



An open water body gets dangerously polluted at Chengtur Dola of Mostofi village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila due to rotting of jute. The menace continues as environment-friendly 'ribbon retting' method is yet to gain popularity among the jute farmers.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

Retain 5 pc quota for the indigenous

Speakers tell C'nawabganj rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Chapainawabganj*

Indigenous people of the district formed a human chain and held a rally yesterday, demanding retention of the five percent allocation of quota privileges for the ethnic minority peoples in government job recruitment system.

They also submitted a memorandum to the prime minister through the deputy commissioner.

Around 300 indigenous people, including females, of different areas in the district attended the human chain at Bangabandhu Mukto Mancho in the town for one hour from 10:30am.

District unit of Uttarbango Adibasi Forum organised the programme.

Speakers at the rally said indigenous people of North Bengal are poor and deprived of different privileges. If the government withdraws quota system, the indigenous people will be more deprived.

In the case of higher education, the government should also keep the five percent quota for enrolment in the public and private universities for them.

In the memorandum, they urged the prime minister to keep five percent allocation of quota privileges in government job recruitment system for indigenous people.

Uttarbango Adibasi Parishad President Hingu Murmu, General Secretary Provat Tudu, Gomostapur upazila unit President Kornelius Murmu, Adibasi Academy in Nachole upazila president Jotin Hemrom, Adibasi Mukti Morcha President Biswanath Mahato, and student leaders Hakim Murmu and Mina Murmu spoke, among others, at the rally.

Murder accused shot

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

A man, accused in a murder case, came under gun attack by criminals in Masumbazar area of the town yesterday.

Injured Jamal Sheikh, 45, of Masumbazar village, is accused in Jubo League leader Molla Masud murder case, said Officer-in-Charge of Pabna Sadar Police Station Md Obaidul Haque.

He is now undergoing treatment at Pabna Medical College Hospital, said the OC.

Jamal's brother Ratan Sheikh said his mother died due to old age complication on Tuesday and she was buried yesterday morning.

When Jamal was returning home after burying her, a group of criminals opened fire and hacked him in the area around 11:30am, said Ratan.

The fellows of late Masud might have attacked Jamal over previous enmity, the OC said, adding that they are trying to arrest the attackers.

Woman beaten by son-in-law

He also assaulted her two daughters over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Mymensingh*

A woman and her two daughters were injured when they were beaten, allegedly by her son-in-law, over land dispute in Gabbishimul village under Gouripur upazila.

The victims are Amena Khatun, 60, and her daughters Lolita Begum, 30, and Poly Akter, 17. Poly is a Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) student at Gouripur Mohila Degree College.

Quoting the victims and locals, Gouripur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Ripon Chandra Sarker said Lolita was married off with her cousin Nuru Badsha seven years ago and the couple has a four-year old girl child.

There had been a longstanding dispute over a piece of land between the two families and Nuru had been demanding the land from his in-laws, which created a feud between the couple.

Lolita was also physically assaulted on various occasions and she had been staying at her parents' house for the last one year, the OC said.

Nuru and his brothers went to the disputed land on Tuesday noon. Amena and her daughters went to the spot and both the groups locked in an altercation. At one stage, Nuru and his men punched and beat up Amena and her daughters with sticks, injuring them, the OC said.

Hearing the screams, local people rushed to the spot and took the victims to Gouripur Upazila Health Complex, where they are undergoing treatment, said the official.

Police visited the victims at the hospital. No case was lodged and none was arrested as of filing of this report.

Jhut trader hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

A jhut (garment wastage) trader was hacked to death at his home in Hijla upazila of the district early yesterday.

The victim was Sahid Molla, 42, son of Karim Molla of Sreepur village in the upazila.

ASM Maksudur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Hijla Police Station, said a gang attacked Sahid with sharp weapons when he was asleep in his room around 2:30am. He sustained serious head injuries.

Critically injured Sahid was rushed to a hospital where he died later, said the OC, quoting the victim's wife.

Later, the body was sent to Barisal Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, said the police official.

The miscreants entered the room by digging hole at the floor, he said.

Marriage after paying dowry

Disagreement over marriage of college girl solved at police station

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

The marriage between a college girl and her boyfriend was mediated by police in an arbitration on Monday in Chirirbandar where the girl's parents agreed to pay dowry.

The marriage ceremony was held at a local temple after the arbitration in Chirirbandar Police Station.

Police said banker official Joyanto Kumar Roy, son of late Pulin Chandra Roy of Surail Sahapara village in Chirirbandar upazila, had been in a relationship with a college girl, a master's student at Dinajpur Government College, for nearly eight years.

Recently, Joyanto's parents secretly fixed his marriage with another girl, daughter of Monoranjan Roy of Parbatipur upazila, on condition of giving Tk 15 lakh and gold ornament as dowry.

His family also took Tk 10 lakh and a gold chain in advance during their engagement on August 10.

After hearing about the engagement, the college girl lodged a written complaint with Chirirbandar Police Station on August 25.

Two days later, police picked up Joyanto from his rented house in Nawabganj upazila and brought him to Chirirbandar Police Station,

Officer-in-Charge Haresul Islam of the police station said, adding that they also called both the families there.

Monoranjan, who was unaware of Joyanto's previous affair, suddenly appeared at the police station and refused to marry off his daughter with Joyanto.

He also told Joyanto to return his Tk 10 and sought police help to recover the amount.

Later, arbitration was arranged at the Round House of the police station where Sub-Inspector (SI) Tajul Islam was asked to solve the dispute.

During the arbitration the parents of the college girl were asked to pay Tk 10 lakh which Joyanto took as dowry from Monoranjan and marry off their daughter with Joyanto, police said.

After an hour-long bargain, the father of the girl agreed to pay Tk 6.5 lakh as dowry. They paid Tk 40 thousand to Joyanto's family in advance and arranged the couple's marriage at a local temple the same night, Monoranjan said.

SI Tazul said police tried to reach an amicable solution to the complicated problem and later, both the families resolved the dispute among themselves.

Man gets life for rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

A court here on Tuesday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for raping a woman in 2010.

Lifer Abdul Jalil, 35, of Saliabaha village in Chatail upazila, was tried in absentia.

Khaleda Yasmin, judge of Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal in Tangail, ordered the convict to provide livelihood of the baby daughter born due to the rape.

The judge also asked the deputy commissioner to take necessary steps in this regard.

According to the prosecution, Jalil raped the 27-year-old woman of the same village on January 1 in 2010 after saying he would marry her. Jalil, however, later denied marrying the woman.

After being made pregnant due to the rape, the woman later filed a case against Jalil with the tribunal.

The victim later gave birth to a baby daughter.

Jalil later got bail in the case during the trial and went into hiding.

45 AL men sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Natore*

A court here yesterday sent 45 Awami League (AL) leaders and activists to jail after rejecting their bail prayer in connection with a case for assaulting police in Gurudaspur upazila in 2017.

Senior Judicial Magistrate Mominul Islam passed the order when the charge sheeted accused appear before the court and sought bail.

According to the case statement, two rival factions of AL locked in a clash over attending the upazila law and order meeting on May 11, 2017.

At least 10 people, including four policemen, were injured in the clash.

The following day, Sub-inspector Mohammad Saiduzzaman of Gurudaspur Police Station filed a case naming 67 people, including Gurudaspur Municipality Mayor Shahnewaz Ali Mollah and 200 others unnamed.

Forty five, out of the 65 charge sheeted accused, who secured bail from the High Court earlier, were sent to jail, Court Sub-inspector Shafiqul Islam said.

Vessels collide

2,000 passengers escape from capsized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

Double-decker launch MV Saharukh-1 with around 2000 passengers on board luckily escaped from possible capsizing in the Bishkali river of Jhalakathi.

Mohammad Jasim, a passenger of the launch, said Shaharukh-1 plying from Barguna to Dhaka via Barisal left Barguna launch ghat around 2:30pm full of passengers on Tuesday.

Launch Master Ujir Ali said when the launch was crossing Gabkhan channel through the Bishkali river around 8:00pm, a cargo-laden vessel hit the launch from opposite side and caused small crack on the launch.

Iqbal Hossain, a passenger, said they requested launch master and other staff not to run launch in such a vulnerable condition, but they did not care.

The six-inch crack was above the three-foot high from the water level, so they decided to continue plying and reached Barisal around 9:30 pm, said Ujir Ali.

After reaching Barisal River Port, the authorities concerned cancelled the trip of MV Saharukh-1 and shifted passengers to another launch, said Ajmol Huda, deputy director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA).

Abu Helal Siddiki, engineer of BIWTA, said the crack might get wider if the launch plied further. So they cancelled its trip.

Brutality on two teenagers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Patuakhali*

A section of locals brutally tortured two teenage boys, alleging theft against them at Bangla Bazar in Baufal upazila headquarter under the district on Tuesday evening.

The victims are Md Imran, 15, son of Harun-Or-Rashid of Najirpur village under Baufal upazila, and Md Reaz, 13, son of Sumon of Dashpara fire service road area in Baufal municipality area.

Theft was committed in at least 25 houses in Baufal upazila in the last couple of days since the Eid, local sources said.

On Tuesday evening, some local people caught Imran and Reaz for their alleged involvement in stealing at the house of one Mizanur Rahman in Bangla Bazar area.

They tied the hands of the two boys at a market near Bangla Bazar bridge and mercilessly beat them with sticks.

At about 10:00pm, the boys were handed over to their guardians but they did not make any comment over the matter to journalists.

Md Monirul Islam, officer in charge of Baufal Police Station, said, "I heard the matter but nobody filed a case in this regard. If a case filed, we will take step against torturers after proper investigation."



These two boys were mercilessly beaten at Bangla Bazar in Baufal upazila town under Patuakhali upon allegation of theft on Tuesday evening.

PHOTO: STAR

Long queue as ferry services

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the Eid holiday period because of the increase in the number of services passing through the junction. The pressure of vehicles on the route mounted because of the decrease in number of ferry services available, he said.

The strong current on the River Padma has also hampered the boat service, he added.

Meanwhile, more than three hundred long route buses remained stranded at Paturia ghat around 4:30 pm yesterday. On the other side of the river at Daulatdia ghat, over seven hundred vehicles including three hundred loaded trucks remained stranded, manager (commerce) of BIWTC at Daulatdia office Shafiqul Islam said.

Vehicles were stranded on both

sides for an average of four hours each at least he said. Thousands of passengers including women and children stranded on the vehicles were facing multiple problems including lack of food and toilet services.

Abdur Rahim of Kushtia, a passenger travelling with his family, said he reached at Paturia ferry terminal at around 11:00 am and has been waiting for over three hours to board a ferry. He said he did not go home for the Eid holidays to avoid this kind of sufferings at ferry ghats and was travelling today and had met with the same kind of situation he meant to avoid.

Another passenger Shahjalal Hossain of Magura said he had to wait at Paturia ferry ghat for more than four hours. Many passengers from southern districts said the government should build bridge at Paturia-Daulatdia over

the Padma River to solve this lingering problem.

Our Munshiganj correspondent adds, the Shimulia-Mawa ferry route has been disrupted for the last 19 days. Ferries here were operating normally during high tides but not during low tides. BIWTA has advised ferries to take a longer route of around 30 km as the regular Lauhajang channel remains closed for dredging.

Khandakar Shah Khaled Newaj, assistant general manager of BIWTC said, normally it takes two and half hour for a return trip from Mawa to Shimulia route. But yesterday it took over 10 hours in average to complete a return trip in Birshrestha Zahangir ferry as it had to cross the extra 30 km.

BIWTA is dredging the Lauhajang route and it will be reopened soon, he said.



Newsmen form a human chain in Pabna yesterday demanding arrest and punishment of the criminals who killed Suborna Akter Nodi, Pabna correspondent of Ananda TV, near her house in the town on Tuesday night.

PHOTO: STAR