



Chaluabari Government Primary School at Manikdair Char in Sariakandi upazila under Bogra district is on the verge of extinction due to serious erosion by the Jamuna. Winner of district's best school award in 2006 and Bangamata Gold Cup in the upazila in 2012, the school needs immediate relocation for smooth continuation of study of around 450 students.

MMC students on strike as gang stabs mate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Alleged drug addicts caused serious stab injuries to a fourth year student of Mymensingh Medical College (MMC) yesterday. Demanding immediate arrest of the criminals and adequate security measures for the learners, the MMC students went on an indefinite strike at the institution from 3:00pm yesterday.

The victim, Reza Hasan Taki, 21, son of Abdul Motalab, was getting into a rickshaw to go to MMC library from his Bhatikashar residence in Mymensingh town around 8:30am when 5/6 miscreants allegedly led by Taki's neighbour Limon stabbed him in different parts of the body including chest and neck, police said. Hearing his scream, locals rushed there and took Taki to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH).

As his condition deteriorated, he was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital by a helicopter in the afternoon, MMCH sources said. "Limon and his companions allegedly took drug openly in the area. They got angry with Taki as he asked them not to do so. The feud

might have led to the incident," said Abu Md Fazlul Karim, officer in charge of Kotwali Police Station.

The aggrieved students of MMC went on an indefinite strike at the institution from 3:00pm yesterday.

They brought out a protest procession on the campus and blocked

Dhaka-Mymensingh road in front of the college for an hour. Later, police cleared the road.

The students also held a protest rally on the campus.

Dr Motiur Rahman Bhuiyan, secretary of Bangladesh Medical Association Mymensingh unit, condemned the attack and demanded the arrest of



Brutally stabbed by drug addicts, Reza Hasan Taki, a student of Mymensingh Medical College, is being carried for lifting onto a helicopter for transportation to Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

Forest robbers abduct 30

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

At least 30 fishermen were abducted allegedly by a gang of forest robbers of the Sundarbans under Shyamnagar upazila of the district early yesterday.

Ramzan Gazi and Abdul Gazi, two fishermen of the area, said a total of 32 fishermen in three trawlers went for fishing in the

mangrove forest in the early hours.

As they reached Tesnakhali Canal point near Bayersing River, the gang members of notorious Janab-Alim Bahani confined 30 of them at gun point around 5:00am.

Later the gang took them to the deep jungle by a trawler, Ramzan and Abdul, who managed to flee the attack, said.

SM Zaman, West Sundarban Koikhali Station Officer, said they were gathering more information about the kidnap.

We have also informed the higher authorities about the incident, he added.

Officer-in-charge (OC) Aminul Islam of Shyamnagar police station said over cell phone that they were trying to locate the kidnapped fishermen and the den of

Bid to loot bank, four arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Four people were held for and allegedly attempting to steal valuables from a bank branch in Galachipa upazila of the district on Friday night.

The arrestees are Monirul Islam, 30, from Khulna and Md Sumon, 28, of Barisal Sadar upazila and Ram Krishna Paul, 35, and Sohag, 22, of Galachipa town.

Zakir Hossain, manager of the branch, said a gang of three entered the office by cutting open its grill of the backside, when Abul Latif, night guard of the bank, went to offer his prayers at a local mosque on the occasion of Shab-e-barat around 9:30pm.

Two youths from the roof top of a nearby building noticed the matter and cried out for help.

Hearing their screams locals encircled the office building and caught Monirul and Sumon while the other man fled away.

Komol Chandra, sub-inspector of Galachipa police station, said police yesterday morning detained Ram Krishna Paul, owner of a local residential hotel and Sohag, a staff of the hotel for interrogation, as the arrestees were staying at the hotel for the last few days.

Lightning kills four

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Three people including a minor boy were killed by lightning at two villages of Shibganj upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased were identified as, Durul Hoda, 39, son of Mohammad Tufani and Mousumi Khatun, 25, daughter of Mozaffar Hossain of Bazitpur village under Shyampur union and Meraj Hossain, 4, son of Abdur Razzak of Saheb Nagar village under Shabbajpur union in the upazila.

Nurul Hoda, chairman of Shyampur union parishad, said thunderbolts struck Durul Hoda and Mousumi at Bazitpur village near their houses during storm followed by heavy rain at around 2:15 pm, killing Mousumi on the spot and injuring Durul Hoda.

Durul succumbed to his injuries on his way to Shibganj upazila health complex.

Mohammad Nizamul Haque, chairman of Shabbajpur union parishad, said lightning struck 4-year-old Meraj when he entered a mango orchard near their house at Shaheb Nagar village of the upazila at around 2:15 pm to collect mango during storm.

In Sylhet, a housewife was killed by lightning at Kalenga village in Kamalganj upazila on Friday, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Azma Bagum, 29, wife of Mashahid Miah, a resident of the village.

Locals said, a thunderbolt struck Azma while she was going to field with their cattle during drizzle around 8:30 am, leaving her dead on the spot.

Random fry netting in Bay poses threat to fish stock

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

A section of fishermen have continued netting fry in different rivers and canals in the district as well as the adjoining Bay, posing threat to different species of fishes.

The callous people use long pieces of current nets and special type of net locally called *gorajal* tied with bamboo or wood sticks to catch young fishes that come to the shore during the high tide.

During a visit to Gongamoti area about seven km to the east of Kuakata Zero Point a couple of days ago, this correspondent saw a group of fishermen catching young fishes with different nets.

Such catchers usually separate shrimp fry to sell for good prices while the fry of other species are often left on the earth or sold for a nominal Tk 30 to 50 per kg.

"At least 50 species of young fishes including *poya*, *falisha*, *taposi*, *gagra*, *chapila* get trapped in current nets although fishermen mainly collect shrimp fry. Random netting of fry poses serious threat to the fish stock belonging to different species," said Abul Kalam, a local fisherman.

A section of fish traders and cultivators from Khulna, Bagerhat and Satkhira districts come to

buy shrimp fry from Patuakhali and its adjoining areas and carry it by trawlers or trucks, said Md Shahjahan Akon, a resident of west Kuakata area.

A team of DB police seized around 50,000 shrimp fry and arrested 17 people from Labukhali ferry terminal on Patuakhali-Barisal road on June 3 when they were carrying the item to Khulna from Galachipa upazila under Patuakhali district by trucks.

Earlier on May 30, a team of the coastguard seized

around 40 lakh shrimp fry from two trawlers on the Boleshwar River. The trawlers were heading towards Khulna from Pathorghata in Barguna district.

Later all the seized shrimp fry was freed into the river, said Abdul Kuddus, upazila fisheries officer of Pathorghata.

Lt. Arif, station commander for the coastguard in Pathorghata, said they are trying best to check the catching and carrying of shrimp by a section of local fishermen.

Md Shariful Haque Akond, fisheries officer of Kalapara upazila in Patuakhali, said, "In spite of manpower crisis we conduct drives at different spots to seize shrimp fry and arrest fishermen and traders involved in the business."

"We will take lawful step against the fishermen involved in fry catching as the act is very harmful for fish stock," said Patuakhali Divisional Fisheries Officer Iqbal Hossain.



Use of banned current nets to catch fry in the Bay near Kuakata in Patuakhali district remains a common affair, thanks to inadequate preventive measures by the authorities concerned.

Hapless foundling makes childless couple happy

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

It was an amazingly happy occasion for all concerned as a hapless foundling got its way to a childless couple in Meherpur town yesterday.

Mabia Khatun of Chadbil village of Meherpur Sadar upazila found the baby, following its cry in a small bush when she was walking past the adjacent road on her way to nearby Khorokpur village around 6:30am, police said.

Mabia rescued the baby and with the help of locals took it to Shahidul Islam, a homeopath at Chadbil, who assumed that the baby was born only a few hours ago.

Many people thronged to see the newborn and police was informed.

"We failed to find out the mother of the baby while its rescuer Mabia proposed that her brother Raihan and his wife Sahida, who have remained childless during 18 years' their conjugal life, should adopt the baby," said Sheikh Atiar Rahman, officer in charge of Meherpur Sadar Police Station.

People present there raised their voice in favour of Mabia's proposal and the baby was handed over to the childless couple.

"I am too happy to express my feelings," Sahida said after receiving the baby.

Raihan, 48, a rickshaw puller of Meherpur town, said, "Now my dream is to build a bright future for the child."

Two kids swept away by current in Naf

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Two children were swept away by strong current as they went to take a dip in Naaf River under Teknaf upazila yesterday morning.

Later the bodies of Saddam Hossain, 8, son of Jagir Hossain and Mohammad Shaif, 7, son of Mohammad Anwar Hossain of Naingtapara point of the river.

Witnesses said three children went to bathe the

river near the local forest office at around 9:00am and were swept away by strong current.

On information, locals rushed to the spot and rescued one Abdul Aziz, 8, son of Farid Ahmed but failed to trace out the two others.

Around one hour later the bodies of the two were found floating in the river.

Aziz was rushed to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

Later he was shifted to

SNIPPETS

Storm damages 300 houses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

At least 300 houses were damaged as a nor'wester lashed five unions in Sunderganj upazila early Friday. The unions are Bamondanga, Sarbananda, Tarapur, Ramjibon and Dhopadanga. The storm also uprooted several mango, litchi and banana trees. Rooftops of a number of tin-shed houses were also blown away during the storm, said locals.

Policeman held for stalking

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A policeman was arrested at Maladharpur in Moheshpur upazila early Friday on charge of sexually harassing a housewife. Accused Sohel Rana, of Chowgacha upazila in Jessore district, served at Jhenidah District Police Lines. Brother of the victim said Rana used to tease her sister over mobile phone for long. Being informed, villagers caught Rana red handed around 2:30am and handed him over to Moheshpur police station.

Villagers swoop on fair

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Local people on Friday vandalised and torched Annada Mela (fair) where obscene dances and gambling got underway under the banner of Salma New Circus at Amlagachi Bazar in Palashbari upazila. The unsocial activities were going on at the fair for the last few weeks, deteriorating law and order in the area. On Friday afternoon, the angry villagers swooped on the fair and carried out the arson attack, said locals.

Cops, robbers clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

At least three people, including two policemen were injured in a clash between the cops and an alleged gang of robbers at Chiltia village in Kamalganj upazila early yesterday. Injured two Assistant Sub-inspectors Abdul Kuddus and Suranjit Das of Kamalganj Police Station is undergoing treatment at Kamalganj Upazila Health Complex. Police said, the clash started when a gang of robber's pelted brickbats towards a patrol team of police, forcing the law enforcers to chase them and charge battons. Police arrested one of the injured robbers Ramiz Mia, 38, of Chiltia village of the upazila from the spot, while the others managed to flee.

Rangpur boro procurement drive unlikely to succeed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

The target to procure boro paddy and rice is unlikely to be achieved in the district this year due to higher prices of the food grains in the local markets, compared to the official rates.

Sources at the district food office said the drive to procure paddy and rice began on May 26.

This year, the government has decided to purchase paddy from farmers at Tk 20 per kg and rice from millers at Tk 31.

The food department has procured 1,294 tonnes of rice against the target of 26,933 tonnes in the last 14 days. But it has failed to get a single kilogram of paddy from farmers against the target of 4,368 tonnes during the period.

While visiting different markets in the district on Sunday, this correspondent found that paddy was selling for Tk 21-23 per kg while rice for Tk 31-33.

As the market price of paddy remains high, farmers are not showing interest in selling their produce to the government purchase centres set up in all eight upazilas of the district

Md Shahjahan Mian, 50, a farmer of Machhari village under Kaunia upazila, said they are selling paddy in the local market at higher rates. He urged the government to fix paddy procurement rate at Tk 25 per kg.

An official of the district food office, seeking anonymity said it will be difficult for them to achieve the procurement target of both paddy and rice as the prices of the food grains remain high in the open markets.

Contacted, district food controller Md Jamal Hossain said they will be able to achieve the target of procuring both boro paddy and rice as 811 out of 841 millers of the district have already made contracts with the food department for supplying food grains to the government warehouses at procurement rates.



Bangladesh Adivasi Union Bogra district unit forms a human chain at Satmatha intersection in Bogra town yesterday demanding punishment for the killers of Alfred Soren, end to repression on indigenous people, and provision for separate allocation for them in the national budget.

EKRAM KILLING CASE

Another accused held in Feni

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Police on Friday arrested a Jubo League man at Daulatpur village under Sadar upazila in connection with the murder of Fulgazi upazila chairman Ekramul Haque.

The arrestee is Abu Bakkar, 28, son of Abdur Ruk of Birinchi area in the district town. He is an aide to 'Ruti' Sohel, another prime accused in the murder case.

According to the confessional statement of the other accused, Bakkar was present at the killing squad. Ekramul Haque, 45, also the president of Awami League upazila unit, was shot and burnt to death in his car in broad daylight on May 20. Later, a murder case was filed against BNP leader Mahtab Uddin Chowdhury Minar and 35 unnamed people. A total of 26 have been arrested till now. Of them, 13 made confessional statements regarding their direct or indirect involvement with the killing.