



The Kali Das river near Munshiganj town is being filled with a view to encroaching on the river by the land grabbers. The photo was taken on Monday.

PHOTO: STAR

SNIPPETS

UNO receives death threat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Local Islami Chhatra Shibir allegedly gave death threat to Ishwarganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer through a facebook post on Tuesday night. UNO Rajib Kumar Sarker said "The threat was posted on my personal account in the name of Borohit Union Chhatra Shibir in the upazila. Earlier, a friend request was sent with a message, he said. The message reads, "We will fire two bullets on your chest, so get ready for death." "I immediately informed district administration and police about the matter", the UNO said. Police are investigating the matter, said Ruhul Amin Talukder, officer-in-charge of Ishwarganj Police Station.

UP member murdered

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Criminals killed a union parishad (UP) member in Shibchar upazila of the district on Tuesday. The deceased is Mithu Bepari, 28, a member of ward No 2 of Kathalbari Union Parishad. Police and family sources said a gang attacked Mithu with sharp weapons in Charchanda area, leaving him critically injured. He was rushed to the upazila health complex where on-duty doctors declared him dead. One Raja Miah Jamaddar of the area was arrested in connection with the attack, Officer-in-Charge of Shibchar Police Station Md Zaki Hossain Mollah said, adding that a murder case was filed.

JMB man lands in jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police arrested an alleged member of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from Muktagachha upazila on Tuesday. The arrestee is Md Helal Uddin, 55, of Chandpur village. Yesterday, Helal was produced before a court that sent him to jail, said Abu Mohammad Fazlul Karim, officer-in-charge of Muktagachha Police Station.

15 Jamaat-Shibir men held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Police arrested 15 leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir in Bongaon area of Nachole upazila on Tuesday. The arrestees include Jamaat leader advocate Sirajul Islam, former chairman of the upazila parishad. Fisir Uddin, officer-in-charge of Nachole Police Station, said informed that a group of Jamaat-Shibir men were holding a secret meeting in the area around 6:30pm they raided the area and arrested 15 leaders and activists. They were arrested on charge of planning subversive activities. Yesterday, the arrestees were produced before a court that sent them to jail.

Pistol, bullets seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized a foreign made pistol, two magazines and five bullets from Boglauri village in Shibganj upazila early yesterday. On secret information, the border guards went to the village around 2:00am and seized the firearm and bullets from in front of Boglauri Laxmipur Government Primary School. However, none was arrested in this connection, said Lt Col SM Abul Ehsan, commanding officer of BGB-9 Battalion.

Bamboo sticks to resist militants

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Bamboo stick (lathi) is a token of unity and a weapon for self-defence. Bagerhat police said this yesterday at a grand rally against militants and terrorism on the Satgambuj Union Parishad premises under Sadar upazila. Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police Khulna Range SM Moniruzzaman was the chief guest at the programme. Bagerhat district police at the function distributed bamboo sticks among the members of the public for resisting militants and terrorists. The DIG said when Bangladesh was playing a praiseworthy role at home and abroad by trying to strengthen its position economically, the defeated forces of the Liberation War were carrying on target killings to hinder development.

Brahmaputra brings Indian wild elephant to Kurigram

ABDUL WAHED with ANDREW EAGLE

The Brahmaputra River brings melted Himalayan snow on a long, winding southward journey, to reach Bangladesh as water, in Kurigram. To fill the stomachs of fisher families the river hosts the fish that swim around the border, either side. Every day the mighty river brings gifts to Kurigram, many things. Sometimes the river can even bring an elephant.

At 6:00 a.m. on Tuesday, 28 June 2016 at the Saheber Alga frontier of river islands in Ulipur upazila a wild elephant crossed the border. "It came floating with the river currents to the island of Char Bagua," says forest officer Ahasan Habib.

"It crossed the border beside pillar no. 1051," says Border Guard Bangladesh officer, Nayeb Subedar Reza.

Until early the next morning the wayward pachyderm roamed there, and on nearby Char Kazia where, at 1 a.m., a fisherman perchance arrived at the shoal. Suddenly the unexpected elephant charged the fisherman, chasing him right into the water where luckily, he was able to escape by boat.

Before dawn the elephant had



PHOTO: COLLECTED

floated towards Baro Char in Astomirchar union of Chilmari upazila, a distance of 18 kilometres. Unlike the previous uninhabited islands, here were houses, and the elephant damaged three, as well as farming equipment, when villagers tried to make it flee.

"Locals informed us about the elephant they'd found that morning," says Masud Parvez, officer-in-charge of Dhushmara river

police station, who assigned guards to keep watch. "We tried to give banana trees for it to eat. We are waiting for forest officials."

By afternoon the elephant arrived in Nayerhat union, reaching Khodaimari area by 4 p.m. At the time of writing it's still there.

"I have informed our local administration and higher authorities about the elephant,"

says Ahasan. "Experts are coming from Dhaka and Rajshahi to catch it, and the forest departments of Assam, Meghalaya and New Delhi have been informed."

Assam is also sending forestry officials to Kurigram which is just as well, because while the Brahmaputra might bring an elephant to Bangladesh, it's unlikely to take an elephant back again.

Mother found dead, child missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police are yet to find the two-year-old boy whose mother was found dead at her house in Ishwarganj upazila of the district early Monday.

Police recovered the body of housewife Jhuma Akhtar, 20, wife of Rukon Miah, a Dubai expatriate, of Abdullahpur village.

Jhuma, daughter of Md Maizuddin, of Baghbeer village, married Rokon three years ago and had been living with her in-laws at Abdullahpur since then, said Md Badrul Alam Khan, officer-in-charge of Ishwarganj Police Station.

Jhuma's family members said they were informed by her in-laws around 3:00am on Monday that Jhuma had committed suicide. They rushed to the spot immediately.

"We found Jhuma's body hanging from the ceiling, and her in-laws were missing," they said. "She was strangled by her in-laws and her body was hanged to cover up the killing."

Jhuma's two-year old son Fahim Hossain has been missing since the incident, police said. "Fahim might be with his grandmother," said Ruhul Amin Talukder, OC (Investigation) of Ishwarganj Police Station.

Special VGF rice before Eid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Ahead of the biggest festival of Eid-ul-Fitr the government has allocated 3,894 tonnes of rice for distribution among thousands of VGF (Vulnerable Group Feeding) cardholders in six upazilas and four municipalities of the district.

About 3,89,414 ultra poor and distressed beneficiaries in 60 unions under the district are likely to get 20kg rice each, which is double than the 10kg last year.

District relief and disaster management office sources said 872 tonnes of rice were allocated for 87,229 VGF cardholders in Sadar upazila, 517 tonnes for 51,652 beneficiaries in Domar, and 646 tonnes for 64,624 people in Dimla upazila.

Besides, 544 tonnes rice were allocated for 54,389 beneficiaries in Kishoreganj upazila, 750 tonnes for 75,023 in Jaldhaka and 426 tonnes for 42,634 in Saidpur upazila.

Tajul Islam, district relief and disaster management officer, said the disbursement of the VGF rice will be completed by July 5.

Teesta-Dharla erosion devours 8 unions

300 families rendered homeless in Lalmonirhat

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Jesmina Begum, 48, was crying as their homestead with ten decimals of land at Dawabari village under Hatibandha upazila of Lalmonirhat was devoured by the Teesta River on Tuesday afternoon. Their six bighas of croplands were devoured in the last two weeks.

Like Jesmina, Sufiya Begum, 50, of the same village, was crying as their homestead, fruit orchard and three bighas of croplands were eroded away. "Teesta has made us homeless, jobless," she said.

Jesmina's husband Noor Hossain, 55, said, "We can take shelter on the Water Development Board's dam, or on government road and khas land, but how we will maintain our families?"

Sources at union parishad offices in eight unions of four upazilas in the district said at least 300 families have been rendered homeless as their homesteads, croplands and fruit orchards were devoured by the rivers Teesta and Dharla at twelve villages in the last two weeks.

Habibur Rahman, chairman of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila's Mogholhat union parishad, said "I have already informed the WDB authorities about the situation, and requested them to take necessary steps to tackle the situation, but no step has yet been taken."

Executive Engineer of WDB in Lalmonirhat Abu Bakkar, said WDB officials are visiting erosion affected and erosion vulnerable areas.

"I have informed the higher authorities concerned, and asked for funds for doing primary work to check the erosion at vulnerable areas, but I have not received any response till now," he said.



The river Dharla devours homesteads, croplands and orchards at Beparaitari village at Sadar upazila in Lalmonirhat while Jesmin Begum, inset, of Dawabari village in Hatibandha upazila cries as her home was washed away by the river Teesta at Hatibandha upazila. The photos were taken yesterday. PHOTO: STAR