



A large pothole developed due to subsidence of earth in the levee along Nalua haor in Jagannathpur upazila of Sunamganj. Inset, a gaping crack in Madaria levee alongside Chhayar haor in Shalla upazila. The photos were taken on Monday. PHOTO: COLLECTED



MANIKGANJ TRAWLER CAPSIZES Three missing victims found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Three people out of the five victims, who went missing in separate trawler capsizing incidents during Sunday's nor'wester, were found dead in the Padma river yesterday.

The bodies of Yaad Ali, 48, and Chan Mia, 45, of Shivalaya upazila, and Ismail Khan, 58, of Pabna's Santhia upazila, were found floating in the Padma river.

Manikganj Fire Station Deputy Assistant Director Mizanur Rahman said they were continuing searching operations to rescue the two others missing victims--Nasir Khan, 42, and Kalim Khan, 49, hailing from Pabna's Santhia upazila.

Yaad Ali and Chan Mia were fishing on the west side of Paturia Ferry Terminal and went missing when their fishing trawler sank in the river during a nor'wester on Sunday evening. Officer in Charge (OC) of Shivalaya Police Station Mizanur Rahman said.

Divers from Manikganj Fire Station conducted a rescue operation on Monday, but failed to trace the missing victims, the OC said.

They found Yaad Ali's body floating on the eastern side of Paturia Ferry Terminal while the body Chan Mia was found in Daskandi area of Harirampur upazila in the morning, he said, adding that after completing legal procedures, the bodies were handed over to their respective family members.

On the other hand, a Nawabganj bound stone-laden trawler from Pabna, with 10 workers on board, capsized in the Padma around 6:00pm the same evening. Officer in Charge of Harirampur Police Station Aminur Rahman said.

Though seven other co-workers managed to swim ashore, Ismail, Kalim and Nasir remained missing since then, he said, adding that Ismail's body was found floating near Dhulasura Bazar in Harirampur upazila around 11:00am yesterday.

Rain, hailstorms damage 30 levees

Boro on 29,000 hectares affected in Sunamganj haors

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Sunday's storm with heavy hail and rain might substantially affect harvest of Boro rice on 29,000 hectares of land in Sunamganj, while the rain already damaged different parts of at least 30 embankments around haors in the region.

Among the damaged embankments, Madaria levee built along Chhayar haor in Muktarpur area of Shalla upazila subsided at various points following incessant rain, said locals.

Farmer Sohel Mia from the area said the embankment developed cracks and potholes and parts of it subsided soon after the heavy rain -- a proof of poor work by contractors of the embankment.

It could have been washed away if the rain did not stop so soon, he added.

The crops in the haor will be harvested in a few weeks and the authorities need to repair the levees in the area urgently so no further damage is incurred, said Rabindra Das, another farmer in the area.

Contacted, Abu Baker Siddique, executive engineer of Water Development Board (WDB) in Sunamganj, said as of yesterday afternoon, WDB has confirmed report that 30 out of a total 572 levees in Sunamganj have been damaged in the recent heavy rains.

The contractors might have failed to ensure proper compaction of earth in the affected levees and WDB will compel the contractors to take all necessary measures to repair the damaged sections of the levees at the soonest, he also said.

A 450-kilometre long stretch of surface on 572 embankments along 42 haors were reconstructed or repaired ahead of this harvest season under 572 Project Implementation Committees (PICs) at a cost of Tk97.55 crore.

After detection of the damage on the levees, WDB officials were engaged to monitor and supervise the repair work of the fresh damage round the clock so the levees deliver the expected protection before the harvest of crops, the WDB official added.

Aside from paddy fields, the hailstorms also damaged various other crops including vegetable fields and flower buds on mango trees in Sunamganj. Speculating further hailstorm, many farmers were found reaping their paddy before harvest time.

Many such farmers, harvesting their crops early, are likely to incur losses due to poor yield.

Abdur Razzak, a farmer from Tanguar Haor area in Taherpur upazila, said he took a loan and leased two bighas of land to plant Boro rice. "Just one day's hailstorm ruined it all. How will I repay the loan now?" he said.

Farmer Dula Mia from the same village said the last hailstorm was the worst of its kind he has ever witnessed.

Deputy Director Bashir Ahmed Sarkar of Department of Agricultural Extension in Sunamganj said the hailstorm has affected crops on 28,900 hectares of land in haor areas where Boro has been cultivated on 2,24,000 hectares this season.

Woman, boyfriend to die for killing her son

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A Sunamganj court yesterday sentenced a woman and her boyfriend to death for killing her 11-year-old son in 2014.

The convicts are Sitara Begum, 37, wife of Saudi expatriate Rafiqul Islam, and her boyfriend Barik Mia, 35, son of Alkas Ali of Chitulia village in Jagannathpur upazila.

According to the prosecution, Sitara's husband Rafiqul has been working in Saudi Arabia for nearly 15 years. During the time Sitara fell in love with Barik.

On October 14 in 2014, Sitara's son Souibur saw her in an intimate condition with her boyfriend. Sitara and Barik then strangled Souibur and dumped the body in the septic tank of a local madrasa.

Later, a murder case was filed in this connection.

After examining witnesses and evidence, Sunamganj Additional District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Abdullah Al Mamun pronounced the verdict.

BAU teacher assaulted with knife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A professor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) during a press conference at Mymensingh Press Club on Monday alleged that he came under knife assault on the campus of Shailpacharya Zainul Abedin Fine Arts Institute in the city on Saturday.

Dr Fakir Azmal Huda is a professor of Agricultural Economics at BAU and also the president of the arts institute's governing body.

During the press conference Dr Azmal said he was attacked by Hossain Muhammad Farook, an artiste and an aggrieved jobseeker at the arts institute, and his accomplices during an altercation on the institute's campus.

Dr Azmal said he went to the campus as he was told on Saturday morning that all five rooms including two class rooms at the institute were welded shut by someone.

When he brought a welder to open up the doors, artiste Hossain Muhammad Farook and his accomplices entered the college campus forcibly and attempted to obstruct the mechanic from doing his assigned job, claimed Dr Azmal.

They locked in an altercation with him and at one stage Farook assaulted him physically, while stabbing him with a box cutter, he also said. "Students and teachers of the college rushed to the spot, rescued me and



admitted me to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital."

On information, police later arrived at the scene and arrested Farook and Sohel Parvez, one of Farook's accomplices.

A Mymensingh court the same day sent the two to jail after police produced them before it.

Farook was an applicant for the posts of lecturer and also the principal of the institute in 2017. After he was refused the posts, he had been blaming the institute authorities and causing nuisance, Dr Azmal alleged.

'Robber' killed in mob beating

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

An alleged robber was killed in a mob beating at Hazihat village in Sadar upazila on Monday night.

Before the incident, robbers hacked two villagers as they started screaming, sensing the robbery.

The deceased was Foyaz, 50, of Chaddogram in Cumilla.

Injured villagers -- Sania Begum, 38, and Md Ebrahim, 35, -- were admitted to Noakhali General Hospital.

After the villagers were hacked, villagers besieged the robber gang, said Siddikur Rahman, chairman of Dharmapur union parishad.

The angry mob caught Foyaz red-handed and gave him a good beating, leaving him dead on the spot. However, his cohorts managed to flee the scene.

Sub-Inspector Nepal Chandra of Sudharam Police Station said the body was sent to the hospital for autopsy.



Artistes belonging to indigenous community perform on the premises of Rangamati Khudro Nrigosthi Sangskritik Institute yesterday as the institute and Rangamati Hill District Council jointly organise a programme ahead of traditional Biju, Bois, Bihu, Sangrai and Bangla New Year festivals, to be celebrated in the next two weeks. PHOTO: ANVIL CHAKRA



District administration and district social welfare office organise a procession in Manikganj town as part of an awareness campaign yesterday marking World Autism Day. PHOTO: ZAHANGIR SHAH

BRAHMANBARIA UPAZILA POLLS BCL demands withdrawal of four govt officials

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Brahmanbaria unit, staged a demonstration, demanding withdrawal of four government officials, including Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Rezaul Kabir, for allegedly torturing some party activists during the fourth phase of upazila parishad elections on March 31.

Agitated BCL leaders and supporters also brought out a protest procession and held a sit-in programme in front of Brahmanbaria Press Club, before blocking the main road of the town around 11:00am.

Among others, district unit BCL President Robiul Hossain Rubel, Vice-President Sujun Dutta, General Secretary Shahadat Hossain and Sadar upazila unit BCL President Kazi Khairul Alam, spoke during the demonstration.

In his speech, BCL leader Rubel said the

authorities concerned must withdraw ASP (Sadar Circle) Rezaul, Sadar upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) Mohammad Quamruzzaman, Inspector (Investigation) of Sadar Model Police Station Ziaul Haque and Town Sub-Inspector (TSI) Abdul Motaleb for their controversial role and nepotism in the recent upazila parishad elections and working in favour of independent chairman candidate Firozur Rahman Olio.

The four officials severely tortured and assaulted a number of BCL supporters including him for gathering at different street corners, far from the polling centres, he alleged.

Dubbing them as ancestors of Tikka Khan, the BCL leader also warned the authorities concerned that if the four officials are not withdrawn within the next 24 hours, they will go for a tougher agitation and block the Dhaka-Sylhet-Chattoagram rail route for an indefinite period.

Girl takes own life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhalakathi

A schoolgirl allegedly killed herself over a love affair at Madargona village in Nalchity upazila of the district on Monday.

The deceased was Lamia Aktar, 14, daughter of Abdul Jalil of the village, and a student of Class IX of Subidpur High School in the upazila, said Shakhawat Hossain, officer in charge (OC) of Nalchity Police Station.

Lamia fell in love with a neighbouring youth but her family could not accept the relationship when she wanted to marry him, said locals.

An aggrieved Lamia took her own life by hanging herself from a tree near their house at noon.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Jhalakathi Sadar Hospital for autopsy, said the OC.