

Grenade halts trains for five hours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Train services on Jamalpur-Dewanganj route remained suspended for about five hours as a grenade was found on the rail track in Chandra rail gate area of the town yesterday morning.

Labourers saw the grenade while removing stones for repairing the rail track in the area at around 10:30am and informed the railway police.

Police rushed to the spot, encircled the area for ensuring security and informed an expert team of Ghatail Cantonment under Tangail district.

Meantime, the railway authorities stopped train service on the route until 3:20pm, said Israil Hossain, OC at Jamalpur Railway police station.

Being informed, a 6member expert team led by captains Mizan and Zia of the cantonment reached the spot and removed the grenade at 3:20pm.

During the time, Dewanganj-bound intercity train Teesta and commuter trains from Dhaka remained halted at Jamalpur railway station while a Mymensingh-bound local train at the court station for five hours, causing sufferings to the passengers.

Jatka catching, sale go on openly defying ban

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Catching of *jatka* (young hilsa) has continued in the Bay and adjacent rivers in the coastal areas, ignoring the government-imposed ban for seven months from November to May every year.

A section of fishermen catch jatka at different points of Tetulia, Paira, Lohalia, Ramnabad, Buragourango, Agunmukha, Char Kazal and Char Montaz rivers in Patuakhali district and sell it openly in local markets.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock in 2000 issued a circular, imposing ban on catching hilsa for seven months from November to May every year in the coastal areas to ensure safe breeding and growth of the popular fish, said sources at Patuakhali District Fisheries Office.

But a section of fishermen often net *jatka*, especially in the evening or at night, dodging the law enforcers. During a visit on Tuesday,

this correspondent saw some fishermen in trawlers and country boats catching jatka in Ramnabad River in Galachipa upazila. "We live by fishing and we

have to catch *jatka* to run our family as there is no alternative work in this season," said Alamgir Hossain, a fisherman of Amkhola village under Rangabali upazila.

Abul Kalam, another fisherman of Moishadi village under the same upazila, said he is catching

jatka to run his five-member family as he is landless but he is not getting any food support under the government's VGF (vulnerable group feeding) programme.

Contacted, Iqbal Hossain, district fisheries officer (DFO) of Patuakhali, said, "During four and a half months from November 1 to March 15 this year, we conducted 450 drives with the help of law enforcement agencies in different areas of the district and seized 16.28 tonnes of *jatka* worth Tk 33.56 lakh and 16.26 lakh metres of current net worth Tk 32.77 crore."

During the time, mobile courts realised Tk 46,000 as fine from fishermen for catching *jatka*, sources said.

Under the government's Jatka Protection Programme, each of the listed poor and seasonally jobless fishermen is supposed to get 30 kg of rice every month from February to May but the rice allocated for this year is yet to be distributed.

"Already 686.55 tonnes of

rice has been allocated for distribution among 22,885 hilsa catcher fishermen in Patuakhali district. The UNOs have received their allocated amounts for distribution among local fishermen according to the lists prepared by the union parishads concerned. But the rice is yet to be distributed as the list has not been finalised," said DFO Md Iqbal Hossain.



PHOTO: STAR

Fishermen netting jatka (hilsa fry) in Ramnabad River under Galachipa upazila of Patuakhali despite a government-imposed ban on catching the young hilsa in the Bay and adjacent rivers in the coastal areas from November to May, right, jatka being sold at Panpotty launch terminal in the upazila.



8 Shibir men held, bomb making materials seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Police arrested eight local leaders of Islami Chhatra Shibir from a student mess in Lalbagh area of the city on Wednesday night.

Police also seized huge bomb making materials, books on *jihad*, donation receipts, petrol, identity cards, mobile phones, computer, laptop, CDs, two motorbikes and a megaphone from the mess.

Police said, the arrestees were accused in different police cases with different police stations in the district.

Md. Shahabuddin Khalifa, officer in-charge of Rangpur Kotwali police station, said on secret information, they came to know that some top local leaders of Shibir were gathering at a student mess at Lalbagh in the city.

Later they raided the mess on Wednesday night and detained eight Shibir leaders from the spot.

The arrestees include Harun-ur-Rashid, office secretary of Rangpur city unit Shibir, Mizanur Rahman Mizan, president of Rangpur South Kotwali unit Shibir, Rajibur

Rahman Palash, publication secretary of Rangpur city unit Shibir, Nazmul Islam, President of city unit sub-committee of Shibir and Amzad Hossain, president of No. 4 ward of Rangpur city.

Police refused to disclose the identities of the other four arrestees.

Khalifa said, the arrestees were collecting donation to carry out subversive activities in the area.

He said the arrestees collected Tk 7,50,000 and Tk 5,00,000 from two coaching centres.

"Besides, they also collected Tk 20 lakh as illegal toll from different people in the last one month," the OC added.

Away in Comilla, police arrested 38 activists of Jamaat-Shibir from different parts of the district yesterday.

Police said, during an overnight drive, they arrested 12 Jamaat-Shibir men from the district town, six from Sadar Dakkhin upazila, three each from Barura and Monohorganj upazila, two each from Nangolkot, Burichang, Muradnagar, Titash and Daudkandi upazilas and one each from Chandina and Laksham upazilas.

SNIPPETS

12 betel gardens gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

Twelve betel leaf gardens were destroyed in a devastating fire at Nanbar village in Alamdanga upazila of the district on Wednesday afternoon. Police and fire service sources said a fire broke out at a heap of straw which spread to the betel leaf garden of one Mukter Ali Mondol and later engulfed the 11 other adjacent gardens. Betel owners claimed that the damages caused by the fire could go up to Tk 16 lakh.

4 JCD men hurt in clash

 ${\bf OUR\ CORRESPONDENT}, {\it Khagrachhari}$

At least four leaders and activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Matiranga upazila unit were injured in a factional clash at the upazila headquarters yesterday. The injured were identified as assistant organising secretary of Matiranga JCD unit Nadim Mahmud, 25, members Habibur Rahman, 26, Mohammad Masum, 22 and Abdul Qadar, 27. They were admitted to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital. General secretary of district JCD Mohammad Ibrahim Khalil said, a faction of JCD activists of Matiranga unit led by Alauddin and Suman, who were 'deprived' of committee posts, attacked Nadim and others around 12:30pm with sticks and sharp weapons as they went to municipality mayor to lodge a complaint against their criminal activities. However, Alauddin refuted the allegation.

Youth's body recovered

UNB, Pabna

Police recovered the body of a young man from a roadside ditch in Rajapul area under Sadar upazila yesterday. The deceased was identified as Minarul, 19, a Nasiman (locally-made human hauler) driver and son of Tayeb Ali at Chaskia village in Atghoria upazila. Police said Minarul went out of the house with his vehicle at 3.30pm on Wednesday and since remained missing. Later, locals spotted his body in a roadside ditch in front of Pabna Science and Technology University (PSTU) in the morning and informed police. Minarul's body bore severe injury marks and there was no trace of his vehicle, police added.

Labourer electrocuted

UNB, Benapole, Jessore

A rice mill labourer was electrocuted at Ramnagar in Sadar upazila on Wednesday night. The deceased was identified as Kuddus Liton, 36, son of Mohammad Siddique of Sitarampur village of the upazila. Police said, Kuddus was severely injured after touching a damaged wire at the rice mill at around 8:30pm. He was rushed to Jessore Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at 9.30pm.

Guide books seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A mobile court yesterday seized around 1000 guide books from nine book stalls at Islamic College Road in the town. The court also fined each book shops Tk 2000 for selling the books illegally. Around 50 book stalls in the town are selling such books, sources said. Executive magistrate SM Jamal Ahmed, who led the mobile court, told this correspondent that the court raided several book shops in the area from 1:30pm to 3:00pm. But sensing the presence of the mobile court, many owners and employees of shops shut down stalls and fled the scene.

Woman drowns in pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

An elderly woman drowned in a pond at village Garabariya in Sadar upazila of the district on Wednesday noon. The deceased was identified as Nurbanu Begum Nuri, 55, wife of late Rob Mondol of village Garabariya Chhaglapara of the upazila. Family members and locals said Nurbanu and her granddaughter Salma went to take a bath at Soleyman Haji's pond at noon. All of a sudden, Nurbanu drowned and Salma started shouting for help. Locals rushed to the spot and rescued her but she died on the spot.

কেনাবেচা করুন সহজেই



Police seize bomb-making materials, books on jihad, CDs, identity cards, computer, laptop, two motorbikes and a megaphone, raiding a Shibir mess in Lalbagh area of Rangpur city on Wednesday night. They also picked up eight local Shibir leaders from the mess.

