

2 youths beaten to death

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two youths were beaten to death in Chapainawabganj and Dinajpur during Eid holidays, say our correspondents.

One young man was beaten dead by a group of youths in Amnura by-pass area of Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Talebul, 22, son of Israil Hossain of Bhabuk village in Sadar upazila.

Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Saber Reza Ahmed said the incident occurred after youths of Bhabuk village requested another group of neighbouring Kendul village, who were moving in an auto-rickshaw and playing music loudly after Eid prayers, to stop playing music. At one stage they exchanged hot words and the youths of Kendul village, however, left the area after a request from the senior people.

Later, the youths from Kendul village beat up Talebul in Amnura by-pass area in the afternoon. They also beat up Talebul's brother Nabi as he came to rescue his brother, injuring them seriously.

Talebul and Nabi were rushed to the Sadar Hospital where Talebul succumbed to his injuries around 3:00am on Tuesday. Police arrested six youths in this connection on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, a youth was beaten dead in Hakimpur upazila in Dinajpur on Tuesday night.

The dead was identified as Jahangir Alam, 28, son of Entaz Ali of village Chowgari in Birampur upazila.

The youth went missing on Tuesday morning, said the victim's family members.

Hakimpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abdus Sabur said it seemed that the criminals beat him to death and left the body at an open field at Boigram village.

Police arrested one Khaleda Begum and her son Maruf Hossain in this connection.

Police, however, could not confirm the motive behind the killing.



Around 100 metres of the under-construction flood protection embankment at Khogener Ghat point of Chowhali upazila of Sirajganj were broken due to erosion by the Jamuna river.

PHOTO: STAR

Woman's body found in river

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

The floating body of an unidentified woman was recovered from the Bangalee river at Nimgaci Purbapara of Nimgaci union in Dhunat upazila under the district on Tuesday afternoon.

Seeing the floating body of the deceased woman in the char of Bangalee river at noon, some locals informed the police who recovered the body in the afternoon and sent to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital in Bogra for autopsy, police said.

The woman, aged around 25 years, might have been killed in the upstream of the river and later thrown into the water after tying her hands and legs with ropes, said Mizanur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Dhunat Police Station.

Police have started investigation to find out the killers and the mode of her killing will be clear after getting the autopsy report, he added.

Jamuna erosion hits embankment

100 metres of the under-construction dyke devoured in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Fresh erosion by the river Jamuna has taken a serious turn in Chowhali upazila of Sirajganj, devouring 100 metres of the under-construction flood protection embankment at Khogener Ghat point of the upazila in the last two days.

Chowhali Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Sadekur Rahman told this correspondent that a 100-metre stretch from Khogener Ghat to Tekir More point of the upazila was eroded in the last two days.

"Top soil of the under-

construction embankment was eroded due to the pressure of water, raising fears of further erosion," the UNO said, adding that Tangail Water Development Board (WDB) has been informed of the matter and requested to start repair work. Executive Engineer of Tangail WDB Md Shajahan Siraj said, "WDB engineers and workers have started dumping sand bags in the affected areas," adding that most of the affected areas are in Nagarpur upazila.

This is the second time that erosion has taken place at the same point, sources said. Earlier, a 70-metre stretch of Khogener

Ghat point was eroded on May 2. Around 50 metres of the embankment at Alia Madrasa point of the embankment was eroded on May 16. "Different points of the embankment were eroded in the last few weeks due to the huge pressure of water. WDB has repaired all the affected areas and construction work of the embankment is going on. The risk of erosion will be ended after completion of the work," Shajahan said.

Sources said Tangail WDB started construction of the embankment from Nagarpur upazila in Tangail to Sirajganj's Chowhali

upazila at a cost of Tk 109 crore in November 2014, and is scheduled to complete it by April 2018.

UNO Sadekur said a total of 67 metres of the under-construction embankment in Jotpara area of Chowhali upazila were eroded on June 22.

"Use of poor construction materials and lack of monitoring have put the under-construction embankment at risk of erosion. Due to the fault in construction work, Chowhali flood protection embankment was damaged three times in a month," said Liakot Ali, vice-chairman of Chowhali Upazila Parishad.

Accused wants case cost from plaintiff!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

After coming out of jail on bail, the prime accused in a case for torturing a Hindu woman in Dashmina upazila demanded Tk two lakh as toll from the plaintiff in the name of 'expenditure of the case'.

Following another case filed by victim's son Asim Chandra Das on June 25, police detained prime accused Abul Hossain Pada the same day and sent him to jail through a court, Officer-in-Charge Monir Hossain of Dashmina Police Station said.

Asim said after getting bail on June 11, Abul along and his men went to his house on June 25 and demanded Tk two lakh as toll from him claiming that it was the expenditure of the case.

Abul also threatened him of dire consequences if his demand is not met immediately, Asim added.

On May 8, Abul and his men went to a land owned by Kannonbala, a Hindu widow of Purbo Alipur village in Dashmina upazila, and started to build a structure by gabbing the land.

When Kannonbala tried to resist them, Abul and his goons beat her mercilessly till her clothes came off.

Hearing of the incident, Asim went to the spot and rescued his mother from the brutal torture of the gang.

Officer-in-Charge Monir Hossain of Dashmina Police Station said they have submitted the charge sheet in the case against 14 people, including Abul, after investigation.



Like several other places of the kind, the famous Nilachal tourist spot in Bandarban sees only a few visitors yesterday, an otherwise unlikely scene during the Eid holidays, as the recent deadly landslides in Chittagong Hill Tracts kept away tourists from the hill region.

PHOTO: STAR

IMPACT OF LANDSLIDES IN CHT

Tourists shy away from scenic Bandarban spots

SANJOY KUMAR BARUA, Bandarban

The scenic tourist spots of the district, which usually remain crowded with a large number of tourists from different areas during the Eid holidays, see only a few visitors this time, apparently due to the recent landslides that claimed around 150 lives in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Meghla, Nilachal, Nilgiri, Shailo Propath, Golden Temple and other tourist spots of the district were a deserted look even during the holidays.

Many hotels, motels and cottage owners said only 20-25 percent of their rooms were booked by tourists on the occasion of the Eid vacation.

"Tourism business in the district has been badly hit by recent landslides," said Md Sirajul Islam, owner of Green Hill Hotel, also secretary of residential hotel owners association in the district.

"Recent landslide in hills seriously affected our tourism business as most of the tourists lost their interest to visit the hill areas after many lives were lost in the dis-

aster in Chittagong Hill Tracts," he added.

At the entrance of Meghla Parjatan Complex, ticket seller Sukumar Tanchangya said, "We are going through a very tough time. Only 402 tickets have been sold till 11:20am from the morning. Last year, more than three thousand tickets were sold in the few hours."

"I could sell textile items worth Tk 2000-2500 daily at our shop in these Eid holidays whereas it was around Tk 8000-10000 a day last year," said Nu May Prue Marma, a salesperson at Burmese market in the district.

"Poor presence of visitors in the district has made us frustrated this season. People are not coming from distant areas fearing more landslides in hills," said Amol Das, president of District Hotel Owners Association.

"Although the number of tourists has gone down considerably this season, we hope it will not affect the tourism business of the district in the long run," said Hossain Muhammad Al Mujaheed, nejarat deputy collector of Bandarban.

160 bags of govt wheat seed seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

One hundred and sixty bags of wheat seeds of Bangladesh Jute Seed Farm were recovered by villagers from a private warehouse at Gamurpur village in Kaharol upazila on Tuesday.

The seed farm is a subsidiary of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC).

The warehouse owner Abdul Kader said he bought the bags from the seed farm officials.

Kader said he paid Tk 1,400 for each bag and the farm's Labour Union President Abdul Jabbar was the middleman.

Jabbar said Deputy Assistant Director Jahangir Alam asked him to sell the wheat seeds 15 days ago.

"I know about the theft of seeds, but I am not involved with the incident," Jahangir said.

Labour Union General Secretary Nitai Chandra Shil alleged that top officials, including Joint Director Mofazzal Hossain, are involved in the theft.

Rejecting the allegation, Mofazzal said he would form a committee to investigate the incident.

Deputy Commissioner Mir Khairul Alam said his office sealed the warehouse on Tuesday.

One killed, 20 hurt in Sirajganj clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A man was killed and 20 others were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers in Nolsonda village under Ullapara upazila in Sirajganj on Eid day.

The clash took place between Tofazzal Hossain and his men and Mainul Islam and his supporters over a love affair.

The victim, Md Lal Miah, 27, hailed from the village and was loyal to Tofazzal, police said.

Officer-in-Charge of Ullapara Police Station Dewan Koushik Ahmed said Mainul's daughter had a love affair with a nephew of Tofazzal, which caused enmity between the two groups in the last few weeks.

The men of the two groups had an altercation over the issue at the Nolsonda Eidgah premises after Eid prayer, the OC said.

At one stage, they locked in a clash with lethal weapons, leaving 20 people injured.

Of the injured, Lal Miah, 27, Abdul Momin, 48, Sobuz Hossain, 32, Sazedul Islam, 20, Khairul Islam, 40, Akherul Islam, 23, Abdul Halim, 16, Ibrahim Hossain, 23, Sanwar Hossain, 50, Amirul Islam, 40, and Shahidul Islam, 70, were admitted to Ullapara Upazila Health Complex.

Lal Miah succumbed to his injuries on Tuesday night at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, where he was referred from the health complex, the OC said.

Police arrested two people in connection with the incident on Tuesday night. A case was filed regarding the incident. Additional police were deployed in the village as a tense situation is prevailing in the area.



Children of flood affected families in haor areas get an occasion to celebrate at the Shaheed Minar ground of Tekerghat in Tahirpur upazila of Sunamganj as they get new clothes and other gifts at a function organised by voluntary organisation Paribesh O Haor Unnayan Sangstha on the Eid day. Around a thousand children from different villages, devastated by early floods in the haor areas, joined the occasion.

PHOTO: STAR