

DRIVE AFTER TRAIN CRASH

30 structures demolished

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

The district administration and Engineering Department of Bangladesh Railway here jointly removed 30 illegal structures from the western side of the rail tracks at Chandra level crossing in Jamalpur yesterday.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Rusel Sabrin led the drive following a train accident that killed six people at the level crossing on Wednesday.

The illegal structures (business set-ups) built on the western side of the level crossing on Fouzdari-Kampapur road has been preventing vehicles from seeing the trains for long, said Rezaul Haque, senior sub-assistant engineer of Bangladesh Railway in Jamalpur.

Moreover, there has been no gateman at the level crossing since 1984, said Rezaul.

A *ghanti ghar* (a room from where alarm bell is rung to warn people of an approaching train) has already been built at the level crossing and a gateman will be appointed there immediately, he said.

On Wednesday evening, six people were killed and another was injured when a battery-run auto-rickshaw was hit by a Dewanganj-bound train from Mymensingh at the level crossing.

The deceased were Sanuar Hossain, 28, Hossain Ali, 45, Faridul Islam, 32, driver of auto-rickshaw Abdur Rahim, 45, of Kampapur area and Mir Hossain, 30, of Chandra area in Jamalpur municipality and Saleha Begum, 35, wife of Abdul Aziz of Shahbazpur village in Sadar upazila.

Injured Gulbox, 45, is now undergoing treatment at Jamalpur General Hospital.

Meanwhile, a three-member probe body, headed by the ADC, was formed to investigate the reason behind the accident and they have been asked to submit the report within seven days.



The district administration and Engineering Department of Bangladesh Railway jointly remove 30 illegal structures from the western side of the rail tracks at Chandra level crossing in Jamalpur yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Priority is profit, not ecology

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL, Jhalakathi

Timber trees are fast replacing fruit and medicinal trees and plants in different areas of the district, thanks to the mindless commercialisation in agriculture sector.

The practice, although brings a little more profit, poses serious threat to the ecological balance and causes food crisis for various species including birds and animals, said agriculturists.

Visiting 20 plant markets in the district, this correspondent found that over ninety percent of the sold plants are of timber trees.

"I sell about 15 thousand plants on each haat (weekly market) day, mostly mahogany, chambol and rain trees. The sold items include less than a hundred fruit plants but no medicinal plants," said Jakir Hossain, a plant seller at Bagri Bazar in Rajapur upazila.

"I sell eight to ten thousand timber plants on each haat day while only 100 to 150 fruit plants are sold," said Mahabub Hossain, another seller at the market.

This correspondent also talked with around a hundred people who planted at least 200 trees individually this year.

Surprisingly, none of them planted more than ten fruit or medicinal plants.

"This year I planted four hundred mahogany plants but no fruit tree," said Abul Kalam of Satura in Rajapur upazila.

"I have planted two hundred mahogany saplings but only two hog plum plants," said Kamal Hossain, another planter of the area.

"Every year I plant many timber trees including rain tree, mahogany and chambol which will bring much money after several years. I do not plant fruit or medicinal trees," said Monir Hossain of Baidarapur in Jhalakathi Sadar.

Birds are now facing food crisis as fruit trees are not that available, said Alokesh Sarkar, veterinary surgeon of Rajapur Veterinary Hospital.



Like those in other areas, the plant market at Bagri Bazar in Rajapur upazila of Jhalakathi sees sale of a large number of timber plants. However, the demand of fruit and medicinal plants is awfully low.

PHOTO: STAR

Mahogany trees make the environment dark and gloomy which is a prime cause of Newcastle disease of poultry during winter, he said.

Fishes are also badly affected when mahogany leaves fall into water and spoil it, said Pritish Kumar Mallik, deputy director of fisheries department in Jhalakathi.

"It is surprising to me that people of the area are cutting fruit trees for planting timber plants. It requires 20 to 25 years for a timber tree to grow up for sale while fruit trees need two to three years to produce fruits," said Sheikh Abu Bakar Siddik, deputy director of the Department of Agriculture Extension in the district.

People are planting mahogany trees on homesteads, roadside areas, even on their agricultural lands. Dark forests will cover the whole district if the practice continues, he said.

"About fifty species of fruit trees have disappeared from the southern area in last three decades as planting of timber trees gets priority. Such act poses threat to the ecological diversity, affecting people as well as birds and animals," said Subroto Kumar Das, chairman of botany department of Barisal University.

People should be inspired to plant more fruit and medicinal trees to keep the ecological balance, he said.

3 missing as trawler sinks in Padma

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Three people, including a child, went missing as a trawler carrying 17 passengers sank in the Padma in Shariatpur yesterday morning.

The trawler, going to Janjira from Majid Shah Majar in Naria upazila of the district sank at Ishwarkathi due to strong current, police and local administration sources said.

Fourteen of the passengers were saved while Shiria Begum, 60, Roman, 15, and Ayesha, 3, of Janjira upazila in Shariatpur remained missing.

"We are trying to find the missing people and the sunken trawler using local boats and a 14-member naval team from Khulna has reached the spot for rescue operation," said Masum Hossen, sub-inspector of river police in Naria.

BCL men throw hot water on 3 siblings

Incident occurred as a victim refused to serve them tea at nearby stall

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Three siblings sustained burn injuries as a Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader and his men threw hot water on them in Sadar upazila of the district yesterday.

The injured are tea stall owner Mostofa Hossain, 38, and his brothers Rustam Ali, 28, and Idul Islam, 17.

Mashiur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station, said Shahriar Rahman Riyan, general secretary of Natore Nawab Siraj-ud-Dullah Government Collage unit of BCL, asked Mastofa to serve a few cups of tea at another tea stall.

As he refused to do this, Shahriar along with his men swooped on Mostofa and at one stage, they threw hot water on him.

The victim's brothers Rustam and Idul came under attack when they went to save Mostofa. The duo also sustained burn injuries during the incident.

The three brothers later took first aid at Natore Sadar Hospital, said the OC.

BCL college unit president Shahadat Hossain Rajib said Shahriar and three tea stall owners in the area locked in an altercation and both parties were burnt with hot water.

But, he did not know who threw the water at them. Shahriar also sustained burn injuries during the incident. He later took first aid at the hospital, said Rajib.

Punitive action will be taken against the culprits after getting complaint in this regard, said the police official.

Upazila PIO employee jailed on graft charge

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A court here yesterday sentenced an employee of Project Implementation Office (PIO) in Sirajganj's Tarash upazila to different terms of imprisonment for misappropriating Tk 1.3 lakh of the government project.

Convict Md Akter Hossain of Manikganj's Sadar worked as an office assistant of PIO in Tarash for about four years since 1996.

Akter was sentenced to seven years'

imprisonment and fined Tk 5,000 under Section 409 and five years' imprisonment and Tk 3,000 under Section 468 while he was jailed for three years under Section 5(2) of Anti Corruption Act.

Senior lawyer of the district court Obaidul Haque, also the counsel of the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC), said Akter misappropriated Tk 1.30 lakh under the home rehabilitation programme by issuing false check during his tenure in the office.

Later, ACC Assistant Director Md Shafiuddin filed a case with Tarash Police Station, accusing Akter on November 11 in 2002.

Two commit suicide

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A schoolboy in Jhalakathi and a youth in Gopalganj committed suicide yesterday.

The schoolboy committed suicide at Chandkathi in Jhalakathi town was Chayon Kumar Ghosh, 15, son of Sadar Police Station Sub-Inspector Gautom Kumar Ghosh.

Chayon was a very meritorious student of Class X at Jhalakathi Government High School, the teachers said.

Locals said he was the only son of his parents and was very polite.

Officer-in-Charge Md Tajul Islam said the reason behind the suicide was not clear. Meanwhile, a youth committed suicide at Gopalpur village in Tungipara upazila of Gopalganj.

The deceased was Shyamol Biswas, 19, son of Chittaranjon Biswas of the village.

Office-in-Charge (OC) of Tungipara Police Station AKM Anamul Kabir said a snake bit Shyamol two days ago and he took medicine from a quack.

Shyamol suffered from inflammation and pain on Wednesday night, the OC said, adding that he was found hanging from a tree the next day.

MURDER OF TWO SISTERS

Land dispute led to the killings

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Jamalpur police have finally unearthed the conspiracy and motive behind the murders of two sisters in Sadar upazila on August 1.

During interrogation in police remand, two accused, arrested in connection with the murders, confessed to their involvement and said the murders took place due to a land dispute, said Inspector Mohabbat Kabir of Sadar Police Station, also investigation officer (IO) of the case.

On August 8, Senior Judicial Magistrate Niskriti Hagidak granted two-day remand for Wares Ali, 50, and Bilash Mia, 28, of Baluata village, after police produced the arrestees before his court, seeking five-day remand.

Bhabna, 14, a Class IX student of a local girls' high school, and Lubna, 9, a fourth grader at a local kindergarten, and daughters of Shamim Hossain of Dewliabari village, were found murdered inside their house on August 2.

Only the two sisters were at home as their mother Taslima went to her parents' house on August 1 and spent the night there.

The following morning, Taslima returned home and found her two daughters lying on the floor with their throats slit, the IO said.

Police detained Wares and Bilash, on August 2 on suspicion of their alleged involvement in the killings.

On August 3, deceased's father Shamim, an expatriate in Malaysia, returned home and filed a murder case with Sadar Police Station accusing some unnamed people.

After completion of the two-day remand, the arrestees were produced before a court yesterday afternoon and the court sent them to jail, said Court Inspector Abdur Kader.

Zila Parishad Patuakhali

www.zppatuakhali.gov.bd

উন্নয়নের গণতন্ত্র
শেখ হাসিনার মূলমন্ত্র

Date: 09-08-2017

Memo No-46.10.7800.000.11.001.17- 602

e-Tender Notice No- 03/2016-2017 (OTM)

e-Tender is invited for the below package in National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of following works under Zila Parishad, Patuakhali.

SL No.	e-Tender ID No.	Name of works	Last Date & Time for Selling	Last Date & Time for closing
01.	112019	Improvement of Sheikh Russel Shisu Park at Patuakhali Sadar, Patuakhali.	17-09-2017 17:00	18-09-2017 13:00

This is online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no Offline/hard copies will be accepted.

-To Submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP system portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.

-The Fees for Downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP system portal have to be deposited online through any registered Banks branches.

-Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

GD-1630

(Sk Hamir Hassan)
Chief Executive Officer
Zila Parishad, Patuakhali
Email: zp.patuakhali@gmail.com