

SNAPS

Two incidents claim 2

BSS, Kishoreganj One man and a baby were killed in two different incidents at Pakundia Upazila recently, police sources said.

A seven-month-old child Mizan was strangled by his father Mahsin Mia at village Mangalbaria in Pakundia Upazila. A quarrel between Mahsin and his wife was the cause of the murder. Siddiq Mia, 22, was electrocuted at village Chandipasha in Pakundia Upazila. He came in contact with a torn live electric wire that snapped and fell on a tubewell due to storm.

Three nabbed

BSS, Chittagong A large quantity of contraband goods including foreign liquor and cigarettes was recovered recently by Bandar thana police after conducting a search in an auto rickshaw in Fakirhat area.

Police arrested three persons including drivers of the three-wheeler which was seized by police. The arrested were Monir Ahmed, Mohammad Ayub and Anowar Hossain.

Heroin seized

BSS, Rajshahi Police seized 800 grams of heroin from the possession of one person in Rail-gate bypass area of Godagari police station recently.

When a police team challenged one person identified as Jahangir Alam, 30, son of Godha Mia of Uzanpara village, carrying a bag, Jahangir Alam escaped from the scene without bag.

UP elections Independent candidate wins in Bogra

UNB, Bogra

Shahjan Ali, an independent candidate, was unofficially declared elected chairman of Kalerpara Union Parishad (UP) in Dhunat upazila.

Ali got over 4,600 votes while his nearest rival Golam Mustafa Ferdous Pasha polled 4,156, according to unofficial results.

Election to the union was held on April 17 after 13 years.

Ruling party MP in Comilla faces defamation case

UNB, Comilla

A defamation case was filed against a ruling party member of parliament (MP) with a court here on Thursday for assaulting a newly elected Union Parishad (UP) chairman.

UP chairman Advocate Nazrul Islam Bhuiyan filed the case against ruling party MP Engineer Manzurul Ahsan Munshi.

According to the case, Manzurul Ahsan MP, slapped UP chairman Nazrul Islam in an oath-taking ceremony of newly-elected UP chairmen at Debidar Upazila Parishad Auditorium on April 13.

Chemical waste destroys fish resources in Karotoa

UNB, Panchagarh

Mills and factories situated on the bank of the Karotoa River are releasing their chemical waste in the river, destroying fish resources.

Marshal Distilleries and Panchagarh Sugar Mills release chemical wastes into the river contaminating water, according to local fishermen.

They alleged that Marshal Distilleries released wastes in the Karotoa River on the night of March 25

and a lot of fishes were seen floating in the river the following day.

General secretary of Panchagarh Fishermen's Cooperative Society Mokhesur Rahman said to UNB that the authorities concerned did not take action against those who contaminated its water with chemical wastes and destroyed fish resources.

there is no fish in the river, he added.

Director of Marshal Distilleries Syed Mahmud Ali informed journalists that they refined chemical waste before

releasing it in the river.

He blamed the management of Panchagarh Sugar Mills for dumping waste in the river and contaminating water.

General Manager (Admin) of Panchagarh Sugar Mills Mahfuzul Aziz informed local newsmen that they had been releasing waste of their mills in the river for the last three decades, but there was no instance that any fish of the river died for this reason.



PHOTO: IQBAL SIDDIQUEE

Tornado wrecked havoc at villages Gopalpur and Perua Noyapara of Derai upazila in Sunamganj. Over 1,500 people of 300 families of the villages pass their days under open sky. Sixty houses razed to the ground.

Sea-truck service of Bhola in jeopardy

UNB, Bhola

Three sea-trucks, out of five, introduced on the river routes of Bhola for the safety of passengers, have remained out of order for long.

With the stoppage of sea-truck services on three routes, passengers of the coastal areas are now travelling in mini launches and trawlers, putting their lives at risk.

Sea-truck services were introduced on five river routes here for ensuring the safety of passengers last year. Five sea-trucks were procured at a cost over Tk 15 crore from China and Sweden.

After a few months of operation, the sea-trucks started suffering losses due to malpractice by the workers. They used to show inflated figures in fuel cost and lower return from ticket sales.

The fuel cost showed a downtrend when the authorities handed over the operation of sea-trucks to private management and the sea trucks were

running smoothly.

Angered by the incident of handing over of sea-trucks to private management, the engine staff of the trucks allegedly made engines inoperative.

There have been allegations that sea-truck workers have a link with owners of mini launches and trawlers, whose business suffered losses after the introduction of sea-trucks.

They resorted to various tactics to stop the sea-truck services in the past and their efforts succeeded when sea-truck workers joined hands with them. As a result, plying of sea-trucks on Tazumuddin-Monpura, Lalmohan-Nazirpur-Kalaiya, Daulat Khan-Alexander remained suspended.

Despite a ban on operation of mini launches from March 15 to October 15, some such launches and trawlers owned by local ruling party leaders are plying the routes.

Officials said over 400 passengers drowned in launch and trawler cap-sizes in Bhola in last four years.

Pro-BNP transport union leader arrested

UNB, Narayanganj

A pro-BNP transport union leader was arrested from Charargop area in the town on Thursday for his alleged involvement in extortion and criminal activities.

The arrested was Syeed alias Bogi Syeed, 40. He was wanted in a number of cases, police said.

In an incident, a gang of miscreants attacked a taxicab driver in Haripur area of Bardar upazila and hijacked his taxicab on Wednesday.

In another incident, hoodlums swooped on Bandar Bikram Union High School, tied up its night guard and looted money and valuable documents on Wednesday night.

In another incident, a businessman named Abdul Mannan, 42, was critically injured as miscreants chopped him indiscriminately at Pathantuli of Shiddhirganj on the same night.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a critical condition.

Abduction Three placed on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Three businessmen arrested on Sunday night on charge of abduction of a leading businessman of Chittagong city were placed on three-day remand on Wednesday.

Earlier, they were produced before the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate Atahar Ali who granted the remand.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police were interrogating them at their office.

Businessman Mohammad Hanif of Khatunganj area was abducted on Saturday night for Tk 90 lakh ransom. Police rescued him from Jailalapara in Bakolia upazila on Monday night.

One of the alleged abductors, Ramzan, 26, was arrested with a revolver and he was placed on five-day remand.

The arrested businessmen -- Samiuddin, Mohammad Khairul Bashar alias Lalu and Mohammad Belal were negotiating the release of Hanif. Of them, Lalu proposed the victim's younger brother to secure his release for Tk 15 lakh ransom.

He did not pay the money to the abductors following intervention of the administration and a city BNP leader.

Criminals attack house, loot valuables

UNB, Noakhali

Armed criminals attacked a house at village Bodolcot in Chatkhil upazila on Wednesday and looted valuables.

The miscreants, numbering 30-35, stormed the house of Abu Sayeed and looted valuables after evicting his family members, witnesses said.

Sayeed's wife Amena Khatun, 50, was critically injured as the criminals assaulted her when she tried to resist them. She was undergoing treatment at a local clinic.



PHOTO: STAR

Leaders and workers of Moulvibazar unit of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote, an alliance of cultural activists parade the streets of the district town in a mourning procession. They were expressing their sympathy to family members of the victims of Iraq War recently.

'Criminal' Aziz of Raozan on police remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Notorious criminal Abdul Aziz of Raozan thana was placed on four-day remand on Wednesday.

Raozan police produced him before Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) court in the morning with a prayer for seven-day remand.

Hathazari police, acting on information from Raozan police, set up checkpoints along Hathazari-Raozan Road on Monday evening. They arrested Aziz and one of his associates Shahabuddin from a city-bound taxi at Hathazari bus station at around 7:30pm.

He was then handed over to Raozan police who searched his village home and seized a cut-rifle, seven bullets and one signal light.

Aziz, formerly a cadre of now-defunct NDP, is an accused in more than dozens of cases including murder, loot, abduction and robbery.

Three with arms nabbed in Bagerhat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Three people were arrested with arms and ammunition in Mollahat of Bagerhat on Tuesday.

The arrested persons were Engineer Shibli Sadik, 28, Masudul Haq, Shujan, 26, and Lokman Hossain Fakir, 25.

Mollahat thana police arrested the three while they were going to Barisal in a private car from Dalmilla road of Khulna. Mollahat thana police intercepted the car near Abul Khair Bridge and nabbed the three with two single barrel guns, 12 bullets and two mobile phones. Police seized the car.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Mollahat thana said the arrested persons were actively associated with Khulna city based unit of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP).



PHOTO: STAR

(Left) Two teens reciting poems at a poetry recital programme, while children are seen engrossed at a painting competition at the Public Library Hall in Magura. Kanthabithi, a local cultural organisation, welcomed the Bangla new year on Monday through befitting programmes.