

PABNA MARINE ACADEMY

Under-construction gallery collapses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The under-construction gallery at the parade ground of Pabna Marine Academy in Bera upazila suddenly collapsed on Friday, injuring at least 20 labourers.

A portion of the under-construct structure broke down around 11:30am when 60 to 70 labourers were working there, said Md Asaduzzaman, station officer of Bera Fire Service Station.

Around 20 injured labourers were first taken to Bera Upazila Health Complex and then shifted to Pabna General Hospital following deterioration of their condition, he said.

Talking to this correspondent, Asaduzzaman said the collapse might have occurred due to a fault in construction work caused by alleged negligence of the contractor concerned.

The incident took place as the wood and bamboo made framework of the gallery failed to hold the huge load of its concrete roof, the officer added.

Sources said construction work of Pabna Marine Academy in Nagarbari area at a cost

of Tk 120 crore started in 2012 and was scheduled to be completed by 2014.

The project, which is running under the supervision of Public Works Department (PWD) under the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, is likely to be completed by the end of this year.

Bera Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shamsunnahar Sumi said they heard about the accident but did not take any steps as the work of the under-construction academy is going on under the direct supervision of the ministry concerned.

Pabna deputy commissioner Rekha Rani Balo said, "The PWD authorities should investigate what is the fault behind the incident and who is responsible for that."

Md Nazrul Islam, assistant engineer of Pabna PWD, said, "I am on leave. I do not want to say anything about this matter. The executive engineer is the real authority to say anything."

This correspondent tried several times to reach PWD Executive Engineer Md Jillur Rahman over phone, but his phone was found switched off.



The under-construction gallery at the parade ground of Pabna Marine Academy in Bera upazila collapsed on Friday, badly injuring at least 20 labourers working there.

PHOTO: STAR

Septic tank gas kills 2

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Two labourers died after inhaling toxic gas trapped inside a septic tank at Jambari village in Kaliganj upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased were Liakat Ali, 41, son of Ramjan Ali, and Anwarul Islam, 34, son of Tofazzal Hossain of the village.

The incident took place in the morning when the two were cleaning the septic tank of local mosque Jambari Jame Masjid, said Monarak Hossain, a member of the mosque committee.

Dr Ahsan Habib of Kaliganj Upazila Health Complex said they died from inhaling toxic gas.

'PM's initiatives to reduce gap in society'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Speakers at a programme said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ten special initiatives are taking the country forward by reducing inequality in the society and ensuring a better life for the under-privileged people. It has achieved remarkable success in the country's socio-economic condition.

The initiatives include Ekti Bari Ekti Khamar (one house one farm), Digital Bangladesh, education assistance programme, community clinic and mental health and women empowerment.

They said this at the first ever listeners' gathering at Thakurgaon Government Boys' High School ground on Friday. Bangladesh Betar, Thakurgaon, organised the programme with the aim to campaign on the PM's ten special initiatives branding.

Around 4,000 members from 477 clubs of Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Nilphamari and Dinajpur under coverage area of Bangladesh Betar, Thakurgaon attended the programme. Awami League lawmaker Ramesh Chandra Sen attended the programme as chief guest.

The speakers urged all to discuss the issues among the mass people as the prime minister's special initiatives are playing crucial role to bring success of economy.

2 people killed over land disputes

STAR COUNTRY DESK

At least two people were killed over land disputes in Tangail and Faridpur yesterday.

A man was beaten to death over a land feud at Bashpur Uttarpara village under Kashiani upazila of Faridpur, reports our correspondent.

The deceased was Jahangir Khan, 55, son of late Aear Khan of the village.

Locals said, "There was a longstanding feud over land between Jahangir and his cousins Lutfur Khan and Alamgir Khan. As a sequel to the feud, Lutfur and Alamgir beat Jahangir, his wife and son. They were rushed to the Kashiani Upazila Health Complex, where the on-duty doctor declared Jahangir death."

Rijia Khatun, sister-in-law of Jahangir, said, "Lutfur and Alamgir first beat my sister and her son when my brother-in-law was in the field. After hearing about the attack he came back to his house when

Lutfur and Alamgir beat him mercilessly."

Office-in-charge of Kashiani Police Station AKM Alinur said, "We recovered the body and sent it to Gopalganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy. We also arrested Lutfur and Alamgir in this connection."

Meanwhile, a man was killed allegedly by his neighbour over a land dispute at Ghatail upazila of Tangail yesterday, reports our correspondent.

The deceased is Mohammad Azhar Uddin, 60, of Khilgati village.

Azhar locked in altercation with his neighbours Roni and Shamsul when he went to fell a tree at his house, Officer-in-Charge of Ghatail Police Station Mohammad Mohiuddin said, quoting witnesses.

At one stage of the altercation, Roni hit Azhar on the head with a stick, leaving him dead on the spot.

12 statues of Shiva Linga damaged in Joypurhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Criminals damaged 13 statues including 12 of Shiva Linga inside the historic Barashivalaya Temple in Joypurhat early yesterday, creating panic among the Hindu people.

Priest of the 500-year-old temple Situ Chandra Mohanta found 12 statues of Shiva Linga damaged when he came to the temple for performing the ritual yesterday and informed the members of the temple committee.

"Of the damaged statues, one was torched," he said, adding that criminals also damaged the cow statue inside the temple.

Locals said a gang entered the temple at midnight climbing the boundary walls of the temple and damaged the Shiva Linga statues.

It seemed that criminals used some iron rods for hitting the statues, said Situ.

Local lawmaker Shamsul Alam Dudu condemned the act and ordered the police to arrest the criminals within shortest possible time.

A large number of police have been deployed in and around the temple area.

Deputy Commissioner Mozammel Haque, Superintendent of Police Rashidul Hasan, Chairman of Joypurhat Zila Parishad Ariful Rahman and Upazila Nirbahi Officer Aminul Islam visited the spot.



Bina Begum with her hearing and speech impaired husband and three school going children, also born with the same problem, in front of their house at Pashchimpara village in Ghatail upazila of Tangail.

PHOTO: STAR

Tale of a dedicated mother

Alongside helping challenged husband, Bina arranges schooling for three hearing and speech impaired kids

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

Bina Begum, 30, mother of three speech and hearing impaired children from the husband with the same problem, has set a laudable example of dedication and patience to bring happiness for the family.

She arranged schooling for her children as she strongly believes that education can help them to overcome the congenital challenges and live in the society with honour.

Bina, fifth among seven sisters and one brother, was born to a poor couple at Anayetpur village in Tangail Sadar upazila. When her father died at her childhood her mother's struggle to maintain the family got more serious.

At the age of 15, Bina was married to speech and hearing impaired Jahangir Ali of Pashchimpara village in Ghatail upazila.

Bina, however, felt happy that time as Jahangir, then 25, was a handsome youth.

A cute girl was born to the couple after one year but months later, Bina understand that her daughter was born with the same problems like her husband.

After four years, she gave birth to a

beautiful son but also with the same problems.

Bina decided to help her children overcome the adversity by arranging education for them.

She admitted her elder daughter Jahanara to a school for disabled children at Chandushi area in Ghatail municipal area. She later admitted her son Hridoy to the same school.

Bina, who gave birth to another speech and hearing impaired daughter after a few years, is also reading at the same school now.

"Bina's elder daughter Jahanara, now 14, had completed her primary schooling from my school. Now she reads at Class VIII at SE Pilot Girls' High School in Ghatail," said Rafiqul Bari Khan, director of the school for disabled children.

"Her second son Hridoy, 10, and younger daughter Tania, 7, are currently reading in my school at Class V and Class II respectively. They learn their lessons with the help of sign language," said Rafiqul, himself a visually impaired person.

"As far as I know, their problems are due to genetic disorder and it is not curable. I salute Bina for her decision to take education as the tool for mak-

ing her children self-reliant," he added.

This correspondent recently visited their tin-shed house on four decimals of land at Pashchimpara village in Ghatail.

"I never took my children to doctor for treatment. I have left the matter to Allah. Although hearing and speech impaired, my children are energetic and they love playing. Their school teachers, relatives and neighbours have sympathy for them," said Bina.

"Now my younger daughter is getting Tk 3000 and husband Tk 6000 per year as allowance for disabled from the social welfare department.

"My husband likes cattle rearing and he got an ox from his late father. I have bought another ox after taking Tk 40,000 as loan from a local NGO.

"My husband is a day labourer but he cannot work regularly due to sickness. I have to work at others' house as domestic help to pay Tk 800 per week as the instalment for the loan," she said.

Babul Miah, a relative and neighbour of the family, said the poor family will be benefited if they get support from government and individuals.

Bogra medical tech student missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police are yet to rescue the student who has been missing for the last 25 days.

Rashedunnabi, a student of Saic Institute of Medical Technology in the district, went out of his mess at Sutrapur in Bogra town on May 2 and since then he has been missing.

Md Rashedunnabi, 21, son of Rezaul Karim of Udakhali village under Fulcory upazila of Gaibandha is a second year student of diploma in laboratory medicine of the institute.

Rashed's parents said he was resident of MR mess at Sutrapur in the town from where he went missing on May 2. His family members searched for him everywhere but could not find him.

Quoting Rashed's mess mates, victim's brother Raihan Ali said they tried their best to trace him out but failed.

Principal Dr Esha Rezwana said she heard the news of Rashed's missing from his parents. She said the boy left the college after appearing in the first year exam in January.

Inspector (investigation) of Sadar Police Station Aslam Hossain said police have been trying their best to rescue him.

Rezia's fight against early marriage

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Defying mother's bid to marry her off, 15-year-old Rezia has been continuing studies from her grandmother's house in Aditmari upazila.

"I challenged my mother and said goodbye to her a year ago as she failed to understand my passion for education," said Rezia, a Class X student at Palashi High School in the upazila.

"If she tries to force me for early marriage again I will go to the court for justice," she added.

On April 3, 2016, Rezia Khatun, daughter of late Asim Uddin and Shahida Begum of Gopalroy village in Kaliganj upazila, foiled her mother's attempt to marry her off with a local youth without her consent.

After escaping the marriage bid, Rezia left her mother's house and started living with her maternal

grandmother Latifunnesa Bewa at Taluk Palashi village in neighbouring Aditmari upazila.

Besides continuing her studies, Rezia has been campaigning against the curse of early marriage and to grow awareness among the fellow schoolgirls.

Rezia's mother Shahida said due to the poor condition of her family she tried to marry off her daughter at an early age, which she did to her two other daughters.

Rezia said although she is struggling to manage her study cost, it is far better than being a victim of early marriage.

Anwar Hossain, headmaster of Palashi High School, said they provide some facilities to Rezia from the school development fund to encourage her for her brave step.



As part of a regular campaign, schoolgirl Rezia Khatun sharing her experience with the fellow girls of Palashi High School in Aditmari upazila of Lalmonirhat.

PHOTO: STAR