



A scene of erosion by the Manu river at railway bridge point in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar. Right, workers of Water Development Board put sandbags to protect a road at Koterbuna in Kulaura upazila yesterday.



PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

Tangail lawyers demand arrest, punishment of fellow's killers

Police recovered advocate Reza's decomposed body from the Louhajang river on Saturday

OUR CORRESPONDENT, TANGAIL

Lawyers in Tangail formed a human chain in front of the Bar Association building in the town yesterday, demanding immediate arrest and capital punishment of those who killed fellow lawyer Miah Mohammad Hasan Ali Reza.

Several hundred lawyers of the district took part in the human chain and held a rally there.

Among others, Tangail Bar Association President Rafiqul Islam Alo, its General Secretary Maidul Islam Shishir, Public Prosecutor (PP) Akbar Khan, Government Prosecutor (GP) Ananda Mohan Arjaya and senior lawyers Mir Shamsul Alam and Arfan Ali, spoke at the rally.

Earlier on July 8, Freedom Fighter Advocate Reza, 76, also a central committee member of Krishak Sramik Janata League, went out of his Sabalia residence and remained missing since then.

A roadside close circuit (CC) camera footage shows Reza was getting on a motorbike of a youth wearing helmet and raincoat.

The following day, Reza's younger son Mahmudul Hasan Litu lodged a general diary (GD) with Sadar Police Station and later filed an abduction case with the same police station on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, police recovered Reza's decomposed body from the Louhajang river in the town on Saturday noon and sent it to Tangail General Hospital for autopsy.

After holding his namaz-e-janaza in the Court Mosque premises yesterday morning Reza body was buried with state honour at his family graveyard at Baichail village in Chatail upazila.

Krishak Sramik Janata League President Abdul Kader Siddiqui Bir Uttam and Tangail Municipality Mayor Jamilur Rahman Miron attended the namaz-e-janaza.

BREACHES IN MANU, DHALAI EMBANKMENTS

Overflowing rivers trigger flooding in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Breaches developed at three spots of the flood control embankment on the Manu river in Kulaura upazila of Moulvibazar amid continuous downpour and onrush of water from the hills during the last couple of days, threatening vast areas of croplands and dwellings in several villages.

Besides, a 20-foot area of an embankment on the overflowing Dhalai

river collapsed on Saturday, causing inundation of Rampasha village in Kamalganj upazila. Over 5,000 residents got stranded due to the flooding.

The Monu and the Dhalai rivers were flowing 42cm and 8cm over the danger level yesterday afternoon, said sources at Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB).

Ten shops of Kaukapon market beside the embankment on the Manu in Kulaura

upazila went into the riverbed in last week.

Around 40 shops at the market went under water in last year.

Building of makeshift shops adjacent to the embankment has affected the structure and it breached due to the pressure of water, said officials of BWDB.

Abdul Basit Bachchu, chairman of Hazipur union parishad in Kulaura, said urgent steps are needed to save vast tracts of croplands and dwelling houses in

several villages of the area.

Ranendra Shankar Chakrabarty, executive engineer of BWDB in Moulvibazar, said they have marked 67 points in Sadar, Kulaura and Rajnagar upazilas, which are at risk due to erosion by the river.

A Tk 1,000 crore development project will soon be proposed to build permanent boundaries along the river embankments to check flooding in the rainy season, he said.

Ershad to be buried tomorrow

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shock and sorrow at the death of Ershad.

In a separate message, the prime minister recalled the JP chairman's constructive role as the opposition leader in parliament, reports UNB.

They both expressed deep sympathy to the bereaved family members of Ershad and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir also expressed shock at the demise of the senior politician and prayed for eternal peace of the soul.

After suffering from various health complications for the last couple of months, the former military ruler breathed his last at 7:45am yesterday at CMH in Dhaka. He was 89.

Parliament's Deputy Speaker Fazle Rabbi Miah, Chief Whip Noor-E-Alam Chowdhury as well as Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Huq, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, Agriculture Minister Abdur Razzaque, Information Minister Hasan Mahmud, Law Minister Anisul Huq, Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, Foreign Affairs Minister Abdul Momen, Planning Minister MA Mannan,

Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar, Textiles and Jute Minister Golam Dastagir Gazi, Commerce Minister Tipu Munshi, Environment Minister Shahab Uddin and Railway Minister Nurul Islam Sujon mourned his death.

Among others, Krishak Sramik Janata League President Abdul Kader Siddique, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Jasad) President Hasanul Haq Inu, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President ASM Abdur Rob, Zaker Party and Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB), also expressed condolences.

Almost all the top leaders of JP, including its acting chairman and Ershad's brother GM Quader, secretary general Moshir Rahman Ranga, Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Atiqul Islam and Workers' President Party Rashed Khan Menon, top army officials as well as activists of different levels and people from all strata joined the first namaz-e-janaza of Ershad that held yes-terday.

At a press conference at the city's Central Road's party office, local leaders of JP in Rangpur urged the party top leaders to bury Ershad at his hometown Rangpur instead of the capital.

Manikganj turkey farmer has eyes on French market

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

After years of success in farming turkey in a foreign land, the Philippines, an expatriate Bangladeshi has set up a farm at his village home in Manikganj with an aim to export the poultry to markets in France.

With that goal in mind, Mohammed Abul Kalam Azad imported 500 special breed of turkey chicks, Converter Commercial Hybrid, from France in 2017 and started to rear the birds at his farm in Baliakhora village of Ghior upazila.

In April this year, Azad imported a new batch of the same breed and has been raising the chicks in his farm named Brothers Turkey Valley and Medicine. He hopes that each bird, weighing nine kg now, will grow up to 35 kg and be ready for export to France by October this year.

Asked why he was targeting particularly France for the export of the poultry, the masters degree holder in physics from Dhaka University said turkey meat is high in demand in the country as it is considered highly nutritional for its high protein, no cholesterol and low-fat count.

Due to the good demand, it will be profitable to sell the meat in French markets where each kg is sold at around 9 euro per kg, Azad said, adding that turkey farming for local markets can also be profitable as the meat currently sells here for Tk 300 to Tk 350 a kg.



Azad in his turkey farm at Baliakhora village in Ghior upazila of Manikganj.

PHOTO: STAR

While working as a manager at a buying house in the Philippines in 2000.

Azad was inspired to rear turkey after he visited several successful turkey farms in the neighbourhood there.

That year, he started out with 21 birds and found success the next year when he set up a fully-fledged farm where he started rearing the Converter Commercial Hybrid turkey chicks that he imported from France.

The farm soon started exporting

the poultry and in recognition of the achievement, it received awards and accolades each year, said Azad.

He also said till date he was the sole importer of turkey in Bangladesh and he hoped to contribute to the country's economy in future by earning foreign currency through the export of turkey meat.

Dr Mahbulul Islam Tuku, livestock officer in Manikganj, said turkey meat is safe for human consumption and number of turkey farms are on the rise in the district.

Two labourers electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Two labourers died from electrocution in Sernalpara area of Sherpur upazila on Saturday.

The deceased were identified as Rabiul Islam, 30, son of Chandu Sarkar of Ashrampara village, and Shah Alam, 28, son of Abdus Salam of Chawkpota village in the upazila.

Quoting local people, Officer in Charge (OC) Sherpur Police Station Humayan Kabir said pipe fitters Rabiul and Shah Alam were lifting pipes in building owned by one Imrul Islam in Sernalpara area under Sherpur municipality on Saturday.

The duo came in contact with a live electric wire, hanging from a nearby electric poll, while they were lifting pipes from the ground floor of the building around 3:00pm.

Locals rescued them and took them to Sherpur Upazila Health Complex where the doctors declared Rabiul dead while Shah Alam died on his way to Bogura Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital, the OC said.

Sketch that said it all

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possession of Rabindra Gope. We went to his house on Bailey Road and collected the sketch."

Mohon said the sketch was printed at Bikalpa Printing Press on that night with five reams of paper and the copies were distributed the very next day. Another

10,000 copies were printed after that.

"That sketch was the last of Qamrul Hassan and it's history. It fuelled the anti-Ershad movement," he said.

"I gave my poem khata to guru and requested to him draw something. He then drew the sketch," Gope told The Daily Star.

LAND DISPUTE

Attackers break woman's leg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Opponents of a land dispute attacked a woman and broke both her legs in Charani Pattashi village of Indurkani upazila on Friday.

Selina Begum, 37, wife of Jahidul Islam of the same village, is now undergoing treatment at Pirojpur Sadar Hospital.

Lying in the hospital bed, Selina said while going home with her husband after sowing aman seeds on the two-bigha land in the morning, 12 to 14 of their opponents led by Abdur Rashid swooped on them and started beating them up.

They dragged her in a house, broke her legs with iron rods and confined her in the house.

Police later rescued her from the house after her husband managed to escape at one stage and report the incident to Indurkani Police Station, she said, adding that her attackers fled the house when police arrived.



Workers, employed by the Roads and Highways Department in Tangail, are seen repairing the busy road in Elenga Bus Stand area in Tangail's Kalihati upazila yesterday. The important spot on Dhaka-Tangail highway has been badly damaged due to heavy rain in the last three days.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

NUSRAT MURDER CASE

2 more witnesses give testimony to court

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Two more witnesses in the case for murder of madrasa girl Nusrat Jahan Rafi gave their testimonies to Feni Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal yesterday.

Nusrat, a student of Sonagazi Islamia Senior Fazil Madrasa, set afire on the rooftop of an Alim examination centre on April 6, succumbed to her injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on April 10.

She was set afire allegedly for not withdrawing the case of sexual harassment against her madrasa principal.

"After Siraj-ud-Dowla, principal of the madrasa, was sent to jail following the sexual harassment case, his followers forced the madrasa students to bring out a procession demanding his release," said Sheikh Abdul Halim alias Sheikh Mamun, former managing committee member of the madrasa, told the tribunal of Judge Mamunur Rashid.

"During that time I saw Nuruddin and Shahadat Hossain Shamim and their men with sticks," said Halim, also a councillor of Sonagazi municipality.

In his testimony, Abu Yousuf, an office assistant of the madrasa, said, "Around 9:00am on April 6, I went out to buy breakfast for the examination hall superintendent. That time I heard that there was a fire at the madrasa. When I came back, Nusrat was rushed to hospital from the madrasa."

"After that the office clerk of the madrasa asked me to lock the rooftop. Later I accompanied police to the rooftop and saw polythene with kerosene, burnt parts of clothes usually worn by girls, one pair of navy blue shoes, 10 burnt sticks of match and a mattress," he said.

Police Investigation Bureau submitted charge sheet against 16 people including the madrasa principal in the case.