

## Mysterious death of woman, her daughter

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

A woman and her six-year-old daughter were found dead in their house in Fulgazi upazila of the district on Wednesday night. The law enforcers suspect that Bibi Fatema, 26, was stabbed to death while her daughter Isma, 6, was strangled, said Sub-Inspector of Fulgazi Police Station Md Alamgir. The SI said Fatema along with Isma used to live with her mother Hosne Ara Begum at Purba Bashikpur village. Fatema and Isma were last seen on Wednesday noon, said Union Parishad Chairman Mojibul Huq. Their door was shut from the afternoon and there was no movement in the house. Later, Fatema's relatives and neighbours went to the house and found the bodies, the chairman said. Informed by locals, police recovered the bodies and sent them to Feni Sadar Hospital for autopsy, SI Alamgir said. Hosne Ara was not at home during the incident as she had gone to visit her younger daughter.

# Fish species in haor face threat

## Local admin withdraws ban on catching fish after it started dying

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Hakaluki Haor

A section of fishermen are randomly catching different species of fish including fry and mother fishes in the haor areas, as the ban on catching fish in the large water bodies was lifted last month after fish, livestock and birds started dying there.

Different varieties of fry as well as mother fish are also being caught with mosquito nets and current nets from the Surma, Kushiara, Bashia, Monu, Khawai and other rivers of Sylhet division.

Experienced fishermen and experts have expressed apprehension due to the situation as such callous act badly affects overall fish stock.

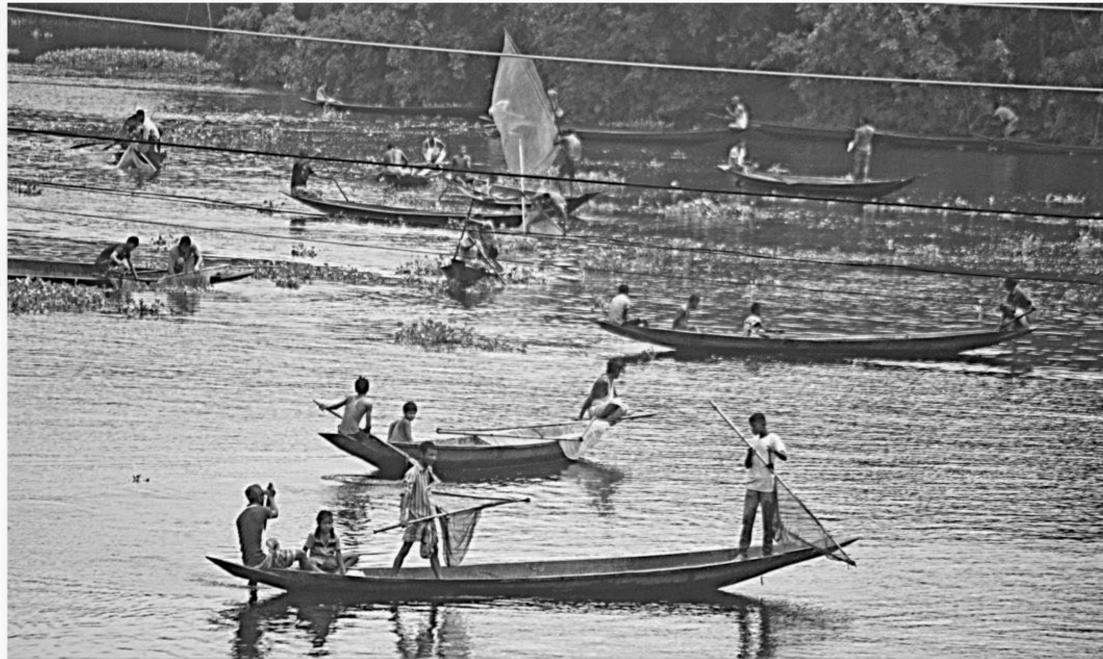
While visiting Hakaluki Haor area and Surma and Kushiara rivers, this correspondent found fishermen catching fry and mother fishes with different illegal nets.

"Newly spawned fish fry feed on the juice of their mothers' bodies. If the fry and mother fishes are caught in large scale, the fish stock will face threat of extinction," said Sohodeb Biswas, 65, a fisherman of Chandpur area of Hakaluki Haor in Sylhet's Fenchuganj upazila.

After the water level decreased during the last several days in Hakaluki Haor area in three upazilas of Moulvibazar and two upazilas of Sylhet, fishermen are now catching fry and mother fishes daily and selling it in local markets for high prices, said some fishermen.

One Murad Ahmed said he bought one kg of fish fry for Tk 390 near Hakaluki Haor in Kulaura Dakshinbazar area of Kulaura upazila in Moulvibazar.

"Some birds and animals eat fish fry in the



rivers and other water bodies. Massive destruction of fry will also cause food crisis for such birds and animals," said Mohammad Ashraf Kabir, coordinator of 'Bhumi Sontan Bangladesh, a Sylhet-based environment and animal rights organisation.

Md Sultan Mahmud, senior fisheries officer in Kulaura upazila, said different varieties of fish release eggs at different

times, especially during March to July, in the shallow portions of the rivers and haors.

Taking the opportunity, a section of fishermen net the fry and mother fishes, he said.

Mosharref Hossain, deputy director of the fisheries department in Sylhet division, said they are conducting mobile court drives with the help of the district administration

in the rivers against illegal catching of mother fish and fry.

"Rampant netting of fry and mother fishes now poses threat to 54 varieties of fish in the area. The malpractice should be stopped right now to protect the native varieties of fish," said Prof Dr Md Shahab Uddin, dean of the Faculty of Fisheries at Sylhet Agricultural University.

## Woman killed by mentally sick son

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A woman was killed allegedly by her mentally sick son in Dakkhin Jultului area of the town on Wednesday.

The victim was Fatema Parvin, 52, wife of Nazrul Islam of the area. She was mother of two daughters and a son.

Nazrul said "My son Abdus Hadi, 22, is mentally ill. I was staying in Dhaka when the incident happened."

Locals said Fatema went to Faridpur Super Market with Hadi for his medical check-up on Wednesday afternoon. There Hadi took his mother behind the market and hit on her head with a brick and left the place.

She was rushed to Faridpur General Hospital and then shifted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital as her condition worsened. Later, Fatema died on way to Dhaka.

The body was sent to Faridpur Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Monir Hossain, sub-inspector of Faridpur Sadar Police Station.

The victim's husband Nazrul filed a case, accusing Hadi, said the SI.



Slices of green mango, locally called *amchur*, are spread for drying in the sun at Saharatata village in Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj. Inset, a wholesale centre of the popular item at Kansat-Gopalnagar turning.

PHOTO: STAR

# Amchur brightens women's life

## It changes their livelihood in Chapainawabganj

RABIUL HASAN DOLLAR, Chapainawabganj

Many women in the mango capital of the country have improved their livelihood, earning money from dried slices of green mango, locally called *amchur*.

Making *amchur* in Shibganj upazila of the district from green mango increasing day by day as it is not only used as curry, but also has commercial value.

Making *amchur* is a way of preserving mango.

Taslima Begum of Saharatata village makes the item in her leisure time to earn additional income for her family. Like her, several hundred women, including school and college girls, are making *amchur* to improve their livelihood.

Ziary Begum of Jalmachhmar village said she has already sold *amchur* worth Tk 1,000 this season and expects

to earn Tk 3,000 to Tk 4,000 more.

Trisha Khatun of the same area said she makes *amchur* after attending school.

They sell the item for Tk 25 to Tk 30 per kg.

The people are known for their skill in the art of making delicacies like *amchur*, said Nurunnesa, a housewife.

Sheuli Khatun of Chowdhuripara village said their children pick green mangoes from the orchards. Then they peel the mangoes, cut them into small pieces and dry them in the sun. Later, they sell them to hawkers, who collect the *amchur* from door to door. The hawkers sell it at Kansat wholesale market.

Ariful Islam, a wholesaler at Kansat-Gopalnagar intersection, said some hawkers bring the dried mango slices to the warehouses, around 30 kilometres from the district town. He said

three other wholesalers are engaged in this trade in the area.

He sends the *amchur* to Dhaka and Chittagong, he said, adding that he makes a handsome profit every season out of it.

Regional Horticulture Research Station Senior Scientific Officer Dr Sorofuddin said the women involved in the business are bringing financial benefits for their families through *amchur*.

Businessmen should set up small scale industries for making *amchur*, thus helping poor women as well as improving the quality of this loved delicacy.

Department of Agriculture Extension Deputy Director Manzurul Huda said 2.40 lakh tonnes of mangoes are expected from 19 lakh mango trees on 26,150 hectares of land in the district.

# Statue of Greek goddess

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opinion about removing the statue.

"They opined that it should be removed to avert any untoward situation," he told The Daily Star, adding that the statue might be relocated to a place near the Supreme Court Museum, which is also on the SC premises.

Mrinal Haque, who was standing on the other side of the main gate of the apex court, told The Daily Star, "I have nothing to say. When will we become humans? It is a matter of great sorrow. When will the people of the country be educated?"

"I do not know anything. The statue is being removed following pressure from high-ups. I have come here because they would damage it if they took it down without me.

"We have conceded defeat. It's a slap on the face of the pro-liberation, cultural and freedom-loving people of the country. It seems Razakars, Al-Badr are the winners."

Contacted, Maruf Hossain Sardar, deputy commissioner of DMP (Ramna division), said they were not aware of the removal of the statue.

Around 2:00am, some 100 youths, under the banner of Bikkhubdo Nagorik (aggrieved citizens), gathered near the SC premises and blocked the road. They were chant-

ing slogans like -- "Joy Bangla, why surrender to Hefajat?"

Terming the statue "un-Islamic", Hefajat-e Islam, Awami Olama League and some other Islamist organisations demanded its immediate removal. On April 21, Islami Andolan Bangladesh demanded that the government remove the statue before Ramadan.

Earlier on April 11, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a meeting with the Alem and Ulema from Qawmi madrasas said she personally did like the statue on the SC premises either.

"Why would the statue of Greek Themis be set up in Bangladesh? The Greeks had a certain type of costume, but here a statue has been built and it is wearing a sari. It's a funny incident. I don't know why such an incident happened," she said that time.

The premier also said she would soon discuss the matter with the chief justice and urged the Alem-Ulema to have patience. "Keep faith in me, I'll do whatever necessary."

Later on April 17, Hasina told her cabinet colleagues that she had asked the CJ either to remove the statue or reinstall it at another place so that it cannot be seen from the National Eidgah.

# Japan wants

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and assured them of its quick disposal.

"We also briefed them on our security measures at different Jica projects and they expressed satisfaction," Asaduzzaman said, adding that the home ministry was ready to provide more security at the projects if they wanted.

The Jica president also met Finance Minister AMA Muhith on Wednesday. After the meeting, Muhith told reporters that the government was going to honour the foreigners killed in Holey Artisan.

Meanwhile, UNB adds that Shinichi Kitaoka yesterday said Japan would never stop cooperation with Bangladesh, as the two countries had been enjoying very good relations.

"Japan will never stop cooperation with Bangladesh," he said when he met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Ganobhaban in the evening.

PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters after the meeting.

The JICA President also told the prime minister, "We're very much satisfied with the security measures under your leadership."

# UN honours 117 fallen

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that is a demonstration of the courage and generosity that the United Nations needs to present in today's world," he added.

"UN peacekeeping is one of the international community's most effective investments to support peace, security and prosperity. [...] While peacekeeping carries a tragically high price in lives lost, it brings enormous returns in lives saved," Guterres said.

makes the United Nations known all over the world as Blue Helmets," he said. "Our debt in relation to peacekeepers is something that we will never be able to repay."

Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN Ambassador Masud Bin Momen received medals for the three Bangladeshi peacekeepers, said a press release of the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN.

Mission's Defence Adviser Brig Gen

Khan Firoz Ahmed and officials of Bangladesh army, navy, airforce and police working at UN headquarters were also present on the occasion, the release added.

Bangladesh first participated in the peacekeeping operations in 1988. Now, it is a major contributor, with 6,815 members, including 5,744 armed forces troops, 999 police and 72 military experts to 10 UN peacekeeping missions around the world.



Remains of a concrete wall destroyed during the onslaught of super cyclone Sidr in 2007 still lie scattered on Kuakata sea beach, much to the problem for tourists desiring to have a walk there.

PHOTO: STAR

# Joy eludes tourists

## The rubble scattered over Kuakata beach hampers movement of visitors

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The remains of concrete wall of a gas plant damaged due to 2007 cyclone Sidr are still lying scattered across the Kuakata beach, hampering movement of the tourists from home and abroad.

The tourists often get hurt while taking bath in the sea as large chunks of concrete go under water during high tide and remain visible.

The damaged bio-gas plant cum rest house owned by Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) was sold after the cyclone, locals said.

Large chunks of concrete from the boundary wall of the building got covered by sand.

Remains of the wall emerged last year during the rainy season and have been creating problems for tourists while walking or bathing during high tide, especially in the rainy season.

"I was injured by a hidden concrete chunk while bathing in the sea during high tide," said Mahmudur Rahman, a tourist from Khulna.

Kuakata municipality Mayor Abdul Bareq Mollah said steps will be taken to remove the scattered concrete chunks from the beach.

Kuakata beach management committee chairman, also Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Kalapara, ABM Sadiqur Rahman said steps will be taken soon to keep the beach neat and clean considering safety of the tourists.

# Eleven return home from Indian jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Eleven Bangladeshis returned home from India on completion of their two-years' imprisonment in an Indian prison.

Indian immigration police handed over the returnees to their Bangladeshi counterparts through Benapole check post on Wednesday.

Officer-in-Charge Omar Sharif of Benapole Immigration Police said the eleven entered Indian territory without valid documents through Jessore border over two years ago.