



PHOTO: STAR

Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed addresses a programme organised by Boral River Protection Movement at Chatmohar upazila parishad auditorium where an appeal with the signatures of one lakh people was submitted to the prime minister through the upazila nirbahi officer yesterday demanding effective steps to save the Boral River as well as Chalanbeel. Inset, a cross dam blocking the flow of the river at Dahapara in Nurnagar of Chatmohar upazila under Pabna district is being cleared of trees as preparation for removing the dam on Thursday.



Save Boral, save Chalanbeel

Signatures of one lakh people submitted to PM

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR
TOPU, Pabna

An appeal with the signature of one lakh people living in Chalanbeel area was submitted to the prime minister through the upazila nirbahi officer of Chatmohar in Pabna yesterday demanding effective steps to save the Boral River for the sake of Chalanbeel.

Boral River Protection Movement submitted the appeal at a programme in Chatmohar upazila parishad auditorium marking International Day of Action for Rivers.

Meanwhile, the Water Development Board (WDB) on Thursday started work for removing a cross dam in the Boral at Dahapara in Nurnagar of Chatmohar upazila to ease flow of the important river passing through Chalanbeel spreading across Rajshahi, Natore, Pabna and Sirajganj districts.

Leading river movement organiser Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed spoke as the chief guest at yesterday's programme at Chatmohar, presided over by Gour Chandra Sarkar, president of Boral River Protection Movement.

Among others, lawmaker of Natore-4 constituency Abdul Kuddus, secretary of 'Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon' (BAPA) Dr Abdul Matin, Chatmohar municipality mayor Mirza Rezaul Karim Dulal, Faridpur municipality mayor Kamruzzaman Mazed, and secretary of Boral river movement Mizanur Rahman spoke.

The Boral, connecting 30 small rivers in Chalanbeel, serves as a main water provider there but its flow stagnated as four cross dams and three regulators were set up in 1980s in name of fishing projects, speakers said.

They demanded steps to

save the Boral for the sake of saving the 30 other rivers as well as Chalanbeel.

The Boral, originated from the Padma at Charghat of Rajshahi and falls into the Jamuna at Baghabari of Sirajganj district.

"Water Development Board has started removing its cross dam in Nurdah point of the river. Three others will be removed by Local Government Engineering Department and Roads and Highways Department," Md Rezaul Karim, executive engineer of WDB, said after start of the work on Thursday.

The cross dams divided the river into stagnant water bodies and continuous encroachment narrowed it to 150 to 200 feet wide from earlier 500 feet.

Since 2008, the people of the Chalanbeel region have continued movement to save the Boral.

They formed a 220-km-

long human chain from Charghat to Baghabari on March 14 in 2013.

On November 18 that year, a river task force formed by the government recommended removal of all cross dams in the river to help it regain the former flow.

Finally the work started on Thursday morning, as per the decision of a meeting of the ministries concerned.

If all the dams are removed, the Boral will be navigable again and function as a real connecting river in the vast Chalanbeel region, the WDB engineer said.

"We urge the government to continue the drive to remove all the cross dams and sluice gates from the Boral for ensuring its proper flow," said Md Mizanur Rahman, secretary of Boral River Protection Movement.

Rape victim's death sparks protest in Nandigram

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Teachers and students of Majgram MA Fazil Madrasa formed a human chain on Talora-Omarpur road in Nandigram upazila of the district yesterday, demanding exemplary punishment to the culprit who raped a girl of the madrasa, leading to her death.

The victim, Marium, 11, was a Class VI student of the madrasa, and daughter of Jamed alias Aksar Ali of the village.

Guardians of the students and chairman and members of Majgram Union Parishad also joined the programme.

Police, quoting locals, said Farid Uddin, 25, son

of Badsha Mia of the village, entered the bedroom of the girl early Sunday and raped her. When her father went to wake her in the morning he found the door locked. As he did not get any reply from inside, he entered the room by breaking open the door and found his daughter critically injured.

She died on the way to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital (SZMCH) in Bogra town, police added.

The rapist fled the scene by breaking window.

Locals rushed to the spot hearing the shouting of the victim's father. They caught the rapist

from his house and informed the police, who went to the spot and arrested him.

Contacted, Hasan Shamim Iqbal, officer-in-charge (OC) of Nandigram Police Station said the victim's father lodged a case against the rapist under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act on Sunday afternoon.

Farid Uddin was later produced in a court that sent him to jail.

Contacted, Gaziur Rahman, Sr. ASP of Bogra police (Media) said after getting the autopsy report the cause of her death will be clear.

Two vehicles carrying smuggled goods seized

A CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in anti-smuggling drives seized a truck and a pick-up van carrying LP Gas cylinders and contraband phensidyl from Laxmidari and Alipur checkpoints in Satkhira Sadar upazila early yesterday.

Lt Col Arman Hossain, commanding officer of BGB 38 Battalion in Satkhira, said a team of the border guards, acting on a tip-off, intercepted a goods-laden truck in Laxmidari area and seized 206 LP gas cylinders meant for refrigerators and air conditioners.

In another drive, the paramilitary troops seized a pick-up van carrying 718 bottles of Phensidyl from near Alipur check post in the morning.

Rapist gets life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A court here yesterday sentenced a young man to life imprisonment for violating a girl at Fulbari village in Sonatola upazila of the district in 2006.

The convict is Monglu Sheikh, 30, son of Jellar Abul Khair of Kilganj in Debiganj upazila was produced before the court around 1:30pm after expiry of the remand period. After recording Ramzan's statement at 5:30pm, Marzia Khatun, Judge of the Cognisance Court-2 and also Senior Judicial Magistrate of Panchagarh, sent him to jail.

As Monglu backed out of the promise, the girl filed a rape case with Sonatola Police Station against Monglu him.



PHOTO: STAR

Students, teachers and guardians of Majgram Fazil Madrasa in Nandigram upazila under Bogra district form a human chain on Talora-Omarpur road yesterday demanding punishment to the criminal who raped a girl of the madrasa, leading to her death on Sunday.

Gang steals human skeletons from graves in Trishal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

An organised gang removed human bones from some 10 graves in different areas under Trishal upazila of the district in the last three days.

To prevent further incidents of lifting, local people are now guarding the graves at night, said Ibrahim Khalil Nayan, president of the upazila unit of Bagabandhu Projonmo League.

Criminals lifted skeletons from the graves of Kakchar Uttarpara and adjacent village Darilla early Thursday, alleged locals.

The following the day, the gang in the same man-

ner lifted human bones from five graves of Khablapara and Borokuma villages.

The gang also lifted human bones from a grave of Borokuma village early Saturday.

Such incident is reported in the area for the first time, said local journalist SM Humayun Kabir.

They sought action by the local administration to stop the crime, he said.

Contacted, Md Moniruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Trishal Police Station, said he already informed the higher authorities about the matter.

Police are raiding different areas to arrest the gang, said the OC.

ATTACK ON UPAZILA CHAIRMAN

Baufal AL secy, 14 others sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A case was filed with Patuakhali Speedy Trial Tribunal on Sunday, accusing 15 people, including Motalab Howladar, general secretary of Baufal upazila unit of Awami League (AL), for their alleged involvement in the attack on engineer Mojibur Rahman, chairman of Baufal Upazila Parishad.

After filing of the case by Mojibur Rahman, Judge ASM Tariq Shams asked the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) to investigate the matter and submit a report by March 30.

According to the case statement, Baufal upazila administration arranged a law and order meeting at the upazila auditorium on

March 8. Deputy Commissioner AKM Shamimul Haque Siddique, and Superintendent of Police of Patuakhali Syed Mushfiqur Rahman, were present at the meeting.

Ibrahim Faruque, organising secretary of Baufal upazila unit of AL, also chairman of Nazirpur Union Parishad, and Abdul Motalab Howladar attacked Mojibur Rahman when he said some local AL men were responsible for the death of an AL activist in the recent polls violence there.

Mojibur Rahman was admitted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, Advocate Abul Kashem, lawyer of the plaintiff, said.

Contacted, Motalab Howladar refuted the allegation.

SNIPPETS

Three robbers held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Police arrested three alleged members of an inter-district robber gang with a gun, three cartridges and sharp weapons from Langarpur area in Kamalganj upazila of the district early yesterday. The arrestees are Selim Miah, 30, Jashim Ahmed, 28, and Montaj Miah, 27. Tipped off, a police team raided the area and arrested the three with the firearm and ammunition.

20 hurt in pre-UP polls clash

UNB, Munshiganj

At least 20 people were killed in a clash between the supporters of two union parishad (UP) chairman aspirants in Nandan Kona Chourasta area under Sirajdikhan upazila of the district on Sunday. Mohammad Eardous Hasan, officer-in-charge of Sirajdikhan Police Station, said the clash ensued between the men of Awami League backed candidate Liakat Ali and rival contestant of AL Nasir Chowdhury during a meeting of local AL in the area in the evening. At one stage, the supporters of both the groups attacked each other, leaving at least 20 from both sides injured. On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Woman killed by son

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A woman was killed allegedly by her son at Dakkhin Shahbazzpur village in Barlekha upazila of the district on Saturday. The deceased was identified as Ajirunnesa, 55, wife of late Tayeb Ali of the village. Police and locals said Tajul Islam stabbed his mother Ajirunnesa, leaving her seriously injured following an altercation over a family matter. Later, she died at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital. Police arrested Tajul in this connection.

Newborn found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police recovered the body of a newborn from Nagarpur upazila in the district yesterday. Locals found the body under Sarakbhanga Bridge in Mamudnagar union in the upazila and informed the police. The law enforcers rushed to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Tangail Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Sub-Inspector Abdul Haque of Nagarpur Police Station.

Youth jailed for stalking

UNB, Sherpur

A mobile court here on Sunday sentenced a young man to six months' imprisonment for stalking a schoolgirl in Jhenaigati upazila. Police said Monir Hossain, son of Abdul Haque of Gandhigaon Purbapara village, used to stalk a Class IX student of Bakakura High School on her way to and from school everyday. On Sunday afternoon, locals caught Monir red handed as he passed some indecent comments on her in front of her school. On information, police went to the spot and arrested the stalker. Later, he was produced before the court, led by Executive Magistrate Mohammad Selim Reza, which pronounced the verdict.



PHOTO: STAR

The coastguard seizes 3,500 kg of jatka (hilsa less than 10 inches long) from a launch in the Meghna River in Gazaria upazila under Munshiganj district yesterday. The fish was later distributed among poor people in the area.

Another accused confesses to killing Hindu priest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Another accused in the case for killing Hindu priest Jogeswar Dasadhikari gave confessional statement before the Cognisance Court-2 of Panchagarh yesterday.

Ramzan Ali, 22, son of late Abul Khair of Kilganj in Debiganj upazila was produced before the court around 1:30pm after expiry of the remand period. After recording Ramzan's statement at 5:30pm, Marzia Khatun, Judge of the Cognisance Court-2 and also Senior Judicial Magistrate of Panchagarh, sent him to jail.

Earlier, the court sent Momin, 33, son of Sirajul

Islam of Sabujpara village in Debiganj upazila headquarters, to jail as he gave a confessional statement under Section 164 before the court regarding his involvement in the priest killing.

Police arrested Momin on March 4 and the same court placed him on an 8-day remand when he was produced before it in connection with the case.

The court also sent Alamgir Hossain, 35, Khalilur Rahman, 55, Jahangir Hossain, 30, Babul Hossain, 31, and Hares Ali, 35, to jail as they also gave confessional statements.

Criminals slit the throat of Jogeswar Dasadhikari, 50, a priest of Shri Shri Sonto Gaurio Temple at

Debiganj's Sonapota, on February 21. Two devotees were injured as the criminals fired shots and exploded bombs while fleeing.

Jogeswar's elder brother Rabinranath Roy filed a murder case with Debiganj police, accusing three unknown people on the same day. Mazibar Rahman, sub-inspector of Debiganj Police Station, also filed a case against them for possessing firearms and explosives.

Police arrested Khalilur Rahman, 55, Babul Hossain, 31, and Jahangir, 30, on February 21 and February 22.

The three were put on a 15-day remand on February 23 in the two cases.

Based on information gleaned from them, police conducted raids on February 25 night and arrested the three 'key suspects,' including Alamgir Hossain, 35, son of Rafiqul Islam of Kamat Para; Ramzan Ali, 22, son of Late Abul Khair of Kilganj Mashjid Para; and Hares Ali, 35, son of Late Mozammel Huque of Kalirdanga Shothapara village.

They also recovered some weapons -- including a Japanese 9mm pistol, a US-made pistol of 7.65 bore, three cocktails, five bullets, three magazines, three knives and a blood-stained machete -- said DIG Humayun Kabir at a press briefing held on Debiganj Police Station premises recently.