

6 missing as boat capsizes in Jamuna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Six people went missing after a boat with 30 passengers on board capsized in the Jamuna river in Dewanganj upazila on Wednesday night.

Divers from nearby fire station with the help of locals rescued 24 people from different spot till yesterday afternoon while the rest six remained missing as of 3:00pm yesterday.

The accident occurred about three kilometres from Futanibazar Ghat when 30 flood affected victims of Charhalka Habrabari and Tinerchar villages were returning their respective homes by a boat after receiving VGF rice from Chukaibari union parishad (UP) premises around 8:45pm.

Of the victims, 24 were rescued alive from the river, Officer in Charge of Dewanganj Police Station Mainul Hossain said.

The six missing victims are Mannan, 65, son of late Shawkat Ali, Shaheed Shikdar, 44, son of late Dirbar Shikdar, Kanchanmala, 45, wife of Fazal Haque, Rezia Khatun, 40, wife of late Mazibar, Dulal, 30, son of Taiyab Ali, and Akon Begum, 65, wife of Sakamol. They all hail from Charhalka Habrabari village, the OC quoted Chukaibari UP Chairman Salim Miah as saying.

Missing man found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A man was found dead in Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat yesterday, a day after he went missing on Wednesday.

The deceased, Asaduzzaman, 34, son of Kazi Mohammad Ali, was a resident of Madarganj village in Sadar upazila.

Deceased's family members yesterday informed police after Asaduzzaman went out of his house on Wednesday afternoon and remained missing since then.

Locals of Khasbaguni village spotted Asaduzzaman's body at an orchard in Panchbibi upazila yesterday and informed the police, who recovered the body and sent it to Joypurhat Modern Hospital for autopsy.

Criminals might have killed the victim somewhere else and dumped the body there, police said.



Menpoy Mro among indigenous kids receiving lessons in their mother language at his Cramadi Para house in Bandarban Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: SANJOY KUMAR BARUA

INT'L DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TODAY

Mother tongue-based lessons help Mro kids to learn with ease

'Self-educated' farmer Menpoy makes the arrangement for free in remote Bandarban

SANJOY KUMAR BARUA, Bandarban

Menpoy Mro has continued imparting mother language-based lessons to Mro children for free at remote Cramadi Para in Bandarban Sadar upazila for the last five years.

The benevolent work bears a special significance as this year's International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples today is dedicated to their languages in view of the United Nations' declaration of 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages.

"I feel happy when I see these children are learning their school lessons through their mother tongue very easily," said Menpoy, 48, a farmer by profession and also a 'self-educated' man.

"I dream of a day when no children

of our community will be deprived of schooling due to language problem. If the government arrange Mro mother tongue-based multi-lingual education in remote hill schools these children," he added.

"I read books in my mother language with joy but in our school only Bangla is used, which I don't understand well," said Tonpaw Mro, a Class II student of a local NGO-run school at Cramadi Para.

"I come here daily as I really enjoy classes in mother tongue," said Csong Row Mro.

On Tuesday evening, Tonpaw and Csong along with 33 other Mro children were found learning in their mother tongue at Menpoy's Cramadi Para house.

They were chanting different letters, rhymes, and even the national anthem in their own language, a different scene in

the remote hill area.

There are around 65,000 Mro people in Bandarban, said Sing Young Mro, a writer of Mro community in Bandarban.

Every year many students belonging to ethnic communities including Mro drop out at the primary level mainly due to language barrier, said Sing Young.

Tong Lok Mro, a Class V student of Mro Residential School, said, "We want to study in our own language and ask questions with ease to learn properly."

"We have already distributed around 10,000 books in Chakma, Marma and Kokborok (Tripura) languages for pre-primary, Class I and Class II students of Bandarban but we have very few skilled teachers to teach them properly," said Tabibur Rahman, the district's primary education officer.

The government initiative should also include arrangement of lessons in other ethnic languages in the district, including Lusai, Khumi, Pangkua, Kyang and Chak, which are facing the threat of extinction," said Lelung Khumi, a development worker in the district.

It is estimated that, every two weeks, a language belonging to indigenous people disappears from the world, placing at risk the respective cultures and knowledge systems.

Against the backdrop, the goal of this year's International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is to draw attention to the critical loss of indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalize and promote them at both national and international levels.

THEFT OF VGF RICE

Kalapara UNO hands over UP chairman, another to police

Mobile court seizes 60 tonnes of rice from rice mill in Habiganj town

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Kalapara in Patuakhali on Wednesday handed over a union parishad (UP) chairman and his accomplice to police after recovering 550 kg stolen rice meant to be distributed among the ultra-poor.

Police later showed the two arrested in a case filed by project implementation officer (PIO) of the upazila, our Patuakhali correspondent reports.

The arrestees are Humayun Kabir Keramat, chairman of Chakamoia UP; and Jalal Hossain Chakor.

Kalapara UNO Munibir Rahman said after receiving complaints that rice for distribution under the government's vulnerable group feeding (VGF) was being misused by the UP chairman, he conducted a raid in the union.

His inspection team found 550 kg of VGF rice, in 18 bags, stashed in Jalal's house near Chakamoia Government

Primary School. Searching near a pond in his house, they also recovered eight rice bags that had been emptied in the pond.

Tapon Kumar Ghosh, PIO of the upazila, said the UP chairman was allotted 69,210 kg (69.21 tons) of VGF rice for distribution ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

The UNO led the team in the area on Wednesday when locals raised allegation of irregularities during distribution of the rice at the school.

Following the discovery of the stolen rice, the UNO handed over UP Chairman Humayun and Jalal to police, the PIO said, adding that they filed a case in the evening with Kalapara Police Station, accusing Humayun, Jalal and three others - UP member Zakir Hossain Gazi, Jamal Hawlader and Gias Matubbar.

Asadur Rahman, officer-in-charge of the police station, said they were conducting raids to arrest the others. Meanwhile, a mobile court

seized over 60 tonnes of VGF rice in Gorurbazar area in Habiganj town on Wednesday night, reports our Moulvibazar correspondent.

Executive Magistrate Yasin Arafat Rana, who led the mobile court, said on information, they raided Surma Auto Rice and Flower Mill in Gorurbazar area around 11:00pm and seized 31.5 tonnes of rice in 1,050 bags and about 3 tonnes of unpacked rice in its warehouse.

Another 25.8 tonnes of rice, in 860 bags, were found on a truck in the mill compound.

Necessary action would be taken against the miller if any wrongdoing is proven during investigation, he added.

The seized rice was handed over to Habiganj Sadar police, said Masuk Ali, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Under the VGF programme of the government, each recipient would receive 15 kg rice before Eid-ul-Azha.



Members of Girl Guides and Boy Scouts from local schools assist passengers board a launch at Shimulia launch dock in Louhajang of Munshiganj yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

LAND DISPUTE

Man killed by younger brother

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A man was killed by his younger brother allegedly over a land related dispute at Devidaspur village in Manirampur upazila of Jashore yesterday.

The deceased, Maqbul Ghazi, 37, was son of Mokhed Gazi of the village.

Deceased's mother Nasiron Begum said there had been a longstanding dispute between her two sons Maqbul and Mofizar Gazi over a piece of land.

The incident occurred when Mofizar swooped on his elder brother Maqbul with a sharp weapon while the latter was sitting in front of his fertilizer shop yesterday noon and stabbed him indiscriminately, leaving him severely injured.

Neighbours rescued injured Maqbul and took him to Manirampur Upazila Health Complex where the doctors declared him dead.

Dr Anuram Kumar Basu of the health complex said Maqbul died long before he was taken to the hospital.

Additional Superintendent of Police (Manirampur Circle) Rakib Hossain said police recovered the body and sent it to Jashore General Hospital for autopsy.

They were conducting drives to arrest Mofizar, he said, adding that a case was filed with Manirampur Police Station in this regard.

Woman killed under train

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

An unidentified woman was killed after she was hit by a train in Hakimpur upazila of Joypurhat yesterday morning.

The incident took place around 11:00am in Dangapara village of the upazila.

Locals said the woman went under Nilphamari-bound Titumir Express while crossing the rail tracks in the area.

Confirming the incident, Shah Alam, sub-inspector of railway police in Hakimpur, said they recovered the body and sent it to M Abdur Rahim Medical College Hospital in Dinajpur for autopsy.



Yesterday afternoon's heavy downpour caught prospective buyers and attendants of sacrificial animals off guard at a market arranged in the open in Karatia of Tangail Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

SUNDAY'S CLASH IN JHENIDAH

Panicked villagers flee area

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Hundreds of people of Paikpara village under Manoharpur union in Shaillkupa upazila of Jhenidah have left the area with their belongings fearing attack by rivals following Sunday's clash that left 50 people including 10 women injured and about 20 houses vandalized.

During a visit to the village, this correspondent saw a large number of policemen deployed there to evade further untoward incident while many people were seen leaving with their cattle, paddy, onion, garlic, jute and other things on three-wheelers and rickshaw-vans.

The fleeing people said they do not feel safe after the clash between two factions of local Awami League, one led by union parishad member Israil Hossain and the

other led by Motiar Rahman at the village.

The villagers fear that another clash might occur if seriously injured Pachiran Nesa who has been referred to Kushtia Medical College Hospital loses her battle for life.

Fearing attack and looting, some people are selling their cattle and household things for low prices.

"We are leaving the village as a bloody clash might occur again. Around 100 families have already left the village and taken shelter at relatives' houses elsewhere," said an elderly man, seeking anonymity.

Shaillkupa Police Station OC Bazlur Rahman said, "A large number of policemen have been deployed in the village and we assured the locals of adequate safety measures. Still some people are spreading rumour to create panic and fulfil their desire