

Woman found dead in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The daughter-in-law of a ward councillor was found dead at her residence in Chattogram city's Saraipara yesterday.

The deceased is Rehnuma Ferdous (26), wife of Nowshadul Amin. The couple has a two-and-a-half-year-old girl.

Nowshadul's father Nurul Amin is the councillor of ward-12, said police.

The body was sent to Chattogram Medical College morgue for autopsy, said Pahartali Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mustafizur Rahman.

Meanwhile, Rehnuma's parents termed the death a murder, saying that she was often tortured, while her husband's family said she took her own life.

The police official said they are investigating the matter and will take steps if anyone files a complaint.

Nurul Amin could not be contacted for comments.

Meanwhile, Bandar police recovered the body of a lorry driver from a drain near gate-5 of Chattogram port the same day.

The body of Md Jakir Hossain was found decomposed, said police.

Desperate times call for desperate measures

Flood victims working as boatmen for survival



MINTU DESHWARA

Jasim Uddin, a resident of Hakaluki Haor, use to work as a mason before the floods drowned his house. But at present, after losing everything, he rents a boat for Tk 8,000 per month from Bhukshimol area and rows day and night to earn his bread.

Not just Jasim, but all five of his brothers lost their means of income during the floods. Jasim himself has been a boatman for just six or seven days — after he realised that if there is no income, his family of 16, won't survive.

Many in his area have two or three boats, which they rent out

for Tk 5,000-9,000 per month depending on the size.

This correspondent conversed with a few working residents who have all shifted to rowing boats for a profession. Previously some of them were masons, others were either farmers or power tiller drivers who worked in mills.

Suleman Ahmed, who works at a wood sawing mill, said he rented a boat for Tk 6,000 per month to work since the mill was inundated.

Many places of Hakaluki Haor in three upazilas in Moulvibazar, and two upazilas in Sylhet district roads are still submerged.

This correspondent visited

Nawabganj-Kulaura road in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila and found five to seven boats floating around. Most of the passengers are people who need to get to one place from another as most roads are still blocked with flood water.

According to locals, Tilakpur, Guptagram, Bhagmatpur and Maintam villages in Kadipur union have been under water for almost 10 days now. Many residents have moved to their relatives' homes since most of the houses are completely submerged.

Shahab Uddin of Guptagram said every day he leaves home with two sets of clothes. He wears his dry set when he gets

on the boat and returns home in the clothes that got wet while he was going towards the temporary ferry ghat in Kulaura upazila's Faridpur.

"I've sent my family to a relative's house. Huge snakes are moving around my house due to flood. I'm the only one who lives here now," he said.

Md Harun Mia, former Union Parishad member of Kadipur Union, said, "Government relief here is very low, since most relief is reaching the shelters only."

"Village residents hardly get any support, apart from some relief coming in from affluent people," he added.

Man dies in elephant 'attack'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A farmer died after being attacked reportedly by an elephant in Rangunia upazila of Chattogram yesterday. The deceased was identified as Abdul Aziz (65) of Padua hilly area around 7:00am. He said forest officials rushed to the spot and conducted an investigation to ascertain the cause of death.

Quoting locals, Kabir said family members recovered his body from Padua hilly area around 7:00am. He said forest officials rushed to the spot and conducted an investigation to ascertain the cause of death.

Jasim Uddin, sub-inspector of Rangunia Police Station (south), said they recovered the body that bore injury marks of elephant feet.

10 shops gutted in Rangamati fire



A CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A fire gutted at least 10 shops in College Gate area in Rangamati early yesterday.

According to fire service, the fire originated from an electric short circuit at a grocery shop of one Md Ismail (42).

On information, firefighters rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control around 4:10am. Fire service said the total loss caused by the fire can be ascertained after investigation.



A tow truck pulls away a microbus that got overturned in a collision with a Dhaka-bound bus coming from Kuakata around 2:30pm yesterday on Bhanga expressway. The accident, which took place near the toll plaza at Janjira end of Padma Bridge, left one person dead and 10 injured. The deceased was a passenger of the microbus. The injured were taken to the local health complex. Police seized the vehicles but the drivers fled the scene.

PHOTO: STAR

A light that never goes out

'Krishaker Batighar' a library for farmers

DIPAN NANDY

Conventionally, a library is supposed to be a place where people come and read neatly stacked books in peace. However, "Krishaker Batighar" (lighthouse of farmers in translation) breaks this convention and brings the library to the people.

Located in Amla union of Kushtia's Mirpur upazila, this library goes from field to field to read books to the farmers during their breaks. Volunteers read things that are of interest to farmers — modernity of farming, stories of living standard development, literature, travel and many other things.

The library offers similar services to homemakers as well.

Hossain Mohammad Sagar, founder and general secretary of the library, said, "Even though the country is moving forward every day, farmers in our villages are still lagging behind. Our activities are for their development."

"Farmers are prioritised in our library, but others have access to it as well. We are also helping students read different books," he added.

Zinnia Islam, volunteer at the library, said, "We go from village to village and read books



PHOTO: COLLECTED

on various topics to farmers and rural women, especially to those who are illiterate. We make an effort to know about their interests."

"This is a great learning opportunity for us as well, particularly for me as I get books as presents for volunteering," she added.

Yassin, a local farmer and member of Krishaker Batighar, said, "I used to cultivate crops the way I learned from my ancestors. Now, the library members tell us about new farming techniques.

Sometimes, they sing songs, recite poems, read stories, and reward us."

"All of these are a great source of inspiration for us," said Yassin.

Launched in 2021, the library now has about 300 books. All activities are being conducted from its temporary office.

The library's president Samsul Haque said, "Students of various universities and medical colleges are currently involved in the library's activities. It is gradually moving forward with their contribution."

Child specialist Mominul Huq passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Child specialist Dr Mominul Huq Chowdhury, who was renowned for his selflessness and poor-friendly attitude among the patients in Chattogram, died from illness early Thursday.

He was 96.

His younger son Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, director general of National Science and Technology Museum, said his father who was suffering from age old complications infected with Covid-19 last week and got admitted to a private clinic in port city.

Chowdhury after passing MBBS from Dhaka Medical College in 1954 joined the medical core in Pakistan Army.

In 1973, he started practice in Chattogram and at his native village in Raojan upazila where he served people for free.

Chowdhury was among the group of philanthropic physicians, industrialists and social workers who initiated to set up charitable hospital Chattogram Maa o Shishu Hospital in 1979. SM Morshed Hossain, VP of the hospital's executive committee, expressed deep shock at the death.

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