

TITAS RIVER, BIG WATER BODIES

# Mindless fishing threatens B'baria fish resources

SHEIKH MD SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Brahmanbaria

Mindless fishing in the Titas River and several vast water bodies in the district poses threat to fish resources in the area.

Every year the fisheries department creates several sanctuaries at different points of the Titas to ensure safe breeding of various fishes but they have not done it this year, officials said.

However, following the official method of such sanctuary, the fishermen are setting a number of fake fish sanctuaries in the river and catching fishes there indiscriminately, said Md Shamsuzzaman, principal of Shalgaon Kalisima School and College, standing beside the river.

"Urged by the need to catch more fish to feed the family, we set fake fish sanctuary locally called daam, with branches of trees and water hyacinth in vast areas of the river. As the fishes come for shelter and food, they are netted soon. Fishing in this way will continue till dry season when we will remove the daams," said fisherman Porimol Das of Gusaipur village.

"Once we got sufficient



PHOTO: STAR

Fishermen use giant nets to trap all kinds of fishes that come for food and shelter at 'fake sanctuaries' made by callous fishermen in the Titas River in Brahmanbaria district.

amounts of big fishes with *borojal* (very large nets). But gone are the days. And so, we have to catch smaller fishes to earn enough to maintain the family. For this purpose the holes of the nets have been made smaller," said Hori Chandra Das of Gukarnaghat village.

With fishes, especially big ones, becoming less available, the prices are getting high.

Unplanned setting of innumerable nets and fake fish sanctuaries in the river also hampers smooth plying of launches and speed-boats.

If the fishermen continue such mindless fishing, the water bodies in the district will run out of fishes, said Md Nurul Amin, a freedom fighter.

Contacted, District Fishery Officer Md Nurul

Islam said they have taken steps to remove all fake fish sanctuaries from the water bodies and seize all illegal nets.

"We have started distributing fish fry worth Tk 20 lakh in all nine upazilas under the district to increase fishes and taken another project to release fish fry in open water bodies here," he said.

## Abducted farm manager rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Abducted agriculture farm manager Mohammad Jabad was released on Saturday night in Osmanpolli area of Manikchhari.

Police said, sensing the preparation for drives by joint forces to rescue Jabad, criminals freed him around 9:00pm and fled the scene.

Earlier, on Friday afternoon, Mohammad Jabad, the manager of Shara Agro Farm in Maradhulu area of Manikchhari upazila was abducted allegedly by the cadres of United Peoples Democratic (UPDF) as the farm authorities recently refused to pay them illegal toll.

## Durga idols vandalised

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Miscreants vandalised three idols at a Hindu temple in Pratabnagar area of Jhenagati upazila early yesterday.

Local people suspected that a gang swooped on the temple sometime at 11:00pm when the idol makers left it on Saturday and vandalised the three idols installed ahead of Durga Puja, said Chittaranjan Barman, president of Pratabnagar puja committee.

The incident came to light yesterday morning when the worshipers went to the temple. They found three idols, including one of Durga, and another of Ganesh vandalised.

Condemning the incident, Bishwajit Roy, president of Jhenigati upazila Puja Udjapon Parishad, demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the culprits.

## PABNA EDWARD COLLEGE

## Clash over hall control

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least 10 students were injured in a clash between two rival groups over taking control of Shaheed Shamsuzzoha Muslim Hall at Pabna Edward College on Saturday.

Five rooms of the dormitory were also ransacked during the incident, said college sources.

There was a longstanding clash between the students of the dormitory over establishing supremacy at the dining hall.

On Saturday night, the clash took place when the



PHOTO: STAR

Houses lie ravaged as a tornado hit Lauchapra village in Bakshiganj upazila under Jamalpur district yesterday morning. Inset, another area lashed by tornado in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila the same day.



## ILLEGAL TRIP TO MALAYSIA

## 21 held in Cox's Bazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Police detained 21 youths from Mognama launch terminal in Pekua upazila yesterday morning while they were allegedly preparing to leave for Malaysia illegally.

The arrestees are Abdul Alim of Tangail district, Monirul Islam, Ibrahim, Mohammad Jewel, Md Billal, Md Sajedul Islam, Masud Rana and Md Sona Ullah of Sirajganj, Md Al-Amin, Md Sumon of Brahmanbaria and Md Momen, Mohammad Kawsar, Abu Taleb, Md Azad,

Md Kamal, Abdul Mia, Md Zaman, Hriday Mia and Md Billal of Narsingdi district.

ASI Hafez Khan, who led the raid on the terminal, said a gang of middlemen brought the youths from different northern districts of the country to Pekua to start their illegal voyage to Malaysia by sea.

The brokers took away the money and mobiles from the youths before boarding a trawler, he said.

# Fire damages goods, machinery at Bashundhara mill

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

A devastating fire broke out at Bashundhara Paper Mills in Gazaria upazila of the district yesterday morning.

Five Fire Service units from different fire stations rushed to the spot and doused the blaze after more than nine hours of frantic efforts.

Thirteen workers were injured in the fire that broke out at around 9:00am at the mill in Anarpura area beside Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

Deputy Assistant Director of Fire Service Mamtaj Uddin said that the fire men tamed the blaze but different products of the company and machinery were damaged. The fire might have originated from an electric short circuit, he added.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of

Gazaria Police Station Ferdous Hossain said, the fire broke out first at the warehouse of the mill at around 9:00am.

Following the incident, the mill authorities tried to douse the blaze with their own resources but the fire finally went out of control.

Two units of fire-fighters immediately rushed to the spot and tried to bring the situation under control but they also failed.

Later two more units from Demra joined them. When another unit from Narayanganj arrived the fire began to die down.

The injured workers were taken to hospital but they are now out of danger, sources said.

Locals staged demonstration and tried to enter into the mill to rescue the workers but the law enforcers stopped them, the OC said.

# Mystery shrouds housewife's death

## Two others murdered

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Mystery shrouded death of a newly wed housewife yesterday at Gachbari village in Atway upazila upazila in Thakurgaon.

The deceased was identified as Tonu Begum, 19, wife of Monir Hossain of the village, reports our Thakurgaon correspondent.

Police and locals said, Tonu, daughter of Tozmul Hossain of Mirgarh village was married to Monir, son of Kosirul Islam of Gachbari village eight months ago.

Neighbours said, after marriage apparently they were living peacefully. All of a sudden yesterday morning local people found the floating body of Tonu in a pond near their house and informed police.

Police detained her husband Monir for interrogation.

Officer-in-charge of Atway Police Station Shah Alam told this correspondent over cell phone that there was no injury mark in her body. But mysteriously there was also no water found in her stomach, the OC said, adding Tonu was pregnant.

After post-mortem the reason behind the death would be known, the OC said.

In Jamalpur, body of a housewife was found in knee-deep water of Morangani Canal at Douhatola village under Tulsirchar union in Sadar upazila on Saturday morning.

The deceased, identified as

Sayed Begum, 38, wife of Safar Uddin *alias* Keton Mia of Tikrakandi village under the union, was a mother of three sons and a daughter, reports our correspondent.

Police and locals said, when some villagers went to the canal to catch fish in the morning, they spotted the body of Sayeda in the water with her throat entangled with plastic rope.

Mohammad Ali, sub-inspector (SI) of Sadar Police Station, who recovered the body, said the housewife was killed by strangling.

Police could not find Sayeda's husband Keton Mia as he went into hiding, he added.

In Panchagarh, a housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband for dowry in Boda upazila on Friday, reports our Thakurgaon correspondent.

The deceased was identified as Mukti Rani, 25, daughter of Goynath Chandra Roy, 29, a resident of Chorpara village.

Family sources said, Anikul Chandra Roy, son of Naresh Chandra and a resident of Gederhuri village, had married Mukti five years ago.

Since their marriage, Anikul used to torture his wife to bring dowry from her parents.

Police and locals said, on Friday evening Anikul beat up Mukti following an altercation over the issue, leaving her dead on the spot.

## SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

## UZ by-poll held peacefully

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

By-election to the post of Ranishankoil Upazila Parishad vice-chairman (reserved for female) was held peacefully yesterday. The post fell vacant after vice-chairman Lita was elected as Member of Parliament (reserved for female). Voting started at 8:00am and ended at 4:00pm. As many as 76780 voters were expected to cast their votes through 59 polling centres in the upazila. BNP-backed candidate Munira Banu, AL-backed Mahfuza Begum and Workers' Party of Bangladesh-backed Sefali Begum contested for the post of vice-chairman.

## Retired teacher murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A retired high school teacher of Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat was murdered yesterday. The deceased was identified as Md Rois Uddin, 75, son of late Asar Uddin of Balighata village under Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat. He was a retired school teacher of Balighata High School in the upazila. Police said, criminals murdered him at his home anytime early yesterday. Police said the gang first tied his hands and legs with ropes and then suffocated him to death.



PHOTO: STAR

Indigenous people form a human chain in Bandarban town yesterday demanding withdrawal of the government decision to allocate 33 acres of land at Krykhong and Hangsamapara on Bandarban-Rowangchhari road in the district for setting up Bandarban sector headquarters of Border Guard Bangladesh. The move will evict at least 140 indigenous families in two villages, the protesters said.

## Smuggled sandalwood seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Rapid action Battalion (Rab) members arrested two alleged smugglers along with Indian sandalwood worth Tk 21 lakh 50 thousand from Bagachra Bazar area in Sharsha upazila of Jessore district Saturday night. The arrestees were identified as Monirul Kha, 28, son of Abdul Jalil of Goyra village in Kolaroa upazila of Satkhira district, and Shafiqul Islam, 29, son of Ansar Ali of the same village. Rab sources said, acting on a tip-off that huge smuggled red sandalwood were going to Jessore through Bagachra Bazar area, a patrol team of the elite force seized 71 kgs of the wood and arrested two people.

## RMG worker's body found

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police recovered the body of a readymade garment (RMG) worker from a pond in Salla area under Kalihati upazila yesterday. The deceased was identified as Hamidul Islam, 27, of Thakurgaon district who worked as sewing operator at a RMG factory at Tongi in Gazipur. Mohammad Akheruzzaman, OC of Bangabandhu Bridge East Police Station, said being informed by local people, a police team recovered the body from a pond beside the highway at 11:00am. Criminals might have looted his valuables feeding him drugs, the OC said, adding that Hamidul later fell in the roadside pond losing his balance.

## Housewife 'commits suicide'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

A housewife allegedly committed suicide by jumping under a running train in Ulipur upazila yesterday. The deceased was identified as Rabeya Begum, 30, wife of Rafiqul Islam of Paikpara village and daughter of Rahmat Ali of Rasulpur village of Tabakpur union under the upazila. Police said, Rabeya jumped under the train in Battali area near Ulipur railway station while the Kurigram-bound 'Ramna mail train' from Ulipur station was crossing the area at around 11:00am.

| BANGLADESH ORDNANCE FACTORIES (BOF)  |   |                                  |  |   |                              |   |
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| (a)  | (b)   | (c)                              | (d)  | (e)                                     | (f)                          | (g)   |
| 1.   | Hosiery Cloth with 3 items                                    | 13 October 2014 1300 hrs         | 14 October 2014 Dropping 1200 hrs Opening 1205 hrs | Local                                   | Tk. 500/- (Non refundable)   | 23.04.0000.166.68.4856.14.15 dt. 17-09-2014 |
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| 5.   | Carbon Structural Steel, Carbon Tool Steel with 04 Items      | 13 October 2014 1300 hrs         | 14 October 2014 Dropping 1200 hrs Opening 1205 hrs | Local                                   | Tk. 300/- (Non refundable)   | 23.04.0000.166.66.4856.14.15 dt. 17-09-2014 |
| 6.   | Diamond Wheel Dresser with 24 items                           | 20 October 2014 1300 hrs         | 21 October 2014 Dropping 1200 hrs Opening 1205 hrs | Local                                   | Tk. 500/- (Non refundable)   | 23.04.0000.166.69.4856.14.15 dt. 17-09-2014 |
| 7.   | Electric Bulb with 07 items                                   | 20 October 2014 1300 hrs         | 21 October 2014 Dropping 1200 hrs Opening 1205 hrs | Local                                   | Tk. 300/- (Non refundable)   | 23.04.0000.166.67.4856.14.15 dt. 17-09-2014 |
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| 2. Supplier enlisted at BOF, DGDP and any other defense organization, who have security clearance will only be eligible to participate in the above tenders. |   |                                  |  |   |                              |   |
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