

Schoolboy murdered in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A schoolboy was stabbed to death allegedly by his friends in Mashkanda area of Mymensingh town yesterday.

The victim was identified as Samiul Islam Janom, 18, son of Liton Miah of the town's Charpara Nayapara area. Janom passed his SSC this year but was yet to be admitted into a college, police said.

Quoting Janom's family and locals, Md Kamrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said Janom had an altercation with Rakib and Akib, twin-brothers of the same area, as the light of their motorbike fell on the eyes of Janom while he was sitting beside a road in Mashkanda area.

Later, Rakib and Akib, both intermediate students of Notre Dame College in Mymensingh, along with 2/3 friends including Anik, returned to the spot and allegedly stabbed Janom indiscriminately, said the OC. He died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.



FLASH FLOODS WREAK HAVOC: Incessant rain and onrush of water from the upstream flooded around 50 villages in Benapole and Sharsha upazilas of Jessore district in last two days. Around 1200 fish enclosures have been washed away and transplanted aman paddy on 1,300 hectares of land destroyed, besides inundation of thousands of dwelling houses in the areas, said officials.

PHOTO: MOHSIN MILON

7 return from Indian jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Seven Bangladeshi nationals, including five women and a child, returned home yesterday after languishing in an Indian jail for one and a half years. Indian Border Security Force (BSF) handed them over to Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) at Benapole check post. Nazrul Islam, commander of Benapole BGB camp, said the returnees entered Indian territory two years ago without valid documents through Jessore border. Later, Indian police arrested them from Kolkata in West Bengal. After filing a case, police produced them before an Indian court that sentenced them to one and half years for illegally crossing the border.

Mother of slain

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decorating her house and she never saw her involved in altercation with anyone.

The court of Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Nabi placed her on a five-day remand after Sabujbagh police produced her before it with a seven-day remand prayer, said court sources.

Laila Noor, a relative of Mahbubur, said she took Tanzin to a psychiatrist at Green Road a couple of years ago and that the mother never took good care of her kids.

The police are investigating whether anyone else is involved in the killings, Abdul Kuddus, officer-in-charge of Sabujbagh Police Station, told The Daily Star adding that they are also investigating about her mental instability.

Hafiza Islam, who rents a neighbouring flat on top of a six-storey building, said Tanzin was quiet person who loved gardening and

was a judge in Dhaka. Ruhul Amin Khandaker was involved in massive corruption including taking bribe in giving job in lower level when he was the district judge of Thakurgaon. Sources also said that Sirajul Islam was involved in corruption and irregularities, including illegal acquisition of a piece of land when he was in Jamalpur.

4 judges to lose job

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The ministry will now send the proposal of dismissal to the president for his approval, the officials said.

Earlier, the ministry investigated allegations against the judges and found those to be true, ministry sources said.

The SC authorities on Wednesday decided to dismiss the judges from their services. The authorities sent their recommendation to the law ministry for dismissing the judges a day after the decision, the SC sources said.

According to sources, SM Aminul Islam was involved in a massive corruption as he issued bail in at least 20 non-bailable cases when he

was a judge in Dhaka. Ruhul Amin Khandaker was involved in massive corruption including taking bribe in giving job in lower level when he was the district judge of Thakurgaon. Sources also said that Sirajul Islam was involved in corruption and irregularities, including illegal acquisition of a piece of land when he was in Jamalpur.

Additional district judge Moinul Haque was also involved in corruption during his service when he was an additional district judge of Khulna. A total of 68 lawyers filed complaints against him for issuing verdict after taking bribe. Haque kept 140 cases waiting for delivering verdict after completion of hearing in those cases.

The chief justice took decision after consultations with all the High Court division judges, who were present at the full-court meeting.

Crops worth Tk 105cr damaged

Agri department official says 2.5 lakh flood-hit farmers to be affected

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

With the receding of floodwater in the Teesta, Brahmaputra and Dharala basins in five northern districts of Rangpur region, crops on thousands of hectares of land have been damaged.

Khondokar Mesbahul Islam, horticulture specialist in the regional office of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Rangpur, said flood damaged crops on 13.5 thousand hectares of land in 22 upazilas of five northern districts -- Rangpur, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Kurigram and Lalmonirhat.

Of them, 6,703 hectares are of aman paddy fields, 4,070 hectares of seedbeds, 1,613 hectares of vegetables, 1,098 hectares of jute and four hectares of bananas, he said.

Total value of damaged crops is estimated to be Tk 105 crore, while 2.5 lakh farmers have been directly affected, Mesbahul added.

The worst affected upazilas are Gangachhara, Kaunia, Pirgachha of Rangpur; Sundarganj, Saghata, Sadar upazila and Fulchhari under Gaibandha; Ulipur, Chilmari, Roumari, Rajibpur, Bhurungamari, Nageswari, Fulbari and Rajarhat of Kurigram; and Hatibandha, Aditmari, Kaliganj, Patgram, and Sadar upazila of Lalmonirhat; and Dimla and Jaldhaka of Nilphamari.

GM Idris, deputy director of DAE in Nilphamari, said the flooding was widespread in the district as a 10-kilometre-long and 250-metre-wide new canal of the Teesta, with 35-40-foot depth, breached the left embankment and entered the locality.

It devoured 2,200 acres of croplands and made about 3,000 people homeless only in Dimla upazila, he added.

Farmer Monnaf Ali, 60, of Char Kharibari village in Dimla, who has taken shelter on the flood control embankment of WDB at Dalia

village, said he cultivated paddy on 12 bighas of land and jute on three bighas, but the Teesta devoured everything, making him a beggar overnight.

In Nohali village under Gangachhara upazila, farmers said they wanted to re-transplant aman paddy as flood water receded, but found no seedlings in the surrounding area.

Farmers in different villages of Nilphamari and Rangpur are likely to transplant late variety of paddy to make up their losses to some extent, and they badly need government assistance, which is still not available.

Md Shah Alam, additional director (AD) of regional DAE, said they were trying to

arrange late variety paddy seedlings like BRRI-dhan-51 and BRRI-dhan-52 from nearby flood-free upazilas. At the same time, they would provide farmers with all sorts of support.

He said they encouraged the farmers to sow seeds of wheat, potato, mustard and mung bean in advance in fallow lands.

The regional DAE had set a target to cultivate aman paddy on 5.22 lakh hectares of land to produce 14.5-lakh tonnes of rice. But damage to vast tracts of paddy fields by flood dealt a big blow to achieving the target, though the AD says there will be expected yield.



An aman paddy field damaged by flood at Char Kharibari village under Dimla upazila in Nilphamari. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: EAM ASADUZZAMAN

Lawyer helps poor kids after

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A report published in The Daily Star on July 5 this year brought help to six kids and their mothers of two poor families at two villages in the Teesta River basin in Lalmonirhat yesterday.

Reading the news headlined "Malnutrition hits poor children in Lalmonirhat," Advocate Asfa Hussain, a Supreme Court lawyer, gave them food, vitamin syrups and clothes.

"We can't provide nourishing food to our children, so they have become malnourished, which is hampering their normal growth," said Salma's mother Alokjahan Begum.

Salma Akhter Amena, a student of Class III at a local government primary school, said, "We have got different food items, new dresses and vitamin syrup, we are very happy." "We need nourishing foods, but our poor parents cannot provide these as their earning is insufficient for maintaining the family," she added.

Advocate Asfa Hussain said she will send more nourishing food items for these kids. "I feel happy for donating a little to help these malnutrition affected kids," she said, expressing her thanks to The Daily Star.

Two Pirojpur workers die from toxic gas in water tank

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Two construction workers died due to inhaling toxic gas inside a water tank of an under-construction building in Pirojpur town yesterday.

The deceased are Shamim Sheikh, 27, son of Alam Sheikh of Kumerkhali village under Pirojpur Sadar upazila, and Abdul Alim, 30, son of Abdul Mannan of Pangashia village under Kawkhali upazila in the district.

A few days ago, concrete roof was made for the water tank of the under construction building of one Nasiruddin adjacent to Primary Teachers' Training Institute in the town.

Shamim went inside the tank to clean it around 8:00am yesterday. Finding no response from him, his companion Alim bent down to look inside but he fell into the tank, losing sense.

Informed by people, rescue workers from nearby fire service and civil defence station brought them out and took them to Pirojpur Sadar Hospital around 8:45am.

There the doctor on-duty declared them dead, said Mollah Sekender Ali, inspector of Pirojpur fire service and civil defence.

Tareque, Mishuk remembered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Noted filmmaker Tareque Masud and media personality Ashfaque Munier Mishuk, popularly known as Mishuk Munier, were remembered at different programmes yesterday on the fifth anniversary of their tragic death in a road accident in Ghior upazila of the district.

Tareque, Mishuk and three others died and four people including Tareque's wife Catherine Masud were injured as a Chuadanga-bound bus from Dhaka collided with the Manikganj-bound microbus carrying them at Joka on August 13 in 2011.

Tareque-Mishuk Smriti Sangrakkhan Parishad in Manikganj, Manikganj Press Club, Bangladesh Resource Center for Indigenous Knowledge, Prothom Alo

Bandhusava and several socio-cultural organisations jointly organised the programmes including discussion, human chain, and film screening at Joka, the accident spot on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Ghior.

They placed wreaths at the temporary set-up of Tareque Masud-Mishuk Munier memorial at around 11:00am and then formed a human chain beside the highway.

Speakers at the programme demanded setting up of a memorial plaque at the spot, construction of road divider from Nabinagar to Paturia and a rail line between Dhaka, Manikganj and Paturia ferry terminal.

They also demanded exemplary punishment of the driver of the killer bus through speedy trial.



Different socio-cultural organisations form a human chain at Joka in Ghior upazila under Manikganj district yesterday in remembrance of noted filmmaker Tareque Masud and media personality Mishuk Munier who met tragic death along with three others in a road accident at the spot five years ago.

PHOTO: STAR

Stray elephant to get shelter at Bangabandhu Safari Park

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

The Indian elephant Banga Bahadur will be tugged by two elephants of Bangabandhu Safari Park to the road, which is 1km away from his present shelter at Koyra village in Sarishabari upazila of the district.

Later, Banga Bahadur will be boarded on a truck and taken to Bangabandhu Safari Park in Gazipur, said Ashit Ranjan Paul, chief conservator of forest department.

The strategy will be used at a suitable time as the elephant tore of the nylon ropes tied to a mango tree and took a dip in a nearby pond. He came out of the pond at around 4:00pm yesterday.

Now only his back legs are shackled. The rescue team has placed traps of long iron chains on the ground to tie him to a tree to bring him under control.

The rescue team expressed concern about bringing Banga Bahadur under control as they could not tie him as of 5:30pm yesterday. If he breaks free he will go beyond control, said Ashish. Banga Bahadur got separated from his herd in Assam of India and entered into Bangladesh territory on June 27 through Chilmari upazila of Kurigram, floating with the currents of the Brahmaputra River.



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