

# When only 50 pairs of hands dare to do a tough task

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Over 50 farmers of Domrabad village in Amragachhia union in Mirzaganj upazila under the district on Tuesday started voluntary work to repair a flood control embankment for saving their aman paddy from salty water.

"Heavy rainfall and tidal surge this year caused damage at around 20 points of the over one km flood control embankment in the village. Salty water enters the fields through the points twice daily

during high tide, threatening over 1000 acres of aman paddy fields," said Sultan Ahmed, chairman of Amragachhia union parishad (UP).

Villagers, both male and female, started repairing the damaged embankment from Kashinath to Domrabad Government Primary School on voluntary basis to save their aman paddy from salty water of adjacent rivers and canals, said Abdus Salam Gazi, local UP member.

Over 1000 acres of agricultural land will be saved

from intrusion of saline water after completion of the work, said Abdul Mannan, a farmer of the village.

Under an initiative of development organisation Brac, the villagers earlier got organised under the banner of 'Polli Samaj'.

"They meet every two months and take up plan for social work including prevention of child marriage, dowry etc. They themselves manage money to for such benevolent works," said Mohsin Uddin, Patuakhali district manager of Brac.



PHOTO: STAR

Farmers render voluntary service to repair an embankment at Domrabad village in Mirzaganj upazila under Patuakhali district to save their aman paddy from saline water that enters the fields from nearby rivers and canals during high tide.

## One killed in Laxmipur gunfight

UNB, Laxmipur

A man was killed and three others were injured in a gunfight between two rival groups at Dattapara in Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Abu Taher, son of Fazal Karim of Sreerampur village of the upazila.

Local sources said there had been a longstanding conflict between UP chairman Shamim and Ismail and Aziz of the village over establishing their supremacy in the area.

In a sequel to the enmity, the supporters of Ismail and Aziz jointly attacked the house of Shamim, triggering the clash.

Both the groups exchanged around 100 gunshots during the clash, which lasted about two hours.

Taher, a supporter of Shamim, died on the spot and three others -- Sumon, Kawser and Maruf -- sustained bullet injuries in the clash.

The bullet-injured were admitted to different local clinics.

Dattapara police camp in-charge Alauddin said he heard the news of death in clash from journalists.

## SNAPSHOTS OF DAMAGE BY STORMS



PHOTO: STAR

Violent storms left a trail of destruction in several upazilas of Chittagong, Noakhali, Feni and Bhola districts early yesterday. Photos (clockwise) show a mangled house in Charclark union under Subarnachar upazila of Noakhali, a woman in despair sitting beside the carcasses of her cattle at Kheyaghat village in Monpura upazila, and a fertiliser-laden cargo sinking near Hazirhat Bridge in the same upazila of Bhola.

## Bring Mafu's killers to book, protesters demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

People of Noynamati area under Pabna municipality staged a demonstration in the town yesterday demanding immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the killers of Jubo League leader Mahfuzur Rahman Mafu.

The protesters, carrying banners, posters and placards, took out a procession from Noynamati School premise at around 11:00am. After parading the main streets in the town, they submitted memoranda to the deputy commissioner and police superintendent demanding arrest of the killers.

A gang of criminals took Mahfuzur Rahman Mafu, senior vice president of Jubo League Pabna district unit, to Krishnapur Girls' High School in the town on Saturday night and stabbed him mercilessly. Later, the gang admitted seriously injured Mafu to Pabna Medical College Hospital at around 11:30pm and fled the scene.

As Mafu's condition deteriorated, doctors of the hospital referred him to Dhaka. But he succumbed to his injuries on the way to capital at around 2:30am on Sunday.

Mafu's younger brother filed a case

against eight ruling party men, including Md Arifuzzaman Rajib, councillor of Ward No 12 of Pabna municipality, the following day.

But none of the accused was arrested as of 6:00pm yesterday.

Addressing a rally in front of the deputy commissioner's office, President of Pabna district Jubo League Sarif Uddin Pradhan, advocate Obaidul Haque, Abdur Razzak Masum, said a gang of drug peddlers, led by ward councillor Rajib, killed Mafu as he tried to unite the people of Ward No 12 against the drug peddlers.

They demanded immediate arrest of the accused in the case. Otherwise, they threatened to launch a tougher agitation programme.

Meanwhile, district Jubo League led by Ragib Hassan Tipu, general secretary of the unit, took out a procession in the town on Wednesday night and then held a rally. In the rally, the speakers gave a two days' ultimatum to the authorities concerned to arrest the killers of Mafu. They also threatened to go for agitation, including hartal, if the accused are not arrested within the deadline.



PHOTO: STAR

People of Noynamati in Pabna brought out a procession in the district town yesterday, demanding punishment of the killers of Jubo League leader Mahfuzur Rahman Mafu.

## Landless demand khas land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Members of about 60 landless families, living on the bank of Tungipukur at Hazipur village in Pirganj upazila besieged the DC office yesterday, demanding allocation of khas land.

They also submitted a memorandum to the prime minister through deputy commissioner Mukesh Chandra Biswas in favour of their demand.

The programme followed a discussion on the DC office premises where Workers' Party leader Faizul Islam, district unit leader of Communist Party Akhter Hossain Raza, freedom fighter Abul Hossain and landless people's leader Kalachand Royspoke.

They said more families were becoming landless every day due to the land grabbers and land greedy influ-

ential people.

During the last one year, several attacks were made on people in many areas to evict them from their land showing fake documents, said the leaders.

They also demanded a shelter project (Adarsha Gram) for the landless people.

Earlier, they formed a human chain in front of the DC office to press the demands.

## SNAPS AND SNIPPETS



PHOTO: STAR

Rafia Ferdous flashes V-sign after achieving 'I-genius' award at the Internet festival organised by the Prothom Alo and Grameenphone on the premises of Chandpur Hasan Ali Government High School yesterday. Rafia, a student of Puranbazar Degree College at Chandpur, had won the prestigious award last year too.

## Three beaten up by mob

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Three people, including a woman, were beaten up by mob, suspecting them as child lifters in Sirajdikhan upazila on Wednesday night. Of the injured, Lablu Haldar, 27, of Patuakhali and an unidentified youth, aged about 25, were admitted to Ichhapur Health Complex in critical conditions. Asma Begum, 25, along with her seven-month-old child was kept in police custody. Lablu Haldar, who resides in Shyampur area, claimed himself as a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver and told police that they came to Sirajdikhan from Jatrabari area of the capital. In primary investigation, police did not find their link with child lifting activities, said Sheikh Mahbubur Rahman, officer in-charge at Sirajdikhan police station.

## 2 held in double murder case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The law enforcers arrested six people in Joypurhat early yesterday in a double murder case. Hakimpur police declined to disclose the details information regarding the arrestees for 'the sack of investigation'. On secret information, a team led by ASP Biman Karmaker raided different areas in Panchbibi upazila and Joypurhat and arrested the six. On Wednesday, police recovered the bodies of trucker Bazlur Rahman and his helper Golam Mostafa from roadside at Chhatni village in Hakimpur upazila. They were going to Dinajpur Sadar with looted goods including palm oil.

## Elderly couple murdered

UNB, Munshiganj

An elderly couple was brutally murdered by unknown criminals at Kamargaon village in Srinagar upazila early yesterday. Police recovered the bodies of Tinaj Uddin, 70, and his wife Kadbanu, 60, from their residence in the morning. Mizanur Rahman, officer in-charge of Srinagar police station, said the criminals entered the house cutting open the fence at dead of night and slit the throats of the couple. Locals saw the blood-stained bodies in the morning and informed police. Later, the law enforcers recovered the bodies at about 9:30 am. The reason behind the killing could not be known yet, the OC said.

## Schoolboy murdered after abduction, schoolgirl freed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A schoolboy has been murdered in Bheramara upazila yesterday, a day after his alleged abduction from the district town.

The victim was identified as Sohag Hossain, 17, son of Abbas Uddin of Kumargara in the outskirts of the district town.

Sohag appeared in secondary school certificate (SSC) examinations this year.

Sohag's father is an expatriate in Saudi Arabia. Sources at Kushtia Model police station said Sohag went out of home with his motorbike at about 9:00am on Tuesday and since remained missing.

Sohag's uncle Habibur Rahman said, he filed a General Diary (GD) with Kushtia Model police station at about 9:30pm after failing to trace the boy's whereabouts.

"Sohag last phoned his mother at about 12:30pm on Tuesday", Habib said.

Next day at about 8:30pm police recovered Sohag's motorbike from a ditch in Jagati rail bazar area in Bheramara but failed to say anything more about him.

Yesterday afternoon, people found his body at a ditch near Lalon Shah Bridge and informed Bheramara police.

Police said there were marks of stabbing in the body of the boy.

Family sources said, after failing in SSC examinations, Sohag had decided to go to his father in Saudi Arabia.

Habib told this correspondent that in the GD he accused a son of a neighbour of calling Sohag out of house. He, however, declined to explain the reason behind the abduction and murder.

Police said they were looking for some friends of Sohag.

In Jessore, police rescued a schoolgirl from Barandipara area in the district town on Wednesday night, four and a half months after her abduction, reports UNB.

The law enforcers also arrested an alleged abductor, Jewel Rana, son of Azizur Rahman Molla of Magurkhali village.

Police said Jewel along with his associates kidnapped a Class IX student from Keshabpur upazila in the district on May 25.

The victim's father filed a case, accusing four people on June 8 in this connection.

Acting on secret information, a police team, led by sub-inspector Sharif Habibur Rahman, conducted a drive in the area on Wednesday night and rescued the girl and arrested Jewel.



PHOTO: STAR

A colourful boat race, popularly known as Nouka Baich, held on the Kirtonkhola River in Barisal yesterday. Barisal City Corporation in association with mobile phone operator Bangla Link and Bangladesh Rowing Federation arranged the five-kilometre-long race to popularise the country's traditional sports and culture as well as gear up a campaign for saving rivers and water bodies from encroachment.