



PHOTO: STAR

People from different walks of life form a human chain at Cox's Bazar yesterday to press home their 13-point demand including steps to make the town an environment-friendly tourist spot.

## Sundarbans tigers turn crazy for food, kill 4 people in 3 days

QUAZI AMANULLAH, *Khulna*

Royal Bengal Tigers killed four people in Dakope and Koira upazilas of Khulna district in three days since Saturday, much to the worry of bawalis (goalpata collectors) and fishermen in the Sundarbans.

Tigers are becoming more ferocious due to serious food crisis in the Sundarbans following its widespread damage by cyclones Sidr and Aila, said officials of Sundarbans Forest Division, adding that hungry tigers also enter human habitations in search of food.

Bawali Kabir Dhali, 45, son of Mohammad Ali Dhali of Kalabogi village under Dakope upazila, and fisherman Pir Ali Mallick, 40, son of Dabiruddin Mallick of Fakirabad village under Paikgachha upazila, went to the Sundarbans with permission from forest department a couple of days ago.

When Kabir was loading golpata in his boat at Atbayon canal of the Sundarbans at 9:00am on Monday, a Royal Bengal Tiger attacked him and

dragged him into the deep forest from where his body was recovered after intensive search by forest guards. They also recovered the body of Pir Ali from a different place in the Sundarbans. A tiger attacked him from behind and dragged him into the deep forest when he was netting fish at a canal near Hadda forest office under Koira upazila of Khulna district.

At 4:00pm on Saturday, a Royal Bengal Tiger attacked Namita Mridha, 48, wife of Birendra Nath Mridha of Kalabogi village under Dakope upazila, when she was worshipping 'fairy of the woods' (nymph) on the bank of Kalabogi River in Dakope upazila, said Kartik Mandol, station officer of Kalabogi Forest Office.

Her body was recovered at 6:00pm on the same day from deep forest.

A Royal Bengal Tiger killed Asha Mandol, 60, wife of Nimai Mandol of Hadda village under Koira upazila, when she was fishing in a canal at Phultala in Koira upazila at 11:00am on Sunday, said Assistant

Conservator of Forests Md Zahurul Huq.

Amid panic due to alarming rise in deaths by tigers, the number of bawalis and fishermen has decreased during this peak season of golpata collection in the Sundarbans.

Meanwhile, the forest department has recently sent a proposal to the ministry concerned to impose ban on entrance of common people to Katka and Sharankhola of Bagerhat district and Munshiganj of Satkhira district to save Royal Bengal Tigers from poachers.

Imposition of the ban is very much essential as organised gangs of poachers are killing Royal Bengal tigers in different ways with the connivance of a section of forest officials, goes the proposal.

The conservator of forests of Khulna Circle, Md Akbar Hossain, however, said he was not yet aware of such proposal for imposing ban on people's entrance to Katka and Sharankhola of Bagerhat district and Munshiganj of Satkhira district.

## Attack on Jubo League activist

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Natore*

A Jubo league leader was injured in an attack by BNP men at Madonhat Buridaha area under Sadar upazila on Monday evening. The victim, Khairul Islam, 40, general secretary of Dighapatia Union Jubo league, came under attack while he was returning home from town.

Following family troubles, Selina, Anwara and Sakhina took poison and died later yesterday, police quoted locals as saying. Shahinur Rahman Sardar, who married Tanzila Khatun, 19, daughter of Mobarak Ali of village Laxmidari in Sadar upazila on Sunday, came out of the house keeping his wife

## Six people commit suicide in Satkhira, Thakurgaon

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Six people committed suicide in Satkhira and Thakurgaon districts yesterday and the day before.

A class five student, a newly married young man and two housewives committed suicide in Satkhira district yesterday and the day before, reports our Satkhira correspondent.

The victims are Selina Khatun, 10, daughter of Golam Mostafa of village Pania in Kaliganj upazila, also a class five student of Pania Government Primary School, Anwara Begum, 30, wife of Asadul Islam Gazi of village Amtaladanga in Tala upazila, Sakhina Khatun, 38, wife of Rahim Baksa of village Sonabaria in Kalaroa upazila, and Shahinur Rahman Sardar, 25, son of Salek Sardar of village Khalilnagar in Sadar upazila.

Following family troubles, Selina, Anwara and Sakhina took poison and died later yesterday, police quoted locals as saying.

Shahinur Rahman Sardar, who married Tanzila Khatun, 19, daughter of Mobarak Ali of village Laxmidari in Sadar upazila on Sunday, came out of the house keeping his wife

inside early yesterday and committed suicide by hanging himself from a nearby tree.

Police recovered the bodies and sent them to Satkhira hospital morgue for autopsy.

Our Thakurgaon correspondent adds: Two teenage boys committed suicide at different villages under Thakurgaon Sadar upazila on Monday.

Class-VII student Shah Alam, 15, son of Mamun of Duoshuo village, committed suicide by taking poison beside his house at about 7:00pm on Monday, police said.

Hearing his scream, family members rushed to the spot and brought him to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital where he died at about 10:00pm.

Earlier his mother rebuked him for neglecting his lesson.

Choitanya Barman, 18, son of Dhauhu Barman of Madhupur village committed suicide by taking poison at his house at about 8:00am on Monday, police said.

Autopsies of the two bodies were done at Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital yesterday.

## SNIPPETS

### BSF returns body of Bangladeshi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Body of a Bangladeshi cattle trader who was gunned down by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on December 13 night, was returned to Border Guard (BGB) Bangladesh, yesterday evening. BSF men at Hakimpur camp gunned down cattle trader Kabirul Islam, 32, son of Ismail Hossain of Boalia village in Kalaroa upazila, while returning home with cattlehead from India. Later, BSF took away the body to Indian territory. Immediately after the killing, BGB sent a protest letter to BSF authorities asking the Indian counterpart to return the body. This was followed by a company level flag meeting between BGB and BSF at zero point of Madra border in the upazila yesterday afternoon. Contacted, BGB company commander Abdul Motaleb told this correspondent that after a fruitful discussion, BSF handed over Kabirul's body to them.

### Mother killed by son

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

An ill-fated mother was killed by her son at Gayeshpur village in Sadar upazila yesterday. Victim Sarbanu Begum, 55, was wife of Anisur Rahman Sardar of the village. Quoting locals police said, Sarbanu's son Salah Uddin was cutting bamboo from their bamboo cluster in the morning. When Sarbanu tried to prevent her son from cutting bamboo from the cluster, he struck on her head with a cleaver leaving her seriously injured. Later, she succumbed to her injuries on way to Satkhira Sadar Hospital.

### 4-day housing fair from Mar 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

A four-day housing fair will be held at Mohammad Ali gymnasium in Rikabi bazar here from March 16. A total of 70 stalls of real estate firms and housing companies will be set up at Sylhet Abashon Mela to be organized by Sylhet Apartment and Real Estate Group (SAREG). The fair will remain open from 11:00 am to 8:00 pm everyday. The organizers announced special discount for the participants.

### Human chain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Amar Adhikar Campaign, a social organisation and NGO Rupantar jointly organised a human chain programme yesterday demanding early implementation of National Education Policy-2010. The human chain programme began at 11:00am in front of Khuna Press Club which continued till 12:00noon. Later, the participants went to Khulna Collectorate building where they submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner. Apart from implementation of national education policy, the participants demanded a primary school at state level in every village of the country. Among others, noted educationist Prof Jafar Imam, executive director of Sundarban Academy Prof Anwarul Kadir, president, Khulna district unit of Primary Teachers' Association Shamsun Nahar, social activist Shamima Sultana Shilu and chairperson of Khulna Nagorik Forum and freedom fighter Sheikh Abdul Kayyum addressed a rally after the human chain.

### Clash over land

UNB, *Jamalpur*

Ten people were injured in a clash over land dispute at Harijan Palli here on Monday morning. Police quoting locals said, there was a longstanding dispute between Abdul Malek, an alleged land grabber and the people of Harijan Palli. Malek along with his men went to build a house at the Palli at about 10:00 am on the day. Being informed, police settled the matter and asked Malek not to build any building there without permission. This has angered Malek. Later, over 200 people loyal to Malek attacked the people of the Palli leaving 10 injured. They also vandalised several houses and damaged Saraswati idol. On information, police rushed to the spot and quelled the situation.

### 9 houses gutted

UNB, *Sherpur*

Nine houses were gutted in a big fire at Gazirkhamar in Sadar upazila on Sunday night. Fire Brigade sources said the fire originated from a cow-shed of Dilaruddin at about 10:30 am and soon it engulfed the adjoining eight houses. Local people doused the flame after two hours of frantic efforts. The extent of loss caused by the fire might go upto Tk8 lakh, affected house owners apprehended.

### Drug peddlers jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*

A mobile court sentenced three drug-peddlers to different jail terms for selling hemp in various parts of the district town on Saturday night. Police said a mobile court led by executive magistrate Rashedul Islam conducted a drive in various parts of the town and arrested three people for selling hemp. After a hearing, the mobile court instantly sentenced Nur Alam, 35, of Telipara to one year imprisonment, Rofiza, 40, of Jamindarpara to eight months' imprisonment and Rezaul, 25, of Thakurgaon railway station area to six months' imprisonment. Later, they were sent to Thakurgaon jail.

### Two injured by robbers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Natore*

Robbers chopped a rice trader and his son while trying to prevent them from committing robbery at their house at Dhanaidah village under Baraigram upazila on Monday night. The injured rice trader is Ruhul Amin, 55, and his son Kazol. Of the injured, Ruhul Amin was admitted to a local clinic while Kazol was rushed to Suhrawardy hospital in Dhaka for treatment. Police and family sources said, a gang numbering 15 took position in front of Sarna Rice Mill at Dhanaidah in a bid to commit robbery at about 2:00am. When Kazol came out of their house, the gang surrounded him and chopped with sharp weapon. Hearing his hue and cry, locals rushed to the spot but the robbers managed to flee. Anwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Baraigram police station said, the criminals could not loot anything from the house.

## Stalker jailed in Habiganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

A mobile court in Habiganj yesterday sentenced a teen to six months' rigorous imprisonment (RI) with a fine of Tk 500 for stalking a schoolgirl.

The convict is Rubel, 18,

of Kobilashpur village in Chunarughst upazila.

He stood on way of a girl student of class-vi of Nalukh Sabiha Chowdhury Girls' High School yesterday while she was returning home.

Locals caught him red-handed and handed him

over to police.

Later, he was produced before the mobile court headed by upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) Md Mujibur Rahman, also an executive magistrate, who heard the charges and passed the judgment.

## Afflicted, they urge police to detain addicted sons

SUSHANTA GHOSH, *Barisal*

Parents of drug addicts in Barisal city lodged at least six cases in last six weeks with the plea to put their addicted children behind bars to rid them of their tortures.

They made the appeals to save their lives and properties, as the addicts often torture the family members and ransack valuables of the house failing to get money for drugs, according to the case statements.

Court and police sources said a mother of Babuganj area filed a case against her son with Barisal Senior Judicial Magistrate Court on January 20, another by a mother from Band Road on January 3, still another father from Charmonai area filed such a case on January 6.

On January 11, a case was filed by a mother from Hospital Road area with the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court. Two mothers of Jordan Road and Palasur areas of the city lodged two cases on December 21 and 29 last with the same court.

On receiving the cases, the courts issued arrest warrants against the addicted youths. However, police could not arrest any of them as yet.

A mother from Babuganj requesting not to be named said her 22-year-old son had been taking pethidine for the last five years.

"We admitted him at the Holy Care Institute in the city for treatment and he returned home after a month-long hospital stay following his improvement. But, he again became addicted to the drug," she said.

"We are passing days in fear as he often becomes violent and ransacks valuables of the house failing to get money for drugs," she added.

Social workers, police and Rab officials acknowledged that many guardians in the city and upazila towns often lodge complaints to the law enforcement agencies about tortures from their addicted children.

Jahangir Alam, officer-in-charge of Kotowali Police Station, said "We are actively working with other law enforcement agencies to stop drug peddling in the area."

Rahima Sultan Kajal, an NGO official, said the number of drug addicts is increasing alarmingly all over the district. There are 200 drug spots in the district, she said.

More than two lakh people, mostly youths are drug addicted in the district. Increasing frustration over life, losing moral values are the causes of addiction among the youths, Rahima said.

Drug peddlers are making brisk fortunes at the cost of youths. They are selling different types of drugs like phensidyl, cannabis, liquor, heroin, different types of pain killer, sedative injections, tablets and liquid adhesive known as Dandy to them, she added.

A section of local influential people are assisting the drug peddling syndicate in the city. A source of Rab was killed by the drug peddlers in Kawnia last week, court sources said.

The drug peddlers, arrested by the law enforcement agencies at different times, easily manage to get out on bail from the court, sources added.



PHOTO: STAR

Dipalok Academy, a cultural organisation, stages the play 'Footpath' written by Mannan Hira, at Shaheed Abdur Razzaque Park in Satkhira town yesterday during the ongoing countrywide street theatre festival jointly organised by The Daily Star and Bangladesh Pathanatak Parishad marking 20th anniversary of the English daily.