

SNAPS

Youth killed in traffic mishap**UNB, Pirojpur**

A young man was killed in a traffic mishap near Bhandaria Fire Service on Bhandaria-Mathbaria road on Thursday.

Police said Prodip, 28, of Bhandaria, died on the spot when a coach knocked him down at about 3pm.

The body was sent to hospital morgue autopsy.

Old man found dead**UNB, Bagerhat**

An old man was found dead at village Khezurbaria in Sarwankhola upazila on Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Latif, 70. He is believed to have been strangled. A case was filed with local police station.

Clash over land leaves 10 hurt**UNB, Sirajganj**

Ten people were injured, three critically, in a clash between two groups of people at Masumpur in the town on Thursday.

The clash between the two groups, one led by Abdul Hye and another by his neighbour Ashadullah, took place over demarcation of their lands, witnesses said. The injured were admitted to Sadar hospital. Police arrested Abdul Hye and Shah Alam.

Two accused nabbed**UNB, Comilla**

Two people, accused in separate murder cases, were arrested along with firearms from near Comilla Victoria College on Thursday.

Police said they arrested Shahrir Alam Apu and Nur-E-Abad Sumon along with an LG while they were preparing to kill Hayder, a witness to Billal murder case. Shahrir was an accused in the Billal murder case while Sumon in another murder case.

Citizens threaten movement as RCC holding tax increased over three times**ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi**

Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) has imposed an additional tax of Tk 2.04 cr on 37,576 holdings in all its 30 wards for the upcoming fiscal.

The city dwellers have reacted sharply over imposition of the additional tax.

The RCC has targeted to realise Tk 2.93 cr holding tax in the coming financial year, which is 3.29 times higher than the existing amount of Tk 89 lakh, according to sources in RCC.

Some 2,000 city dwellers have submitted written objections to the enhancement, the sources said.

Different citizens' forums gave an ultimatum for withdrawal of the decision within 15 days and threatened of movement for non-compliance.

Rajshahi Nagorik Committee (RNC) and Rajshahi Advocates' Bar Association in separate press statements on Wednesday termed

the rise 'inhuman'.

Leaders of RNC and the bar in a meeting at the Bar Association Bhaban said RCC failed to provide basic civic amenities to its citizens, and fresh taxes would only multiply people's misery.

RNC advisor and Workers' Party politbureau member Fazle Hossain Badsha, RNC member-secretary Selim Sardar, bar president Advocate Ekramur Rasul, general secretary Advocate Mohammad Yahia, district Awami League General Secretary Tajul Islam Md Faruk, among others, spoke in the meeting.

Meanwhile, many city dwellers have alleged irregularities in the tax evaluation.

Holding tax for Sonia Banu's three-room tin-shed house on 1,000 square feet land in the city's Darikhorbona area has been fixed at Tk 1,920 against Tk 1,400 earlier.

In contrast the tax for Dr Shamsul Bari's six-room one sto-

ried building on 3,000 square feet area in the housing estate was fixed at Tk 7,560 against Tk 1,200.

Awkat Ali of Ramchandrapur area told The Daily Star that the tax for his two storied building was fixed at Tk 19,200 against Tk 5,000 earlier.

RCC Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu MP, in a pre-budget meeting with newsmen at his office on Tuesday said no new tax was imposed on the city dwellers. "The ethics we followed during fresh evaluation is to bring equity, as there was no assessment of holdings since 1987", he explained.

Elaborating the mayor's contention, RCC Secretary Abdul Gaffar told this correspondent that the new evaluation was made considering current rental value of holdings.

However, the evaluation is not final, there is still scope for citizens to submit petitions for review, he added.

Farmer killed in Patuakhali road mishap**A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali**

A farmer was killed in a road accident as a passenger bus ran over him in Badarpur area on Barisal-Patuakhali highway on Wednesday morning.

The ill-fated farmer, Moshlem Ali Khan, 80, met the accident as a Barisal-bound bus coming from Patuakhali knocked him down near a culvert in Badarpur area, witnesses and police sources said.

The bus driver tried to flee, but people chased the bus and caught it near another bridge. However, the driver and the conductor managed to flee.

Passengers of the bus said to this correspondent that the accident took place due to the driver's rash driving.

The body was sent to hospital for autopsy.

Villagers' clash leaves 30 hurt in Magura**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura**

At least 30 people were injured, 10 of them seriously, in a clash between two rival groups of villagers at village Andolbaria in Magura Sadar upazila on Wednesday morning.

Two rival groups -- one led by Yunus Ali Milla and the other by Abdul Wadood Mandal -- clashed over establishment of their supremacy at the village, witnesses said.

Both the sides used lethal weapons during the clash.

The seriously injured, identified as Rashid Biswas, 40, Daud Molla, 30, Hasan Molla, 30, Yasin, 16, Solaiman, 35, Mohirul, 25, Abdul Wadud, 60, Altaf Hossain, 30, Abdul Mannan, 30 and Shabinur, 20, were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital.

No case was filed till filing of this report at 6:30 pm on Wednesday.

Housewife gangraped in Barisal**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**

A housewife was gangraped at village Baorgati in Gouranadi upazila in the early hours of Thursday.

The victim, Monowara Begum, 30, was asleep along with her two children in a room at her house.

At about 4 am, her neighbour Jalil and his two accomplices -- Abbas and Malek -- stormed the house and raped Monowara by turn.

The rapists left the house leaving her unconscious.

She was admitted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) in a critical condition.

A case was filed accusing Jalil, Abbas and Malek.

Two jailed in absentia in N'ganj**UNB, Narayanganj**

A speedy trial court here on Wednesday convicted two people and sentenced them to five years rigorous imprisonment (RI) in absentia in a snatching case.

The convicts -- Gulzar Hossain

and Liton Mia -- were fined Tk 5,000 each.

The convicts along with their accomplices stormed into the jewellery shop of Sanjoy Kumar Das a few days back and snatched a gold chain from his shop after beating up his employees, according to the prosecution.

Later, a case was filed against Gulzar, Liton, Ripon, Shaheen and Al Amin.

The court found Gulzar Hossain and Liton Mia guilty of snatching and handed down the verdict. Three others were acquitted for lack of evidence.



Minister for Environment and Forest Shahjahan Siraj hands over a cheque to a participant in social afforestation project in Sylhet. The minister on Wednesday distributed shares of profit among the participants.

Pirates loot 27 fishing trawlers**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**

Armed pirates raided 27 fishing trawlers in the Bay of Bengal, 12km off Andar char, on Wednesday and looted fish, fishing nets and other valuables worth Tk 20 lakh.

The trawlers were returning to Bhola and Barisal after fishing in the deep sea.

Some of the victims, who reached Mirzaku at Bhola on

Wednesday, told local people that pirates threw 11 fishermen into the sea as they tried to resist the gang. Four of them were rescued by other fishermen while the rest drowned, they said.

The missing fishermen are Jainal Sukhdev and Kamal of Daulatkhani, Malek Tipu and Saidul of Jalakathi, and Alal of Barisal.

However, Golachipa police said to this correspondent they were not aware of the incident.