

Shift Rampal power plant elsewhere to save Sundarbans Demand activists at rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Speakers at a rally here yesterday thanked Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for his move to protect the Sundarbans and preserve its resources. They demanded shifting of the site for setting up of a coal-based power plant from Rampal in Bagerhat to elsewhere in the country...

Committee Sushanta Das, a d v o c a t e S M Moniruzzaman, advocate Shahana Ferdous, Convenor of Save The Sundarbans Alhaj Parvez Ahmed and prominent social worker Ijaradar Ikramul Islam.

They said drinking water level is now found below 1000 feet and will move further downwards and the region will face severe crisis of drinking water in the future under adverse impact of coal-fired power plant. They said due to sudden acid rain and other abnormalities in soil survival of tigers will be gradually reduced and they will face minor to major problems in living conditions including reduction of hormonal or reproduction capacity.

Jamuna urea factory resumes operation after five months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Jamuna Fertiliser Company Limited (JFCL), the country's largest urea producing factory, resumed its operation early yesterday after five months of closure. The state-owned company with a daily production capacity of 1,700 tonnes was shut on March 26 for an indefinite period following a government order due to gas crisis.

JFCL, said the plant went into operation after getting normal gas supply at around 2:30am. "If everything goes well, we will be able to resume urea production within next seven days," he added.

Earlier on April 2 last year, the authorities shut it for an indefinite period. Following the shut-down, an overhauling of the unit took place at a cost of Tk 16 crore. The repair ended on May 31 on the same year, but the company could not go on production for gas shortages. It later resumed production in mid-July. Set up in 1991 at Tarakandi under Sarishabari upazila in Jamalpur district, the JFCL supplies urea to 20 districts, including 16 northern ones.

10 get life for murder Two arrested in double murder case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Additional District and Session Judge Ekramul Haque Chowdhury yesterday sentenced 10 people to life term imprisonment and fined Tk 30 thousand each, in default, to suffer six months more in jail for killing a man in 2003. The convicts are Ripon Mia, Anwar Hossen, Kadir Mia, Ishhak Mia, Mofazzal Hossen, Khokon Mia, Habib Mia, Angur Mia, Ayatur Rahaman, and Fazlul Haque of village Nawgaw under Barhatta upazila of the district.

According to the case in brief, on February 3 in 2003, the aforesaid ten killed Khorshad Mia, 65, of adjoining Gobindapur village under the same upazila with sharp weapons in broad daylight due to previous enmity.

In Rangpur, Rab and Kotwali police on Sunday arrested two of accused in a sensational double murder case. Naya Miah, 38, and Sadekul Islam, 36, were arrested from their house at Paglapeer area under Sadar upazila, reports a correspondent.

Rab camp commander Tariqul Islam said Naya Miah and Sadekul at the instruction of notorious highway robber Badsha Miah of the area killed Mominul Islam and Abdus Salam at Ulashu under Haridebpur union in Rangpur Sadar upazila on August 31.

The victims were two sources of Rab. They were killed while returning home by a motorbike from Paglapeer area.



People on the bank of Teesta River in Dimla upazila of Nilphamari district take part in a prayer beside the Teesta Barrage yesterday, seeking divine blessing for an agreement between Bangladesh and India for sharing the water of the trans-border river based on justice and equity.

People by the Teesta want equitable water share Boat race, prayer held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

People living on both sides of the Teesta River in Dimla upazila joined a boat procession on the river yesterday demanding equitable share of Teesta water. Several hundred people from Dalia, Chhoto Khata, Baishpukur, Khalisha Chapani, Purbo Kharibari, Chhatunama, Pagalpara, Tepakharibari villages took part in the procession, boarding about 50 boats. The procession started from Dalia point near Teesta Barrage at around 11:30 am and reached Sadhur Bazar of Lalmonirhat district at around 12:30pm.

The processionists, carrying posters and festoons, chanted slogans in favour of their right to have an equitable share of Teesta water. They came back to Dalia point at around 1:00pm and joined a special prayer there. The special prayer was offered, seeking blessings of the almighty Allah so that Dhaka and Delhi sign an agreement on sharing the water of Teesta River on the basis of equity during Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's Dhaka visit beginning today. They also sought blessings of Allah so that the governments of Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Bhutan can work together to form a 'joint river basin authority'.

After offering prayer, the participants released two pigeons, tying two letters to their legs. The letters were sent to Indian Premier Manmohan Singh and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Muhammad Hilal uddin, co-ordinator of South Asia Water and Climate Justice Campaign, Mossabbar Hossain, an official of Action Aid, Golam Rabbi Raju, chief executive of a local NGO, and Dr Tuhi Wazed, a teacher of Begum Rokeya University also joined the boat procession and special prayer along with the villagers.

SNIPPETS

Boy hacked to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A man hacked an 8-year old boy to death at village Gouripur of Jalalabad police station yesterday morning. Eva Begum, 5, sister of the deceased also sustained serious injuries in the attack. Police said, Chand Miah of neighbouring village Sujatpur had a longstanding dispute with his niece over some landed property. The man entered into the house at about 6:00am yesterday and all on a sudden picked up a sharp bill-hook and swooped on the children in their sleep. He chopped Abu Bakar Imon and his sister Eva. Their mother Rina also sustained injuries as she tried to save them. The injured were rushed to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital where the physicians declared Imon dead. Locals caught Chand Miah and handed him over to police.

JCD leader hurt in attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader of Bauful upazila unit was seriously injured as a group of BCL (Chhatra League) activists attacked him at about 8:00pm on Sunday. The victim was identified as Md. Tareq, 25, joint convener for Bauful upazila unit JCD also of Dhulia village under the upazila. He was admitted first at Bauful upazila health complex and then shifted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in critical condition. Police and local sources said, Tareq went to Dhulia launch terminal at about 7:00pm where about 8/10 BCL men led by Al-Amin, Porag and Alamgir attacked him with sharp weapon. Locals rescued him and sent him to upazila health complex and then Barisal.

2 deer poachers sued

UNB, Bagerhat

A case was filed against two deer poachers for killing a deer in Mongla upazila on Sunday. Mohammad Abul Kalam, station official of Chandpai union of Sundarban East Zone filed the case under Forest Act. Mihir Kumar De, DFO of Sundarbans East Zone said, when a deer entered Joimoni village adjacent to the Sundarbans on Sunday, Golam Sardar, 35, and Manik Talukdar, 38, of the village, caught and slaughtered it. On information, forest guards rushed to the spot and recovered the slaughtered deer. Sensing their presence, the poachers managed to flee the scene.

15 hurt in Munshiganj clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

At least 15 villagers were injured in a clash between the supporters of a union parishad chairman and a defeated chairman candidate in Sadar upazila Sunday night. Shahidul Islam, officer-in-charge of Sadar police station, said Ripon Patwari, chairman of Molakandi union, and Shah Alam Malik, a defeated chairman candidate, picked up a quarrel over a trifling matter at Noadda Dhali village. At one stage, one of the supporters of Malik pushed a woman of the opposite group triggering a clash around 9:00pm. People of Ripon attacked the supporters of Malik, also the vice-president of district Awami League, and damaged a number of houses. Around 30 to 40 bombs were exploded during the clash, the OC said adding at least 15 people from both the groups were injured.

5 bombs recovered

UNB, Khulna

Police in a drive recovered five powerful bombs, two bullets and a pipe gun from a stack of straw at a house at Mondolgtati village in Terokhada upazila on Saturday. Acting on a tip-off, a team of Terokhada police raided the house of Jamal Sheikh and recovered five live bombs and the arms and ammunition in the afternoon. Police could not arrest anyone in this connection.

Indian police return 7 Bangladeshis, BSF 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Seven Bangladeshis, all aged below 30, were returned by the Indian authorities to Tamabil immigration police Sunday evening. Superintendent of police (SP), Sylhet Shakhawat Hossain told this correspondent that the group was yesterday handed over to the police stations concerned. They were later sent to the families, the official said adding, they were jailed in India after police caught them on charge of illegal intrusion. The youths are Harunur Rashid, Almas Ali and Alamgir Hossain of Baligram under Jaintapur upazila, Mashuk Ahmed of village Baro Ali under Gowainghat and Alim Uddin, Abdul Mazid and Mamun Rashid of Sonarkher under Kanaighat upazila in Sylhet.

Some Indian Khasias took them to India for working at orchards in the border area, sources said. However, the victims claimed that although the Khasias hired them for work, they later handed them over to the police. Harun ur Rashid said he had been in the Khowai Jail since October of 2009 along with three other Bangladeshis. Alim Uddin, Abdul Mazid and Mamun Rashid were in jail for 25 days till Sunday last. Our correspondent in Sathkira reports: Two Bangladeshi fishermen, who were abducted by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) from the bordering river Ichchamati in Debhata upazila on Friday, were returned to Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) after a flag meeting on Sunday afternoon.

The fishermen are Firoz Kabir Kalu, 32, son of Abul Hossain and Sekendar Ali, 32, son of Amir Ali of village Shibnagar in Debhata upazila. BGB sources said, Kalu and Sekendar were catching fish in the Ichchamati in Bangladesh territory near Sreepur. All of a sudden, some BSF men with a speed-boat appeared there and took them away with their fishing net and boat. The BGB authorities sent a letter to the BSF protesting the abduction and asked them to return the fishermen. Responding to the protest letter, a camp level flag meeting was held between the BSF and BGB at zero point near Debhata on Sunday and later the fishermen were freed.

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