

SNAPS

Jewellery shop guard killed

UNB, Habiganj

A gang of robbers failing to commit robbery at a jewellery shop at a market in the town killed its night guard Sunday night.

Police said the gang entered into Subodh Jewellery Shop by breaking open its door and tried to break the iron safe. Being failed to open it, they strangled the guard, Shahidul, 35. A case was filed.

Wife strangled**for dowry**

UNB, Chuadanga

A housewife was strangled at Laxmipur village in Damurhuda upazila Sunday for dowry.

Locals said Golam Mustafa used to torture his wife Johura Khatun, 21, for dowry since their marriage three years ago and on the fateful day he picked up a quarrel with her and at one stage strangled her.

Dam under construction

UNB, Brahmanbaria

A dam is being constructed in Kornei Bazaar area in Akhaura upazila at a cost of Tk 62 lakh.

Water Development Board is constructing the dam to protect the bazaar area from erosion of the Hawra river. Work on the dam is likely to be completed by June next, officials said.

15 hurt in clash

UNB, Nilphamari

At least 15 people, including a woman, were injured in a clash on government food godown premises in Dimla upazila here Sunday.

Witnesses said the clash erupted between two groups of labourers over past enmity.

Of the injured two were taken to Dimla hospital in critical condition and two others to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

11 held for looting mill cash

UNB, Gazipur

Eleven labourers of a mill were arrested on charge of looting cash and assaulting two mill officials in Tongi upazila on Saturday night.

Police said a group of labourers of Jebin Composite Mill beat its two officials working in the night shift demanding their outstanding salary and looted Tk 75,000 in cash. A case was filed against 13 workers and police arrested 11 of them including Hukum Ali, Julfikar, Sanwar and Alam. They were also sent to court hajat.

Mongla pouura by-polls amid tension today

AL fears rigging, alleges voter intimidation, four-party refutes charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The ruling party has brought in a large number of armed cadres to rig today's by-election to Mongla Pourasava chairman post, the Awami League-backed candidate alleged.

Over 100 armed men belonging to the four-party alliance are at Mongla to intimidate voters, particularly those of minority community, AL-backed candidate Skeikh Abdus Salam claimed while talking to newsmen and meeting voters.

A leader of Bagerhat BNP is leading the gang, he further claimed.

Four-Party Alliance backed candidate Talukder Abdul Halim refuted the allegations and termed Salam a liar and top terrorist of the Sundarbans. The AL candidate was

directly involved in the killing of a launch worker at Mongla town in 1996, he claimed.

The post fell vacant following the death of Abdul Hye of Awami League on April 20.

Besides Salam and Halim, two others are in the race. They are Kamrunnahar wife of late Abdul Hye and Jashimuddin is his eldest son.

Political circles said fight for the post will be between Salam and Halim.

They said Salam is enjoying more popular support than the Halim as Kamrunnahar and her son have put their weight behind him.

Besides, Salam is capitalising on the popularity of Abdul Hye who was elected Mongla Pourasava Chairman thrice earlier.

Meanwhile, former state minis-

ter and AL leader Talukder Abdul Khaleque MP has demanded deployment of army to ensure free and fair polls. He alleged that armed cadres of the ruling party are giving threats to minority community voters not to go to polling centres.

"My party candidate Salam has already appealed to the chief election commissioner for deploying army, BDR and adequate number of magistrates to avert violence and resist capture of polling booths", Talukder said.

He claimed that the district administration officials and police are aware of presence of a large number of BNP cadres.

Talukder Khaleque who is general secretary of Khulna city AL and a lawmaker from Rampal-Mongla constituency has threatened severe consequence if votes

are rigged.

Addressing a press conference at Khulna Press Club on Monday, Bagerhat district BNP president and convener of four-party liaison committee MAH Selim MP refuted Talukder's allegations and alleged that he (Talukder) was conspiring to foil the by-election, sensing defeat of his candidate.

When asked, he remained silent about deployment of army, demanded by the Awami League MP. "No armed cadre is there at Mongla to rig votes", he said.

A total of 33,900 voters are expected to cast their votes in the by-election.

The Officer-in-Charge of Mongla thana said two platoons of BDR, 28 policemen, 15 ansars and a magistrate will be deployed in each of the eleven polling centres.

4-day Nazrul festival at CU

CU CORRESPONDENT

A four-day Nazrul festival began at the Chittagong University (CU) library auditorium on Saturday, marking the 104th birth anniversary of the national poet.

Nazrul Research Centre of the university organised the festival. The programme includes debate, essay writing, discussion and music competition.

Vice-chancellor Prof AIM Nuruddin Chowdhury inaugurated the festival as the chief guest with Prof Sworayan Biswas, director of the 3900 acre sweet water wetland exposed to plunder.

Only three proposals were submitted this time and the highest amount quoted was Tk 21 lakh, one third of Tk 63 lakh offered in the earlier for a three-year period, sources said.

One of the proposals was submitted by ruling party lawmaker Nozir Hossain and the two others by "his men", the sources said.

It was the second tender floated

Tanguar Haor left for plunder

Poor response to tender, same coterie quotes again

IQBAL SIDDIQUE, Sylhet

Tender for leasing the Tanguar Haor, a Ramsar Site in Sunamganj, evoked very poor response from private investors once again, leaving the 3900 acre sweet water wetland exposed to plunder.

After the poor response, the Haor committee at its meeting on May 20 decided to send the proposals to the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MOEF), which had rejected the proposals submitted in February.

Lack of government decision left the haor uncared for three years, allowing plunder of its fish

and other resources and depriving the government of over Tk two crore revenue.

The Tanguar Haor was declared an Ecologically Critical Area (ECA) in 1999 and taken as a Ramsar Site in 2000 to protect its bio-diversity.

The Ramsar project can not be implemented due to failure in selecting investors.

Tanguar Haor is a rare site, home to 60,000 birds of over 200 species and 140 varieties of sweet water fishes.

Besides, over one lakh guest birds fly to this area during winter. People of 46 villages dependent on the haor for their livelihood.

It was the second tender floated

CMC dental unit

4 teachers against 20 posts, students boycott classes

ATAUL GANI SUMON, Ctg

Students of the dental unit at Chittagong Medical College (CMC) are boycotting classes for a week protesting shortage of teachers and irregularities that greatly hamper academic activities.

There are only four teachers against 20 posts in the unit with over 100 students, sources said.

The students observed a daylong hunger strike in front of the CMC principal's office on Saturday. They will also "close" the outdoor at dental unit from today and will call a student strike at the CMC from May 30.

"Our movement is not against of any person but to save the institution. For this we are ready to sacrifice anything." Haris Mohammad

Oliur Rahman, president of the Chittagong Dental Chhatra Sangram Parishad told this correspondent.

He said they will continue the strike until their demand is met.

While visiting the dental unit on Monday, this correspondent saw that all the classrooms were locked from outside.

The lone demonstrator, Dr. Monoj Barua, said the classrooms are under lock and key since May 18.

The students alleged that Assistant Professor Dr Akkas Ali, head of the department, lives in Dhaka with family and remains busy with private practice at Brahmanbaria. He takes classes only three days a week. Assistant Professor Dr Mostaque Hasan also

stays in Dhaka with his family and takes his classes only two days a week.

The two others, who are junior teachers, are also busy in private practice, they alleged.

The dental unit was set up in 1990 with 20 students.

CMC Principle Dr. B Chowdhury Mahmud, when contacted, said he is trying his best to solve the crisis.

When contacted over cell phone, Dr Akkas Ali said he is busy with official work in Dhaka.

He disconnected the phone line when asked about his private practice at Brahmanbaria.

The students also said that the teachers are on deputation and so they do not take any interest.



PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN

Beauty and bounty devoured: The greenery and fertile lands in Muladi will soon fall to the whims of nature as happened in other areas in Barisal, criss-crossed by rivers. This picture was taken on Friday from helicopter.

Wild elephants rampage village: 10 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A herd of wild elephants swooped on Palarbon village in Rajasthali upazila Sunday midnight, injuring 10 people.

Villagers fled homes fearing further attack, police said.

Two of the injured -- Mamun, 24 and Ashab Ali, 36 -- were admitted to local upazila health complex with critical injury.

The herd of 30 to 35 trampled about 100 houses and pulled down many others by their trunks.

Being informed, the Upzila Nirbahee Officer along with a police team visited the village the following day. But no held reached the village till yesterday, the villagers said.

2 commit suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A young man and a schoolgirl committed suicide on May 22, the former in the city and the later in Jhalakathi.

According to police and hospital sources, one Delwar Hossain, 32, of Chahata area in the city took his life by taking poison on May 22. He died at the Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH).

Schoolgirl Laizu of Bino Kathi village in Jhalakathi took poison as her mother rebuked her for viewing television at the neighbour's house at night. She died at SBMCH.

Job seekers ransack office in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Agitated candidates who sat for written test here for posts of primary schools teachers ransacked the Rangamati Hill District Council (RHDC) office on Sunday demanding fresh test.

They broke furniture and 15 flower tubs and criticised the RHDC chairman and its members, witnesses said.

The test was held on Friday and the result was published on Sunday.

The RHDC authorities called police to bring the situation under control.

However, none was arrested, Sub-Inspector (SI) Ratan of Kotwali thana told this correspondent.

Schoolboy abducted for ransom

A CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A schoolboy was abducted for ransom from Bamundia village in Daulatpur upazila on Saturday night.

The victim was identified as Tuhin, 14, son of one Moynul Hossain of Bamundia.

Family sources said a gang of criminals numbering five stormed into the house of Moynul on

Saturday night. The miscreants tied up all the family members at gun point and picked up Tuhin, a student of class eight of Bamundia High School.

Later, the abductors sent a message to Tuhin's parents demanding Tk one lakh ransom.

A general dairy (GD) has been filed with Daulatpur Police Station.

However, police could not rescue the boy yet.



PHOTO: STAR

Refreshing Freshers: Ladli Mohon Maitra, a student of Folklore Department at Rajshahi University (left) and his sister Alo Maitra presenting a dance at the Freshers' Reception 2003, organised by the university authorities recently on the campus.

Steps to increase fish fry output in Kaptai lake

MONIRUL ALAM, Rangamati

The authorities have taken initiatives to increase production of fish fry in Kaptai lake.

Fries from the lake will meet at least 20 percent of the country's demand and the rest will be collected from Halda river and hatcheries of Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation (BFDC), Kaptai Lake Project Director Qazi Nurunnabi told this correspondent.

The steps, based on a study by the Fisheries Research Institute, follow decisions taken at Sunday's meeting held at the Rangamati deputy commissioner's office in presence of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Deputy Minister Moni Swapan Dewan. The DC, Jafar Ahmed Khan, presided.

The meeting formed three committees to stop illegal netting of mother fishes in the six breeding grounds in the lake's Chengi, Mainee, Borkol, Katchalong, Longdu and Naniarchar areas.

Vigilance teams comprising 20 BFDC employees and Ansars will

be on guard in the lake during the three-month breeding period when fishing in the lake is banned. The ban is effective from May 12.

A three-member upazila committee headed by the local UNO and assisted by BFDC men will create awareness among people to enforce the ban.

Another three-member committee headed by the Additional District Magistrate will monitor all these activities, sources said.

Firearms seized from BCL leader's house

UNB, Shariatpur

Two firearms were seized from the house of a Chhatra League leader at Kotapara village in Palong upazila on Sunday.

Acting on a tip off, police raided the house of M Nurul Islam, 20, and recovered the two guns from his house. A case was filed.