A faction of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Dinajpur Textile Institute unit yesterday went on the rampage as the authorities of the institute allegedly failed to take action against seven students belonging to another faction for their alleged involvement in December 19 incident on the campus.

They damaged cotton spinning shed and rooms at the administrative buildings of the institutes and foiled the process of filling up the forms of the examinees.

Campus sources said the activists of a BCL faction led by Limon, a fifth year student of the institute, brought out a procession on the campus at around 11:00am demanding

expulsion of Farhad Hossain, Prince, Bullet, Kowmik, Nantu Sarker, Manser Ali and Sajjad of their rival faction as they cut tendon of Nuruzzaman Tuktuk of Limon group during a factional clash on December 19, 2009.

When the processionists gathered in front of the principal's room to press for immediate action against the seven of their rival faction, some teachers' bad behaviour made them angry, sources added.

Senior AL leaders along with police rushed to the campus and pacified the agitating students. A large number of police have been posted on the campus to avoid any further incident.

Following December 19 incident, the authorities of the institute held the seven

BCL men responsible for cutting tendon of Tuktuk and expelled them from the institute. But they withdrew the expulsion order on January 19 under 'political pressure' and allowed the seven to sit for examinations.

Protesting the authorities' decision, BCL Limon group staged a violent protest on the campus on January 19 that prompted the authorities to close the institute for an indefinite period.

Activists of the Limon group said they will continue their agitation until their demand for expulsion of seven of their rival group is not met. They alleged that a one-member committee that formed to investigate the December 19 incident is yet to submit its report to the authorities.

EXTORTION IN MEHERPUR

Police drive to arrest 8 Jubo League men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Meherpur police have launched an 'unusual' drive against local extortionists.

Though they are yet to nab any of the extortionists but the drive earned public praise as it was aimed at the ruling party leaders and activists in the district.

Locals said they saw the ruling party men committing crimes during previous regimes but never saw any such drive to arrest them.

According to police, they launched the drive to nab eight extortionists on specific charges. The accused are Meherpur Sadar upazila Jubo League president Anwar Hossain Anu and secretary Al-Mamun, leader of unit Sazzadul and cadres Nasir, Zia, Ripon, Happy and Rana.

Police said around five hundred villagers led by Amjhupi Union Parishad (UP)

chairman Borhan Uddin Chunnun brought out a procession on Saturday.

They went to the house of ruling party lawmaker from Meherpur-1 Joyanal Abedin in the evening and handed over written allegation of looting fish by Jubo League leaders Anwar Hossain Anu, Al-Mamun and Sazzadul.

Sources said the Jubo League leaders along with their cadres went to Chadbeel water body and looted around 500kg fish from the fish farmers.

Allegation is there that Jubo League cadres Nasir, Zia, Ripon, Happy and Rana also demanded illegal toll from brick kiln owner Abul Kashem in Kathuli area in Sadar upazila on the same day.

Sources said the Jubo League men equipped with arms went to the brick kiln at about 7:30pm and demanded Tk 5 lakh from Kashem. They also threatened the brick kiln owner with dire

consequences in case of failure to pay the amount.

On receiving the allegations lawmaker Joyanal Abedin asked police to arrest those involved in the incident.

Police said they raided the houses of the extortionists in different areas of the district on Saturday and Sunday night but failed to arrest them.

Meanwhile in Chuadanga, criminals belonging to 'Korban Bahini' looted five houses at Chilahalki village under Alamdanga upazila on Saturday night.

The gang also exploded several bombs creating panic among the people.

According to villagers, a gang of about 15/20 led by ring leader Korban stormed into the houses of Ahad, Altaf, Razzak and Moksed at about 12:30am.

Taking the family members hostage at gunpoint, the gang looted cash, gold ornaments and other valuables.



Trucks loaded with goods enter through Benapole land port as India-Bangladesh trade through the port resumed after a two-day suspension.

PHOTO: STAR

Two youths killed in Barisal, Mymensingh

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Criminals murdered two young men in Barisal and Mymensingh yesterday.

A correspondent from Barisal reports: A gang of criminals hacked to death a youth at Kalibari Road in Barisal city yesterday.

The incident occurred near Fair Health Clinic at around 12 noon.

A gang of five to six hacked Anik, 20, indiscriminately resulting in his intestines coming out of the abdomen.

Critically injured Anik lay on the road for about 30 minutes. After the gang left the scene, locals rescued him but he died while being taken to a hospital.

Locals said Anik was a phensidyl addict and he owed money to the drug peddlers.

Criminals in Mymensingh killed another youth with sharp weapons near Gaijyabari ground of

Naumohal area in the town yesterday.

According to our correspondent, victim Rubel, 21, was son of late Abdul Khaleq of RK Mission Road.

Rubel who worked at a factory in Dhaka came home on Saturday night.

Police said, Parvez, the younger brother of Rubel had a conflict with a local gang for long. Parvez beat up one of the gang members last week. When the members of gang found Parvez near Gaijyabari ground at around 9:30am they started beating him indiscriminately.

Hearing the hue and cry, Rubel rushed to the spot to save Parvez.

At one stage, the gang attacked Rubel with sharp weapons killing him on the spot.

Police later arrested four people for their alleged involvement in the killing. They are Jibon, Sarwar, Amin and Sabbir.

Export-Import thru' Benapole land port resumes

UNB, Benapole

Export-Import through Benapole land port resumed yesterday.

Trading through the land port came to a halt on Saturday due to political turmoil on the Indian side while its activities remained suspended on Sunday because of public holiday.

Benapole Customs Cargo officer Dilip Sarker said the trade resumed at 10am.

Seventy truckloads of goods entered the land port from India while 40 truckloads of goods were exported to the country till 2pm, he said.

Petrapole C&F Association official Kartik Chandra Dey informed that rival groups of workers belonging to Congress Party and Trinamul Congress clashed for political control on the port leading to the suspension of activities on Saturday.

The workers joined their work yesterday after fruitful meetings with customs, Bangaon police and administrative officials.

Fertiliser godown crisis acute in Barisal region

UNB, Barisal

Inadequate fertiliser storage facilities in Barisal region is hampering smooth supply of urea to the boro paddy growers at peak season.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) and Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) sources said BADC has three buffer godowns for fertilisers and seeds in Barisal each with a capacity of storing 2,000 to 3,000 metric tons.

Out of the three one is being used by BADC itself for stocking 2,000mts non-urea fertilisers. Of the other two

one with 2,000mts seed storage capacity has been leased to a private firm while the third one with 3,000mts storage capacity leased to BCIC.

Harunur Rashid, joint director of BCIC Barisal office said Barisal district alone needed 4,000-6,000mts non-urea and 25,500 to 26,500mts urea fertiliser in the peak of the season.

At present more than 7,250mts urea fertilisers have been stored in the godown leased to BCIC and about 850mts stored at the courtyard under the open sky.

On other hand, at least 7 cargos are unloading more

than 4,000mts of urea, sources said.

BADC authorities said they leased the seed godown to a private firm for storing construction materials in 1996 and the contract was renewed in 2002 as seeds storage was not required.

However, the contract with the firm expired on June 2008 and BADC issued notices to vacate and hand over the godown last year.

The managing director of the private firm said they received injunction and status quo order from the High Court against the BADC order as they refused to renew the lease contract.

Use of leaf colour charts gaining popularity

UNB, Dhaka

A large number of farmers in the ongoing boro season are using fertiliser in their crop fields as per Leaf Colour Charts (LCCs) which is expected to save around 1.5 lakh metric tonnes of urea fertiliser across the country.

"This will also maintain the health of the soil, protect ecological balance and enhance the crop yield by 4-6 percent," said agriculturist Dr Radheshyam Sarker.

According to a source in the Directorate of Agriculture Extension (DAE), the use of LCC charts at the farmers' level will save around 1.5 lakh metric tonnes of urea worth Tk 180 crore.

"Besides, the reduced use of urea will indirectly benefit several lakh people and ensure food security apart from maintaining the ecological balance," said the DAE official.

Dr Radheshyam, project director of Leaf Color Chart

lakh LCC charts will be used by the farmers throughout the country this season.

He informed that some 3 lakh pieces of LCC charts, imported from the Philippines in the fiscal 2007-08 and 2008-09, have been distributed free of cost among the farmers. "Import of another one lakh LCC charts is under process," he said.

Under the LCC project, around 3 lakh farmers in 12,200 blocks across the country were provided with LCC charts free of cost and most of them experienced increased crop yields.

The DAE is making hectic efforts to popularise the LCC technology among ordinary farmers in the current boro season by imparting training to 37,000, holding 8,000 block demonstrations and organising 2,700 field days.

Contacted, deputy director of food crops wing (rice) at the DAE, Fazal-e-Elahi said that in the current 2009-10 season,

some 48 lakh hectares of land were brought under Boro cultivation with the production target set at 1.90 crore metric tonnes.

In the last season (2008-09), the yield was 1.85 lakh metric tonnes from around 49 lakh hectares brought under boro cultivation.

According to sources at the IRRI office in Dhaka, the DAE imported one lakh pieces of LCC from the Philippines for the ongoing boro season while BRAC and PKSF imported 20,000 pieces of LCC charts each from the Philippines.

Invented by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), the leaf colour chart (LCC) is a plastic, ruler-shaped strip containing four panels of colour ranges from yellowish green to dark green.

It is an easy-to-use and cheaper diagnostic tool for monitoring the relative greenness of a rice leaf as an indicator of the plant nitrogen (N) status.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

UP chairman murdered

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Criminals have murdered the acting chairman of Haridashkathi union Parishad under Monirampur upazila. Police recovered the body of Prokash Chandra Saha from a field near his residence yesterday morning. Police said unidentified assailants on Sunday night called him out and hacked to death. Being informed by the locals police recovered the body but yet to recover his cell phone till filing of this report. Prokash had been performing the duties as the acting chairman after the death of former chairman Mukul Chandra Saha in 2007. Mukul died at Jessore Central Jail during the regime of last caretaker government.

Constable commits 'suicide'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

A police constable allegedly committed suicide by hanging from a tree near the Kaliganj compound Sunday night. Constable Lutfor Rahman, 48, was son of Abdul Gafur Mollah of village Bag Jhhapa in Kashiani upazila under Gopalganj district. Locals said they found the body hanging from the tree and police recovered it yesterday. Contacted, Kaliganj police station officer in charge (OC) Alamgir said Lutfor went on a fifteen-day leave and returned to duty on February 19. He however could not say anything about the cause of his suicide.

Fake examinee fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A mobile court fined a fake SSC examinee Tk.10,000 at Pirganj Government College Centre yesterday. The fake examinee was identified as Abul Kalam Azad, final year student of zoology department at Dhaka Bangla College. He hailed from Jagannathpur village in Pirganj upazila. Upazila Nirbahi Officer Abdur Rauf Mondal, who led the mobile court, said the team entered into a room at the SSC centre seeing the boy's suspicious appearance. The UNO challenged Azad and found him giving proxy in the mathematics examination for Faridul Islam, student of Jagannathpur High School in Pirganj upazila. Faridul was also expelled from the examination, the UNO said.



PHOTO: STAR

Intra-party rivals burn the effigy of Sylhet district BNP Secretary GK Gous, also the mayor of Habiganj pourasava, during a demonstration at Khoaimukh in Habiganj town yesterday.

Prisoner dies in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

An under trial prisoner at Sirajganj jail died at Sirajganj sadar hospital yesterday morning during treatment. The victim was identified as Bimol Baskhor, 38, of Mukundaganti village in Belkuchi upazila of the district. He was detained in a drug case. Hospital and jail authorities said Bimol fell sick last Friday as he was an addict and a patient of epilepsy. He was admitted to Sirajganj Sadar hospital, where he died yesterday at around 7.40am.

Shop owner murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A shop owner was murdered at Lakkhipur village under Sadar upazila on Saturday night. Victim Nizamul Islam Nizam, 35, was owner of Fancy Kach Ghar and son of late Nur Hossain of Colledgepara in the town. Family sources said Nizam used to tour four upazilas of the district at regular intervals to collect money from his business people. On Friday he went to Haripur upazila to collect money on the way back home, as he reached at Laxmipur village on Baliadangi-Thakurgaon road at about 6:00pm a gang of criminals attacked him leaving him seriously injured. Locals rushed him to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital where he died at 11:45pm on Saturday night. His family members believe the muggers killed him for taking away Tk 2 lakh he had collected from his business people.

Housewife beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband at Gukarnaghat village in Nasirnagar upazila of the district Saturday night. The victim was identified as Joyanti Rani Biswas, 21, wife of Kajal Biswas. Villagers and police said at a stage of altercation the husband hit in the head of Joyanti with a stone. Joyanti died on the spot. On information, police from Nasirnagar police station rushed to the spot and arrested Kajal. The autopsy of the body was done at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital. A case was filed with Nasirnagar police station in this regard.

One mugged at Benapole

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Muggers took away Tk three lakh from an India-bound passenger in Local Stand area at Benapole Saturday afternoon. Police and witnesses said, victim Anisur Rahman, hailing from Bagerhat district, came to Benapole to go to India for treatment. A gang started following Anisur when he reached Benapole. Two muggers Feroz Ali and Liton -- on the plea of helping get visa took him to a narrow lane. They then looted Tk three lakh from him at knife's point and decamped with the amount. A complaint was lodged with Benapole port police station but none could be arrested till filing this report in the evening.

10 injured in attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least 10 people including a UP chairman aspirant were injured in an attack on Saturday evening when they were campaigning at a remote shoal about 20 km off the upazila town. Of injured, seven have been admitted to Baufal upazila health complex. They are Nazirpur UP chairman aspirant also vice president of union unit BNP Helal Munshi, 40, his supporters Khalil, 40, Amin, 35, Bareq, 55, Nazrul, 30, Jasim Uddin, 25 and Naimul, 25. Police and locals said, Helal Munshi with his supporters went to Char Wadel to campaign for UP election scheduled for June. There a gang led allegedly by Abul and Hanif attacked Helal and his companions.