



Eid greeting cards sent by The Daily Star and HSBC bring smiles to the kids of Pabna Shishu Sadan and Thakugaon Government Shishu Paribar yesterday. This novel initiative has been taken to spread the happiness of Eid among the orphans across the country.



PHOTO: STAR

Follow-up

Murder victim's men set fire to 'killer's' house 57 houses gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

At least 57 houses were gutted as relatives of a murder victim set fire to an alleged killer's house at Balakura village in Halokhana union of Sadar upazila on Tuesday night. On information, firefighters rushed in and brought the blaze under control after five hours of frantic efforts.

Police said Lutfar Rahman, 27, son of Sambil Hossain Master of Mastererhat area and a sub-assistant agriculture officer of the union, was killed in a clash between two rival groups in the upazila in the afternoon.

Abdul Gaffar, 25, and Hasan Ali, 16, brothers of the deceased, were also injured during the clash.

There was a longstanding conflict between Sambil and his neighbour Saiful Ali for long over taking control of a pond in the area.

Lutfar along with his brothers recently assaulted Saiful's son Mukul when he went to catch fish at the pond.

As a sequel to the incident, Mukul along with his four brothers attacked the trio with lethal weapons on union parishad office premises at around 12:30pm, leaving them critically injured, said sources at UP chairman office.

The injured were rushed to Rangpur Medical College and Hospital where the doctors declared Lutfar dead.

As the news spread, family members of the victim set Saiful's house on fire that spread to the other adjoining dwellings rapidly.

The affected house owners claimed that the loss caused by the fire could go up to Tk 20 lakh.

Two people were arrested in this connection, said officer in-charge of Sadar police station Moinul Islam.

LAND DISPUTE IN PABNA

20 including two cops bullet-hit as rivals clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least 20 people, including two policemen, were injured in a clash between two rival groups over capture of a disputed land at Rupkatha Road in the town yesterday.

Police said both Sajjad Hossain Bachchu, owner of Swagatom Chinese Restaurant and Sirajul Islam, owner of a workshop adjacent to the restaurant, had been claiming the ownership of the workshop for long.

Local influential people had earlier held several meetings to settle the issue, but their efforts went in vain.

The trouble began at around 11:30am yesterday when Bachchu and his men tried to capture the workshop. Being informed, a police team also went there.

As Siraj and his men resisted attempts by their rivals to capture the workshop, Bachchu, also former

president of Jatiya Party (Ershad) Pabna district unit, opened fire from his licensed gun, leaving at least 20 people, including two cops, injured.

The injured were admitted to Pabna Medical College Hospital. Of them, the condition of Sub-Inspector Md Fazle Elahi, constable Lutfar Rahman, and Bablu, Surya, Masud Rana, Rafiqul Islam, Akram Hossain, Azad, Hyder Ali, Mamun Rahman, and Lal Hossain of Siraj group was stated to be critical.

Police charged baton and fired blank shots to bring the situation under control. They raided the Chinese restaurant and arrested 13 people, including Bachchu, from there.

Bachchu claimed that he had to open fire in self defence. But locals said 5/6 rounds of bullets were fired from the restaurant during the clash.

'Punish stalkers who threw acid on Moni'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Members of Rangpur Bandhusava of the Daily Prothom Alo yesterday formed a human chain in front of the office of deputy commissioner, demanding immediate arrest and punishment of a stalker who threw acid on a schoolgirl.

Victim Masuda Aktar Moni, 15, is daughter of Mokbul Islam of South Babukha area in the city and student at Samaj Kalyan Bidyabithi School.

The protesters said Ariful Islam and his accomplices Alal, Arefin and Dulal used to tease the girl on her way to school.

The four gathered in front of Moni's house on Monday night. After sometime, Ariful entered Moni's room and threw acid on her when she was asleep.

The girl was rushed to Rangpur Medical College and Hospital in critical

condition. Later she was shifted to Acid Survivors' Foundation at Dhaka as her condition deteriorated.

Among others, Kazi Md Junnun, former chairman of Rangpur municipality, Advocate MA Bashar and Ariful Haque Raju, Rangpur correspondent of the Bangla daily, were present.

The programme was organised in association with Prothom Alo Trust.

Meanwhile, education minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday visited acid victim Moni, reports UNB.

Moni's mother urged the minister to extend financial assistance for her daughter's treatment and demanded punitive action against the culprits.

Earlier in the day, the minister talked to the Rangpur Divisional Commissioner over phone and directed him to take steps to immediately arrest the culprits.

SNIPPETS

Ferry runs aground

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

A ferry in Mawa-Kawrakandi route got stuck in shoals in the River Padma on Tuesday night causing immense sufferings to the homebound passengers for eight hours. The K type ferry Kakoli loaded with eight vehicles ran aground near Kobutor Khola turning point around 10:00pm. After all efforts to resume the journey failed, the ferry got freed itself at about 6:00am yesterday during high tide. Sources said, in last few days water was receding fast at the turning point of the route. On Monday, two dredgers were deployed at the spot. But the dredging work was hampered due to strong current. Another ferry Bir Shrestha Ruhul Amin also remained stuck at the same spot for seven hours on Tuesday.

Shops gutted in fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Seven shops were gutted by a fire that broke out at Bazra Islamganj Bazar in Sonaimuri upazila yesterday morning. Locals said, the fire originated at a mattress shop due to electric short circuit at about 7:00am and soon engulfed the other business establishments, including two steel furniture factories and a mattress factory. The affected traders claimed that the extent of loss caused by the fire will be over Tk 40 lakh.

Schoolboy electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A schoolboy was electrocuted and two others were injured at village Ramesharpur of Chaprashirhat union under Kabirhat upazila yesterday. The deceased was identified as Shipon, 10, son of Md. Abdur Rahman and a student of class five at Ramesharpur Government Primary School. The injured are Md. Salim, 38, and Rina Akter, 29, of same village. Subash Chandra Paul, officer in charge of Kabirhat police station and victim's father Abdur Rahman said, Shipon was electrocuted when he tried to repair a switch at their house. Salim and Rina were injured as they went to save him.

Arms recovered

A CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A team of Rab-11 recovered a foreign-made pistol, seven bullets and two choppers from a dairy farm of a former BCL leader in Dewanganj upazila yesterday morning. Police said, on secret information, a Rab team from Narayanganj led by Major Gulam Murshed, raided the farm adjacent to Jhil Bangla Sugar Mill in the upazila at 10:30am. Officer in-charge (OC) of Dewanganj police station Md. Mizanur Rahman, quoting the Rab men, said that the team recovered the arms from the dairy farm belonging to Shahnewaj alias Shahanshah, 33, former BCL convener of Dewanganj upazila unit and also secretary of district sugarcane welfare association.

Two held with arms, ammo

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police arrested two youths and recovered two pistols and bullets from their possession in Bahadurpur area under Sadar upazila early yesterday. The arrestees are Bimol Chandra, 28, of South Chalna under the same upazila and Shariful Islam, 30 of the same area. Tipped-off, a team of police raided Bahadurpur area at about 12:30am and arrested the duo, said Sub-Inspector (SI) Md Rafiqul Islam at Hotapara Police Post. They were suspiciously moving in the area in a private car. Later searching their bodies, police seized a pistol and eleven bullets. On confession, police recovered another pistol and two magazines from the house of Bimol.

Betel leaf trader killed

UNB, Joypurhat

A betel leaf trader was stabbed to death by criminals at Madrasa Road in the town on Monday night. The dead is Faruk Hossain, son of Tafij Uddin of Talihar village of Panchbibhi upazila. Police and family sources said, a gang swooped on Faruk and indiscriminately stabbed him with sharp weapons, leaving him injured on his way to the town from residence. Hearing his cry for help, locals rescued and rushed him to Joypurhat Modern Hospital where doctor declared him dead on arrival.

Rivals kill 'robber'

A CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

An alleged robber was killed by rivals in Islampur upazila in the district early Tuesday. The deceased was identified as Abul Hossain, 28, son of late Shukur Ali of village Zigatila under Belgachha union of the upazila. Police said, a gang entered his room by cutting fence at about 1:30 am when Abul Hossain was sleeping at the residence of a relative in Guthail Bazar area in the upazila. The criminals stabbed him with sharp weapons and later shot in his head, leaving him dead on the spot.

Eid brings little joy to erosion victims

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

The coming Eid-ul-Fitr will make hardly any difference to about two lakh people in Sadar, Aditmari, Kaliganj, Hatibandha and Patgram upazilas in the district as the recent floods and erosion in Teesta and Dharla river basin areas turned them homeless and helpless.

A large number of them also lost their standing crops, domestic animals and other belongings due to the natural calamity.

Lalmonirhat District Relief and Rehabilitation Office distributed 1,05061 VGF cards as Eid special allocation for the hapless people but 10 kg of rice, given against each card, is too scanty to celebrate the festival.

"We are not in a position to spend any money for observing Eid as we are now struggling for our daily food," said Atiar Rahman, 58, a farmer of flood hit Gobordhon village under Aditmari upazila.

Altafur Rahman, 68, a farmer of Sinduma village in Hatibandha upazila, said, "Eid will not bring any joy to us as erosion by the Teesta River has robbed me of my assets, rendering my six-member family shelterless."

Afroza Begum, 50, of Dawabari village of Hatibandha upazila said, "My husband Motaleb Hossain is a farmer. We cultivated four bighas of land for early variety aman paddy but half of the plants were damaged by the recent floods. We have no alternative job in the village. So Eid enjoy is not for us."

Flood-hit Alema Bewa, 55, of Gokunda village in Lalmonirhat Sadar said, "I got 10 kg of rice as special allocation ahead of the Eid. But where will I get the money to buy new cloth, vermicelli and sugar for observing Eid?" Khotib



PHOTO: STAR

Festivals like Eid elude the Teesta erosion victims as they still wait for relief to meet their daily needs.

Uddin, chairman of Sindurna union parishad (UP) at Hatibandha upazila, said, "A large number of people of this union have lost their belongings due to the flood and erosion. 2300 VGF cards were given here as special allocation for the Eid but there are at least 7,000 badly affected families."

Habibur Rahman Habib, chairman of Mogholhat UP in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said there are at least 5,000 helpless families in his union but he got only 2100 VGF cards for them.

During this correspondent's visit to different villages in Teesta and Dharla river basin on Monday and Tuesday, many people, now staying on government road after losing their homesteads, croplands and other assets by Teesta and Dhara river erosion, said they did not get any support from the authorities to observe the Eid.

Upazila admin official sues UP chairman

UNB, Chapainawabganj

Nine people, including Nayala Bhanga union parishad chairman Ashraful Haque, were sued on Tuesday on charge of obstructing official activities.

Rabiul Islam, Tahsilder of Nayala Bhanga union, filed the case with Shibganj police station.

Shibganj upazila assistant commissioner (land) Ziaur Rahman said, the case was filed for illegal construction of a multi-storied market at Ranihati bazaar in Shibganj upazila instead of constructing public toilet, misusing the money allocated by the upazila administration.

The upazila administration tried to demolish the 'illegal' market, but the move was resisted, said the upazila official.

Contacted, Ashraful Haque said the case was filed just to harass him.

"The case was filed a few days before Eid-ul-Fitr so that I cannot take recourse to law as court will remain closed due to Eid vacation", said the chairman.

Locals said, a conflict between the local administration and the UP chairman arose recently over the construction of a building on a khas land at Ranihati bazaar of the upazila.

The upazila parishad demolished the building yesterday.

Two pushed off train

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Two unidentified people were critically injured as criminals pushed them off the roof of an intercity train in Bangladesh Agricultural University area on Tuesday night.

The incident occurred at around 9:30pm when the Jamalpur-bound train from Dhaka was passing the area.

The gang also took away all belongings of the victims.



PHOTO: STAR

Demolition of illegal structures to save Laukathi River from the encroachers in Patuakhali continued for the second day yesterday. This 'beautifully built' folk museum was also not spared during the drive.