

3 dead, 2 missing in Barishal trawler capsizes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

Three people died and two others remained missing as a trawler capsized in the Arial Khan river in Barishal yesterday.

Two of the deceased were identified as Jahid and Abdul Quddus, said naval police station officials in Barishal Sadar.

The incident took place in the early hours when the trawler – ferrying 45 devotees – was heading towards the Charmonai mahfil in Barishal from Sirajganj, he said.

The trawler sank after colliding with a launch in the river, said officials and locals.

Many of the passengers managed to swim ashore, but five were missing.

The officials said during the search operation, firefighters and police recovered three bodies.

Meanwhile, belongings of the devotees floated ashore throughout the morning.

Barishal Kotwali Police Station Officer-in-Charge Azimul Karim said the passengers were given primary treatment.

A process is underway to send the recovered bodies to Sirajganj, the official added.

Local fire station officer Khorshed Alam said they will continue the search operation.



Belongings of the devotees floated ashore after the trawler carrying them to Barishal's Charmonai Mahfil capsized in the Arial Kha river yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

PARIR PAHAR ROW CDBA wants to sit with PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

Bringing several allegations against Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Chattogram Md Mominur Rahman and demanding his immediate removal, leaders of Chattogram District Bar Association (CDBA) yesterday said they want to sit with the prime minister to resolve the deadlock between administration and lawyers over port city's Parir Pahar.

"We took necessary permissions from Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) and other departments to build our establishments in court hills (Parir Pahar), but the DC is continuously lying against us," said CDBA general secretary AHM Ziauddin.

Abusing his power and violating the court's directives, the DC has termed Court Hill "Parir Pahar" in official letters and document of the district administration. The DC has been putting pressure on cadres and officials of different organisations, including CDA, to submit reports against CDBA, he alleged while speaking at a press briefing at the Ainjibi auditorium.

However, DC office has said CDBA has not paid any land tax in the last 44 years. Apart from that, breaking the rules of land lease, CDBA has built several permanent establishments without their permission.

Pangolin rescued from tea garden



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A pangolin was rescued from Phulbari tea garden under Kamalganj Upazila in Moulvibazar, near Lawacharra forest, yesterday afternoon.

Being informed by locals, members of Our Endangered Wildlife rescued the pangolin, said Sohel Shyam, one of its members.

The endangered mammal may have come to the tea garden in search of food, he added. "Locals captured it and informed us. We'll release it in Lawacharra forest after observation," he said.

Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, divisional forest officer, said pangolin, locally known as "bon rui", is listed as critically endangered by the IUCN.

How do you mend this broken heart?

Grief-stricken family of Mrinalini completes Raktim's funeral rites

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The funeral of Raktim Shil (32) was held at his village at Suajniapara of Malumghat around 10:30pm on Tuesday.

A heart-wrenching environment prevailed around the village, in Chakarai of Cox's Bazar, as his body was brought in by an ambulance around 9:30pm. Upon seeing the body, his mother Mrinalini Sushin went unconscious.

She did not even cry after she came back to her senses, such was the weight of the loss.

The sexagenarian has been bearing intense grief for more than a month now, first losing her husband before losing all six of her sons in a tragic accident on February 8. After sustaining injuries then, Raktim succumbed to his injuries on Monday morning.

Munni Shil, Raktim's sister, said her mother went to see him at CMCH's ICU on Saturday.

"She expected Raktim to regain sense; that he would open his eyes, even for once."

"For 15 days, she has been praying to God for Raktim's recovery. With his passing, it seems like my mother has lost all her strength," Munni told this correspondent yesterday.

Their cousin Liton Sharma told this correspondent, "There's no word that can console her after suffering through this much pain. We are all grief-stricken."

Raktim, along with his six brothers and two sisters, were walking back home



Losing seven members of the family over a span of a little more than a month, the remaining members of the Shil family seemed to have lost the strength to even shed tears.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



after taking part in their father's post-funeral rituals when a pick-up van rammed the seven brothers. Five of them were killed immediately, while Raktim and younger brother Plabon were taken to CMCH in critical condition.

Plabon later recovered and was released on February 13.

Meanwhile, terming the incident a pre-planned murder, family members are demanding the administration to properly probe the incident.

Plabon has filed a case with Chakoria Police Station in this regard.

To add to their woes, another member of the family, Munni's husband Khageshpati Chandra, got injured in a separate road accident at Bandarban's Ali Kadam on February 19.

He was undergoing treatment at Ali Kadam Health Complex after sustaining injuries in a motorbike accident, said Anupam Sharma, Raktim's brother-in-law.

"It seems like misfortune is not sparing our family," he said.

INCOME TK 20CR, EXPENSE TK 12CR

Where did the other 8cr go?

UGC starts probing graft allegations against JU teachers, officials

JU CORRESPONDENT

The University Grants Commission (UGC) and the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) have initiated an inquiry into allegations of corruption against Jahangirnagar University teachers and officials.

The allegations claim that money collected from candidates during the university's admission for the academic year 2019-20 was shared among teachers and officials.

A three-member team, led by UGC member Prof Dr Md Abu Taher, held a meeting with the university administration at 12:30pm yesterday at the university's new administrative building.

The team includes Mostafizar Rahman, deputy director, Department of Finance and Accounts of UGC, and Md Ghulam Dostogir, senior assistant director, Department of Management of Public Universities.

According to university sources, the fees for undergraduate admission forms were increased by Tk 50 in the academic year 2019-20 at the university.

“ We have come to investigate specific allegations of irregularities and misappropriation of funds in the proceeds of the sale of admission forms. ”

PROF ABU TAHER
Head of the Probe Committee

In that academic year, the total income of the university by selling admission forms was about Tk 20 crore.

Of this, about Tk 10 crore was spent on conducting the exams and about Tk 2 crore was spent on other sectors. The remaining Tk 8 crore was allegedly shared by the teachers and officials, university sources said.

In view of this, on January 9, the UGC formed a three-member probe committee, and termed the alleged incidence "embezzlement of funds". Head of the probe committee Prof Abu Taher, while talking to the media, said, "We have come to investigate specific allegations of irregularities and misappropriation of funds in the proceeds of the sale of admission forms."

"I would like to ask the registrar what was the income from the sale of admission forms in the first year of graduation in the academic year 2019-20? How much was the cost, the honorarium and how much has been deposited in the university fund?"

"As per rules, 40 percent of the proceeds from selling admission forms has to be deposited in the university fund. The remaining 60 percent of the money has to be used to meet the overall expenses, including examinations, preparation of question papers, moderation, printing, transportation, hospitalisation, law and order."

"The investigation will determine whether Jahangirnagar University has done that or not," he added.

Contacted, JU treasurer Rasheda Akhter said, "We submitted all the documents that were asked for. Those were some confidential documents, and that's all I can say right now."



Leaving a narrow width for vehicular movement, a busy road in the capital's Dholaikhal is being mended by authorities. On the left, the footpath has been taken over with large drums of asphalt, obstructing pedestrian movement and putting them at risk as they try to cross the space. Although meant to benefit commuters, the reconstruction, in hindsight has led to more peril for citizens. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN