

Dumping of poultry waste damages aman fields

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Aman plants on at least 60 bighas (one bigha is equal to 0.3306 acre) of land have been damaged allegedly due to dumping of poultry waste by a farm at Majhipara village in Tentulia upazila of Panchagarh.

The farmers alleged that aman plants on 60 bighas of land were being damaged due to dumping of poultry wastes by a farm of Paragon group. They feared that a hundred bighas of arable land would be affected if the process continued.

The farmers called for suspension of operation of the poultry farm until making a proper waste drainage system. They also demanded compensation for the affected aman growers.

Following the complaint, upazila chairman Md. Rezaul Karim formed a 3-member investigation committee headed by upazila vice-chairman Iqbal Hossain. The team visited the spot two days before the Edul Azha and found the allegation of the farmers

and farmers lost hope of reaping crop from the affected lands.

Lalu Mia, an affected farmer of the village, told this correspondent that the dumping of toxic waste was hampering crop cultivation. It is also difficult to live at the village adjacent to the farm due to bad smell spreading from the spot, he said.

Mozibar Bhuian, another farmer of the village, said the farm manager asked

them to sell their lands around the farm to the farm owner "at a good price" when they went to lodge a complaint.

Contacted, farm manager Moinul Haque said, the company was ready to compensate if the investigation committee find them guilty. However, he refuted the allegation of asking the farmers to sell their croplands to the farm owner.



Aman plants on at least 60 bighas of land are badly affected due to dumping of poultry waste from a nearby farm at Majhipara village in Tentulia upazila under Panchagarh district.



A large number of jhau trees on the sea beach near Cox's Bazar town are getting uprooted due to gradual removal of soil by recurrent tidal surges.

Save the Bayside jhau trees

MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT, Cox's Bazar

Tidal water from the Bay of Bengal threatens a few thousand jhau trees (tamarisk) as they may collapse anytime due to gradual exposure and damage of roots.

Around a thousand trees fell into sea water during tidal surges at the time of full moon in three months since last July, locals and forest officials said.

During a visit on September 24 from Sea-in point to Samitypara of Nazirartek, it was found that a large number of trees of the five-kilometre forest had tilted on the sea shore as their roots came out of sands.

This correspondent visited Nazirartek, Samitypara, Niribili Cottagepara, diabetic hospital point, Kabita Chattar, Shoibal hotel and Laboni

point areas where locals also alleged that a gang with the connivance of a section of forest guards was also looting the trees.

The gang has been buying each tree at Tk 500-800 each, they said.

However, refuting the allegation, forest official Tapos Dev of Cox's Bazar Sadar range said they recovered more than 500 damaged trees from the sea water

in the last three months.

He said, it was impossible to protect and look after such a big forest with the help of only four temporary forest guards.

Forest official of South Range Abdul Awal stressed the need for materialising the Cox's Bazar town protection dyke project to save the 'important' forest from the onslaught of the sea.

PHOTO: STAR

SNIPPETS

Outlaw killed in mob beating

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

An underground operative was killed in mob beating at Madra village in Sadar upazila of the district on Monday. The dead is Mazed Molla, 35, son of Hashem Molla of the village. Locals caught Mazed, a member of outlawed Sarbahara Party, at the village at around 11:00am and beat him up mercilessly. Being informed, police went to the spot, rescued the outlaw and took him to Madaripur Sadar Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Jamaat leader held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Police arrested a Jamaat leader in Harinakundo upazila on Tuesday night on charge of carrying out subversive activities in the upazila last year. The arrestee, Nazrul Islam, 45, is general secretary of the upazila unit of Jamaat-e-Islam. Officer-in-Charge (OC) Ershadul Kabir of Harinakundo Police Station said they arrested Nazrul Islam, also a vice-chairman of Harinakundo Upazila Parishad, from Hallpara area in the upazila town at around 8:30pm. The Jamaat leader was yesterday produced in a court that sent him to jail.

Son kills father over family feud

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

A man was killed by his son over a family feud in Char Laxmi village in Lalmohan upazila of the district on Tuesday night. The deceased is Abu Taher, 50. Locals said Taher's son Shamim locked in an altercation with father as he refused to give him land. At one stage, Shamim hit his father with sharp a weapon, leaving him dead on the spot. Police arrested Shamim near Daori Bazar area at around 9:00pm. A case was filed against him with Lalmohan Police Station.

14 return from Indian jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Fourteen Bangladeshi youths returned home on Tuesday night after serving jail terms in India. Indian border guards hand them over to BGB personnel at Benapole check post. Benapole BGB camp in charge Gias Uddin said a gang of human traffickers sent them to India three and a half years ago through Jessore border. Later, they were arrested in Kolkata and produced in a court that sentenced them to three years imprisonment for crossing the border without valid documents. They hail from Narail, Bagerhat and Satkhira districts. Police handed over the victims to their respective families.

Mother of five killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A housewife was stabbed to death allegedly by her brother-in-law's wife at Shikapur village in Kasba upazila on Tuesday night. The deceased Faiza Begum, 45, wife of Babul Mia, of the village, was the mother of five children. Police said, an altercation occurred between Faiza and Banu Begum, wife of Ali Mia over a trifling matter around 8:30pm. At one stage, Banu stabbed Faiza with a sharp weapon mercilessly, leaving her critically injured. Locals rushed her to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital where the doctors declared her dead. Police arrested Banu soon after the incident.

Mysterious death of a youth

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Police on Tuesday morning recovered the body of a young man from the residence of his friend at Namazgram village under the port police station. The dead is Omar Faruk, 35, of Binodpur village under Rajbari Sadar uazila. Rafiqul Islam, officer in-charge (investigation) of Benapole Port Police Station, said Faruk's body was found at the house of his friend Jamal Hossain in port area. "We are trying to unearth clue to the matter," the OC said, adding that the body was sent to Jessore Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.



Thakurgaon Government Boys High School ground sees lively presence of people of all ages as a fair with recreational arrangements was held there on Tuesday, the day after the Eid ul Azha.

PHOTO: STAR

FLOOD-HIT DHUNAT IN BOGRA Farmers planting early winter vegetables to recoup losses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Farmers in Dhunat upazila of the district are trying to recoup losses incurred in recent flood by cultivating early winter vegetables in their farmlands.

Upazila agriculture office sources said at least 46 thousand farmers were badly affected as their aus and aman crops and vegetables worth around Tk 36 crore got damaged by the recent flood.

T-aman on 9, 821 hectares of land, aus on 20 hectares of land, vegetables on 200 hectares of land, spices on 19 hectares of land, and jute on 7 hectares of land at 150 villages in 10 unions of the upazila were damaged, source added.

With recession of flood waters, the farmers in the upazila have started preparing their farmlands to cultivate winter vegetables. They are doing the job, taking loans

from non governmental organisations (NGOs) and local moneylenders.

Jafor Mondol of Chikashi village under Chikashi union said crops on his one and a half bighas of land were damaged by recent flood. Now he is cultivating vegetables on the same land to recoup the losses by taking loan from a moneylender.

Vegetable grower Fazar Ali of Bakshapara village under Goshaibari union said with the recession of flood water, he has prepared a seedbed in the home yard by taking loan from an NGO.

Contacted, Upazila Agriculture Officer (UAO) of Dhunat upazila Jahangir Alam said they had sent a report to the higher authority and sought financial support for the flood affected farmers so that they could cultivate mustard, maize, wheat and winter vegetable in their farmlands to recoup the losses.



Farmers prepare a field at Chikashi village in Dhunat upazila under Bogra district for tomato cultivation as local farmers have started winter vegetable cultivation with a hope to recoup the losses caused by the recent floods in the area.

PHOTO: STAR

Minor girl 'killed after rape' in Pirojpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A nine-year-old girl was killed allegedly after rape in Mathbaira upazila of the district on Eid Day.

The victim is Fatima Akhter Eti, a class three student of Hatem Ali Government Primary School in the upazila.

Police arrested two youths named Sumon, 18, and Swapon, 22, from Bandhobpara village yesterday.

Family source said Eti went to a nearby field to feed a cow in the morning. As she did not return home till noon, relatives started looking for her and found the body lying on her school's playground.

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

Following a case filed by Eti's father Phul Mia Howlader with the police station concerned on Monday, police arrested Sumon and Swapon.

During preliminary interrogation, Sumon confessed to killing Eti after rape, said Officer-in-Charge Nasiruddin Mollick of Mathbaria Police Station.

Bodies of 2 'missing' youths recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police recovered the bodies of two young men from different areas in Haluaghat upazila on Tuesday and the day before.

The deceased are Al-Amin, 21, son of Suruj Ali of Dobarpar village and Abu Nayeem, 20, son of Amzad Hossain of Dhanarvita village.

Md Jakiul Islam, officer in-charge of Haluaghat Police Station, said Al-Amin went out of his residence around 11:00pm on Sunday after receiving a phone call and did not return since then. The following day, locals spotted his body in a paddy field at Ramnagar village and informed police.

Meanwhile, Abu Nayeem had gone missing since he went out of his house on Sunday. Locals found his body floating in Kongscha River on Tuesday and informed police, said the OC.

BSF intruders beat up villagers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) entered Bangladesh territory and injured two villagers, one with rubber bullets, along Kashimganj border in Tentulia upazila of Panchagarh.

Lt Col Ariful Islam, commanding officer of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) 18 Battalion in Panchagarh, said BSF men of Fanshidewa camp, warned some Bangladeshi workers when they went closeto Indian territory while they were lifting stones from Mahananda River near the border around 10:00am.

As the workers did not

pay heed to their warning, the BSF men opened fire towards them, leaving Sidiqur Rahman, 32, son of Akbar Ali, bullet-injured.

Protesting, the stone workers threw stones at the BSF men.

Later, the BSF troops entered into the Bangladeshi territory and vandalised two houses belonging to Siddiqui and his elder brother Azizur Rahman, 35, beat up Azizur mercilessly and damaged all his furniture and households.

A company commander level flag meeting was held at the zero line at around 4:00pm, on the same day where BGB strongly protested the BSF attack.

Plaintiff of abduction case stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A plaintiff of an abduction case was stabbed to death by a gang of miscreants at Uthuri Bazar in Gafargaon upazila yesterday.

The deceased, Mirza Sohel, 30, son of Mirza Mokbul of the village, was a businessman by profession.

Police said, a gang led by neighbour Mirza Bulbul abducted Sohel's younger sister about two and a half years ago.

Later, police rescued the girl. The next day, Sohel filed an abduction case accusing Bulbul and his cohorts with

Gafargaon police station in this connection.

But since then, Bulbul and his men were putting pressure and threatening Sohel to withdraw the case.

Yesterday around 9:00am, Bulbul and his men stabbed Sohel with sharp weapons at a local bazar, leaving him critically injured, said Sujat Ali, sub-inspector of Gafargaon Police Station.

Locals rushed Sohel to Gafargaon Upazila Health Complex, where the doctor declared him dead.

Police arrested Bubul's father Mirza Hashem after the incident.

Youth, boy drown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A youth and a teenage boy drowned on Sunday and the day before in two upazilas of Panchagarh district.

Abdur Rahman, 25, drowned in a pond at Shukanpukhuri village in Boda upazila on Sunday afternoon while taking part in a rural game.

Officer in charge of Boda police Station told this correspondent over cell phone that son of Odidul Haque, Abdur Rahman joined the game of 'catching duck' with other 15/20 youths. At one stage he drowned in the pond. Meanwhile, Dakhsmanath

Barman, 15, son of Joy Proshad Barman of Dangihat village, also student of Class-IX at Kalurhat KC High School in Dhulajhari upazila, drowned in Karotoa River at Dhulajhari village on Saturday afternoon during emersion of Durga idol, police and locals said.

Sources said, Dakhsmanath went to join the emersion ceremony at the river point of the village. At one stage he and several other boys fell into the river at about 2:00pm.

Local people tried to recover his body but failed. Later divers from Rangpur came to the spot and recovered the body at about 6:00pm.