

ATTACK BY RULING PARTY MEN

Hindu killed, houses of two families vandalised

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Lalmonirhat

Roy, 32. One of five Hindus, injured in an attack allegedly by the ruling party men, over fishing in a water body at Nawdabash village in Kaliganj upazila of the district on Thursday died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital on Saturday night.

The deceased is Bholanath Chandra Roy, 65, of the village. He succumbed to his injuries at the hospital at around 11:40pm. Four other injured are Bholanath's elder brother Manir Chandra Roy, 68, wife Sandhya Rani Roy, 52, son Subol Chandra Roy, 40, and daughter-in-law Kukila Rani

unit, police, locals and party sources said.

The accused also vandalised and looted three houses of two Hindus families at the village the following day. Police yesterday arrested six of the accused while the rest are still at large.

Contacted, Officer-in-Charge (OC) Sohrab Hossain of Kaliganj Police Station said they are raiding different areas to arrest the remained accused.

The AL men swooped on Bholanath and his family members as they tried to prevent them from fishing in the water body belonging to Bholanath and another Hindu family of the village on Thursday noon.



PHOTO: STAR

Despite paying double the usual fares, thousands of low-paid workers return to their workplaces after Eid holidays, riding the roofs of buses. This photo was taken from Dhunat intersection under Sherpur municipality of Bogra.



Teachers and students of Gorai High School in Mirzapur upazila of Tangail form a human chain at Sohagpara beside Dhaka-Tangail highway yesterday, demanding punishment to the killers of Monira Akter, a student of the school, and three family members.

Low-paid workers worst victims of unfair bus, train fares

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Thousands of poor employees, especially RMG workers, of three upazilas can not return to their respective workplaces as the transport owners doubled fares taking advantages of Puja and Eid holidays.

The Dhaka-bound vehicle owners were charging Tk 550 to 700 for tickets against the usual fare of Tk 200-350.

Despite the fare hike, they are compelled to buy the tickets in fear of losing their jobs, said the victims.

During a visit to Sherpur inter-district bus stand and Dhunat intersection areas of Bogra-Dhaka highway on Friday, this correspondent found many commuters of low income group traveling on the rooftop of buses and trucks with life risk in spite of paying excess fares.

Garment worker Momena Khatun, hotel labourer Jahurul Islam, security guard Abdul Hamid and vegetables trader Akalu Sheikh expressed deep

concern over 'unfair' fare.

Local upazila administration source said at least four lakh RMG workers of Sherpur, Dhunat and Nandigram upazilas and the adjacent areas of Sirajganj district come to their homes every year to celebrate Eid, Puja and other festivities.

Contacted, Motor Owners' Group of Sherpur upazila unit president Nurul Islam refuted the allegation of taking excess fare but said he had nothing to do if the inter-district bus drivers and staffs charged excess fare from the passengers.

Officer in-charge of Sherpur police station Ali Ahmed Hashmi said they were looking into the matter.

In Jamalpur, tickets of Dhaka-bound trains from the district are being sold at higher rates as maximum tickets had already gone to a group of black marketers.

Passengers, especially who were returning to their workplaces after celebrating Eid and Puja, were the worst

sufferers, reports our correspondent.

Although cost of ordinary class tickets from Jamalpur to Dhaka is Tk 150, they are being sold at Tk 500 to 600. Meanwhile, first class tickets are being sold on black market at Tk 1000 to 1200 instead of Tk 235.

During a visit to Jamalpur rail station, this correspondent found ticket seekers going to tea stalls beside the station to collect tickets from illegal brokers at a very high rate.

One Sabuj, 25, of Pingalhat village in Sadar upazila, collected two ordinary class tickets of Teesta Express by Tk 450 against the original fare of Tk 150.

"In spite of talking all punitive measures, black marketers sent their men to the queue of counters for collecting tickets. Due to the situation, we can do nothing in this regard," said Jamalpur Station Master Johurul Islam.

BGB rescues 27 more on Putkhali border

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Bengal, Jessore

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) rescued 27 people while being trafficked to India through Putkhali border in Sharsha upazila early yesterday.

Subedar Samsur Rahman of BGB 23 Battalion said, being tipped off, a BGB team raided the area and rescued nine men, 13 women and five children.

The human traffickers, however, fled the scene sensing the presence of the BGB men, he said.

The victims hail from different areas of Dhaka, Bagerhat and Barisal districts.

On Friday, BGB arrested 22 people while they were going to India illegally through Putkhali border.

BGB sources said, on secret information, a team raided the border area at night and arrested seven women, four children and 11 men while they were being trafficked to India.

However, the traffickers managed to flee the scene.

The arrestees hailed from different areas of Narail and Bagerhat districts.

Meanwhile, six people have been sued on charge of human trafficking.

Lance Nayek Khabir Uddin of Putkhali camp at BGB-23 filed the case with Benapole port PS on Friday night.

The accused are Jahangir Hossain, Jahir Uddin, Abdul Aziz, Yunus Ali, Ibrahim Hossain and Ibra Mia of Balonda and Putkhali villages under the police station, said ASI Motiar Rahman.

8 kids, youth drown in 4 dists

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Eight children and an youth drowned in Rangpur, Thakurgaon, Lalmonirhat and Munshiganj districts yesterday and the day before.

Four minor boys and girls drowned in Badarganj upazila of Rangpur district on Saturday.

Two of them drowned in a pond at Balapara village in the upazila in the morning, reports our correspondent.

The deceased were identified as Limon, 8, son of Shafiqul Islam of the village and a Class II student at Arunnesa Government Primary School in the upazila and Lipi, 6, daughter of Liton Mian of Sonapara village and Class I student at the same school.

Quoting the family members, Md Aminul Islam, officer in charge of Badarganj Police Station, said Lipi went to her maternal grandfather Mokter Hossain's house at Balapara along with her parents to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha there.

However, Lipi and her cousin Limon went missing on Friday afternoon.

After searching everywhere, at last the family members found their bodies floating in a pond of the village on Saturday morning.

Two other kids drowned in a pond at Kacharipara village

under Badarganj upazila on Saturday evening.

The deceased were identified as Minakshi Roy, 8, daughter of Jogendra Nath Roy of Botpara village under Badarganj municipality and Kokila Roy, 8, daughter of Dina b a n d h u Roy of Kacharipara village.

Police quoting family sources said, Minakshi went to her maternal uncle Dinabandhu Roy's house along with her parents at Kacharipara village on Tuesday to celebrate Puja vacation.

The two drowned as they went to a nearby pond for taking a bath.

In Thakurgaon, a three and half-year-old boy drowned in a pond at Shaslapayala village under Sadar upazila yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Goutam Roy, son of Mukul Roy of the village, reports our correspondent.

Away in Munshiganj, two

children and an youth drowned in the Padma River in Louhajang upazila of the district on Saturday afternoon, reports our correspondent.

Local sources said, Mominul Islam brought his child to his school in the morning at about 10:00am. The minor boy was playing in the school premises while his father was taking classes.

At one stage, the boy went on the bank of a pond and fell into it.

In Lalmonirhat, a two-year-old boy was drowned in a canal beside their home.

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Members of Hasanain Kabir Smriti Sangsad join a human chain on Judge's Court Road in Bhola town yesterday, demanding punishment to Pantha's killers who are now on bail. Two boys--Shankar and Rajib--killed Pantha, a student of Bhola Government College, in the town on May 4 last year and took away his expensive mobile set.