



PHOTO: STAR

A vested quarter has continued constructing a market at Rayenda Bazar of Sharankhola upazila headquarters under Bagerhat district, earth-filling a part of the pond that serves as the only source of sweet water since tidal surges accompanied by cyclones Sidr and Aila in 2007 and 2009 turned saline most of the drinking water sources in the area.

# Greed to cost the lone sweet water source

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A group of ruling Awami League men are building a shopping complex after filling up part of the lone sweet water pond at Sharankhola upazila headquarters in Bagerhat district allegedly in collusion with a section of corrupt officials of Bagerhat Zila Parishad.

The pond adjacent to Rayenda Pilot School and owned by Bagerhat Zila Parishad provided sweet water to over 10,000 people of about 2,000 families after cyclonic storms Sidr and Aila that ravaged the area on November 15 in 2007 and May 25 in 2009 respectively turned most of the sweet water sources saline and

undrinkable.

Beneficiaries of the sweet water pond include two thousand students of Rayenda Pilot School and Model Government Primary School.

Besides, the army took initiative to supply safe drinking water from this pond with the help of a water purification machine after the onslaught of Sidr.

But in November 2010, some influential men belonging to the ruling party hit upon a plan to build a shopping complex filling the pond with earth while a section of corrupt officials of Bagerhat Zila Parishad played a vital role in this regard from behind the screen, sources said.

When asked, Joint

Secretary of Sharankhola upazila unit of Awami League and former chairman of Rayenda union parishad Abdur Rashid Akand said that a group of vested interest quarter with the connivance of a section of corrupt officials of Bagerhat Zila Parishad are involved in illegal occupation of the pond for constructing a shopping complex there.

"We will launch a movement programme including indefinite strike if the construction work on the sweet water pond is not stopped immediately," he said.

Sharankhola UNO Khandaker Zahirul Islam said, "Construction of shopping complex by earth-filling a pond is illegal.

Besides, this pond is very important as it remained as the lone source of sweet water in Sharankhola upazila headquarters after Sidr and Aila hit the area."

Asked about the matter, Chief Executive Officer of Bagerhat Zila Parishad Gokul Chandra Das said, "The shopping complex is being constructed on the bank of the pond, not by filling it with earth. We are doing it for welfare of the people."

Contacted, Director of Khulna divisional office of the Department of Environment Dr Tarun Kanti Shikder said construction of any installation by filling any pond with earth is prohibited under Environment Conservation Act-1995.



PHOTO: STAR

Rivals set fire to the house of one Saju at Balia village in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila following a clash centring land dispute on Friday evening.

## clash over land: 3 hurt, 2 houses torched

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Three people including an elderly woman were injured in a clash over a disputed land at Balia village in Sadar upazila yesterday.

There had been a long-standing dispute over a piece of land between Saju, 28, son of Sayed Ali and his neighbour Motaleb, 30, son of Ramzan Mollah of the same village.

Witnesses said, Ramzan Mollah and his accomplices suddenly attacked Saju and his family members in the evening leaving Saju, his mother Shaheda Begum, 62, and brother Ripon, 26, injured. The attackers also torched two houses.

On information, fire fighters rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control with the help of local people.

Locals brought the injured to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital where they were undergoing treatment till filing of the report yesterday afternoon.

## Two bombs found

UNB, Meherpur

Rab members recovered two bombs from the courtyard of a house at Chougachha village in Gangni municipality area yesterday morning.

Being informed, Rab members went to the spot and recovered the bombs wrapped with red tape at the yard of the house of one Ali at around 7:30am.

# 11 people jailed, 19 others fined for violating poll code

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Mobile courts sentenced 11 people to jail and fined 19 others for violating election code of conduct in different unions of Pabna, Krigram, Gaibandha and Narail districts in the last three days.

Our Pabna correspondent reported that a mobile court, led by Executive Magistrate Md Moshtaq Ahmed, yesterday sentenced nine campaigners of a chairman candidate to seven days imprisonment each for violating code of conduct at Durgapur village in Ataikula Union of Pabna Sadar upazila on Friday night.

The convicts are Md Abul Hossain, 36, of Durgapur village, Manik

Hossain, 25, of Ugragar village, Akbar Ali, 40, Milan Kumar, 20, Abdul Malek, 35, Jharu Mondol, 24, Sohail Rana, 25, Liton Hossain, 20, Khabir Uddin, 30 of Mouggram village.

Md Habibur Islam, officer in charge (OC) of Ataikula Police Station, said the nine were arrested at around 11:00pm on Friday for campaigning at Durgapur village violating the election rules.

The arrestees were yesterday produced before the court that seat them to jail, the OC added.

Our Gaibandha correspondent adds: Two people were sentenced to jail and 17 UP others fined on charge of breaching election code in different areas of Sunderganj upazila on

Thursday.

Mobile court awarded one month's imprisonment to Lablu Mia and Jakirul Islam each for using motor-bike in Taluk Sarbananda Govt Primary School polling center during election to Sarbananda Union Parishad.

The court fined 17 others, including chairman candidate of Dhopadanga Union Parishad Mahbub Alam and chairman candidate of Bamondanga Union Parishad Motiur Rahman, for the same offence. The chairman candidates were fined Tk 17,000 each while the 15 others Tk 10,000 each.

In Kurigram, A mobile court on Thursday night fined a chairman candidate for violating election code

of conduct.

Police said Omar Faruk, chairman candidate of Halokhana Union

parishad in Sadar upazila, held meetings in his area violating the election rules, reports UNB.

Later, the mobile court led by UNO Kazi Abul Hossain, also the executive magistrate fined Faruk Tk 10,000.

In Natore, A mobile court fined a UP chairman candidate for violating election rules and realised Tk 10,000 from him, according to our correspondent.

The court led by Executive Magistrate Ruhul Amin punished Chairman candidate of Tebarira Union Parishad Golam Sarwar for hanging colour banner on his car.

## 30 injured in roof collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

About 30 workers were injured as a roof of an under-construction building of Vendabari food depot in Pirganj upazila collapsed yesterday afternoon.

Condition of 10 injured workers was reported to be critical, said a doctor at Rangpur Medical College and Hospital.

The construction workers said the roof of the under-construction building collapsed at about 3:50 pm. Twenty of the workers who were on the roof and 10 others who were inside the roof were injured.

Agitated workers and locals of Vendabari caught

the manager of the construction firm, Raju Miah and sub-divisional engineer of Public Works Department (PWD) Abu Zafar who came to visit the site after the incident.

On information, police rushed to the spot and rescued both the manager of the firm and sub-divisional engineer of PWD. Police took them to Pirganj police station.

Construction firm Messers Haque Traders have been given work order to construct four food depots, including Vendabari food depot, at a cost of Tk 4 crore.

Contacted, the PWD executive engineer said, "We will form an investigation committee to probe the incident."

## Two municipalities in Dinajpur, Pabna go to polls today

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Election to Ghoraghat municipality in Dinajpur and Atghoria municipality in Pabna will be held today, election official sources said.

In Ghoraghat municipality, 10 candidates are vying for mayor post while 74 candidates are contesting for nine councilor posts and 14 women for three reserved women seats, reports our correspondent.

In Atghoria municipality, five mayor candidates and 56 councilor candidates includ-

ing 15 women candidates are contesting the election, our correspondent quoted election official as saying.

Ghoraghat Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Maksuda Begum Siddiqi said 300 members of law enforcement agencies including Rab and riot police will be deployed in each of the nine polling centres.

Atghoria Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Rabiul Islam said adequate measures have been taken to hold election in a free and fair manner.

## SNIPPETS

### Current nets seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Coastguards in a drive seized about 15,000 metres current net worth of Tk 9 lakh yesterday. Lieutenant Commander Jasimuzzaman said they seized the nets from Bandar Ghat in Cox's Bazar. Sensing the presence of the coastguards, the fishermen who were illegally fishing in the Bay escaped from the scene, he added.

### Drug peddler jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira.

A mobile court sentenced a drug peddler to one and a half years imprisonment in Sadar upazila yesterday. A team of narcotics department led by Inspector Milon Mukherjee arrested the convict, Md Obaidullah Morol, 45, of Taluigachha village in Thanaghata area of the upazila and recovered drugs from his possession at around 10:00am. The drug peddler was produced in the court of Executive Magistrate Mushruha Ferdous. After hearing, the court sent him to jail.

### Day labourer commits suicide

UNB, Meherpur

A day labourer committed suicide by taking poison over family feud at Kasba Bazarpara village in Gangni upazila on Friday. The deceased was identified as Iman Ali, 29, of the village. Police said Iman took poison following a quarrel with his family members in the afternoon. He was rushed to the upazila health complex and died on the way to Meherpur General Hospital.

### Girl's body recovered

UNB, Habiganj

The body of an unidentified girl was recovered from a tea garden at Kamaichara in Bahubal upazila Friday afternoon. Workers of the Kamaichara Dargagaon Tea Garden found the body and informed police who rushed to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy. Police suspected that criminals slit the throat of the teenage girl after rape and left the body in the garden.

### Paddy laden truck looted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A gang of robbers hijacked a paddy laden truck from Jolarbata area on Natore-Bogra highway in Singra upazila on Friday night. Police said, the truck was going to Faridpur town from Joypurhat. When the truck reached Jolarbata area, an armed gang put up road barricade with felled trees. Later they hijacked the truck at gun point. Locals found the driver, helper and businessman tied with roadside trees and informed police. Police rushed to the spot and rescued them in unconscious state.

# Untreated and uncared, Indrani dies finally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Hapless Indrani Mandol finally succumbed to her burn injuries at Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) at about 11:00am on Friday, after spending a woeful period without necessary medical treatment during her 22 days stay there.

Her body was lying in the KMCH mortuary as of filing this report pending autopsy.

As none has claimed the body of the woman, it would be handed over to Dakope Upazila Parishad Vice Chairman Joyanti Rani Sarder who got Indrani Mandol admitted to KMCH on April 14.

Indrani sustained seri-

## Follow-up

ous burn injuries from a fire that broke out in the shrimp enclosure owned by Jayanti Rani Sarder in Dakope upazila.

"I will arrange cremation of Indrani Mandol after her autopsy is done. The hapless woman had suffered from severe pain for 22 days on the floor near Ward No-11 of KMCH without any treatment even on humanitarian ground," Joyanti Rani said yesterday.

"She died unwept and unsung. It is really shocking that neither police nor the hospital authorities tried to investigate even into the mysterious incident of Indrani's

missing from KMCH for two days on May 28 and 29. She was found lying naked on the bank of a pond in Skidghat area of Khulna city at around 9:00am on May 30," the upazila vice chairman said.

When asked, KMCH Superintendent Dr Hamid Asgar refuted the allegation of callousness about medical treatment of the hapless woman.

"She was provided all necessary treatment from the hospital. But the burn injuries on her whole body were so fatal that she needed better treatment elsewhere. But nobody came forward for it," Dr Asgar said.



PHOTO: STAR

Workers load garbage onto a truck at Charpara intersection near Mymensingh Medical College Hospital during the day-time yesterday. Such act of public nuisance has become a regular affair in the district town.