



MURDER OF SUNAMGANJ FISHERMAN

Family fears unfair probe

Alleges MP, his brothers involved; lawmaker denies

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

The family of Shyamacharan Barman, a fisherman brutally murdered in Sunamganj's Dharmapasha upazila last month, fear they will not get justice as they say a local lawmaker is influencing the case.

On January 7, Shyamacharan, 65, was killed by a group of attackers allegedly in a dispute over fishing in a local waterbody and his family members allege local lawmaker Sunamganj-1 MP Mouazzam Hossain Ratan and his three brothers were behind this.

But police did not accept the case which named Ratan and his three brothers the following day. Later, on January 10, Sub-inspector Ariful Islam filed a case with the station accusing 60 to 65 unnamed persons over Shyamacharan's murder.

On January 14, Shyamacharan's son Chandan Barman went to Dharmapasha Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court to file a case accusing 63 persons, including the MP and his brothers. However, the court put this on hold as a police case had already been filed earlier.

The court said a decision on whether or not the case will be accepted will be made once the police submit its probe report.

A dispute had been ongoing in the area over Monai or Sunoi Jolmohal, as the local waterbody is called, which is part of a river in Dharmapasha upazila.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Boats, carrying sand and other goods, queuing up in Sarighat area on the Sari river in Sylhet. Sailors and workers of the boats allege that the tailback occurs due to lack of navigability. They urged the authorities to look into the matter.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Myanmar 'explains' reasons for coup

Writes to ambassador in Naypyidaw

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Myanmar's new government has written to Bangladesh, explaining why the military has taken power, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said yesterday.

"Myanmar government has written a letter to our ambassador in Naypyidaw. There, they explained why they took power.

"They said 10.4 million fake votes were cast in the November elections and that they have a responsibility to have a fair election," he told reporters after an event at the Army Stadium yesterday.

From Bangladesh side, there was, however, no communication with Myanmar where the military took control of the country on February 1 through a coup and detention of de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi and her political colleagues of the National

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

LIBERATION WAR HEROES

Bangladesh honours 2 journos in Kolkata

Dhaka, Delhi relations 'a unique model', says Shringla

STAR REPORT

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday unveiled a memorial plaque in Kolkata for West Bengal journalists Dipak Bandopadhyay and Surajit Ghoshal who sacrificed their lives during Bangladesh's Liberation War.

The minister, now visiting Kolkata, unveiled the plaque on the premises of Kolkata Press Club before going to Brigade Parade Ground associated with the memories of Bangabandhu, reports BSS citing a release in Dhaka.

Addressing the event, Hasan said though the countries are divided, the minds of the people of Bangladesh and India could not be divided.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

World's tiniest reptile found in Madagascar



AFP, Paris

Scientists have identified Earth's smallest known reptile, warning at the same time that sustained destruction of forests in northern Madagascar threatens its survival.

Tiny enough to perch comfortably on a fingertip, the ultra-compact chameleon -- dubbed Brookesia nana -- has the same proportions and world-weary expression as its larger cousins around the world.

"We discovered it in the mountains of northern of Madagascar," Frank Glaw, curator of herpetology at the Bavarian State Collection of Zoology, told AFP in an interview.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Tigers seven scalps away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT from Ctg

Bangladesh need seven more wickets on the fifth and final day to win the first Test against the West Indies, who will resume at a precarious 110 for three at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram today.

West Indies require another 285 runs, with Kyle Mayers on 37 and Nkrumah Bonner on 15 set to resume the innings.

Mehedi Hasan Miraz dismissed the Windies top three before Mayers and Bonner added 51 runs for the fourth wicket, but the pitch is expected offer more assistance to spinners on the final day.

After striking a century in the first innings and bagging a total of seven wickets in the match so far, Miraz needs three more wickets to become the third Bangladeshi after Shakib Al Hasan and Sohag Gazi to score a century and scalp 10 wickets in a Test match.

Earlier, Bangladesh had

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

COVID VACCINATION

130 countries still to start

Says WHO chief; Spain limits use of AstraZeneca vaccine to people under 55; China approves Sinovac for public use

AFP, Geneva

The World Health Organization has called on vaccine makers to dramatically boost production, as US president Joe Biden warned the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic was pushing the United States towards "breaking point".

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters that while the number of Covid-19 vaccines administered (115 million) had now overtaken the number of infections worldwide (104 million), more than three-quarters of the jabs had been handed out in just 10 wealthy countries. "Almost 130 countries, with 2.5 billion people, are yet to administer a single dose", Tedros complained on Friday.

"Unless we suppress the virus everywhere, we could end up back at square one," the WHO chief said, calling on vaccine manufacturers to implement "a massive scale-up in production."

At the same time, Biden said he had to "act fast" to push a huge new economic relief package through Congress, because many Americans were near "breaking point."

The US, the world's biggest economy, is the country that has been hardest hit by the pandemic so far.

Out of the nearly 2.3 million people who have died from Covid-19 worldwide since the outbreak emerged in China in December 2019, the US has recorded more than 450,000 deaths.

"I see enormous pain in this country, a lot of folks out of work, a lot of folks going hungry," Biden said in a White House speech.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Health secy's village home attacked

Assistant commissioner injured; MP's men blamed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A group of people allegedly attacked the assistant commissioner (land) when they surrounded the village home of Health Secretary Abdul Mannan at Chandpur village in Katiadi upazila of Kishoreganj yesterday afternoon.

The assistant commissioner (land) of Katiadi Ashraful Alam was injured and treated at a local hospital. During the incident, the health secretary was at home but was unhurt.

Officer-in-charge of Katiadi Police Station (Investigation) Md Shafiqul Islam said there was an incident of altercation and chase but no attack was done. Additional DIG Jihadul Kabir reached the spot from Dhaka this afternoon to investigate the allegations, said the OC.

Family members of the health secretary alleged the attack came following a feud with a local lawmaker and his men over the construction of a community clinic at Chandpur village.

Family members of the health secretary had donated a piece of land where a

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Bangladesh preparing to sue Al Jazeera

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said Bangladesh was working to sue Al Jazeera channel over airing the report "All the Prime Minister's Men" with inaccurate information.

"We will point out that the information [in the report] was wrong and we will sue. We are working on it," he said.

The minister also said Bangladesh would investigate allegations raised in the report if those were found to be credible.

Momen was talking to reporters after attending an event titled "Exim Bank in

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



The city dwellers washing their hands at a mobile booth in the capital's Farmgate area. Masks and repeated hand washes are important to stave off coronavirus infections as majority of the population in the country is yet to get vaccine for Covid-19. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Tragedy during family dinner

Father, daughter killed as truck ploughs into their home

STAR REPORT

A father and his daughter were crushed to death by a truck after it ploughed into their roadside house in Pabna on Friday night.

In Patuakhali, a tourist was killed in a road accident at Lebukhali ferry terminal of Dumki upazila the same night.

The victims in Pabna -- Shah Babu, 38, and his daughter Bristi Khatun, 12 -- were from Vitepara area of Santhia upazila.

Babu, along with his family members, was having dinner at his home around 10:00pm when the cement-laden truck crashed into the tin-shed home and ran over the duo. His wife and son luckily escaped unhurt, said family members.

Babu's wife Laki Khatun said, "My husband and daughter died in front of us, we could not save them. My son Sagor and I narrowly escaped death."

Police said the truck from Pabna's Nagarbari port was heading for Sirajganj's Baghabari. When the vehicle reached Vitepara area, the driver lost control and it ploughed into the roadside house.

Firefighters and police later recovered the two bodies, said Md Asaduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Santhia Police Station.

The OC said they seized the truck, but its driver and his helper managed to flee.

A case was filed in connection with the accident.

In Patuakhali, 17-year-old Riad Mollah was killed after being run over by a bus at Lebukhali ferry terminal on Friday night.

The victim was from Jhikhati area of Madaripur town.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 7

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
5:30	12:45	4:15	5:52	7:15
AZAN	6:05	1:15	4:30	5:56
JAMAT	6:05	1:15	4:30	5:56

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION