

RELEASING SALINE WATER TO PADDY FIELD

# UP chairman among 44 sued in Dumuria

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Forty-four people including a union parishad (UP) chairman have been sued for releasing saline water to arable land for shrimp cultivation, violating a High Court ruling issued earlier.

Munshi Asadullah, sub assistant engineer of the Khulna office of Water Development Board (WDB), on Thursday night filed an FIR as complainant with Dumuria police station, accusing 44 people including Bimal Sana, chairman of Magurghona union parishad under Dumuria upazila in Khulna district, and president of the union unit of Awami League.

He is also owner of the shrimp enclosure in question.

"Despite several notices to stop releasing saline water to arable land for shrimp cultivation in defiance of the High Court order, the accused continued the act," the complainant said in the FIR.

Earlier on February 1 this year, a division bench of the High Court comprising Justice HM Shamsuddin Chowdhury and Justice Jahangir Hossain issued a ruling directing authorities concerned to stop release of

saline water for shrimp cultivation in polder areas by dismantling embankment.

The ruling followed a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) and non-government organisation (NGO) Nijera Kori.

The petitioners alleged that a section of influential men of Magurghona union in Dumuria upazila are

causing extensive damage to arable land and polluting environment by releasing saline water for shrimp cultivation and thus rendering large number of farmers jobless.

When contacted, UP Chairman Bimal Sana, who is prime accused in the case, said he is not yet aware of the High Court ruling.

Advocate Iqbal Kabir of BELA, on the other hand,

said the UP chairman had received a copy of the High Court ruling.

The High Court ruling regarding shrimp cultivation is still in effect, said Md Jalaluddin, an official of Nijera Kori.

Dumuria police station officer in charge M Mashiur Rahman said vigorous investigation is going on regarding allegation of the complainant.



PHOTO: STAR

Cutting of an embankment to make saline water enter this shrimp enclosure in Magurghona union under Dumuria upazila of Khulna district causes flooding of large area of arable fields, making them unfit for cultivation.

JET FUEL SUPPLY AT SYLHET AIRPORT

# Project work to start soon as BPC gets land

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Work on the refuelling facilities of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) here will start soon as the authorities recently got possession of the allotted land from the Bangladesh Railway.

Aimed at supplying jet fuel to aircrafts at the MAG Osmani International Airport, the project had been facing stalemate for the last 4 years due to inaction of departments concerned, especially the BR and Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB), sources alleged.

The Railway authorities, however, evicted the illegal occupants about a month ago and handed the land over to the state-run BPC's Padma Oil Company.

Contacted, director of the BPC's refuelling facilities project, Aminul Haque said soon after receiving the

land, they erected the boundary wall.

"We had to suffer a lot as eviction of illegal occupants from the BR land at Bharthokhola took much time," he added.

Replying to a query, the official informed that the work on the main project would start soon. The Tk 50-crore project is scheduled to be completed by June 2013, he added.

Besides, a year ago we took control of 80,000 square feet area of the CAAB land near Osmani International Airport for a set-up of the project. It would be used for supplying jet fuel to the aircrafts while the storage depot would be built on the railway plot at Bharthokhola, the official said.

C A A B O s m a n i International Airport manager Md Abdul Hafiz said that the BPC officials recently

visited the sites. Work at the airport site may start anytime since it was handed over a year ago, he added.

The jet fuel would be transported to the storage point at airport site from the storage depot at Bharthokhola by road, the official further said.

During a recent visit to the site, attached to the BPC's Padma Oil Company depot at Bharthokhola, this correspondent saw that the construction of boundary wall on the one-acre area was almost over.

Under the programme, 3 storage tanks, fire fighting system, power sub-station, generator room, filtering unit, two dispensing units and a 2-storied office building would be set up, an official told this correspondent.

The project was taken up several years ago, but things remained uncertain due to lack of coordination

between different departments, sources said. However, the BPC sped up its activities after the revised project was approved at the Ecne in January last year.

An official informed that refueling services were essential before allowing the foreign aircrafts to the Osmani International Airport in Sylhet.

Refueling facilities had been a long standing necessity since the airport was upgraded over a decade ago, he pointed out.

Although the runway was improved and extended with the setting up of modern boarding facilities, operation of international flights could not be ensured till date mainly due to the absence of refueling services.

Only a few flights of Biman now operate from Sylhet to places like Dubai, Jeddah and London.

SATKHIRA INCIDENT

# 2,000 accused in four cases

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Four separate cases were filed with Kaliganj police station on Friday, accusing over 2,000 people of torching and vandalising several houses at Fatepur and Chakdah villages in Kaliganj upazila on March 31 and April 1.

Khalilur Rahman of Nilkanthapur village filed a case with Kaliganj police station against 250 people, including Mizanur Rahman, a correspondent of local daily Dristipat, for publishing a false report on March 29 that led to violent incident at Fatepur on March 31.

The report said that the students of Fatepur High School made indecent remarks on Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (SM) while they were staging a drama titled 'Hujur Kebla' on the school premises on March 27.

Following the report, agitated people torched ten houses, Fatepur High school and a club and looted several other

houses including that of Mita Rani, a teacher of the school.

The second case was filed by Habibur Rahman of Fatepur village, accusing 30 identified people including local JP leaders Mosharraf Hossain and Zulfiqar Ali, Shibir leader Masum Billah, Jamaat leader Mizanur Rahman of torching and damaging houses at Fatepur on March 31. He also sued over 1,000 unnamed people.

In the third case, Sub-inspector (SI) Yasin Alam Chowdhury of Kaliganj police station sued JP leader Mosharraf Hossain, daily Dristipat correspondent Mizanur Rahman, JP leader Zulfiqar Ali, Shibir leader Masum Billah for torching and looting three houses at the same village.

Sub-inspector (SI) Zayadul Islam of the same police station filed a separate case, accusing over 500 people for torching seven houses of minority community at Chakdah on the night of April 1.

# Lightning kills three in two districts

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Three people were killed by lightning in Satkhira and Jhenidah districts yesterday.

The dead were identified as Tandul Sarkar, 26, son of Amulya Sarkar of Gobindakati village in Kaliganj upazila, Premanada Mondol, 25 of Badartala village in Assassuni upazila of Satkhira and Babul Hossain, 45, son of Sonu Molla of Solaimanpur village under Kotchandpur upazila of Jhenidah districts.

Our Satkhira correspondent reported Tandul that Premanada were struck by lightning while they were returning homes from markets in their respective areas in the afternoon.

Police quoted locals as saying that both died on the spot.

In Jhenidah, lightning killed a farmer at Solaimanpur village under Kotchandpur upazila while he was sowing jute seed on his land at the village in the morning, reports our

correspondent.

Kotchandpur Municipality Mayor Salauddin Bulbul said Babul was struck by lightning while he was working on his jute field at around 9:00am. He died instantly.

Meanwhile, a woman, who received injuries during Friday's nor'wester at Majhgram village under Boda upazila of Panchagarh district, died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) yesterday, according to our Thakurgaon correspondent.

Golap Begum, 28, wife of Solaiman Ali, was injured after a wall of their house collapsed on her during the storm. She was taken to the RMCH she succumbed to her injuries in the morning. Golap's four-month-old girl killed in the wall collapse.

Two others-Morium Begum, 70, and Mizanur Rahman, 8, of the same village were killed by lightning during Friday's storm that lashed the upazila in the afternoon.

# Tragic!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A couple met tragic death as the woman jumped in front of a running bus to commit suicide, prompting her husband to jump too in a bid to save her on Thakurgaon-Baliadangi road in Ranishankoil upazila under the district Friday evening.

Of the victims, Ekramul Haque, 40, was a farmer while his wife Rani Akhter, 25, ran a tea-stall near the highway in Bhabanadapur village.

The couple engaged in an altercation near Rani's tea stall around 6:00pm as Ekramul fixed the marriage of their 17-year-old son Khademul Haque without informing her, Ranishankoil police station officer-in-charge Feroz Khan quoted locals as saying.

At one stage, Rani threatened her husband to teach him a lesson for good and jumped in front of a speeding bus.

Ekramul also jumped to save her but was crushed to death on the spot.

Critically injured, Rani succumbed to her injuries on the way to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital.

# SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

## Rabindra Mela in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A three-day Rabindra Mela (fair) will begin at Dakkhindih village under Phultala upazila of Khulna district today. Khulna district administration has organised this fair on the occasion of 151st birth anniversary of Poet Rabindra Nath Tagore. Programmes of the fair include seminars, discussion and cultural functions. Deputy Commissioner Jamsheer Ahmad Khandaker, also chief of the organising committee, said all necessary have been taken to observe Tagore's birth anniversary.

## Two Indians arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

BGB (Border Guard Bangladesh) members arrested two Indian nationals in front of Murgha High School in Akhaura Upazila of the district yesterday. The arrestees are Gupal Das, 65, and Amrit Paul, 30, of West Tripura. According to BGB, the two Indians entered the area illegally and were roaming in front of the school. Being informed, the Jaws of Mugra BGB camp went to the area, arrested the two and handed them over to Akhaura police station.

## Missing girl found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Police recovered the body of a three-year-old girl from a vegetable field in Rangpur town on Friday. Jannati Begum, daughter of Zobaidur Rahman of Ashratpur area in the town, had been missing since Thursday morning. Local people found the body of the girl on the land near the campus of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation Friday morning. Police recovered the body and sent it Rangpur Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. A murder case was filed with Rangpur Kotwali police station. Police picked up victim's cousin Limon, 12, of the same area, suspecting his involvement in the murder.

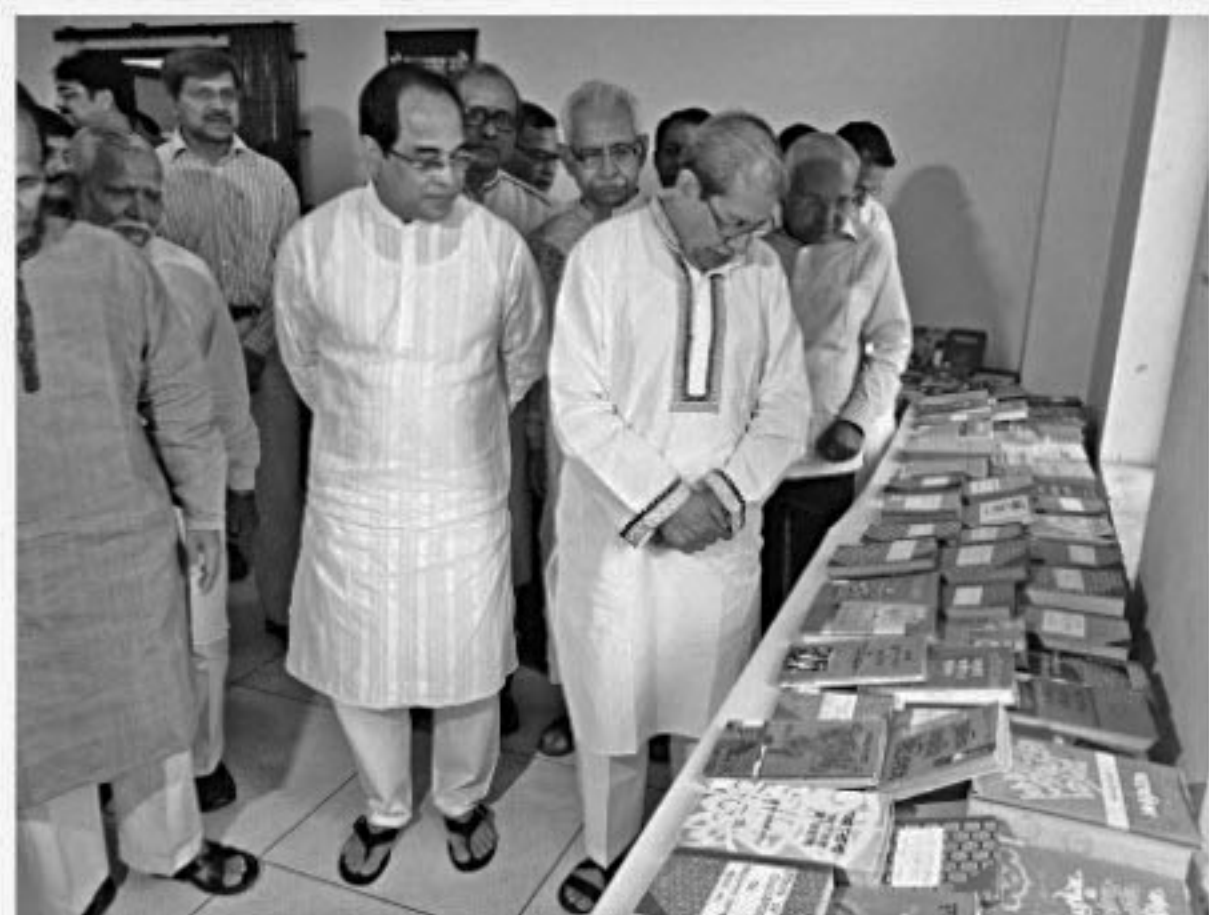


PHOTO: STAR

Prof Anisuzzaman, among others, visits the weeklong book exhibition that started at Annada Gobindo Public Library in Pabna town yesterday.

## Ferry services disrupted

UNB, Goalanda (Rajbari)

Ferry services on Doulatdia-Paturia route remained suspended for an hour due to a storm that swept over the area yesterday morning. Tanvir Hossain, Manager of BIWTC at Doulatdia ghat, said ferry services and movement of all other water transports on Doulatdia-Paturia route resumed at around 10:00am.

## Four muggers arrested

UNB, Benapole (Jessore)

Local people caught four muggers at Mujib Road in Jessore town on Friday night. They were identified as Sagar Guha, son of Jagadish Guha of Daitala area, Nur Nabi alias Antor, son of Zakir Hossain of Purba Barandipara, Yunus, son of Abu Taher of Fultala area and Russel Mina, son of Aslam Mina of West Barandipara area of Sadar upazila. Police said the gang snatched a bag from a woman in the area and tried to flee the scene at about 8:30pm. Hearing screams, local people rushed to the spot chased the muggers and caught them. They beat up the muggers and later handed them over to the police.

## Goods worth Tk 20 lakh gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Siraganj

Fire gutted goods worth Tk 20 lakh in Siraganj town early yesterday. Fire Brigade sources said. The fire originated from an electric short circuit at Pragati Store at S S Road at around 3:00am. On information, Fire fighters rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze at around 6:00am. Gopal Saha, owner of the shop, claimed said goods worth Tk 20 lakh was gutted in the fire.

## Outlaw held with gun

UNB, Goalanda (Rajbari)

An underground operative was arrested from Doulatdia brothel early Friday. The arrestee is Zahid Khan, 30, a regional leader of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party. Abul Bashar, officer-in-charge (OC) of Goalanda Police Station, said local people caught Zahid and beat him mercilessly while he and his accomplices were trying to enter the brothel at around 3:00am. Being informed, police rushed to the spot and arrested the outlaw with a shutter gun. His cohorts, however, managed to flee. Zahid was admitted to the upazila health complex. A case was filed against him under Arms Act.

## Section 144 in Chirirbandar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Section 144 has been imposed at Ranirbandar village under Chirirbandar upazila of Dinajpur district yesterday morning as two groups called separate 'Islamic jalsa' (religious gatherings) at the same venue and time. Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Rashidul Mannaf Kabir imposed Section 144 from morning to midnight, apprehending clash between the two groups.

# Grenade, cannon shells found in Rupsha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A grenade, five cannon shells and nine bullets were found dumped in a pond near NGO Christian Service Society (CSS) at Rupsha road under Khulna Sadar Police Station Friday afternoon.

According to police, day labourers saw the weapons while they re-excavating the pond.

On information, a team of explosive experts came to Khulna from Jessore Cantonment at 9:00am yesterday.

They defused the grenade and shells of canon in an open space near Khanjahan Ali Bridge at 11:10am.

Locals said there was a camp of Pakistani occupation forces in the area during Liberation War in 1971.

# Transport workers clash in Rajshahi

## 10 hurt, 8 vehicles vandalised; traffic on all routes halted for 9 hours

RU CORRESPONDENT

At least ten people were injured as bus and auto-rickshaw workers clashed in the city yesterday.

The clash ensued as the drivers and workers of CNG-run auto-rickshaws and human haulers vandalised a bus near Rajshahi railway terminal at around 9:00am.

Drivers and workers of CNG-run auto-rickshaw and human haulers vandalised the bus as bus drivers and workers have long been demanding ban on the movement of small vehicles on the highway.

Protesting the incident, bus workers rushed to the spot and locked in a clash with the auto-rickshaw workers.

Witness said chase and

counter chase between the clashing groups at different points in the city continued until 4:00pm, leaving ten transport workers from both sides injured.

Two buses and six CNG-run auto-rickshaws were vandalised during the clash



PHOTO: STAR

Bus workers vandalise a pickup during their fierce clash with workers of CNG-run auto-rickshaws and small passenger vehicles in Rajshahi city yesterday.

and vehicular movement on all routes in Rajshahi remained suspended for nine hours from 9:00am. Roadside shops were also closed.

The situation came under controlled at around 5:00pm as law enforcers and the

transports leaders assured the both sides of resolving the issue.

The injured were admitted to different clinic in the city, sources of transport workers said.

Md Shariar, officer-in-charge of Boalia police station, said bus workers have long been protesting movement of small vehicles like auto-rickshaw and human hauler on the highway.

"The situation is now under controlled and additional police have been deployed at different points in the city", he added.

Contacted, Rajshahi Motor Workers Union President Kamal Hossain said they are holding a meeting with the bus workers and auto-rickshaw workers to settle the matter".