

'Robber' dies in gunfight

A CORRESPONDENT,
Brahmanbaria

An alleged robber was killed in a 'gunfight' between his cohorts and police at Sonarpur on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Ashuganj upazila under the district early yesterday.

The deceased was Sharif, 28, a resident of Charcharola village in Ashuganj upazila of the district.

"Tipped off that a gang was preparing to commit robbery on Dhaka-Sylhet highway, a police team conducted a drive there around 3:00am," said Mohammad Selim Uddin, officer-in-charge of Ashuganj Police Station.

"Sensing the presence of policemen, the gang members opened fire at them, prompting the law enforcers to retaliate. Sharif was killed and Assistant Sub-Inspector [ASI] Sharif was injured during the gunfight. Other associates of Sharif managed to flee.

"Sharif was wanted in eight cases" the OC added.

Driver hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Gaibandha

An auto-rickshaw driver, who was hacked in Sadullapur upazila of the district on Sunday night, succumbed to his injuries at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) yesterday.

Police said at least five criminals in the guise of passengers hired a battery-run auto-rickshaw from Pirkhan upazila in Rangpur to Sadullapur at about 9:00pm on Sunday. The criminals dragged the driver to a nearby crop field at Sardarpura village in the upazila where they hacked him with a knife and fled the area with the auto-rickshaw.

Locals took him to Pirkhan Upazila Health Complex from where he was shifted to RMCH where he died.

Five people, including a child, were hacked to death in Sadullapur upazila during the last five months, police said.



A huge quantity of ginger was brought for sale at Ghagra Bazar in Rangamati a couple of days ago. However, a good yield this year fails to make the growers happy as price of the spice sees a drastic fall in the local markets.

PHOTO: STAR

Low ginger prices upset growers

ANVIL CHAKMA with ANDREW EAGLE

Rangamati's ginger farmers are frustrated this year due to falling prices for the spice. Whereas last year a maund of ginger could fetch up to Tk 3,000, this year a maund will sell for half that, at best, with the market rate hovering between Tk 1,000 and Tk. 1,500.

"The yield was much better this year," says one ginger farmer Binoy Kumar Tanchangya, 35 from Muralipara village in Wagga union. "But the price is very low." Based on favourable prices last year Binoy devoted more of his land to ginger this year only to be disappointed.

"I cultivated ginger on ten bighas of land this year, expecting to get a good price," says his neighbour Binoy Tanchangya, 34, who shares not only a similar address but also a similar name. "But I couldn't realise my expectation due to fallen prices."

"I earned around Tk 4 lakhs from ginger last year," says another farmer, Pravat

Chakma, 35, from Kohuthari Para in Ghagra union of Kawkhali upazila. "I expected the same this year but will earn no more than Tk 2 lakhs."

Dhaka trader Md Harun Mia, 45, who regularly visits the area in search of ginger, says the prices of hill tract grown ginger are very low this year due to competition from imported ginger.

"This year in the district about 7,000 acres of land have been cultivated with ginger," reports a Rangamati agriculture official. By tradition, the spice is grown on a large scale across several upazilas, the crop being popular with indigenous farmers who in the past have earned handsomely from its cultivation.

"The ginger crop itself has benefitted from favourable weather conditions this year," says the district's deputy director of the department of agriculture extension Ramani Kanti Chakma, "but prices are not so favourable."



Sitting on the bank of the Dharla, a farmer looks hapless as the river has devoured his homestead at Badaitari village in Mogholhat union of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila. The photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: STAR

Dharla keeps clawing at villages

The river continues to devour croplands, houses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Meher doesn't know where to live along with his six-member family as the river Dharla devoured his last shelter at Badaitari village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila on December 23 night.

Earlier his homestead was eroded four times in the last three months. "I have lost my six bighas of arable land and a fruit orchard on one bigha during the period," said erosion-hit farmer Meher Jamal, 66.

Like him, farmer Unus Ali, 58, of the same village was crying on the river bank on December 24 morning as his homestead and two bighas of arable land with vegetables were devoured by the river Dharla in four days. "My family has become homeless, landless and we don't know how we will maintain our livelihood," said erosion affected Unus.

Sixty-five-year-old farmer Abdur Hossain of the village said his three bighas of arable land with standing vegetables was devoured by the Dharla in the last four days and now his homestead on 10 decimals of land is under the threat of eroding at anytime. "Earlier our homestead was devoured twice by the Dharla in the last two months," he said, adding that he has now no ability to

buy a piece of land.

"The river has snatched our hopes, dreams and future as it has made us homeless and landless, leaving us in a state of starvation," said Meher's wife Sahera Khatun, 58.

"We took shelter on a road on Friday night after losing our homestead and we are very worried about how we will earn livelihood as our arable lands have gone into the Dharla," said Abdur Hossain, 52, another farmer of the village.

Local union parishad member Nazrul Islam Bhutto said at least 50 families have become landless due to the river erosion during the last one week. "Over 200 families are under threat as erosion continued in the village," Nazrul said, adding that he has informed the authorities concerned of the Water Development Board (WDB) of the matter several times.

The WDB Executive Engineer Abu Bakkar said he has no fund to check erosion. "The WDB officials visited the village and fund has been sought for erosion protection work," he said.

The erosion affected people urged the government for taking prompt step to save the families and their arable lands and orchards from the Dharla.

Drizzle with cold wave disrupts life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Drizzles along with cold wave from Sunday midnight has disrupted normal life in Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts, forcing people to stay indoors and hampering business and official activities.

Those who work on a daily basis are the worst sufferers as they have no alternative way to earn money without coming out of their homes.

Rickshaw puller Ramjan Ali, 47, said, "Though it is hard to bear the cold amid rain, I have to pull a rickshaw to earn my living."

Sirajul Islam, 50, a day labourer, said, "I have to return home empty-handed as there is no work due to the rain and cold."

Shopkeepers in the town are passing idle time due to lack of customers.

Children and elderly people are crowding the district's Sadar Hospital with complaints of cold-related diseases, like pneumonia and cold diarrhoea.

Deputy Commissioner of Thakurgaon Abdul Awal said the district administration distributed 17,677 blankets among the distressed people in the district.

Deputy Commissioner of Panchagarh Amal Krissna Mandal said the district administration distributed about 22,000 blankets among the cold-stricken people of different villages in five upazilas of the district.

Deputy Director of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Thakurgaon Arshed Ali said the light rain will not affect crops, adding that early potato has been harvested and late planted potato will take more time to ripen.

Robi crops will not be affected if the farmers take care as per instructions of DAE officials, he added.

Indigenous girl's rape sparks protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Bangladesh Marma Students Council (BMSC) demanded immediate arrest and trial of the criminals who gang-raped a 17-year-old girl in Bandarban town on Friday night.

The protesters marched around the district town and later formed a human chain in the press club area yesterday. They also called on the administration to initiate proper investigation.

Lusai Mong Marma, president of BMSC's district unit, and U Chi Nu Marma, secretary of the unit, among others, spoke at the human chain.

Meanwhile, a Bandarban court yesterday granted three-day remand for Kajol Barua, one of the criminals who allegedly raped the girl.

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Md Abu Hanif passed the order after police submitted a petition seeking five-day remand of the arrestee, said Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Bandarban Sadar Police Station.

The victim is from the Marma community and an SSC examinee of Ruma Government High School.

Four unidentified men raped the girl in Rowangchhari bus station area of the town on Friday when she and her boyfriend were going home after attending the Rajpunjab festival.

Police are raiding different areas to arrest the other culprits, the OC added.

Meghna erosion makes 25,000 homeless

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Around 25,000 people in Kamalnagar upazila of the district have become homeless as a result of erosion by the Meghna river.

Twenty-five educational institutions in four unions, 20 cyclone shelters, more than 500 business establishments and a big tract of land have been devoured by the river.

Saheber Hat, Char Kalkini, Char Martin and Char Falkan unions in Kamalnagar upazila have disappeared into the river.

Only a part of Char Palkin exists, but it could be lost soon, locals said.

Upazila Education Officer Anamul Haque said they are taking initiatives to build educational institutions in suitable places.

Executive Engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board Gazi Yar Ali said a one-kilometre-long embankment from Matabbor Hat to the upstream side of the Meghna river is under construction at a cost of Tk 48 crore. The project will be completed by May 2017.

IUC TRUST

154/A, College Road, Chawkbazar, Chittagong-4203, Bangladesh.

INVITATION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION NOTICE

01	Project Name (Name of the Work)	:-	Construction of 17-Storied Building plus 2-Basement floor, IUC Tower-2 on IUC Trust's own property at Chandaon, Chittagong, Bangladesh
02	Source of Funds	:-	IDB Funds
03	Tendering Method	:-	Open Tendering Method
04	Invitation of Tender Ref. & Date	:-	IUCT/PQ/P-01/2016-2017; Dated: 22-12-2016
05	Tender Name	:-	Construction of 17-Storied Building plus 2-Basement floor (including Civil, Internal/External Sanitary & Water Supply, Internal/External Electrification, IT, Fire Hydrant & Gas Connection, CCTV Network, STP, WTP etc.) on IUC Trust's own property at Chandaon, Chittagong, Bangladesh
06	Eligibility of Contractors	a)	The minimum period of general experience of the tenderer in the construction works shall be 10 (ten) years.
		b)	The minimum required number of similar contracts completed: i) Having experience in successful completion of 01 (one) 12 (twelve) storied office building including at least 1-Basement area not less than 700 sqm each floor including civil sanitary, electrical works, fire-fighting system, CCTV networking system, HVAC system etc. costing not less than Taka 35 (thirty five) crore in a single work order issued by Govt. / Semi. Govt. / Autonomous Organization or any reputed Private Organization of Bangladesh during last 10 years. Work order and completion certificate issued by the employer not below the rank of Executive Engineer (work order & completion certificate must be submitted along with P-Q document, otherwise P-Q document will be declared informal. JV firm having above Qualification may apply. ii) Must have experience in multi storied building related piling work. Work order & work completion certificate of piling work must be submitted along with P-Q document issued by the employer not below the rank of Executive Engineer.
07	Attested copies of the following documents including other necessary papers along with the Pre-qualification document must be submitted.	(a)	(a) Up to date Trade License, VAT Registration, Income Tax Clearance Certificate with TIN No. (b) Banker's Certificate about Financial Capacity with OD Limit including three years' Bank Statement including Firms Audited Report. (c) Contractor's ABC Electrical License, (d) List of Technical Personnel working with the Company, (e) List of Tools, Plants and test equipment's of the company, (f) List of similar works with capacity & value of works executed in last 10 (ten) years. The completion certificates from the client must be submitted, (g) Legal Capacity statement, (h) List of employee in full time employment in project as (i) Graduate Civil / Mechanical / Electrical Engineer, (ii) Sub-Assistant Engineer / Diploma Engineer and Foremen, (iii) Supervisor's / Electricians and other Technical Staff, (i) Detailed Program of execution of all works within the schedule time etc.
08	Price of P Q Document	:-	Tk. 5,000.00 (five thousand taka) only.
09	Project completion time	:-	48 (forty eight) months
10	Name and address of the Office Sailing P-Q Document	:-	Accounts & Finance Division, CIMCH, 206/1, Haji Chand Meah Road, Shamsher para, Chandaon, Chittagong, Bangladesh. Tel: 031-2573123; Cell: 01819 833970
11	Name and address of the Officer Receiving P-Q Document	:-	Project Engineer(Civil), CIMCH, 206/1, Haji Chand Meah Road, Shamsher para, Chandaon, Chittagong, Bangladesh. Tel: 031-2573123; Cell: 01818701036
12	Opening date and Time of Selling of P-Q Document	:-	27-12-2016 up to 1400 Hrs.
13	Last Date and Time of Submission of P-Q Document	:-	24-01-2017 up to 1400 Hrs.
14	Date and Time of Opening of P-Q Document	:-	25-01-2017 up to 1000 Hrs.
15	Brief Description of works	:-	Construction of 17 (seventeen) Storied Building plus 2 (two) Basement floor including Piling, Mat Foundation, RCC Column, Flat Slab / Two-way slab, Super Finishing, Tiles Floor, Sanitary works, Plumbing works, Electrical, IT, Electro-Mechanical, Fire-Hydrant, Gas Connection, CCTV Network, STP, WTP etc.
16	Special Instruction	a)	If the tenderer submits any false / incorrect or fraudulent certificate, the tender will be rejected.
		b)	The IUCT authority reserves the right to reject any or all P-Q Documents without assigning any reason thereof, and reserves the right not to accept any or all P-Q Documents.

Secretary
IUC Trust