

Women add to family income by making hogla mats

HABIBUR RAHMAN, Pirojpur

A large number of women at different villages in Nazirpur upazila under the district are engaged in making floor covers with leaves of hogla, a plant that grows abundantly in vast marshlands in the area.

Most of the women of Dewlbari and Kawlaroania unions in Nazirpur spend a good amount of time in making the item as the work adds to their family income.

Their daughters, mostly school going ones, also help in the work during their free time. "In addition to doing my

household chores, I make six or seven mats daily. With the income from selling it, I maintain the family expense as my husband is a cancer patient and our children are too young to earn," said Rabeya Begum of Gawkhali village.

Anjoli Rani, another woman of the village, also maintains her family with the earning from selling floor covers made of hogla leaves.

Class VI student Sukhi helps her mother in the work during her free time.

"My husband is a fisherman whose earning is not enough for us. So I make

mats to add to the family income," said Radha Halder, a housewife of Chadkathi village in Nazirpur upazila.

After collecting the hogla leaves from marshlands, it is dried in the sun and sold for good prices to the makers of floor cover.

A bundle of dry hogla leaves bought for Tk 120 can be made into five pieces of floor covers, each measuring six feet by seven and a half feet and wholesalers buy it for Tk 40 each, makers said.

But the amount seems too small, considering the present market prices of daily necessities and cost of

One jailed for selling fake question papers

UNB, Benapole (Jessore).

A mobile court in Jessore sentenced a young man to seven days' imprisonment for selling fake question papers of primary school teachers' recruitment test.

The convict is Sohul Rana, son of Enamul Haque of Ramkrishnapur village in Chowgachha upazila. Executive Magistrate Abdus Salam said police picked up Rana from in front of MM College in the town at around 9:30am and recovered fake question papers of teachers' recruitment test from his possession.

Rana sold each copy of the question paper for Tk 30,000.

The magistrate handed down the verdict against him.

15 injured in BNP-police clash in B'baria

UNB, Brahmanbaria

At least 15 people were injured in a clash between police and BNP workers in Rail Gate area of the district town yesterday.

Witnesses said the clash erupted as police dispersed a procession brought out by BNP activists in the afternoon in support of the party-led 18-party alliance's 84-hour countrywide hartal beginning at 6:00am today.

The BNP activists vandalised several shops, offices and auto-rickshaws in the area during the clash. A chase and counter chase also took place, leaving 15 people injured.

Later, police picked up three people from the scene.



PHOTO: STAR

A woman weaves hogla leaves into a floor cover at Chandkhali village in Nazirpur upazila under Pirojpur district.



PHOTO: STAR

Aduri, flanked by her mother and brother, reaches Patuakhali town by a launch on their way to home at Katurataluk village in Joinkathi union under Sadar upazila on Thursday.

Aduri to get land, new house soon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The family of 11-year-old Aduri, who survived brutal torture by employer in Dhaka, is going to get a piece of land and a new house, thanks to the initiative of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Benjir Ahmed.

Patuakhali Superintendent of Police Rafiqul Hasan Goni visited Aduri at her home at Katurataluk village in

Joinkathi union under Patuakhali Sadar upazila on Thursday and informed her family of the matter.

"The DMP commissioner expressed his desire to give a piece of land and a new house for Aduri and we are looking for the land at her village," said Md Monirul Islam, OC of Patuakhali Police Station.

Local UP chairman Md Feroz Alam said police officials asked him to chose a piece of land for building a new house for Aduri and he is trying best

to select it.

As this correspondent visited Aduri's house on Friday afternoon, she said, "They [her employer in Dhaka] are very cruel. I will never go to Dhaka again."

Aduri needs more treatment for full recovery as she is suffering from fever and feels pain in her body, said Aduri's mother Safia Begum.

On September 23, two women rescued Aduri from a dustbin at DOHS Baridhara in Dhaka in a serious condition as Aduri's

employer Nowrin Jahan left the girl there, after brutally torturing her.

Later police brought her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and after treatment for one and a half months there, she was handed to her family on November 3.

Safia Begum sent Aduri, seventh of her nine children, to Dhaka for work as the woman had to struggle hard for maintenance of the family since her husband Khaleque Mridha died three years ago.

SNIPPETS

13 shops gutted

UNB, Bogra

At least 13 shops were gutted in a fire at a market at Kahalu upazila headquarters in the district on Friday. Fire service sources said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at a shop of the market at around 1:30pm and soon spread to 12 other shops. On information, a firefighting unit from the district headquarters rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire after an hour. The shop owners claimed that the loss caused by the fire would be around Tk 50 lakh.

Man commits 'suicide'

UNB, Benapole (Jessore)

A man committed 'suicide' by hanging himself from the ceiling of his room at Dhopakholi village in Sadar upazila of Jessore on Friday night. The deceased was identified as Abul Hossain, 62, son of late Ali Mia of the village. Police quoted victim's family as saying that Abul had been suffering from a mental illness for long. The family members found his body hanging from the ceiling at around 9:00pm. Being informed, police went to the village, recovered the body and sent it to Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy. An unnatural death case was filed with the police station concerned.

One held with gun, cocktails

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a man with a shutter gun and 11 cocktails from a house of Durgapur village under Raninagar upazila of Naogaon on Friday night. The arrestee was identified as Zaker Ali Khan, 45, son of Javed Ali of Gona Union Parishad under Raninagar upazila of the district. Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-5 raided Zaker's house at the village at around 9:00pm and recovered the gun and cocktails from his possession. Later, the elite force handed Zaker to Raninagar Police Station and filed a case against him.

Criminal killed by rivals

UNB, Natore

An alleged criminal was stabbed to death and his cohort injured in an attack by their rivals at Bamihal Bazar in Singra upazila yesterday. The dead was identified as Selim, 45, son of Hazi Ahmed Ali in the upazila. Locals said there had been a longstanding dispute between Selim and Afzal, another criminal in the area, over establishing supremacy in the area. As a sequel to the enmity, the supporters of Afzal attacked Selim and Nazimuddin and stabbed them when they were taking tea at the Bazar at around 8:00am. Selim died on the spot and Nazimuddin sustained serious injuries. Nazimuddin was taken to a local hospital. Being informed, police recovered the body and sent it to Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Criminals set fire to pry school

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Criminals looted valuables from Pantapara Government Primary School and set fire to it at Begunbari village under Thakurgaon Sadar upazila on Friday night. Dilara Begum, headmistress of the school, told this correspondent over cellphone that unidentified criminals set fire to the office room at around 11:00pm and took away some valuable things. Locals rushed to the spot, brought the blaze under control and save the official documents. The headmistress said she informed the local union parishad (UP) chairman and the upazila education officer of the matter.

Robbers kill one, loot expat's house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Robbers killed a man and injured two others at Hijuli village in Sadar upazila of Meherpur district early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Abu Bakkar Tikka, 35, son of Nur Mohammad of the village.

Police and locals said a gang of 15 to 20 robbers stormed into the house of Ruhul Amin, an expatriate in Kuwait, at the village at around 2:30am.

They confined the family members to a room and looted gold ornaments, Tk 20,000, mobile phone sets and other valuables from the house. As the family members cried for help, the gang blasted a hand bomb.

Hearing screams, neighbours rushed in and chased the robbers, who hurled three crude bombs at the villagers.

Three people, including Tikka, sustained injuries in the bomb attack. They were rushed to Meherpur General Hospital where Tikka died at around 4:30am.

The injured Hasmat Ali Hasu, 32, and Rahmat Ali, 22, are undergoing treatment at the hospital.

None of the gang members was arrested as of filing of this report at 6:00pm yesterday.

Contacted, Officer-in-Charge Reazul Islam of Meherpur Sadar Police Station said they have already launched a drive to arrest the robbers.



PHOTO: STAR

Curious people throng to see this seven-foot-long crocodile, after locals hacked it to death on the bank of Arial Kha River in Shibchar upazila under Madaripur district yesterday. It was later taken to Shibchar police station.

JCD men clash with cops at BAU, 5 hurt

STAR COUNTRY DESK

At least five activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) unit were injured in a clash with police on the campus yesterday noon.

Sohrab Hossain, JCD, organising secretary of JCD BAU unit, is among the injured, reports UNB.

Officer-in-charge Golam Sarwar of Kotwali Model Police station said the clash ensued when police intercepted a JCD procession on the campus at noon.

At least five people were injured during the clash, he said, adding the JCD activists also blasted several crude bombs on the campus.

Our correspondent adds: BCL activists, equipped with rods and hockey sticks, brought out a procession on the campus in presence of the law enforcers. They also exploded eight cocktails.

Meanwhile, the honors first year admission test was held at the university yesterday. The test results will be published by November 12, university sources said.

Arrest rapists of housewife Demands human chain in Gaibandha town

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Several hundred people formed a human chain on DB Road in Gaibandha town yesterday demanding arrest of the culprits, who raped a housewife in Sadullapur upazila in September.

Later, they held a protest rally under the banner of 'Gaibandha Zila Sacheton Nagorik Samaj' in the town.

The victim, Ishrat Jahan Rabu, 20, daughter of Abdur Rouf of Tarafajit village, was going to her husband's house at

Hatbamuni village in the upazila on September 9.

While she was looking for a vehicle, one Lechu Mondol of village Bhangamore tactfully took her to nearby Kantanagar High School ground.

Later, Lechu and five others dragged the victim to a room and violated her.

The rapists took the victim to Bogra in an auto-rickshaw, dropped her beside a road and fled away.

Local people rescued the victim and sent her to Bogra Medical College Hospital. Later, she was brought to

village home by her cousin named Ekhlashur Rahman.

Father of victim filed a case with Sadullapur Police Station, but police are yet to arrest any of the culprits.

At the rally, the speakers demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the culprits.

The rally was addressed, among others, by advocate Sekender Azam Anam, advocate Sirajul Islam Babu of JSD, CPB district unit Secretary Mihir Ghosh, Rokeya Khatun, Sirin Akhter Liza, Riktu Proshad, Nilufer Yasmin Shilpi and advocate Anis Mostafa.

Youth hacked to death in Natore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A youth was hacked to death in Bamihal area under Singra upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Selim Uddin, 30, son of Ahmad Ali of the village.

Tarikul Islam, assistant superintendent of police, said there was a conflict between Afjal Hossain and Selim Uddin over establishing supremacy in Bamihal area.

When Selim and his supporter Nazim Uddin were taking tea at a tea-stale at Bamihal Bazar in the morning, ten to 12 supporters of Afjal swooped on Selim and Nazim.

They hit the duo with sharp weapons and left the scene. Selim died on the spot while critically injured Nazim was rushed to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital (RMCH).

Fayezur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Singra Police Station, said police recovered the body and sent it to Natore Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

No case was filed with Singra Police Station in connection with the killing as of 4:0pm yesterday.

Couple held with arms, ammo in C' nawabganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Police arrested a couple and recovered arms and ammunition from their possession in Rehaichar area in Chapainawabganj town yesterday.

The arrestees are Motiur Rahman Babu, 30, and his wife Eti. 20.

SM.Bazlur Rashid, officer-in-charge (OC) of Sadar Model Police Station said police raided a rental house of Motiur Rahman Babu at around 8:15am and recovered two pistols, four magazines, six bullets, some phensidyl bottles, 31 mobile phone sets,

16 SIM cards, 200 ml chloroform and 1.24 lakh Indian rupees from there and arrested Babu and his wife Eti.

He said Babu had earlier demanded illegal toll from Dr SH Ansari of Balighata village in Godagari upazila of Rajshahi and threatened him with life over mobile phone.

After filling of a case by Dr Ansari with Godagari Police Station, police raided a caretaker of Babu's house. Following his statement, law enforcers raided the house yesterday morning, recovered the arms and ammunition and other things and arrested Babu and his wife Eti.



PHOTO: STAR

Police seize two pistols, four magazines and six bullets from a house at Rehaichar Moholla in Chapainawabganj municipality and arrested a couple in this connection yesterday.

New variety cucumber brings more profit to growers

UNB, Jhalakathi

Farmers in the district are now increasingly cultivating cucumber as it's 'manpasha' variety has proved more profitable.

This season, most of them saw an excellent yield of 'manpasha' cucumber turning the vegetable into a symbol of good production.

Growers have earned huge profit from the variety as it not only grew well but also were sold at fair prices.

The cucumber variety was cultivated on about 1,000 acres of land in the district.

The specialty of this type of cucumber is that it grows fast sometimes up to 8-9 kilograms in each plant.

The small size cucumbers are used in preparing 'salad' while the big ones are mainly used for cooking curry.

Cucumber becomes a special delicacy when it is cooked with fishes like shrimp and hilsa.

Farmers preserve seeds from mature cucumbers.

During monsoon, cucumber is cultivated on vast tracts of land in Binoykathi, Basanda, Kripipasha and Nabagram unions of Jhalakathi Sadar upazila.

Farmers earn Tk 20,000 to Tk 25,000 by cultivating cucumber on each bigha of land.

Those who cultivated cucumber earlier this season have already started to get the yield.

A few of the growers after harvesting cucumber have also started cultivating other vegetables like sweet gourd, snake gourd and okra.