

SNAPS

Housewife killed allegedly by husband

UNB, Lalmonirhat
A housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband at village Bichhnadai in Hatibandha upazila on Monday night.

Six lakh saplings to be planted

UNB, Comilla
Some six lakh saplings, including 3.2 lakh fruit-bearing ones, will be planted in 13 upazilas of Comilla during the ongoing plantation drive.

Department of Agriculture Extension and district administration will plant the saplings alongside roads, dams, on the compounds of government and private educational institutions, mosques and graveyards, officials said.

Two with Phensidyl arrested

UNB, Comilla
Two people were arrested along with 60 bottles of Phensidyl from a market here on Sunday.

The arrested were Hafez M Nurul Alam alias Hridoy and M Dewan Miah. In another incident, armed robbers looted valuables worth Tk 2.67 lakh from the house of Haji Ali at village Ambarpur in Chandina upazila on Saturday.

Eye gouged

UNB, Pabna
Armed miscreants gouged out the left eye of a man at village Charbhobanipur in Sujanagar upazila on Tuesday.

Bomb blast claims day labourer in Natore

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

A day labourer was killed and two others were critically injured in a bomb blast near a brick kiln at remote Chalan Beel village of Panchshisha in Gurudaspur upazila, Natore on Sunday noon.

The incident occurred when a group of day labourers found a tin-can while digging earth on contract basis near an abandoned brick kiln. Suddenly the tin-can burst with a bang when they tried to open it at around 1.30pm.

The victim, Ariful Islam Fakir, 30, a day labourer of village Uttar

Naribari died on the spot when the bomb exploded injuring his chest, police sources said.

The wounded were Abdul Mannan, 28, and Mustaq Hossain, 32, both day labourers of village Kamarnathpur. Mannan was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH). Fingers of one of his hands were blown away. Mustaq was rushed to Gurudaspur Health Complex with critical injuries on his face.

"The bomb was undoubtedly powerful and it was left abandoned", said Sayed Nazrul Islam, police superintendent (SP) of

Natore to this correspondent.

The incident was not similar to other bomb blast incidents.

However, police were trying to find out the person responsible for planting the bomb.

A police official of Gurudaspur thana told The Daily Star that members of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party might have hidden the bomb there as outlawed party activists were active at the village and its adjoining areas.

A case was filed with the local thana.

Two girls drown

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Two girls drowned while taking bath in a pond in Daspukur area in Rajshahi city recently.

The victims -- Zui, 9, daughter of Habib and Putul, 12, daughter of Yad Ali -- of the area happened to be cousins.

They went missing since they were out of home to take bath in the pond in the morning. Later in the afternoon, relatives recovered the dead bodies from the pond.

Listed criminal arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) cadre who happened to be a listed criminal was held from Chittagong city's centre of Kazir Dewry on April 30 evening.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested the criminal identified as Ekramul Haq alias Chhuttu, 30, on charge of illegal toll collection at around 7pm.

Chhuttu was also an accused in at least five criminal cases including murder and armed robbery cases.

Chhuttu remained engaged in collecting illegal tolls from vendors, owners of shops and restaurants at Kazir Dewry, Jubilee Road and Ashkerdigirh Parr in Kotwali thana.

296 Health employees' promotion cancelled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The office of the director general (DG) of Health Directorate cancelled promotion orders of 296 employees under Rajshahi Divisional Health Directorate (RDHD) recently.

About 296 employees were given promotion last year through irregularities depriving other senior and competent employees who deserved promotion.

However, the higher authority did not held anybody responsible for the irregularities.

Following an order from the DG's office early this month, the promotions were declared cancelled. Promotions were given to deserving employees, Dr Reaz Uddin, deputy director (DD) of RDHD told The Daily Star recently. Dr Reaz clarified that those orders were not of promotions, but orders to work at higher posts.

The steps were taken following complaints by some employees lodged at the DG office. They complained that former director Dr Fazlur Rahman in collaboration with chief assistant Belal

Hossain initiated the promotion orders of the employees.

Outlaws-villagers clash leaves one dead in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

An activist of an outlawed party was killed and 30 villagers were injured in a clash among outlaws and local people at village Jalalpur in Sadar upazila on April 30.

Among the injured, three were admitted to Pabna General Hospital in critical conditions. Ten others were released after first aid.

The injured were Gomejan Bewa, 22, Hawa Begum, 40, Nurjahan, 40, Bulu Khatun, 50, Majhar Mandal, 40, Harej Mandal, 32, Matin Mandal, 32, Fajel Mandal, 55, Islam Mandal, 23, Islam Mandal, 25, Jalal Mandal, 25, Abdul Mannan, 50, and Masud, 12.

Police and locals said the extremists attacked the houses of Mohammad Mandal, Shahar Mandal, Siraj Mandal, Akkas Mandal and Yusuf Mandal. They ransacked and looted the houses. Police went to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Six killed by lightning in C'nawabganj

BSS, Rajshahi

Six villagers were killed by lightning during a nor'wester that lashed some villages of Shibganj upazila in Chapainawabganj on Tuesday, police said.

Four of the dead were identified as Abirul Islam, 12, son of Jamal Uddin of village Dowlatpur, Lal, 30, son of Mokbul Hossain of village Pitalata, Ashnuri Begum, 35, wife of Marful Islam of village Kamalantapur and Parul, 18, daughter of Abdul Latif. Identity of two others could not be known.

Listed criminal shot dead at Faridpur

UNB, Faridpur

A listed criminal, convicted and condemned to death by a local court, was gunned down by unknown assailants in the town Friday night, police said.

Nur Mohammad Hiru alias Hiru Kashai, 35, was the second-in-command of the notorious 'Babu Kashai bahini' and one of the five most wanted criminals of the locality.

Three men shot him point blank as he was going somewhere by a rickshaw at Mujib Sarak at about 9:30am, by according to witness. He died on the spot.

Hailing from Alipur, Hiru was accused in about 20 cases of murder, extortion, robbery and abduction. He was given death penalty by the District Judge's Court in a case.

Hiru's wife filed a case with Kotwali police, but none was arrested.

Life term for rapist

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

The judge for Children and Women Repression in Comilla on Tuesday sentenced a young man to suffer life term imprisonment and fined Tk 5,000, in default, to suffer one year rigorous imprisonment (RI) for raping one widow.

One housewife named Mahabuba Islam Ranu, 30, of village Kalashona in Daudkandi upazila was raped by Md Faruk Ahmed, 20, son of Md. Abul Hasem of the same village on the night of March 26, 2001 while she was returning to her residence after natural call. The victim filed a case against the rapist with Daudkandi Magistrate Court. Later, it was sent to Children and Women Repression Court.

Nirmal Kanti Chowdhury found the young man guilty and punished him.

Sacrificial animals' meat on sale in Satkhira?

UNB, Satkhira

Some two metric tons of meat of sacrificial animals, sent for poor people, were allegedly sold here by the leaders of a party on Tuesday.

IHH, a German-based Islamic organisation, sent the meat of lambs, for poor and distressed people through ships.

Al Farooq Society of Khulna received the meat from Chittagong port and allocated 2,150 kgs of it for poor people of Satkhira. The meat was sent to the district Jamaat office.

But there have been allegations that the Jamaat leaders sold the meat among the party workers at Tk 20 per kg.

District general secretary of Jamaat dismissed the allegation and said the meat was distributed among poor.

PBCP leader gunned down in Kushtia

A CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A regional leader of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) was shot dead allegedly by the cadres of Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) at village Nimala in Daulatpur upazila on Tuesday night.

The victim, Amir Chand, 40, came under attack while he was going to Daulatpur upazila to attend a party meeting at around 9 pm. They shot him point blank and fled the scene. Chand died on the spot.

Police said the slain PBCP leader was wanted in 25 criminal cases recorded with different police stations in Kushtia, Meherpur and Chuadanga districts.

Daulatpur police recovered the body and sent it to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy.

No case was filed.

Road link snapped as bailey bridge collapses on Rajshahi-Naogaon highway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Dilapidated Nawhata Bailey Bridge on the outskirts of Paba upazila here collapsed in the Mahanada River on Wednesday morning closing vehicular movement on Rajshahi-Naogaon highway for several days.

The 25-year-old bridge crushed along with a cement-loaded truck and a passenger bus at around 9.30am while its 100 feet long spans in the middle of the bridge cracked due to overloading, police and experts said.

A truck carrying 600 bags of cement weighing about 40 tons was crossing the bridge when it collapsed. At the same time

another passenger bus was also to crossing the bridge.

However, there was no casualty as there was knee-deep water in the river.

However, a few passengers were injured. They took first aid treatment at different clinics.

"A bailey bridge is normally fit for up to maximum 10 years, but Nawhata bridge, established in 1978, had a capacity to bear a load of 10 tons", Mukhtar Ali Gazi, additional chief engineer (ACE) of Rajshahi divisional Roads and Highways Department informed The Daily Star.

Asked why the bridge was not declared abandoned, Gazi told this correspondent that it was already

abandoned for movement of heavy vehicles. There had been cautionary signboards on both sides of the bridge.

He further said that restoration of the bridge would take at least 15 days as the Roads and Highways Department lacked facilities and necessary equipment. Gazi told newsmen that there was no government grant for repair of the bridge.

A source in the R & H Department further informed this correspondent that the government spent nearly Tk two lakh for maintenance of dilapidated bridges and roads. But no repair or maintenance work was done here in recent years.

Allegation against RDA estate officer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Businessmen of Rajshahi Development Authority (RDA) market in the city in a letter to the RDA chairman raised an allegation of extortion against a estate officer.

They complained that Abu Bakkar Siddique, an estate officer and his hired goons collected illegal tolls in the name of senior RDA officials from them for several months.



PHOTO: STAR

Rajshahi University Vice Chancellor (VC) Professor Faisal Islam Faruki hands over a gift to Professor Sohrab Uddin Ahmed of the Islamic History and Culture Department prior to his retirement from active service. ABM Shahjahan, chairperson of the department presided over the function. Pro-VC Professor KHM Shahadat Hossain Mondal is also seen.

One killed, 20 hurt as BNP factions clash

UNB, C'nawabganj

One person was killed and 20th others were injured in a clash between two rival factions of BNP at village Sonapatti in Sadar upazila on Friday night.

The clash erupted following altercation between Charbaghdanga Union BNP president Enamul Haque and general secretary Rafiqul Islam Bulbul.

During the hour-long clash, supporters of Bulbul, also Union Parishad (UP) chairman, attacked the house of Belaluddin, 30, cousin of Enamul, with homemade bombs. Belal died on the spot and 20 others suffered bomb injuries.

Murderer gets life term

UNB, Comilla

A court here recently awarded a man life term imprisonment in a murder case.

The court fined convict Habibur Rahman Kabir Tk 50,000, in default, to suffer five years more in jail.

Kabir killed grocery shop owner Joyal of village Anantapur in Muradnagar upazila on March 5, 1997.