

Four sand lifters fined, equipment torched

A mobile court yesterday fined sand lifters and torched sand lifting equipment in a drive in Noadapara village under Sadar upazila of the district. The four sand lifters were fined Tk 50 thousand each. They are Md Wahab, 23, son of Mokbul Hossain, Shaheed Ali, 28, son of Moulbar Ali, Sunnon Mia, 22, son of Motahar Hossain, and Rama Mia, 27, son of Abul Hossain. Assistant Commissioner (and) of Sadar upazila (Habibul Hasan Rumi, also an executive magistrate, conducted a drive at Noadapara area and detained the sand lifters. They were released after they paid the fine.

Rape victim's family leave home in fear

Family members of a rape victim in Sadar upazila were remaind away from home amid death threat by the accused in the rape case filed on July 3. The victim's husband, a resident of Boikanthapur village, filed the case with Thakurgaon Women and Childrens Repression Prevention Tribunal, accusing Saleem, son of Abdul Quader, a member of Ward No 6 under Alkha Union Parishad, and Joburul Haque, son of Jamal Uddin. "I along with my family have been staying in my in-law's house at Khoshibazar village since filing of the case," said Altafur. Thakurgaon Women and Childrens Repression Prevention Tribunal Judge Mohammad Ayub Ali ordered Sadar upazila agriculture officer to investigate the matter and asked him to submit the report within seven working days. Altafur alleged that Abdul Quader, locally known as Quader Dacoit, had been threatening him to withdraw the case, otherwise, to face dire consequences. Altafur said they are now going door to door of local political leaders, journalists and others, seeking their help to save his family. According to the case statement, Saleem, 26, and Joburul, 25, entered Altafur's house around 3:00am on July 1 and raped his wife when she was alone at home while Altafur was attending a wedding programme at a neighbouring house.



A two-kilometre canal beside the road in Rasulpur area of Tangail Sadar upazila has been filled up for the expansion of Joydevpur-Chandra-Tangail-Elenga highway into a four-lane road.

Floods affect over 5 lakh

Rudius Mia, 69, of Kaleshar village in the same upazila, said his sons had been without work for the last three weeks. "We have no job and no food. We have not received any relief yet," he said. In some villages, people were struggling due to lack of safe water. "I fear that my two kids may become sick if the water continues to rise and inundates all the tube wells," Sohel Ahmed of Bardal said, adding that the tube wells near his house have gone under water. Moir Uddin, of Chandpur village in Sylhet's Panchganj, said there was knee-high water in his home which forced his family's fencing up to be placed on a raised platform of bricks. According to Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre, the water levels of the Surma and the Kushiara rivers in Sylhet region were dropping. But the flood water would not recede until the rain stops, said Water Development Board officials. "There had been excessive rain in the Borak valley of Assam in India recently, causing the Kushiara to swell," said Sirajul Islam, an executive engineer of the Water Development Board in Sylhet, adding that the water was flowing 98cm above the danger level in Sewla pond. Mamunur Rashid, deputy director of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) in Sylhet division, said crops on 5,400 hectares of land was damaged. Rahat Anwar, deputy commissioner of Sylhet said the administration has been distributing relief to the affected people. Tojaf Islam, deputy commissioner of Moulvibazar said 294 tonnes of rice and 49,200 VGF cards have already been distributed among the affected.

COX'S BAZAR
About 1,000 houses in different villages of Chakaria including Shabarbil, Koiarbil, Kakara, Boroiitol, Demusha were submerged. Chairman Jafar Alam of Chakaria upazila told our Cox's Bazar correspondent that there were not enough relief materials. The authorities closed Ramu-Naikhangchhari, Ramu-Marichha, Eidgon-Jalalabad roads on Wednesday. Around 700 houses in Cox's Bazar had been surrounded by water while some 500 houses in five unions of Ukhaia went under water. "The heavy rains are causing serious damage," said Main Uddin, upazila nirbahi officer of Ukhaia. Ali Hossain, deputy commissioner of Cox's Bazar, said a control room was opened and the district administration had allocated rice, money and food for the affected people. Meanwhile, two kids drowned in Ramu and bodies of two other children were recovered in Ukhaia yesterday. Shaheen, 10, and his brother Fahim, 8, drowned in Uttar Fatekhar village in Ramu. Their bodies were recovered in the afternoon. In Ukhaia, Samia Akter, 14, a seventh grader, drowned around 7:00pm on Wednesday, said Kay Kishu, an inspector of Ukhaia Police Station. Locals found her body in Sonachairi around 12:30pm, the police official said. The body of Etun Barua, 13, was found in Chowdhury village yesterday evening.

Canal filled to widen Tangail highway

Waterlogging feared
MIRZA SHAHIL, Tangail
An important canal has been filled up at Rasulpur in Tangail Sadar upazila for the work of Joydevpur-Chandra-Tangail-Elenga Four-lane Project, posing the threat of different problems, including serious waterlogging, in the area. Water Development Board (WDB) dug the two-kilometre-long Rasulpur canal just beside the then Tangail-Mymensingh Road from Rasulpur to Rabna in Tangail Sadar upazila in 1997 to save the area from waterlogging, WDB sources said. Closure of the canal will directly affect at least 11 villages including Rasulpur, Gala, Salina, Mohela, Pachbethoir, Aggbethoir, Pachbhikromhati, Aggbikromhati, Rabna, Noyapara and Suddulpur, said poet Rashed Rahman of Rasulpur. "Earlier, water entering the villages from the nearby Pungli river through different canals during the wet season passed through Rasulpur canal and spread to different areas. "But the water flow will be hindered due to filling of the canal and rain water will remain stagnant at the villages. Besides, there will be no scope of deposition of silt on the local croplands," he added. Mofiz Uddin, president of Nobobrojonmo Sahitya Sangsad in Rasulpur, said their village will be inundated with overflowing water after opening of the sluice gate on another canal flowing through the west side of the village. "On the other hand, if the sluice gate is not opened, the village as well as the Tangail town protection embankment will face erosion threat due to the huge pressure of the Pungli river water during the wet season," he said. "We had raised objection when the contractor firm of the four-lane project came to fill up the canal but they did not care. The whole area will be seriously affected if the problem is not solved soon," said Atoar Rahman, former chairman of Gala union parishad. Debashish De, an engineer of the firm, Dienco Limited, said the WDB had dug the canal on the lands of Roads and Highways Department (RID). "However, WDB were previously informed through letter about filling up the canal, now they (WDB) have to dig another canal in the area as alternative," he said. Contacted, Shajahan Siraj, executive engineer of WDB in Tangail, said the canal was filled up before taking decision about an alternative, although a committee was formed previously in this regard. "Now the area faces serious waterlogging problem. We are thinking of an alternative to solve the problem, although it will be very costly and require a long time. I have already informed the WDB high officials of the matter," he added. Engineer Sheikh Mohammad Shaharul Amin, deputy manager of SASEC Road Connectivity Project: Improvement of Joydevpur-Chandra-Tangail-Elenga Road to a Four-lane Highway, said "From the beginning of the project we informed the WDB about filling up the canal but they continued delaying to take decision about an alternative." "We could not wait for their decision as it is a priority project of the prime minister and we will have to open the four-lane highway early 2019," he said. "It is true that the area will face serious waterlogging during floods due to filling up of the canal. Now the WDB will have to dig another canal in the area through land acquisition to solve the problem."

'Demolish illegal structure on road'

Locals held a rally in the town yesterday protesting construction of an illegal structure on a road. They urged the authorities concerned to demolish the illegal structure and restore smooth communication immediately. They had submitted written complaints in this regard to the deputy commissioner, zila parishad chairman and the mayor of the municipality two months ago, but did not get any response, locals said. They alleged that district Muktiyoddha Sangsad Commander Mezbah Uddin Ahmed constructed a wall on the road a few months ago, but the townspeople said they are suffering as the road has become only 3-feet-wide from 8-feet, adding that they protested when the wall was being built, but Mezbah paid no heed. "As Mezbah is the Muktiyoddha Sangsad commander, he has a lot of influence so he could build the wall on the road," alleged local resident Badur Rahman. Mezbah said he built the boundary wall on khas land that he has leased, and it is not on the road.

UNICEF Vacancy Announcement
The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is seeking applications from Bangladesh Nationals to fill the following post for the Dhaka Office and Rangpur Office. For detailed Job Descriptions, please visit our website and use the following link to apply for the posts:
Health Specialist (MNH)-NOC; Dhaka
https://www.unicef.org/about/employment/?job=505759
Communication for Development Officer-NOC; Rangpur
https://www.unicef.org/about/employment/?job=505752
Application Closing Date: **21 July 2017**
Please note that no applications by email or post will be accepted. You must log on and create your profile with UNICEF global website and register for application. Attractive remuneration including social security and family medical benefits will be available to the selected candidate as per UN policy. Only short listed candidates will be contacted. Any attempt to unduly influence UNICEF's selection process will lead to automatic disqualification of the applicant.
UNICEF is committed to diversity and inclusion within its workforce, and encourages qualified female and male candidates from all national, religious and ethnic backgrounds, including persons living with disabilities, to apply to become a part of our organisation.
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Woman found dead in Faridpur
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur
The body of an unidentified woman was found at Haridhoa beel under Nagarkanda upazila of the district yesterday. Char Jossori Union Parishad Member Fazul Haque said, "Some farmers found the body while they were going to their field at Haridhoa beel. They informed the police who recovered it." Office-in-Charge of Nagarkanda Police Station AFM Nasim said, "We sent the body to Faridpur Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy." He added that she may have died 10 to 12 days earlier as it was decomposed.

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority
Vacancy Announcement
For Deputy Managing Director (Finance)
Dhaka WASA is seeking applications from Bangladeshi Nationals to fill the post of "Deputy Managing Director (Finance)". The appointment will be made subject to satisfactory application and interview for a period of 03 (Three) years on a contractual basis. Interested persons having M.Com/MBA or equivalent in any relevant discipline with 25 Years of experience in Public/private utility finance in country or abroad may apply for the post. Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview.
For detailed guidelines and job description please visit our website: www.dwsa.org.bd
Last date of receiving application: 23 July, 2017
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For Deputy Managing Director (Operation and Maintenance)
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