

Rivals kill youth in Gazaria

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Munshiganj

A young man, who was injured in an attack by rivals over previous enmity in Poikkarpur area of Gazaria upazila on September 26, died at a hospital in Dhaka early yesterday.

The deceased was Mahbub Alam, 25, of the area, said Sub-Inspector of Gazaria Police Station Md Asaduzzaman.

A murder case was filed with the police station on Wednesday, accusing of Bhaberchar Union Parishad Chairman Shahid Md Liton and his 10 accomplices in connection with the incident.

Police arrested an accused and sent him to jail, said the SI, also the investigation officer of the case.



Farmers start harvesting early varieties of Aman paddy at Laxmichap village in Nilphamari Sadar.

PHOTO: STAR

HOG PLUM FARMING

Heyday for middlemen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

The hog plum farmers are being deprived of fair prices for their produce while the middlemen and traders in Barisal division are making huge profit.

A hog plum, locally called amra, is sold for Tk 5 to Tk 10 in Barisal city while a farmer gets 50 paisa to 70 paisa when he sells it from the tree.

The buyers said they buy the fruits from the trees in June and July which they sell in the markets in August and September.

"We sell the fruit in Kowkhali Bazar under Pirojpur, or at Bhimruli floating market in Jhalakathi," said Joynal Hossain, a buyer of Rajapur.

Eight hundred to 1,000 pieces are required to fill one sack, which is sold for Tk 1,500 to Tk 2,000 in the market, he added.

The fruits are taken to Dhaka and other city markets across the country, where each sack is sold for Tk 2,500 to Tk 3,500 to wholesale shops, Joynal said.

He profited Tk 55,000 this season after investing Tk 40,000, he added.

"The fruit is sold for Tk 3 to Tk 5 per piece, according to its size, to small sellers in the local market," said Mahabub, a wholesaler at Barisal market.

"I sell each hog plum for Tk 10 at different places in city," said Miraj, a vendor in Muktijoddha Park area in the city, adding that he usually earns Tk 500 to Tk 600 daily.

"It is our misfortune that we get less while middlemen pocket high profit," said Jahanara Begum, a farmer in Rajapur.

"We are trying to make a wholesale market at Bhimruli in Jhalakathi Sadar upazila where the farmers can sell their crops directly to the buyers," said Sheikh Abu Bakar, deputy director of the Department of Agriculture Extension in the district, adding that the hog plum of the area has good demand across the country for its good taste.

ROHINGYA CRISIS

UN humanitarian chief due tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

UN humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock and Unicef Executive Director Anthony Lake will be here on a three-day visit from tomorrow to see the Rohingya situation on the ground and discuss it with Bangladesh officials.

They will visit Cox's Bazar on October 2-3 and meet Rohingyas and assess their needs.

The purpose of the joint mission is to see, firsthand, the devastating humanitarian situation of the Rohingya refugees, an official told UNB yesterday.

Since late August, more than 500,000 Rohingya refugees, including 60 per cent children, have arrived in Cox's Bazar alone, marking the largest mass refugee crisis in the region in decades.

In Bangladesh, the total

number of Rohingya refugees is now estimated to be well over 700,000 people while an unofficial figure suggests over 1 million.

The scale of the emergency has far surpassed initial projections, officials said.

The initial response plan, launched on September 7, sought US\$77 million to assist 300,000 people.

As of September 29, the plan has received \$36.4 million, or 47 per cent, of the funding requirements for the coordinated response.

Humanitarian partners are now revising the initial plan to account for the massive additional needs.

Lowcock and Lake will brief the media on the latest updates on the Rohingya refugee crisis, response and funding needs following their visit to the Rohingyas.

22-day ban begins

FROM PAGE 16

monitor the enforcement of the ban and take action against any violations.

The department officials, with help from law enforcing agencies and local administration, will form mobile courts and visit different kitchen markets and fish-trading points in the region to help make the anti-fishing ban a success, he said.

Under the fisheries ordinance amended in October 2005, fishermen or traders violating the ban may be fined up to Tk 1,000 with six months imprisonment for the first time and the punishment would double if the offence is repeated by the same offenders.

"We proposed to the ministry to make a list of the three lakh fishermen's family members in the region and allocate each family 20 kg rice for the duration of the ban as grant from the government. But we have received grants for only 1.45 lakh families," said Azizul Haque, Sr. Assistant

Director of the fishing directorate in Barisal division.

"This time we have slapped on the 22-day ban on not only netting Hilsa but also on marketing, sales and transportation of all kinds of fish across the country during the period," Bimal Chandra Das, Barisal district fishery officer (Hilsa) said.

The ban covers 7,000 square kilometres of Hilsa breeding grounds at six points of seven coastal districts from Chandpur to different river estuaries, fishery officials said.

Meanwhile Nirob Hossain Tutul, joint secretary of Barisal Fish Merchants association, hailed the 22-day ban on fishing to save boost Hilsa resources in the country. He said the government also have to take steps to prevent infiltration of foreign fishing boats in Bangladesh water-territory in absence of Bangladeshi fishermen during the ban period.

Myanmar team

FROM PAGE 16

Bangladesh has renewed its demand for repatriation of all the Rohingyas, who would be more than 9,000, including those who entered Bangladesh since August 25.

Win Myat Aye also told the Myanmarese daily that the repatriation would be based on the 1993 joint statement between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

As per the statement, Myanmar agreed to take measures to halt the outflow of refugees to Bangladesh, and to accept, after scrutiny, all those carrying Myanmar identity cards and those able to present "other documents issued by relevant Myanmar authorities" and "all those able to furnish evidence of their residence in Myanmar" and "all those willing to return to Myanmar".

The committee reportedly estimated to spend 2 billion Burmese kyat (Tk 12.02 crore) for the repatriation process and planned resettlement of the refugees at Dar Gizar village, a bout 20 km from Maungdaw township.

Proteas keep bossing Tigers

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh are now 230 runs behind with eight wickets to get or a declaration.

As the clouds gathered in the evening to bring an early end to the day with 16.1 overs still remaining, South Africa were 54 for two in their second innings with Hashim Amla batting on 17 and Temba Bavuma on three. Despite skipper Mashfiqur Rahim's defensive fields -- he started with two boundary sweepers for off-spinner Mehedi Hasan and three men on the boundary for Shaiful Islam -- good bowling from Bangladesh prised out the two openers who put on 196 runs in the first innings.

Shaiful got one to tail back into Dean Elgar in the eighth over and trapped the left-hander in front. The umpire gave it out and Elgar reviewed, but the decision was upheld. Then in the 11th over Mustafizur Rahman, in the middle of a splendid late spell that extracted some movement under the clouds, got Markram caught behind with a full, trademark off-cutter that just kissed the bat on way to wicketkeeper Liton Das's gloves to bring South

"The repatriation would begin after an agreement is reached during the discussion between the two countries," said Win Myat Aye.

According to Myanmar's Implementation Committee for Recommendations on Rakhine State, two places have been designated -- Taungpyo Letwe and Ngakhuya villages -- to receive the refugees.

The committee said the refugees who would be repatriated through land route would be received at Taungpyo Letwe and those passing through the rivers would be received at Ngakhuya.

The committee reportedly estimated to spend 2 billion Burmese kyat (Tk 12.02 crore) for the repatriation process and planned resettlement of the refugees at Dar Gizar village, a bout 20 km from Maungdaw township.

Africa down to 38 for two.

In the afternoon session, Bangladesh reverted to type, as after a confident morning session they lost four wickets for 90 runs to reach 308 for eight. Resuming at 218 for four after lunch, only nine runs were added before Mominul Haque played left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj almost straight off the bat into the hands of short leg in the 64th over for 77.

That brought an end to a 69-run fifth-wicket partnership with Mahmudullah.

Another half-century stand characterised by the frenzy to score runs rather than occupy the crease -- Sabbir Rahman and Mahmudullah followed. Sabbir was his enterprising self -- his four fours and a six included a reverse-swept four to fine leg -- but his 46-ball innings ended on 30 when he under-edged an attempted glide to third man off a Duane Olivier lifter to leave Bangladesh on 292 for six.

Mahmudullah and Mehedi Hasan Miraz took Bangladesh past the follow-on target of 296, but Mahmudullah left soon afterwards, playing on against Morne Morkel for a 292 for six.

However, the pair managed to negotiate that period to some extend and, although Tamim departed for a 67-ball 39, Mominul went on to score his 12th Test half-century before being sent back for a 150-ball 77.

EARLY VARIETIES OF PADDY HARVESTING BEGINS

Flood-hit farmers smile

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Flood-hit farmers in the district have started harvesting early varieties of Aman paddy, making all sections of people happy as this paddy is likely to combat rice price hike.

The paddy also creates employment opportunity for farm workers during the monsoon period in Bangla months of Awshin and Kartik as they sit idle during the time after transplantation of Aman paddy saplings ends in mid August.

Additional Deputy Director of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Nilphamari Md Keramat Ali said, "Early varieties of paddy take only 90-100 days to ripen after transplanting while traditional varieties need 140-150 days and farmers are now inclining to early varieties to arrange food in crisis period and also to get good price."

Anwarul Islam, sub assistant agriculture officer, said Aman paddy was cultivated on 1.13 lakh hectares of land this year. Early varieties of paddy like Bina-7, Brin Dhan-

33, Brin Dhan-39, Brin Dhan-57 and some hybrid varieties were cultivated on 20 thousand hectares to produce 60 thousand tonnes of rice. Harvesting on 500 hectares has been completed.

Farmers, who harvest early varieties of paddy, can now cultivate potato two times one after another and become benefited before Boro paddy season starts in April, he said.

Visiting different villages like Chadkhana, Putimari and Nitai in Kishoreganj upazila and Laxmichap, Ramganj and Sukhdhroni in Sadar upazila, it was found that farmers are passing busy time in cutting and threshing early varieties of paddy in jubilant mood.

Grower Ayub Ali of Chadkhana village said he cultivated early variety Brin Dhan-33 on four bighas of land and got 64 maunds.

"I'm greatly benefited as I got Tk 45 thousand by selling paddy at a rate of Tk 700 per maund while my expenditure was Tk 16 thousand only," he said.

Paddy farmer Mahatabullah, also a cattle rearing of Putimari village, said flood swept away his straw piles and grass in grazing fields but he has no problem now as he got 1600 bundles of straw from two bighas after threshing paddy, which will be enough for two months.

Elderly man dies in boat capsize

A CORRESPONDENT,
Kishoreganj

Body of an elderly man who went missing in a boat capsized was recovered from the Kata river in Austagram upazila of the district Friday night.

The deceased was Lalchand Das, 60, of Kolma village in Austagram.

"Seeing the body floating on Kata river at 7:30pm Friday, locals informed police who recovered the body and handed it over to family members," said Kamrul Islam Molla, OC of Austagram Police Station.

Five people including Lalchand were roaming on a small boat to visit puja mandaps at different places. When they started for Kolma from Mohontola of Austagram around 9:00pm on Thursday night the boat was caught in a storm and capsized in Kata river, said locals.

Four others somehow managed to swim ashore.

Forest fire feared in Sundarbans

Fishermen use fire to clear bushes for fishing

PARTHA CHAKRABORTTY, Bagerhat

People engaged in illegal fishing near Dhansagar Station of Chandpur Range under the Eastern Sundarbans in the district's Sharankhola upazila frequently use fire for clearing the bushes and grasses to make their work easier, posing threat of major fire incidents anytime.

Last year, several fire incidents occurred in the forest near Dhansagar Station.

Afterwards, fishing remained almost stopped in the area for one year but the illegal act started again a few days ago.

With the blessings of local influential people and some unscrupulous forest officials, the fishermen started netting local species of fish like koi, shol and magur in small canals and beels (open water bodies) of the area with banned current nets, locals said.

They catch fishes in different canals and beels including Pancha Koralia, Tulatala, Nangli, Murti Khal, Maida Khal, Neptikhal, Chota Tengra, Bara Tengra and

Kalam-Tajir Beel of Sharankhola upazila for three months after the end of the monsoon, said many locals seeking anonymity.

Some fishermen of Ratiya-Rajapur, Pashchim Rajapur, Uttar Rajapur, Dakkhin Rajapur and Bandaghata of the upazila catch fish in the water bodies throughout the night and come out from the forest with the fishes before dawn.

They put the fish into small drums and go to Khulna through Pallimangol route by motorcycle.

Denying the allegations of illegal fishing, Humayun Kabir, station officer at Dhansagar, said stern action will be taken if anyone enters the forest areas and catches fish illegally.

Mahmudul Hasan, divisional forest officer of the Sundarbans Eastern Division, said, "Fire occurs in the area during the dry season. Legal action will be taken if anyone is found involved in fishing in any of the vulnerable areas or any person in the forest department acts as accomplice."

Beacon of hope

FROM PAGE 16

"There are many things to negotiate with regards to the security situation before repatriation," said Win Myat Aye, who also chairs the committee.

"We will repatriate all of the refugees whose identity we can verify based on the 1993 agreement."

State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, who faced mounting criticism over the "ethnic cleansing of Rohingyas", has recently said they need to "seek advice of UN-Habitat so as to include sustainable development aspects in the resettlement programme for the affected community" with regards of repatriation.

She said rehabilitation and resettlement programmes should not only be for the Muslims but for the Rakhines and other minorities, including the Hindus, who fled their homes.

"I suffered from a mental disorder," explains another trainee, Marufa Akter, also a third year honours student from Narsingdi's Shibir. "Some people dishonoured me because I am different. I thought I had no bright future but since attending this training programme I have a dream of self-employment. The symptoms of my disorder have reduced a lot. I want to make a good life for myself, like those who completed this training before me."

On September 19, 2017, a Marks and Starts experience session was held at CRP's centre in Ganakbari. One of the speakers at the function was project beneficiary Reja

After the break, without a run being added Mehedi was bounced out by Rabada for eight in the 87th over. Shaiful soon edged Keshav Maharaj to give the left-arm spinner his third wicket and close Bangladesh's innings on 320.

Earlier, Tamim Iqbal was the only casualty as Bangladesh scored 91 runs and reaching 218 for four at the 64th over.

Bangladesh resumed the day on 127 for three from 34 overs with Tamim and Mominul batting on 22 and 28 respectively, and although the former creamed a square driven boundary off Kagiso Rabada off the eighth ball of the day, what followed was a period of high class fast bowling from Rabada