

# Saving with fistful rice turns boon for them

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Twenty-nine women belonging to ultra poor families at Majhipara village of Sarpukur union in Aditmari upazila under the district now eye changing their life through small savings, thanks to the initiative of Social Economic Transformation of the Ultra poor (SETU) project of CARE Bangladesh.

Under the project, 29 women formed a group styled 'Musti Chaler Samity' (association for collecting fistful rice) a year ago and continued saving, taking a fistful of rice from the daily meal of each family.

In this way, each one collects at least one kg of rice in a depot every week.

The total deposit, 29 kg of rice is kept with one of the members through a lottery in presence of all members and a SETU official on the premises of a temple at the village.

"Collection of fistful rice does not affect our daily meal but it helps us a lot. I have purchased some hens and ducks by selling accumulated fistful rice three months ago. I hope to buy a goat by selling fistful rice next time."

Another member Parul



PHOTO: STAR

A few poor women belonging to an association at Majhipara village in Aditmari upazila under Lalmonirhat district hold their weekly savings, collected as fistful rice on daily basis, to put it in a drum.

Rani said she bears the cost of study materials for her two children by selling such rice.

Subola Rani of the same group said, "I purchased medicines for our child selling fistful rice two months ago. I hope to buy a goat by selling fistful rice next time."

A few other members

including Binodini Rani, Shefali Rani, Sandhya Rani said SETU officials motivated them to involve in the beneficial system.

"We motivate the ultra poor people to fight against poverty. Our project also provides funds to help the ultra poor people continue their family profession and do small

businesses," said Rezaul Karim, community facilitator of SETU project.

After working with SETU project, the ultra poor people at Majhipara village are now much aware about changing their life through collective efforts, said Ashraf Alam, project manager of SETU.

## Jubo Dal leader stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

A Jubo Dal man was stabbed to death allegedly by a Jubo League leader in Palash upazila of the district yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Limon Mridha, 28, organising secretary of Gazaria union unit of Jubo Dal.

Officer-in-Charge of Palash Police Station Md Shadat Hossain said an altercation took place over the wage of workers of an under construction readymade garment factory in a local arbitration.

At one stage, Arif Hossain, vice president of the union unit Jubo League, along with 7 to 8 party men swooped on Limon, leaving him critically injured.

Limon was rushed to Narsingdi General Hospital where the duty doctors declared him dead.

Being informed, Narsingdi Additional Police Superintendent Muhammad Shahnewaz Khaled visited the spot.

## BSF picks up Bangladeshi

UNB, Naogaon

Members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) picked up a Bangladeshi fisherman from Nitpur border point in Porsha upazila on Tuesday.

The victim was identified as Omar Ali, 42, son of Niaz Uddin of Nitpur Diarapara village in the upazila, said Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) sources.

Subedar Harunur Rashid, commanding officer of BGB Battalion-14, said the a BSF team from Harishchandrapur camp caught Niaz as he entered the Indian territory illegally for catching fish from Dara Beel in the border area in the afternoon.

BGB said they sent a letter to BSF for holding a flag meeting for return of the fisherman.

## 14 bombs seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members recovered 14 crude bombs from Balubagan area in the town yesterday.

On information, a team of Rab-5 went to the area around 10:00am and recovered the handmade bombs wrapped in two different sacks in an abandoned condition, said Kamruzzaman Pavel, commanding officer of Rab-5.

Meanwhile, in another drive on Tuesday night, the elite force members detained two fake officials of National Security Intelligence (NSI) and National Human Rights, on charge of demanding toll from a local businessman.

# Crocodile netted in pond, released to Pyera River

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

A crocodile netted from a pond at Baligram village in Garuria union of Bakerganj upazila under the district was released to the Pyera River on Tuesday.

The 6.5-feet long and about 2.6-feet wide crocodile weighing 30 kg was caught in the fishing net at a pond of Abdus Salam at Majhibari of Baligram village around 10:30am Tuesday.

"We cast net for fishing but suddenly we felt heavy weight and the crocodile jumped with the net. We caught him but a fisherman was injured this time," said a fisherman.

"Abdul Mannan, 65, a villager tried to measure the length of the crocodile, but it caught his hand and damaged three fingers. Others rescued him and sent to Barisal Sher E Bangla Medical College Hospital," said Md Russell, a relative of Mannan.

The netted crocodile was later brought to the police station and upazila administration and forest department officials were informed, said Nurul Islam, officer in charge (OC) of Bakerganj police station.

As per the suggestion of the officials of Wildlife Preservation Centre, the crocodile was released to

the Payera River in Bakerganj on Tuesday afternoon in presence of the upazila nirbahi officer, the OC, forest officials and journalists, said Abdullah Al Mamun, upazila forest officer.

Maniruzzaman, bit officer of forest department, According to my experi-

ence gained in the Sundarbans and coastal areas, the crocodile with round face belongs to salt-water species while the face of sweet-water crocodile is usually pointed.

The crocodile entered the pond possibly losing its way, forest officials said.



PHOTO: STAR

Forest department men prepare to release this crocodile, caught in fishermen's net at a pond of Baligram village in Bakerganj upazila under Barisal district, to the Pyera River Tuesday afternoon.

## 12-DAY ATTEMPT OF VET TEAM FAILS

# Bullet-hit elephant dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The critically wounded elephant, rescued from the Kaptai Lake on October 22, finally died on Sunday after fighting life for 12 days under treatment of a five-member veterinary medical team.

After rescue of the wild elephant by Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) South Forest Division, a five-member medical team led by Dr Bhajon Chandra Das, associate professor of Chittagong Veterinary University, was formed to provide it necessary medical treatment.

"After rescue of the half-dead wild elephant from the Kaptai Lake, we found several injury marks on its body. Later, we identified signs of bullet injuries on its neck and head. Despite being critically wounded, the 20-year-old animal struggled for life for 12 days," said Shamsul Azam, divisional forest officer of CHT South Forest Division, also member secretary of the five-member medical team.

"After our treatment, it gained a little strength and could stand up on its own. We spent more than Tk 1

lakh and put all our efforts to save the animal. But we failed to feed it anything despite trying for 12 days and it finally died. We have formed an inquiry team to trace out who shot the giant mammal so that legal action can be taken

against the culprits," he said.

The forest department on Monday conducted post mortem of the elephant at Suknachhari forest beat station.

The forest officials arranged burial of the dead

elephant after removing its ivory.

Skeletons and bones will be collected after decomposition of body within three months, and those will be kept in the museum for display, said officials.



PHOTO: STAR

This wild elephant, rescued with serious bullet injuries from the Kaptai Lake in Rangamati on October 22, died on Sunday, foiling all attempts of a five-member veterinary medical team.



## MAGURA, LAXMIPUR

# AL leader, Jubo League man hacked to death

STAR COUNTRY DESK

An Awami League leader and a Jubo League activist were killed in Magura and Laxmipur districts on Tuesday.

In Magura, Pratap Saha, 50, general secretary of Kadirpara union unit of AL was hacked to death at Radhanagar village in Sreepur upazila on Tuesday night, reports our Kushtia correspondent.

Assistant Superintendent of Police Sudarshan Kumar Roy said criminals attacked Pratap with sharp weapons at the village, leaving him critically injured while he was returning home from Radhanagar village 9:30pm. He was rushed to Magura Sadar Hospital where the duty doctors declared him dead around 10:00pm, said the ASP.

Police were investigating the incident, said

Superintendent of Police Ziadul Kabir.

Meanwhile, a local Chhatra League leader was injured in bomb attack in Chuadanga district town on Tuesday.

The injured is Raju Ahmed, student affairs secretary of Chuadanga Government College unit BCL. He was admitted to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital with bomb injuries to head and back.

A gang threw two bombs on Raju when he along with his party men was taking tea at a stall in Courtmore area of the town at 8:30pm, Munshi Asadduzzaman, officer in-charge of Sadar Police Station said, adding that they were raiding different areas to arrest the attackers, said the OC.

Away in Laxmipur, a Jubo League man was shot and hacked to death at Gopinathpur in Sadar upazila on Tuesday

night, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Mohon Patwari, son of Hossain Ahmed Patwari of Gopinathpur area.

Locals said Mohon came under attack by a gang at his betel nut garden near his house at around 10:30pm. They fired him point blank and then hacked him He died instantly.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy, said Sub-Inspector Najim Uddin of Sadar Police Station.

The victim's wife Shahnaj Begum said Mohon had been a longstanding conflict with his paternal uncle, sister Sajju Begum, brother Manju and neighbour Mokter Patwari over the ownership of a piece of land in the area. Shahnaj claimed that Mohon's rivals killed him.

# Man to die for killing wife for dowry in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A Dinajpur court yesterday sentenced a man to death for killing his wife over dowry in Birampur upazila of Dinajpur in 2012, court sources said.

The death penalty awardee, Mobasser Alam, 34, is an assistant teacher of Gangapur High School in the upazila.

Akhtarul Alam, Judge of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Court, pronounced the verdict in a crowded courtroom in the afternoon.

According to the prosecution, Tartila Begum, daughter of Syed Amirul Islam of Angarat village under Dhamoirhat upazila of Naogaon district was married off to

Mobasser Alam in 2010. Soon after their marriage, Mobasser had been putting pressure on Tartila to bring dowry money from her parents.

On October 30, 2012, Mobasser locked in altercation with his wife over the issue. At one stage, he strangled her.

Syed Amirul Islam, father of the victim, filed a murder case with Birampur Police Station, accusing Mobasser Alam the same day. He was arrested on December 26.

After examining the witnesses and evidence, the judge delivered the verdict. Bazlur Rashid, a sub-inspector of Birampur Police Station submitted the charge sheet to the court after investigation.

## BHOLA SADAR UPAZILA

# 15,000 villagers suffer as bridge lies broken

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

Chargazi Bridge in Bhola Sadar upazila of the district, collapsed four months ago, still lies without repair,

much to the sufferings of the people of Chargazi and Chandraprasad villages.

Built in 2001, a large portion of the bridge, which became vulnerable, collapsed on June 26, causing immense sufferings to over 15,000 villagers, especially students and traders.

There are two primary schools, a secondary school, a collage and three madrasas at Chargazi village.

A number of students

from Chandrapasad village now go to the institutions by boat in absence of the bridge over a canal of Tentulia River.

During a visit to the area on Saturday, this correspondent found the students crossing the canal amid troubles.

Students Sharmin Akhter and Rima of Bhelumiah Ideal College and Surma and Yasmin of Bhelumiah Girls' Secondary School said most of the time they got their books wet when they have to cross the canal by boat.

Asma Akhter, assistant teacher of Velumiah Girls'

Secondary School, also demanded for a new bridge over the canal.

Despite repeated calls, the authorities did not take any steps to construct a new bridge, said local trader, Shipon Khondokar.

Abdus Salam Mal, chairman of Bhelumiah union Parishad, said Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, MP, assured us for a new bridge soon when we met him.

However, Bhola LGED Engineer Abdus Salam said they informed the higher authorities about the matter over two months ago, but to no effect.



PHOTO: STAR

Locals are undergoing problem to cross the Tentulia River at Chargazi in Bhelumiah union of Bhola Sadar upazila as the bridge collapsed four months ago but the authorities are yet to take any step for its reconstruction.