

One killed, 15 injured in clash over land grabbing

Houses of 20 families vandalised, looted in retaliation

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Dinajpur

Criminals vandalised houses of 20 families and looted their valuables at Gilajhuki village in Nawabganj upazila under the district on Friday noon, following the bloody clash that left one killed and 15 others injured on Thursday evening.

The clash occurred over grabbing of land of the forest department in the upazila on Thursday evening.

Around 100 people,

allegedly supporters of slain Aminul Islam Babu, 50, attacked Gilajhuki village with sharp weapons and sticks on Friday, vandalised the houses of 20 families, and looted their valuables including cash, cattle and utensils, said witnesses said victims.

That time male people were not at the village as they had gone into hiding after Shakhawat Hossain, father of slain Aminul, filed a murder case with Nawabganj Police Station on Friday.

Police arrested seven

people -- Shahinur Rahman, Sattar Ali, Dulal Mia, Ansar Ali, Monju Mia, Sumon Mia and Khokan Mia in connection with the murder case and sent them to Dinajpur jail through a court yesterday.

Women and children now staying at their houses in the village are passing time amid fear, locals said, adding that panicked children of the village did not attend their school yesterday.

Abu Haidar Md Foyzur Rahman, assistant superintendent of police of

Phulbari Circle, said a team of policemen is guarding the area round the clock to prevent any further clash.

Sources of Nawabganj police said some dishonest forest officials of Nawabganj forest office invited some people to grab a piece of land in exchange of bribe.

This correspondent tried to contact Abul Kashem, beat officer of Madhyapara forest office in Parbatipur upazila, but his mobile phone was found off.



A woman gives a bleak look as attackers badly damaged and looted her house at Gilajhuki village in Nawabganj upazila under Dinajpur district on Friday.

PHOTO: STAR

OUTBREAK OF DIARRHOEA IN GAIBANDHA

Sadar Hospital struggles to cope with patients

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Twenty-eight more diarrhoea patients were admitted to Gaibandha Sadar Hospital yesterday.

With them, as many as 336 patients of Gaibandha municipality and adjoining areas got admitted to the hospital with serious diarrhoeal problem in the last three days.

The affected areas are Pashchimpara, Khanka Sharif, Palashpara, Shaplapara, and Dhanghara, Sarkerpara in the municipality; and Kholahati, Ramchandrapur, Boali, Falia and Miapara in Sadar upazila of the district.

The disease broke out early hours of Thursday in the areas and since then

doctors of the hospital received the patients with serious stomach and intestinal problems.

The hospital authorities are struggling to arrange accommodation due to huge rush of patients.

Many of them took shelter at the entrance space, corridor and even under the open sky of the hospital premises. Volunteers of Brac set up makeshift sheds on the premises, accommodating 20 other patients.

As many as 28 more patients got admitted to the hospital and 112 others are still under intensive treatment and the rest have been released after recovery, said Civil Surgeon Dr Nirmolendu Chowdhury.

The district administration supplied 1300 bags of cholera saline,

thousand liters of mineral water, 300 dettol soaps, Deputy Commissioner Abdus Samad said, adding that Zila Parishad and Brac also contributed one thousand bags of cholera saline.

Meanwhile, an eight-member physician team from Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), Dhaka, led by Dr Al-Mamun Mahub Alam reached the district on Friday afternoon to find out the reason for sudden outbreak of diarrhoeal disease.

The team started collecting samples from patients and water to identify the reason of the disease.

The epidemic might be due to contaminated drinking water, said the civil surgeon.



A good number of diarrhoea patients have to stay on the floor near the main gate of Gaibandha Sadar Hospital yesterday as the hospital fails to accommodate rising number of treatment seekers amid sudden outbreak of the disease in the town during the last three days.

PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: STAR

This 750-foot-long typical raft set up on the Chalanbeel, a vast water body in Pabna district, attracts a large number of visitors from different areas. With capacity to accommodate around 3,000 people, the gigantic raft serves as an amusement spot for the visitors, especially during weekly boat races starting from the spot -- Sonali Shoikat between Hatgram and Kalikadah villages in Par Bhangura union of Bhangura upazila under Pabna district. It took over a month to make the raft using around 4,600 banana trees, 2,000 bamboos, thousands of iron nails and three maunds of rope costing Tk 18 lakh and hundreds of people of Par Bhangura and Hadal unions offered voluntary services and donation for the purpose, said Jahangir Alam Madhu, chairman of Par Bhangura union, also the key initiator of the programme.

More Indian

FROM PAGE 16
cattle traders, our correspondents in Lalmonirhat, Benapole, Nilphamari and Chapainawabganj yesterday reported that a large number of Indian cattle were waiting on the other side to be brought inside Bangladesh.

There was a good supply of Indian cattle in the local markets of Lalmonirhat.

At Durakuti cattle market in Lalmonirhat Sadar, Mohsin Ali said he along with four others had brought 50 cattle from the neighbouring country on Friday night.

Shamsul Islam, another trader who had travelled from the capital, said the cattle supply there was not satisfactory a week ago.

"But today, there is a huge number of Indian cattle in the market," he said. He bought 70 animals there for selling them in Dhaka.

Trader Rashidul Islam claimed, "Over 10 thousand Indian cattle arrived in Lalmonirhat on Friday night."

A local Border Guard Bangladesh official, wishing not to be named, claimed the cattle kept coming in as "the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) had relaxed vigilance on the border."

In Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj, duties for some 250 cattle were paid in the past few days.

However, the actual number of Indian cattle there would be much higher, reports our correspondent, quoting locals.

Mohammad Mokhles, a trader from India's Murshidabad, claimed more cattle would arrive in Bangladesh in the next few days.

Around a thousand cows and buffaloes had recently entered Jessore through four border points -- Daulatpur, Agrobhulot, Oga and Rudrapur, reports our Benapole correspondent.

However in Nilphamari, the supply of Indian cows was very thin due to the BSF monitoring on the borders, adds our correspondent, quoting local traders.

Villagers beat deer dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Tangail

A wild deer was killed by villagers in Ghatail upazila of the district yesterday.

Locals said the animal entered a brinjal field of a farmer at Sorabari Muikarchala village in the upazila in the morning.

Local people then caught the deer after a chase and beat up the animal, leaving it seriously injured.

Being informed, Dhalapara Forest Range Officer Abu Jafar rushed to the spot, rescued the injured deer and took it to the Livestock Hospital in Ghatail where Livestock Officer Dr Mostafizur Rahman declared it dead.

Father, son drown in boat capsized

Body of missing BGB man found in Sangu River

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Moulvibazar

A man and his son drowned when a boat capsized in the Kalni River at Tangnuar Haor in Dirai upazila under Sunamganj district on Friday night.

The deceased were identified as Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury, 45, and his son Eksan Chowdhury, 23, of Tarol village in the upazila.

Locals said the boat, which they used for fishing in the haor (water body), was caught in a storm around 6:00pm and cap-

sized. Bayes Alam, officer-in-charge of Dirai Police Station, said local people recovered the bodies of Faruq and his son from the river.

Away in Bandarban, the body of a Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) man, who went missing on Thursday after a boat capsized in Sangu River at remote Baro Pathor area under Thanchi upazila of the district, was found in the river in remote Tindu area of the upazila yesterday, reports our correspondent.

He was identified as Jewel Rana, 22. He had gone to Boro Modok on a joint drive against Arakan Army.

BGB Bandarban Sector Commander Colonel Waliur Rahman, said the boat capsized while a BGB team was crossing the river to return to Thanchi camp at around 3:00pm on Thursday after the operation against Arakan Army. Although five BGB members managed to swim ashore, Jewel went missing in the river, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon organises a boat rally at Shialicherra near Ratargul forest in Gowainghat upazila under Sylhet district yesterday demanding steps to save the swamp forest from pollution and encroachment.

Free Ratargul swamp forest canal from encroachment

Demands Bapa at boat rally at Ratargul in Gowainghat upazila of Sylhet

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Moulvibazar

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) yesterday demanded that the government take immediate steps to make Ratargul swamp forest canal free from encroachment and pollution.

The demand was raised during a demonstration in Shialicherra area near the Ratargul swamp forest in Gowainghat upazila of Sylhet district.

Bapa organised a boat rally where over 100 boatmen belonging to different

associations of boatmen took part with a call to save the swamp forest from pollution and illegal occupation.

At the hour-long rally, which started at 10:30am, environmentalists blamed lack of regular maintenance and absence of dredging of the canal for the situation in which some people are setting up illegal structures.

Sultana Kamal, vice-president of Bapa, chaired the rally where human rights activist Khusi Kabir attended as chief guest, and

Dr Kazi Kholikuzaman as special guest.

Rasheda K Chowdhury, former adviser to a caretaker government, Dr Abdul Matin, general secretary of Bapa, Sayeda Rizwana Hassan, chief of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyer's Association (BELA), Sharif Jamil, joint secretary of Bapa, Fr. Joseph Gomes, member of Bapa, among others, addressed the rally.

They saw the effects of pollution caused by encroachment upon the canal in Ratargul.