

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Two construction workers died after inhaling poisonous gas while working inside a septic tank at Chadra village under Alfadanga upazila of the district on Friday.

The deceased were Alam Mia, 25, son of Ful Mia of Akhalipara village in Boalmari upazila, and Md Shahidul, 35, son of Razzak Sheikh of Bhatpara village.

Local said, Alam entered the septic tank of Prodyut Saha's house to repair it and fell unconscious inside the tank.

Later, Shahidul entered the tank to rescue Alam, but he also fainted. The house owner then informed the fire fighters about the matter.

The fire fighters rescued the victims and sent them to Boalmari Upazila Health Complex where the doctors declared them dead.



The Sutang river flowing like a narrow canal contains pitch black liquid, thanks to the mindless dumping of industrial wastes. The photo was taken from Bramondora area of Sayestaganj upazila in Habiganj. PHOTO: STAR

Maize buying centre looted in Meherpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kustia

Armed robbers looted Tk 8 lakh from a maize buying centre in Meherpur on Friday night.

Director of private company CP Bangladesh Sajjad Hossain said they set up a centre in Poshuhat area in Meherpur town for buying maize from the farmers of Meherpur and Chuadanga.

Employees of the company were buying maize from the farmers when 10 to 15 masked men with arms stormed into the office room and looted Tk 8 lakh.

They fled firing two blank shots.

EARTH DAY TODAY

Unabated dumping of industrial wastes

Untreated toxic water pollutes Sutang river in Habiganj

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Habiganj

The water of the Sutang river in Habiganj has turned pitch black due to unabated dumping of wastes from nearby industrial units for the last few years.

Meanwhile, the country along with the rest of the world is going to observe Earth Day today.

During a recent visit to Bramondora area of Sayestaganj upazila in Habiganj, this correspondent found untreated toxic water from a few factories including Habiganj Pran-RFL Industry falling into a canal that flows into the Sutang river.

Around 20,000 people of Nurpur, Rajiura, Bramondura and Lukra unions in

Sadar upazila and Korab, Bulla, Bamoi and Lakhai unions in Lakhai upazila are suffering due to the strong smell of the chemicals, said engineer Md Abdul Hay, chairman of Korab Union Parishad in Lakhai upazila.

"Habiganj Pran-RFL Industry started operation in the area in 2013. Negligence of the factory authorities is the main cause of the river pollution. We sometimes find dead fish floating in the river as untreated toxic water from the factory runs into the river," he added.

"Ignoring our protest, Habiganj Pran-RFL Industry authorities run their factories by managing some local leaders," said Jalal Ahmed, a resident of Rajiura village in Habiganj Sadar upazila.

Inu Mia, 65, a resident of Bamoi village in Lakhai upazila, said, "The river has become so polluted that we get the smell even while staying in our houses."

Toffazal Sohel, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon's Habiganj unit, said, "The 82 km-long Sutang river has turned into a drain-like flow due to unplanned and unregulated industrialisation on its bank in Madhabpur upazila of Habiganj. Huge agricultural land is facing tremendous degradation due to the pollution by big industrial units that ultimately impacts the Meghna river."

If industrialisation around the Sutang river is not strictly regulated, it will destroy the wetlands and harm the Meghna river in

the downstream, he added.

Monjurul Haque, general manager of Pran-RFL Industry Limited, said, "We run six effluent treatment plants (ETP) in our factory. We use the water of our factory's pond. I do not know whether it flows into the river."

Touhidul Islam, executive engineer of Water Development Board in Habiganj, said steps will be taken to stop pollution of the Sutang river with untreated toxic water.

Md Salahuddin Chowdhury, director of Sylhet Divisional Office of the Department of Environment (DoE), said, "DoE regularly monitors the factories to check whether the ETP facilities are actually running. Whenever we visit, the ETP are found running."

Woman beaten dead by husband for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A woman was beaten to death allegedly by her husband for dowry in Jashore's Sharsha upazila on Friday.

The deceased was Jahura Khatun, 34, wife of Ripon Hossain of Satmile village and mother of two children.

The victim's father Noor Islam alleged that Ripon used to beat Jahura for dowry since their marriage.

On Friday, Ripon told them over cellphone that Jahura committed suicide by hanging herself.

The body, which bore several injury marks, was sent to Jashore General Hospital morgue for autopsy, said police.

Ripon went into hiding soon after the incident.

A case was filed with Sharsha Police Station.

Electrician stabbed dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A youth was stabbed to death in the town's College Road area on Friday night.

The victim was Mohammad Babu, 24, son of Ramzan Ali of Kanchijuly Masjid Road area.

Kotwali Police Station Officer-in-Charge (Investigation) Khandaker Shaker Ahmed said criminals stabbed electrician Babu leaving him critically injured.

Hearing Babu's screams, locals took him to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead, the OC said.

The killing might have occurred over establishing supremacy in the area, OC Shaker said.

Preserve CHT forests to save livelihood

Speakers tell Rangamati meeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Speakers at a meeting in the town yesterday urged all concerned to play due role to preserve the forests in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) for saving biodiversity in the region and livelihood of indigenous people.

The government should take into confidence and receive cooperation from the stakeholders to save forests in CHT, they said at the CHT village common forest (VCF) preservation networking committee meeting at Rangamati Banorupa Kata Pahar area.

CHT VCF preservation networking committee Adviser Nirmol Kanti Chakma, committee General Secretary Padutui Khyang and Aymachara Mouja Headman Molindro Talukder were present at the meeting.

Gyano Prova Chakma, president of VCF preservation networking committee, presided over the programme.

The forests of CHT must be protected as the livelihood of indigenous people is dependent on the natural resources, speakers said.

Destruction of forests will mean added suffering to people in general, they said, adding that there are many wild plants and animals, including some rare species, in CHT but those see a gradual decrease due to lack of awareness.

Death threat to univ teacher sparks protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Students, teachers and employees of Pabna University of Science and Technology (PUST) yesterday formed a human chain on the campus protesting death threat to the newly appointed Assistant Proctor Uttam Kumar.

Uttam said a group of 15 to 20 unidentified people entered his rented house in Raghobpur area in the town on Thursday night when he was not present at the house.

"The gang threatened my wife Tilotoma Chowdhury saying they will kill me if I do not resign from my post by Sunday," said Uttam, also a teacher of physics department.

University Registrar Bijon Kumar and Proctor Pritom Kumar spoke, among others.

On April 17, the university authorities appointed Pritom Kumar and Uttam Kumar as the new proctor and assistant proctor respectively in place of Awal Kabir Joy and Aditi Bishwas.

Man killed, five shot in Narail clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A man was killed and at least 12 others, including five with bullets, in a clash between two groups of villagers over establishing supremacy in Lohagara upazila of Narail yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Khair Mridha, 40, of Parmalikipur village in the upazila.

The injured are undergoing treatment at Lohagara Upazila Health Complex.

Police said there had been a longstanding rivalry between the supporters of Hemu member and Dulal Thakur over establishing supremacy in the area.

As a sequel to the enmity, both the groups, equipped with weapons, attacked each other, leaving 13 people from both sides injured.

Villagers rushed the injured to the health complex, from where Khair was referred to Faridpur Medical College Hospital.

He succumbed to his injuries on way to the hospital.



A part of the boundary wall of Shibrampur Model Government Primary School in Pabna town collapses yesterday, killing a student and injuring three others. PHOTO: STAR

Girl dies in wall collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A primary schoolgirl was killed and three others were injured yesterday as a boundary wall of their school fell on them in the town.

The deceased was Afrin Khatun, 9, daughter of Ayub Ali of Shibrampur village in Sadar upazila, and a student of Class II of Shibrampur Model Government Primary School.

The injured are Afsana Khatun, 7, Ismail Hossain, 6, and Al Amin, 5, of the school.

Headmaster Enamul Haque Siddique said the incident took place around 9:15am when the students were entering the school.

The wall collapsed due to pressure of construction materials like sand and brick

chips kept inside the boundary of the under construction school, leaving four of the school students injured, Enamul said.

The injured were taken to Pabna General Hospital from where Afrin was shifted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital as her condition deteriorated.

She later died there around 3:00pm, said Md Obaidul Haque, officer-in-charge of Pabna Sadar Police Station.

Action will be taken if anybody is found guilty, said Pabna Deputy Commissioner Md Jasim Uddin.

Angry students and guardians tried to stage demonstration blocking Dhaka-Pabna highway in front of the school but police brought the situation under control.

Madrasa project in election year

FROM PAGE 16

talked about the dilapidated conditions of madrasa buildings in their constituencies and asked for new ones.

Md Billal Hossain, director general of the DME, said the MPs in their DO letters mentioned the names of the madrasas requiring repair work.

"The project is being taken up as per the DO letters of the Members of Parliament. We will work as the implementing agency. But since there will be construction work, the education ministry's Education Engineering Department will also be involved in the project," he said.

In January, each of the MPs, under a Tk 10,649 crore project, received funds for the construction and extension of 10 school buildings in their constituencies.

Two similar projects involving the lawmakers were also pending with the Planning Commission.

One of them is "Water and Sanitation Scheme" under which deep tube-wells and public toilets would be constructed. The project's cost is estimated at Tk 903 crore. Each of the MPs would get Tk 3 crore as allocation.

The other one is a Tk 1,785 crore infrastructure project for constructing village markets. The lawmakers would get funds for the work.

Now the planning commission is scrutinising the projects before sending them to the Ecneec for approval.

Meanwhile, the implementation of such projects in the election year will certainly influence many voters but an

expert says those might also undermine the prospect of ensuring level-playing field.

"Investing public money for such projects in an election year is a case of undermining the prospect of ensuring level playing field by abuse of power," said Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).

He said more often than not, such projects are also likely to be implemented by contractors chosen by political consideration and conflict of interest.

"Moreover, it also violates the key principle of prioritisation in budgetary allocation which must be the value for money in terms of public interest rather than influencing electoral outcome by such populist and unethical means of providing undue advantage to candidates of incumbent party or coalition," he said.

Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, however, finds no correlation between the project and the polls.

He said the government never took up any programme targeting "politics or election time or a good time or bad".

"We believe in the continuity of development and it must continue. We only take this perspective into consideration before launching any project. We don't wait for election to do our work."

Besides, the development work would not be carried out by the MPs as the responsibility rests with the ministry, the minister pointed out.

"The way projects are being implemented now, it will be the same in future," he said.

Kamal said there were thousands of madrasas in the country, but no development work had been done there for a long time. Over the years, the madrasa buildings have become damaged, he said.

"We don't have enough resources to rebuild all of them in one go. So we have requested all the MPs that you come up with a priority list of the madrasas needing new buildings."

"What is the problem here?" he asked and said, "Being the representatives of the people, it is the MPs who will understand the need of their people better."

Recently, the government has taken a Tk 60-crore special project to highlight its development works before rural people eyeing the upcoming parliamentary polls.

The government's development works would be presented through short films, film shows, songs and women's rallies across the country.

Under the project, 65 short films would be made, 21,960 film shows, 9,792 musical programmes and 4,554 outreach programmes titled "Agiye Jachchhey Bangladesh" (Bangladesh is moving forward) would be arranged, and 1,470 women's rallies would be organised. Besides, 70 multimedia projectors and 70 television sets would be purchased to implement the project, which is to be executed by the Directorate of Mass Communication by November 2020.

Bangladesh Public Administration Training centre
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e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of Goods/ Works	Last selling Date and time	Closing Date and time	Opening Date and time
172323	05.01.2627.130.07.882.18	Renovation and Repairing works of E-3 Type Quarter and Top Floor False Ceiling of all E-Type of the Centre	25 April 2018 12:00 PM	25 April 2018 15:00 PM	25 April 2018 15:00 PM
190303	05.01.2672.130.07.823.18	Purchasing 05 nos 4.5 Ton and 06 nos 3 ton AC	07-May-2018 12:00 PM	07-May-2018 15:00 PM	07-May-2018 15:00 PM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://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 Bank Branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). For more details please contact to the PE's Support Desk (01719159760).


 Hasan Murtaza Masum
 Deputy Director (Service)
 BPATC, Savar, Dhaka.