

One killed, 15 injured in Rangpur post-poll clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Post-election clash between the supporters of two defeated councillor candidates in Rangpur city yesterday left a man dead and 15 others injured.

The dead was identified as Dalim Hossain, 40, of Kishamat-Bishu area in the city.

Police and local people said the supporters of Belal Hossain and Shamsul Alam, two councillor candidates from Ward No 31, blamed each other for their defeat in Rangpur city corporation election soon after the results were announced on Thursday night.

Tendons of Bogra Jubo League leader severed

A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Criminals severed tendons of a Jubo League leader in Naruli area of the town early yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Abdus Salam, 38, son of late Abdus Sattar Futu of Partitporol village in Sariakandi upazila of the district and former upazila vice president of Jubo League.

Upazila Awami League office secretary Motiur Rahman Moti said when Salam was returning from Dhaka, a gang of 10/12 attacked him near post office staff quarters in Naruli area. They assaulted him and later severed tendons of legs and hands, leaving him seriously injured at about 5:00am.

Local people rescued him and took to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital (SZMCH). He was later shifted to Dhaka as his condition deteriorated at noon.

Family members alleged that the opponents in the Polli Biddut Samity election attempted on his life.

In Sariakandi town, the

Yesteray, Shamsul's men equipped with lethal weapons attacked the house of Belal at Kishamat-Bishu area in the city, prompting his supporters to retaliate.

At least 16 people from both sides were injured during the clash that continued for half an hour from 11:00am.

Being informed, police rushed to the spot and dispersed the clashing groups. They also arrested Shamsul, Mokshed, Hamidul, Selim and Apple from there.

Of the injured-Dalim Hossain, 40, Alamgir, 25, Saddam, 22, Rabeya, 42, Moklesh, 48, Sifat, 18, and Osman, 48-were admitted to Rangpur Medical College

Hospital (RMCH) where Dalim succumbed to his injuries at around 5:00pm. The rest of the injured were given first aid at the hospital.

Altaf Hossain, officer-in-charge of Rangpur Sadar Police Station, said law enforcers arrested five people, including councillor candidate Shamsul Alam, from the area on charge of their involvement in the post-election clash.

Zakir Hossain, Assistant Superintendent of Police, also visited Kishamat-Bishu area soon after the incident.

Police have been deployed in the area to avert any further incident.

Tiger kills man in Sundarbans

UNB, Khulna

A Golpata (a kind of leaf collector) was killed in a tiger attack at Sachianangla under west zone of Sundarbans on Friday evening.

The deceased was identified Abu Siddique, 33, son of Hamid Gazi of Koirav village.

Forest Department sources said Abu went to the forest to collect golpata taking permission from Nolian forest station.

A tiger swooped on Abu and dragged him into the deep forest when he was collecting golpata.

Later, forest guards recovered the decomposed body and handed it over to his family members.

In Benapole, Jessor, forest officials rescued a tiger from a house at Shrifal village in Keshabpur upazila on Friday night.

Locals said the tiger, measuring five feet in length and two feet in height, entered a garden of the village in the afternoon. Locals encircled the garden and caught the tiger and gave it a good beating.

On information, upazila nirbahi officer Abu Sayed Manzur Alam and forest officials rushed to the spot and rescued the injured tiger. It was later taken to the upazila forest office.



Three people of a family try to get warmth under a single piece of blanket at Boirati village in Kaliganj upazila of Lalmonirhat district on Friday as char (landmass emerged from riverbed) areas beside the Teesta River bear the brunt of the ongoing cold wave. Right, traders of second hand warm clothes set their makeshift shops just beside the rail tracks in Saidpur municipality under Nilphamari district, oblivious of risk of accident anytime.



PHOTO: STAR

Northern dists shiver with cold

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The northern districts are bearing the brunt of the cold spell that has been sweeping the country for the last two days.

People are experiencing a severe cold weather coupled with foggy atmosphere.

The cold spell is hampering normal life in Rangpur, Nilphamari, Dinajpur, Panchagarh and Thakurgaon districts.

Severity of the cold becomes bone chilling when freezing wind starts blowing at night in the districts, report our correspondents.

The poor section of people is worst hit due to the inclement weather.

Most day-labourers, workers and rickshaw-pullers of the districts do not dare to go out for work as they do not have warm clothes.

Traffic moving along the streets of the district towns becomes unusually thin because of poor visibility caused by dense fog.

Met office sources in

Saidpur told our Nilphamari correspondent that temperature in the district fell drastically in mid December, audit often fluctuates between 8 and 10 degrees Celsius, paralysing normal life.

People of low and middle-income groups are crowding second hand clothe markets to buy warm clothes at cheaper price.

Taking advantage of the adverse weather, a section of second hand warm clothe traders has set up a makeshift market beside railway tracks within 200 metres of Saidpur railway station.

Everyday thousands of people from about 15 upazilas of adjoining districts crowd the market to purchase old clothes.

Railway sources informed that everyday inter-city and local passenger trains use the rail tracks 10-12 times to go to different destinations. A number of goods trains also arrive and depart from Saidpur rail station.

"The situation has

become a cause of great concern as fatal train accidents may occur anytime as hawkers crowded the rail tracks from morning, till mid night," said Aktar Hossain Khan, president of small garments owners association in Saidpur.

Officer in-charge of Saidpur rail PS Md. Jasimuddin said that recently he received a letter from Saidpur station master urging to evict the illegal traders from the sides of rail tracks for smooth movement of trains.

A mobile court will soon drive away the illegal traders, he said.

Our Lalmonirhat correspondent said, the poor people, especially of char areas along Teesta and Dharla rivers, have become worst sufferers as there is no job for them due to severe cold and dense fog.

Local people said that the bone chilling weather disrupted normal life in five upazilas of the district for the last twelve days.

Day-labourer Mobarok

Hossain, 45, of Char Boirati village in Teesta river basin in Kaliganj upazila said, "I can't go to work in the field for the last several days due to heavy cold and dense fog."

"As we have no warm clothes, I and my wife Jahanara and son Mintu are undergoing sufferings", he added.

Monowara Bewa, 68, of Char Kalmati village in Sadar upazila said that she is yet to get any warm clothe from any government or non-government organisation. "I am suffering much as I am unable to purchase any warm clothe," she said.

The extreme cold weather has also caused outbreak of diarrhea, pneumonia and other diseases in the districts.

People, especially children and the elderly, are mostly attacked with the cold-related diseases.

Sources in Lalmonirhat claimed that at least two people were killed in the last couple of days due to cold and in Gaibandha, 9 were

killed in the last two weeks.

According to Rangpur Met office, the temperature in Gaibandha was 11.2 degrees yesterday.

Residential physician at Panchagarh Sadar Hospital Abul Kasem and medical officer Dr Mohammad Monwarul Islam told UNB that the number of people attacked with the cold-related diseases is increasing day by day.

At least 21 children inflicted with diarrhoea and pneumonia were being treated at the hospital.

In Tentulia upazila, three people died of cold-related diseases in the last two days, sources said.

President of Panchagarh Paribesh Parishad and head of the geography and environmental sciences department at Panchagarh Government Women College Touhidul Bari Babu said, impact of climate change is the reason behind the adverse weather.

He feared that this year the duration of winter would be longer.

Indigenous girl killed after rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

An indigenous girl was killed after rape at Borodulupara village in Kawkhali upazila of the district on Friday.

The victim, Thomaching Marma, 13, was a class eight student of Kawkhali Girls' High School and daughter of late Sui Thuiprue Marma of Baradolupara village of Kalampati union.

Thomaching went to a nearby jungle at around 3:00pm to take their cows back home. As she did not return until 6:00pm, family members started looking for her in the jungle. At one stage, they found Thomaching body lying on the ground in the jungle.

Being informed, police went to spot, recovered the body and sent it to Rangamati General Hospital, said Majhai Prue Marma, mother of the victim.

Shyamol Kanti Barua, officer in-charge (OC) of Kawkhali Police Station, said they found injury marks on the face and neck of the victim. After post-mortem examination, Thomaching's body was handed over to her family yesterday, the OC added.

According to autopsy report, the girl was raped and then strangled, Resident Medical Officer (RMO) Bashwajit Mohajan told this correspondent yesterday.

Victim's mother filed a murder case with Kawkhali Police Station yesterday morning, but no one was arrested as of filing of this report at 5:00pm..

CHT Mohila Samity, Hill Women's Federation (HWF) and Pahari Chhatri Parishad (PCP) took out a procession in the district town yesterday demanding immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the rapists.

The guests blessed the couples and encouraged the organisers to continue their philanthropic efforts.

Boro seedbeds getting damaged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Boro seedbeds in many areas of Lalmonirhat district are getting damaged under the impact of the ongoing cold wave and dense fog.

Farmers said they have to sow seeds again to cultivate boro as seedlings on many seedbeds have turned yellowish due to cold and dense fog.

They (farmers) are now worried about recovery of the production cost, especially against the backdrop of low market price of paddy.

Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila Agriculture Officer Mohammad Nuruzzaman said boro seedbeds in some areas of the district are affected due to severe cold and fog but seedlings won't be damaged if the weather improves shortly.

He advised the farmers to water seedbeds at night, cover them with polythene and use proper fertiliser to save seedlings from harmful effects of cold and fog.

Azizur Rahman, a farmer at Tajpur village in Sadar upazila said, "I have to incur heavy loss as 21 days old seedlings on my 20 decimals of land got damaged."

Saber Ali, another farmer of the village, said boro



Persistent chilling cold coupled with dense fog damages boro saplings, turning them yellowish, at many places in Lalmonirhat district. The photo was taken from Mogholhat village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila.

seedlings on many seedbeds at the village have already turned yellowish for lack of sunlight. "It will not be possible on my part to cultivate boro this year if seedlings on my 15 decimals of land are completely damaged," Saber added.

Mofazzal Hossain Mofa, chairman of Rajpur Union Parishad under Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, said the boro farmers in his union are worried as severe cold coupled with dense fog are damaging their seedbeds.

The Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Lalmonirhat has set a target of cultivating boro on 69,000 hectares of land, including high yielding varieties on 44,000 hectares, in five upazilas of the district.

A different day for 17 girls

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The deceased was identified as Tuls Biswas Montu, 58, son in Kumud Biswas of Ranaghat Bangkinnagar of Nadia district in India.

He was a resident of Shibrampur in Magura district.

Jailer Kamrul Huda said Montu was admitted to Jessor Medical College Hospital as he felt seriously ill in the early morning and he died there at night on the same day.

Montu had been serving 30 years' jail in robbery, snatching and arms cases since 1995, said the jail sources.

Seeking blessings from all, Masuda Tara

Two prisoners die in jails

Two prisoners died in Khulna and Jessor jails yesterday and the day before.

An elderly prisoner died at Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) yesterday morning, reports a correspondent.

The dead, Ibrahim Khalil, 85, son of late Joynal Abedin, hailed from Paschim Khontakata village in Shorokhola upazila of Bagerhat district.

His body was handed over to the family members on completion of autopsy at the KMCH morgue.

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