



Built five years ago, this bridge on Pukuria Beel area of Sunampur-Surikhal road beside Kawadighi Haor in Rajnagar upazila of Moulvibazar has remained useless as the authorities concerned are yet to build approach roads on both sides. PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

Man gets death for killing in-law

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A Kishoreganj court yesterday sentenced a farmer to death for killing his sister-in-law in 2015 over land dispute. The convict is Azharul Islam alias Milon, 44, son of late Sayem Uddin of village Madhyapara in Pakundia upazila of Kishoreganj. The court also fined the man Tk 5 lakh. Additional District and Sessions Judge Md Abdur Rahim delivered the verdict, said Taufiqul Islam, court inspector of Kishoreganj. According to the case statement, there had been a longstanding dispute over land and other family affairs between Azharul and his brother Babul Mia alias Bablu Mia. In the morning of June 15 in 2015, Azharul locked in an altercation with his sister-in-law Taslima Akter, 26, while she was alone in her house. At one stage, he critically injured Taslima, mother of three children, by stabbing her indiscriminately with a kitchen knife. The same day, she was first taken to Pakundia Upazila Health Complex, then to National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation in Dhaka, where the doctors pronounced her dead. Taslima's brother Mohammad Shahabuddin filed a case with Pakundia Police Station that day, accusing her brother-in-law Azharul. Sub-inspector Sheikh Ziaur Rabbi of the police station submitted charge sheet the same year, accusing Azharul.

53 crude bombs seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) recovered 53 crude bombs from bordering Jhaonia village in Sadar upazila of the district on Sunday evening. However, none was arrested in this connection, said Lt Col Sajjad Sarwar, commanding officer (CO) of BGB 53 Battalion. Tipped off, the border guards conducted raid at the village around 6:00pm, he said. After searching the house of one Jahirul Islam, the BGB men seized the cocktails kept in the bags of cement, said CO Sajjad. Sensing the presence of the BGB members, Johirul and his family members managed to flee the scene, said the BGB official.

Old man's life taken over Tk 40!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

An elderly man was beaten to death, allegedly by his neighbour, over only Tk 40 that the neighbour had borrowed from him a few months back. The incident took place yesterday around 12:30pm in Kawargola village in Kamalganj upazila. The deceased is Mohammad Shahidullah, 65, of the same village. Arifur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Kamalganj Police Station, said yesterday around 11:30am, Shahidullah paid a visit to his neighbour Karim Mia, 45, son of Jamir Uddin, and asked him to pay back the Tk 40 that Karim had borrowed from him to buy bamboo. When Karim refused to repay, Shahidullah and Karim locked in an altercation. At one stage Karim's cousin Amir Uddin arrived at the scene and both of them severely beat up the old man, added the OC. Shahidullah died after he was admitted to Kamalganj Upazila Health Complex with critical injuries, said Dr Azizur Rahman, resident medical officer of the hospital. Both Karim and Amir went into hiding after the incident, OC Arifur said.

Woman stabbed during rape attempt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A 20-year-old housewife is undergoing treatment at Nandail Upazila Health Complex after she was stabbed while resisting rape by criminals in Nandail upazila on Sunday. Kamrul Islam Miah, officer-in-charge (OC) of Nandail Police Station, said quoting the woman that she came to visit her parents on Tuesday for Eid. On Sunday afternoon, while plucking fruits near their house, Ridoy Mia, 19, son of Hiru Mia; and Abdul Kaium, 20, son of Fazur Mia -- both from the same village and known for peddling drugs -- forcibly took her to a nearby jute field brandishing a knife and made attempt to rape her. As she resisted and screamed out for help, Ridoy stabbed the woman three times in both her hands. Locals soon came rushing and took her to the hospital, the OC quoted her as saying. Police took her statement at the hospital and they were conducting raids to arrest the assailants, added the OC. Her father filed a case with the police station accusing Ridoy and Kaium the same night.

RANGABALI UPAZILA

10 govt offices run with acting officers for years

Services badly suffer as they serve in addition to their regular service at a neighbouring upazila

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

Services in ten government offices at newly formed Rangabali upazila are greatly hampered due to acute shortage of manpower. Officials of nearby upazilas work here on additional duty and they come here a day or twice in a month, said locals. Due to this, around 2 lakh people in the upazila are being deprived of government services, said Md Saiduzzaman, chairman of Rangabali Union Parishad. The offices are upazila Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), upazila health and family planning office, upazila project implementation office, upazila livestock office, upazila women affairs office, upazila social welfare office, upazila cooperative office, upazila family planning office, Ansar-VDP (Village Defense Party) office and upazila youth development office. With five unions, Rangabali upazila covering 470 square kilometres comprises coastal islands in the Bay, isolated from the mainland. On February 25 in 2012, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina formally inaugurated the activities of the upazila parishad. Later, a five-storied building, equipped with modern facilities, was built there to accommodate 17 government offices. There are regular officers at seven of the offices while the rest are being run by acting officers from nearby Galachipa and Kalapara upazilas.



Rangabali Upazila Parishad Complex building in Patuakhali. PHOTO: STAR

Galachipa LGED Engineer Md Atikur Rahman is working in Rangabali on additional duty and so, he cannot attend regularly. Like him, all acting officers have to face various problems to cross the mighty Agunmukha river to reach the upazila as

it is isolated from the mainland and it is difficult to get water transport for going there, said Md Delwar Hossain, chairman of Rangabali upazila, adding that a few engine-run trawlers are the only means to cross the river. Often the employees have to go to

Galachipa upazila headquarters to take signatures of the officers concerned, said Delwar. Rangabali Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Mashfaur Rahman said he has already written to the higher authorities about the matter but to no response yet.



A scene of illegal earth cutting on the Bangshai river in Mirzapur upazila of Tangail. PHOTO: STAR

Trader fined for illegal earth extraction from river bank

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A mobile court on Sunday fined a trader for illegal earth extraction on the bank of the Bangshai river in Mirzapur upazila of Tangail. Originating from the Old Brahmaputra river in Jamalpur, the Bangshai flows through several upazilas in Tangail and falls into the Dhaleswari river in Dhaka. Earth trader Alamgir Mridha of Gorail village under Bhatgram union of Mirzapur continued extracting earth illegally on the river bank with excavators for sale, posing threat of serious erosion in the area. Being informed by locals, Executive Magistrate Md

Mainul Haque, also assistant commissioner (Land) in Mirzapur, conducted a mobile court drive in the area and caught Alamgir red-handed while the latter was lifting earth from the river bank. "The earth trader (Alamgir) was fined Tk 50,000 for defying the Balu Mohal O Mati Byabosthapon Ain, 2010 (Sand Fields and Soil Management Act, 2010)," the magistrate told this correspondent yesterday. The earth trader was also warned of tougher punishment if he tries to commit the same crime again, he said. Drives will continue to prevent illegal sand lifting on the river, added the magistrate.

Woman rescued from trafficker

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) rescued a woman from a human trafficker in Mathbaria of Pirojpur on Sunday and arrested a man in this connection. The arrestee is scrap item trader Liton Khalifa, 35, son of Salam Khalifa of Morelganj upazila in Bagerhat. Liton along with his three sisters and their husbands have been residing in India for illegally long, said Major Khan Sajibul Islam, deputy commander of Rab-8 office in Barishal city. Liton often entered Bangladesh through the border illegally and trafficked Bangladeshi men and women to India alluring them of giving good job there. The woman, hailing from Patharghata in Barguna, became acquainted with Liton through cell phone conversation. On Saturday, Liton entered Bangladesh and asked the woman to reach Mathbaria for going to India the following day. Tipped off, a Rab team raided the area and rescued the woman and arrested Liton. During interrogation, Liton confessed to his involvement with human trafficking in disguise of scrap trade, said the Rab official.

3 held for 'stealing' cell tower battery

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Three people were arrested on charge of stealing a mobile phone tower battery in Brahmanbaria's Akhaura upazila on Sunday night. Police also seized a pickup van and some tools from their possession. The arrestees are Rubel Mia, 28, Mobarak Mia, 22, and Saddam Hossain, 30, of Kishoreganj. They are all the employees of a third-party mobile tower maintenance company named Metal Plus, said Tarek Hossain, assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of Dharkhar Police Outpost. Monirul Islam Bhuiyan, security guard of Grameenphone tower at Ranikhar village, caught the trio red-handed, said the ASI. The three entered the control room of the mobile phone tower around 9:45pm and tried to confine Monirul to a room when he resisted. Hearing screams, villagers rushed to the spot and caught the alleged thieves. On information, police went to the spot and detained the three. The law enforcers also recovered the battery from their possession, said the police official. Earlier in April this year, a battery of the tower was stolen, said the security guard. On information, Shahidul Islam, in-charge of Metal Plus, visited the spot. Tahmid Hossain, regional manager (Kishoreganj-Brahmanbaria) of Grameenphone, said legal action will be taken in this regard.



Teachers and students accompanied by locals form a human chain near Parerhat bus stand in Indurkani upazila of Pirojpur yesterday demanding punishment of the criminals who killed schoolboy Salahuddin, 13, after kidnapping him for ransom on June 1. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN