



PHOTO: STAR

Power pumps, damaged due to frequent power cuts, are brought to a repairing shop in Saidpur upazila town under Nilphamari district. Electric appliances often go out of order amid the ongoing serious load shedding, making daily life difficult and hampering irrigation in the peak boro season.

Power shortage hampers irrigation in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Frequent power failure and load shedding in the district have affected normal life and smooth irrigation for the last couple of weeks. With the temperature hovering around 36 degrees Celsius along with the scorching heat waves sweeping across the country, frequent power cut has made their lives more miserable.

The power pump owners are the worst sufferers as they are not getting adequate power supply at this stage of boro cultivation. Due to the erratic power supply the owners are sustaining a huge loss this year. Power supply available in the district is 17MW against the demand for 27MW in the peak hour during boro season every year, Abu Sayed Sarkar, executive engineer of Nilphamari Power

Development Board, said. The year-old 33KV transmission-line that stretched from the national grid at Saidpur to Nilphamari is to be blamed as it is not capable of transmitting more than 17MW. Insar Ali, general manager of Rural Electrification Board in Nilphamari, there are nearly 1.2 lakh domestic stakeholders under his jurisdiction. Besides, about 11,359 power pumps are in opera-

tion for the ongoing boro irrigation, raising the demand at 38MW this year. Shahidul Islam, a farmer in Tepa Kharibari union in Dimla upazila, said a few days ago his power pump was completely burnt due to the frequent power cut. However, the higher officials of both the PDB and REB in Nilphamari said they are hopeful that the situation will improve soon.

'Killer' husband arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

An absconding accused was arrested by police from his residence at Tatra village under Sherpur upazila of the district early yesterday, 22 days after killing his wife. The arrestee is Abdul Motin, 35, son of Mujibur Rahman of the village. The deceased was identified as Sharmin Akhtar Tony, 28, daughter of late Shariful Islam of Khandakar para of the upazila. Police said Motin killed his wife on April 22 night over personal feud and went into hiding. Police, led by Gaziur Rahman senior assistant superintendent (ASP) (Circle and Media) of police in Bogra, raided his house at Tatra village at around 4:00am and arrested him from there. On interrogation, Motin said he went out after taking his dinner on the day at 8:00pm. When he returned two and a half hours later, he saw his wife gossiping with a driver in the house. Sensing his presence, the driver fled the scene. When he asked his wife about the matter, she could not give any answer. Out of grief, he slaughtered her and fled to his village house with his two sons, added the police. Brother of the deceased said Motin was a drug addict and he used to torture Sharmin. He sought exemplary punishment of his daughter's killer.



PHOTO: STAR

Huge quantities of cultivated fish die afloat at this water body at Khalishakhali in Patuakhali Sadar upazila yesterday morning as criminals poured poison there the night before.

Tk 15 lakh fish poisoned to death in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Criminals poisoned cultivated fishes worth about Tk 15 lakh to death in a water body beside Patuakhali-Barisal in Khalishakhali area under Sadar upazila of the district. On Friday morning, thousands of dead fishes were found floating on water, said fish cultivator Md Hasan, a college student. He started fish cultivation after receiving training and released various species of fish including pangas and grass carp in the ditch two months ago, said the affected fish cultivator. "I cultivated fish by borrowing money from relatives and taking loan from NGO," he said. Newly elected UP

Chairman Md Lutfor Rahman Manik Miah said those who are involved in the offence must be brought to book. A case was filed in connection with the incident, said SM Tariqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Patuakhali Police Station. Punitive action will be taken against the culprits after investigating the incident, said the OC.

Seriously injured Chitra was rushed to the upazila health complex where she died later. 4 held with fake notes. Four people, arrested with fake currency notes worth Tk 42,000 from Panchdona area of Narsingdi Sadar Upazila on Friday, were sent to jail yesterday. They are Nazrul Islam, 27, Hossain Miah, 27, Moinuddin, 32, and Mokhlesur Rahman, 35, said Delwar Hossain, OC of Narsingdi DB police.

Three killed by lightning

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Three people were killed by lightning in Thakurgaon, Patuakhali and Dinajpur districts in the last two days. A farmer was killed by lightning at Bhelajan village in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila yesterday. The deceased is Abu Taleb, 24, son of Atiqur Rahman of the village, reports our correspondent. Police and locals said a thunderbolt struck Taleb when he was harvesting paddy during rain. He died on the spot. Away in Patuakhali, lightning killed a woman in Dashmina upazila of

the district. The deceased is Shahnaz Begum, 20, of Hajirhat village in the upazila, reports our correspondent. Family sources said Shahnaz was killed by lightning when a nor'wester lashed her house on Friday. In Dinajpur, a housewife was killed by lightning in Birganj upazila of the district yesterday noon, reports our correspondent. The deceased was identified as Chitra Rani Roy, 27, wife of Padda Roy of Sundarihat village in the upazila. Locals said a thunderbolt struck Chitra when she was working at her farmland at noon.

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Woman killed: Husband, his parents held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A housewife was allegedly beaten to death for dowry in Choraghat upazila of Dinajpur district on Friday night. Police arrested the husband and his parents from the spot in connection with the killing. The deceased was identified as Selina Begum, 30, wife of Montu Mia of Kalupara village in the upazila. The arrestees are Montu Mia, 26, and his parents Israil Ahmed, 55, and Mozida Begum, 45, of the village. Locals said Rois Uddin of Purbopara village in the upazila married off his daughter Selina to Montu Mia one and a half years ago. After their marriage Montu and his parents used to torture her for dowry. On Friday night, the couple locked in an altercation over the dowry issue. At one stage, Montu and his parents started beating Selina as her parents did not pay the demanded dowry. Then they poured poison into her mouth. On information, police recovered her body yesterday morning and sent it to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital where the on-duty doctor declared her dead. Istiaque Ahmed, inspector (Investigation) of Choraghat Police Station, said dowry was a reason behind the killing.

Man held with pistol. Police arrested a young man with a pistol from Shoilat village in Sreepur upazila of the district on Friday night. The arrestee is Sumon Khan, 28, son of Karim Khan of Bhaluka upazila in Mymensingh district.

Justice Naima Haider addresses a view exchange meeting titled 'Access to justice to prevent violence against women' in Tangail town yesterday. Women for Family Development (CWFD) and Unity for Social and Human Action (USHA) jointly organised the meeting with the help of UK Aid at the conference room of a local non-governmental organisation in the town. Justice Naima Haider of the High Court Division of Bangladesh Supreme Court attended and addressed the meeting as the chief guest. She urged all to see women with respect, and emphasised correct recording of incidents in the FIR in women repression cases. She also talked of abuse of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act in many cases. With Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam in the chair, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Special District and Sessions Judge in Tangail Waheduzzaman Shikder, Deputy Commissioner of Tangail Mahbub Hossain, Civil Surgeon Dr Syed Ibne Sayeed, Deputy Director of Tangail Medical College

Violence against women could be reduced a lot if they are given due respect at home and in the society, said speakers at a views exchange meeting on "Access to justice to prevent violence against women" in Tangail town yesterday. Accountability should be established at every level to solve the problems and the regulatory bodies concerned will have to perform their duties properly from their own positions in this regard, they said. There is no alternative to increasing awareness and starting a social movement highlighting the duties of guardians, educational institutions and others concerned with the matter, they said. They also expressed their deep concern over the increase in domestic violence and cyber crimes. Rights organisations Manusher Jonno Foundation, Bangladesh Manobadhikar Bastobayon Sangstha, Concerned

Hospital Dr Noor Mohammad, Additional Superintendent of Police in Tangail Sanjay Sarkar, Executive Director of Concerned Women for Family Development Mofabeja Khan and Secretary of Tangail district unit of Bangladesh Manobadhikar Bastobayon Sangstha Ataur Rahman Azad. Secretary General of Bangladesh Manobadhikar Bastobayon Sangstha Jahanara Begum, presented the welcome speech while Coordinator of USHA Taslima Akhter presented the keynote paper at the meeting. Judges and magistrates of different courts in Tangail, lawyers, police officials, journalists and representatives from local non-governmental organisations attended the meeting. Several victims of violence and their family members in Tangail also attended the meeting and shared their experiences and problems.

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OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

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Honour women, ensure justice for them

Speakers say at Tangail view exchange meeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

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5TH PHASE OF UP ELECTION

2 hurt in pre-polls violence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Two supporters of AL rebel chairman aspirant were injured in an attack allegedly by AL nominated candidate of Pugaldigha union parishad (UP) in Sarishabari upazila yesterday, centring the fifth phase of the UP polls scheduled to be held on May 28. The injured, Subed Ali, 32, and Monir, 28, of Boyra village, also supporters of AL rebel candidate Shahan Shah, were admitted to Sarishabari Upazila Health Complex. Shahan Shah alleged that supporters of AL nominated aspirant Shams Uddin, also the incumbent

chairman of the UP, equipped with sharp weapons, launched an attack at his office at Boyra Bazar around 12:30pm. Before vandalising the furniture of the office, they stabbed Subed Ali on the head and beat up Monir mercilessly, leaving the two injured, Shahan added. Officer-in-Charge Billal Uddin of Sarishabari Police Station said he received a complaint from Shahan Shah in connection with the incident. Contacted, Sams Uddin refuted the allegation and said the incident occurred due to the internal feud among the rebel candidate's supporters over distribution of money.

Bidi workers' human chain foiled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A human chain formed by bidi workers, asking the government not to raise tax on the bidi industry, was dispersed by police yesterday noon. About 200 bidi workers from Saptibari village of Aditmari upazila were hired by an agent of a local bidi factory to form a human chain at Mission Intersection in Lalmonirhat town, police said. Getting information about the gathering from Anti Tobacco Media Alliance (ATMA), and went to the spot and dispersed the workers. Bidi worker Jahangir Hossain, 42, of Saptibari village, said he was paid Tk 200 by the bidi factory agent for attending the human chain, but the police dispersed them. "We were not told about the human chain, police

went to the programme because we were paid," he added. "We get paid for making bidi in the factory, but taxation is a matter between the government and factory owners," said Nazrul Islam, 38, another bidi worker of the village. "It is true that we are paid low wages for the risky work of making bidi," he added. Asma Begum, 32, another bidi worker of the village, said, "We gathered at Mission Intersection in the town for forming a human chain as the bidi factory agent sent us there, but we returned without holding the programme as we were dispersed."

Sohrab Hossain, the local bidi factory agent at Saptibari village, said he didn't hire any bidi worker to form a human chain, adding that they went to the town for the programme for their personal interest.

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) arrested an activist of Jamaat-e-Islami from Bhomra Land Port area of the district yesterday. The arrestee is Azizul Islam Khokon, 38, son of Babar Ali of Lakhsidari village. The BGB men arrested Khokon when he was roaming the border area suspiciously, said Sirajul Islam, company commander of BGB's Bhomra camp. Khokon was arrested for his alleged involvement in militant activities, he said.

SNIPPETS

Jamaat activist arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

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Idol damaged at temple

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Idol of a temple in Joypurhat Sadar upazila was found broken on Friday. Farid Hossain, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station, said criminals damaged the idol of Khanjanpur Buritola Kali Temple in Khanjanpur area of Joypurhat municipality around 10:00am. On information, Assistant Superintendent of Police Ashok Kumar Mondal visited the spot, said the OC.

Youth held on rape charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Police on Friday arrested a youth on charge of raping a six-year-old girl at Nandagoan village in Haripur upazila of the district. The arrestee is Altaf Hossain, 18, son of Asgar Ali of the village. Police said Altaf raped the girl when she was alone at her house at the village on Thursday afternoon. Later, the victim's father filed a rape case, accusing three people including Altaf, said Akhtaruzzaman Proddhan, officer-in-charge of Haripur Police Station. Police also arrested Altaf's mother Akhtara Begum, 40, on charge of threatening the victim's family not to lodge any case in this regard, said the OC.

Trucker held with phensidyl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized 484 bottles of phensidyl from a truck in Baliadighi area under Shibganj upazila of the district yesterday. They also arrested the trucker in connection with the incident. The arrestee is Mohammad Mannaful, 35, son of Aziz Ali of Agla village in Puthia upazila of Rajshahi. The border guards also seized the truck, said Lt Col SM Abul Ehsan, commanding officer of BGB-9 Battalion.

Indian cumin, betel nut seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Armed Police Battalion-2 seized 15 sacks of cumin and 34 sacks of green betel-nut worth about Tk 2.50 lakh from Muktagachha upazila in the district early yesterday. They also arrested two people in this connection. The arrestees are Md Hanif, 42, of Jaunpur Char in Kurigram district, and pick-up van driver Robin Chandra Roy, 25, of Galachipa in Patuakhali district. On secret information, a police team raided Tarakandi area and seized the smuggled cumin and green betel-nut from a pick-up van. They also arrested the duo from the spot, said Md Abdul Kaium, officer-in-charge of the battalion.

35 sued over killing Ansar man

UNB, Cox's Bazar

A case was filed on Friday accusing 35 unidentified people in connection with the killing of an Ansar member who was gunned down by a gang inside a Rohingya refugee camp in Teknaf upazila. Alamgir Hossain, an Ansar member of the barack, filed the case with Teknaf Police Station on Friday night, said SM Azimuddin, deputy director of Bangladesh Ansar (Chittagong zone). Criminals shot Ansar member Ali Hossain, 55, dead and looted 11 firearms during the attack around 2:00am of Friday.