



PHOTO: STAR

The people of Uttar Gosaipur village in Dinajpur Sadar upazila form a human chain in front of the upazila parishad complex yesterday demanding early steps to stop environment pollution by 10 automatic rice mills at the village.

Stop pollution by rice mills

Villagers demand in human chain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Automatic rice mills allegedly breaching the environmental law have become a nuisance for around five thousand people of Uttar Gosaipur village under Dinajpur Sadar upazila.

The affected people yesterday formed a human chain in front of Dinajpur Sadar upazila parishad complex and submitted a memorandum to the upazila nirbahi officer demanding steps to prevent air, water and sound pollution by 10 automatic

rice mills set up at the village.

The mills emit huge quantities of carbon dioxide and ashes into the air, creating an obnoxious situation in the area, the villagers said at the programme.

Eyes of three people of the village got damaged and 10 students of different institutions of the same village are suffering from serious eye injuries due to regular contact with ash particles as the mills do not have arrangement for proper ash management, they said.

High sound made by the mills disturbs study of 1500 students of four educational institutions at the village.

The sound pollution also poses health hazard, especially for the elderly people and children in the area.

Besides, the rice mills generate toxic water that have saturated the lands in the surrounding areas and affected the underground water.

The tube-wells pump out smelly water and people are getting different diseases by using it, said Md Sabuj, a local.

The villagers urged the local administration to force these 10 automatic rice mills to obey the law or suspend their operation in case of failure.

Md Shami Chowdhury, general secretary of Dinajpur Rice Mills Owner Association, said, "Earlier we urged owners of the 10 rice mills as well as the local administration to develop a drainage system for management of the toxic water produced by the mills. We will visit the mills and make them maintain the rules."

Man killed over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur:

A man was beaten to death by his rivals over land dispute at Balijuri Purbopara village under Madarganj upazila of the district on Friday night.

The deceased was identified as Raju Ahmed, 35, son of Abdur Rouf of the village.

Police and locals said there was a long-standing dispute between Raju and his neighbours Md Ibrahim and his brother Md Mostafa over the ownership of a piece of land at Balijuri Bazar in the upazila.

Following an altercation over the issue on Friday night, and Ibrahim and Mostafa beat up Raju, resulting in his death instantly.

Being informed, police went to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Jamalpur General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Raju's wife Tahura Begum filed a murder case with Madarganj Police Station yesterday, accusing seven people, including Ibrahim and Mostafa.

Police arrested Mostafa while others had gone into hiding. Contacted, Ram Pada Mondol, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Madarganj Police Station, said they have launched a drive to arrest the remaining accused in the case.

Five robbers held with firearm

UNB, Strajganj

Police in separate drives arrested five robbers along with one revolver in Bangabandhu Bridge area of the district early Saturday.

Mehidi Hasan, officer-in-charge of Bangabandhu Bridge Police Station (western side) said a gang tried to rob an Anayetpur-bound cattle laden truck from Jessore in Sadanandapur area of Sadar upazila at around 4:00am.

On secret information, a petrol team of police fired five bullets targeting the robbers, when they managed to flee the scene leaving their firearms.

Later, police recovered one foreign made revolver and one bullet from the spot.

Meanwhile, the law enforcers seized 1,330 bottles of phensidyl after searching a Dhaka-bound truck from Hili port and arrested one Liton, 40, of Panchbibi upazila in Joypurhat from the truck at 3:00am.

After a short while, the same police team arrested four men-- Parvez, 32, Ziaur, 28, Kabir Hossain, 35, and Sharif, 33-- along with 330 bottles of Phensidyl after searching their car.

Two separate cases were filed with the police station.

MV HOPE ACCIDENT IN ANDAMAN SEA

Family urge early return of engr Saifuddin's body

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

Bereaved family members of Kazi Saifuddin, chief engineer of Bangladeshi cargo vessel MV Hope, urged the government to bring back the body from Thailand and hand it over to them early.

The vessel tilted in Andaman Sea near the Thailand coast early Thursday when all the 17 Bangladeshi crew on board abandoned it fearing that it would capsize.

Nine crews have so far been rescued alive while the bodies of Kazi Saifuddin and Mahub Morshed, chief

officer of the vessel, were recovered from the sea on Friday.

The bodies are kept under the custody of Thai authorities.

This correspondent yesterday visited Kazi Saifuddin's house at Ganga dharpotty in Manikganj town and talked to the family members.

Saifuddin's wife Zinat became unconscious repeatedly after hearing death news of her husband.

Saifuddin, 52, son of late Kazi Shamsuddin of Ibrahimpur village under Harirampur upazila of

Manikganj, joined MV Hope three months ago.

Earlier, he served several foreign and local ships after passing engineering from Marine Academy in 1983.

Kazi Saifuddin was fourth among four brothers and three sisters. His mother Rokeya, 77, is suffering from old age complications.

Saifuddin's elder daughter Kazi Tania passed the SSC examinations this year, another daughter Kazi Tazria Moon reads in class VI and son Kazi Shams Salehin Rafid is a nursery student.



File photo of marine engineer Kazi Saifuddin with wife and two younger kids.

flood hits five upazilas of Lalmonirhat

Over 40,000 people marooned

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Downpour and onrush of water from upstream for the last three days triggered flood in 16 unions of different upazilas, marooning thousands of villagers.

More than 60 villages in Teesta and Dharla rivers basins were flooded during the period, said officials of Water Development Board (WDB) in the district.

The water of Teesta was flowing above 12 centimeters of its danger mark at Daowani point in Hatibandha upazila on Saturday while Dharla flowing one centimeter below of its danger level at Sadar upazila yesterday, they said.

Around 40,000 people of

low-lying areas in Hatibandha, Kaliganj, Aditnari, Patgram and Sadar upazilas got marooned, said the officials.

Lalmonirhat WDB Executive Engineer Enayet

Ullah said the water levels of both the rivers are increasing alarmingly and if it continues for the next 24 hours, more than one lakh people might have been marooned.

Meanwhile, more than 10 villages of Thakurgaon Sadar upazila were flooded due to heavy rain for the last three days, reports our correspondent.

The villages include Ghonimoheshpur, Kujishahar, Chapati, Madhupur, Nenkapara, Ramnath, Senihari, Uttar Akhanagar, Vatiyapara, Uttara and Gowaldighi.

The rail communication on Thakurgaon-Panchagarh route got snapped as the rail track went under water at Kujishahar village, said locals.

Besides, vast tract of vegetable fields in the area were washed away, said Mominul Islam, chairman of Ruheha Union Parishad.

Tangon Barrage embankment is now under threat of

erosion as the water of the river is increasing its danger level, said locals.

The flood water also entered Collegepara and Hathabosti areas in the municipality as the town protection embankment partially damaged due to heavy tide.

Normal life is being hampered as many roads went under water, said the townspeople.

Deputy Commissioner Mukesh Chandra Biswas and upazila nirbahi officer visited the flood affected areas.

The DC said we have already informed WDB authorities for taking immediate steps.

Besides, all measures have been taken to assist the flood-hit people, he said.

In Panchagarh, several villages in five upazilas of the district have been flooded due to downpour and onrush of water from upstream.

SNIPPETS

Man stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A man was stabbed to death over previous enmity at Baroghoria Bazar in Sadar upazila on Saturday night. The deceased was identified as Kamal uddin, 35, son of Nawsad Ali of Gainpara village in Shibganj upazila. Bazlur Rashid, officer in-charge of Sadar Police Station, said a gang attacked Kamal with sharp weapons, leaving him critically injured when he was returning to his home from the town. Kamal died on way to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital at 8:30pm, said the OC.

Top terror held

UNB, Joypurhat

Police arrested a top terror at Jamalganj Bazar in Akkelpur upazila on Saturday. The arrestee is Abdul Mahub alias Ujjal of Nakuria village in Sadar upazila. Police said on secret information, a team raided the area at noon and arrested him. Ujjal was wanted in 14 cases, including murder, robbery, snatching and smuggling, filed with different police stations, said Police Superintendent Hamdul Alam.

Two kids drown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Two kids drowned in a pond at Sutarbir village in Agoiljhara upazila on Saturday noon. The deceased were identified as Sumaiya, 5, daughter of Mannat Fakir and her cousin Janat, 5, daughter of Hamjalal Fakir of the area. Police said the duo went to take a dip in the pond near their home and went missing. Later, the kids were rescued and taken to Gournadi Upazila Health Complex in critical condition where the attending doctors declared them dead.

Reception to GPA-5 achievers

A CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

As many as 26 students, who secured GPA-5 in this year's SSC examinations from different schools under Baniapara upazila of Barisal, have been awarded with stipend and crest. Serve the People, a non-governmental organisation, in association with Habib-Shahzadi Foundation, organised the programme at Fazlul Haq Institution in Chakhar on June 29. Chief guest Syed AZ Morshed Ali, Banaripara Upazila Nirbahi Officer, distributed a cheque for Tk 1500 and a crest to each student. Foundation President Shahzadi Begum chaired the programme.

Boy killed wall collapse

UNB, Dinajpur

A teenage boy was killed after a mud wall collapsed on him at Kanaibari village in Birol upazila of the district on Saturday. The deceased was identified as Manjurul Islam, 13, son of Nur Islam of the village. Family sources said Manjurul was injured when a mud wall of their house collapsed on him during rain in the afternoon. He was rushed to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at night.

18 maunds of piranha seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A mobile court seized around 18 maunds of Piranha from Urpathan area under Adamdighi upazila on Saturday evening. Acting on a tip-off, the court, led by upazila Nirbahi Officer and Executive Magistrate Russel Monjur, conducted a drive in the area and seized the banned fish. Sub-Inspector Monirul Islam of Adamdighi Police Station said the mobile court seized the fish from a pond of one Hafizur Rahman. Sensing the presence of the team, Hafizur fled the scene, SI Monirul added.

Illicit acts by teacher, his associates spark protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Locals and students of different schools under Kushtia Sadar upazila yesterday staged a demonstration and put up a barricade on Kushtia-Rajshahi highway in Barkhada-Trimohoni area in the upazila, demanding arrest of a schoolteacher and four others, who have had sex with some schoolgirls and released the video footage of the illicit acts on internet and mobile phones.

The agitators alleged that Helal Uddin Panna, assistant teacher of Adrasa High school in the town, used to have sex with some school and college girls, who came to his rented house at Aruapra in the town to receive private tuition.

His four associates-- Alimuzzaman Tutul, execu-

tive engineer of Islamic University, Kushtia Jubo League leader Monirul Islam, Dulal Hossain, assistant engineer of LGED in Jessore, and Shariful Islam Sajal, assistant engineer of Gangni upazila LGED, were also involved in the illicit acts at the house, locals said, adding that the culprits recorded the obscene scenes by hidden video camera and later released these on Internet and mobile phones.

Yesterday the agitating locals withdrew the barricade after police assured them of taking immediate steps against the persons involved.

Four schoolgirls and the five culprits were found involved in illicit acts in the video footage, said Joydul Abedin, additional police superintendent, Kushtia.

CASE FOR LOOTING, TORCHING HOUSES

Five Laxmipur ruling party men land in jail

UNB, Laxmipur

A court here yesterday sent five ruling party men to jail in a case for looting and torching houses in Ramgati municipality area in February this year.

The accused are former mayor of Ramgati municipality and Awami League leader Azad Uddin Chowdhury, Ramgati upazila unit Jubo League leaders Nur Alam and Abdul Baset Patwary, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) upazila unit organising secretary Azad Uddin and BCL Ramgati

Government College unit general secretary Nur Uddin.

The accused appeared before the Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court and sought bail. Judge M Nazrul Islam rejected their bail petitions and sent them to jail.

According to the case statement, ruling party men vandalised and torched four houses in the municipality area on February 24.

Later, Abul Khair, one of the victims, lodged a case with Ramgati Police Station against 83 ruling party men, including the five mentioned above, in connection with the incident.

Abducted girl rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A schoolgirl, abducted from Sirajnagar village under Daulatpur upazila of Kushtia on June 29, was rescued from Hatgopalpur village in Jhenidah Sadar upazila early yesterday.

A gang of criminals picked up the girl, a class five student

of local Brac School, while he was returning home from the house of a private tutor at the village at around 4:00pm.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) from its Jhenidah camp, raided a house at Hatgopalpur village at around 3:00am and rescued the schoolgirl from there.



Heavy downpour during the last three days caused flooding of at least 10 villages in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila. The photo was taken from Ghonimoheshpur village in the upazila yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR