

SNAPS

Outlaw arrested

UNB, Jhenidah
An outlawed party cadre Dilip was arrested along with a loaded shutter gun from Binodpur village in Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah early Sunday.

Two wireless sets recovered

UNB, Sirajganj
Two wireless sets were recovered from a house at Jhikra village in Ullapara thana Tuesday.
Police raided the house of Shahjahan and recovered the two sets. None was arrested. Police said Shahjahan, an activist of an outlawed party, was wanted in a number of criminal cases.

Acid attack on housewife

UNB, Bagerhat
A housewife sustained serious burn injuries in an acid attack at village Syedpur in Sadar upazila here Tuesday.
Victim Monwara Begum, 50, wife of Asir Uddin of the village was sent to Dhaka from Sadar hospital in a critical condition.

Trader's house robbed

UNB, Thakurgaon
Thieves took away Tk 90,000 in cash and 40 tolas of gold from the house of a trader in Hazipara Shimultola area of the town on Tuesday.
Police said thieves entered into the house of Abdul Khalek, a bus and truck trader, breaking the door of the kitchen and took away the cash and gold in absence of the family members. A case was filed.

Sex worker killed

BSS, Rajbari
A sex worker of Daulatdia brothel was slaughtered at a paddy field behind the brothel in Gualondo upazila Monday night.
Police said, the victim was identified as Lovely, 28. She was abducted from the brothel on Monday night. The body was sent to Rajbari Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.
Local people said three sex workers of the same brothel were killed in the last three months.



One of the vulnerable points of the Gaibandha Town Protection Embankment. WDB officials fear stretches of the embankment may give in to water pressure and flood the town in the coming monsoon.

Gaibandha town protection dam vulnerable

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The Gaibandha town protection embankment has developed cracks and potholes at several points, making it vulnerable.
Water Development Board (WDB) sources here fear that stretches of the embankment may give in to water pressure in the ensuing rainy season if those are not repaired and protected with concrete slabs and boulders before rains start.

A renovation scheme has been prepared but it is yet to be approved.

They said surging waters last year made three points in the embankment very much vulnerable and the town will be flooded this year unless those are repaired. Those were temporarily repaired last year with sand bags and bamboo.

The embankment was constructed in 2001 at a cost of Tk 21 crore 23 lakh to save Gaibandha town from flood. But there were irregularities. Sand was used instead of earth in the construction, other sources said.

Death of student at Sylhet**RK Mission authorities refute allegations**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The authorities of Ramkrishna Mission, Sylhet refuted the allegations of murdering Devashish Roy, a resident student of the mission hostel who died on Friday last.

Swami Chandranathananda, principal of the mission, at a press conference yesterday at Sylhet Press club also strongly protested the allegations made by the victim's parents at the press conference held on Monday.

Chandranathananda in a written statement said Devashish Roy alias Rajesh was found lying unconscious on the roof of the hostel Friday morning.

He was immediately sent to the Osmani Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

There was no negligence in taking necessary steps in this regard, he claimed. The father of the victim was also informed timely.

Police took hostel superintendent, a roommate of the victim and

a gardener of the hostel into custody for interrogation.

Swami Chandranathananda said, we are ready to extend all necessary help to law enforcers. He also requested all to be alert so that no innocent person is harassed.

Principal Bimal Chandra Dev, President of the Mission Committee, and others of the mission were present at the press conference.

Earlier, parents of the deceased at a press conference alleged that their son was murdered. Devashish's father Bimalendu Roy accused the mission principal, hostel superintendent Brahamachari Ram Moharaj and some students for the killing.

He was killed as he was the follower of a different 'guru', he alleged.

There were marks of injury on the body of Devashish, his father claimed.

One to die for acid attack on former wife

UNB, Bagerhat

One person has been sentenced to death for throwing acid on his former wife in Bagerhat.

The convict, Habibur Rahman Mina, 32, of Noihati village in Rupsha upazila, was also fined Tk 50,000.

Mina had hurled acid on his former wife Khairunnesa, 20, at her parent's house at Maniknagar Bagerhat on December 20, 2000. She lost her eyesight due to acid burn. Khairunnesa had divorced Mina in 1999.

Judge of Women and Children Repression Control Court M Kader Newaz pronounced the verdict on Monday.

UP chairman murder in Bagerhat: 2 arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two persons have been arrested as suspects in the murder of Habibur Rahman, a BNP leader and chairman of Baintala Union Parishad in Rampal upazila in Bagerhat district.

They are Zafar and Akram. Habibur Rahman, was gunned down by unidentified assailants when he was returning home Monday night along with two others -- Shaheen and Moslem.

According to eye witnesses, the killers were wearing black masks and carrying sawn off rifles.

Sources said the murder was sequel to intra-party rivalry. Police refused to comment, asking for more time to dig into the matter.

Local people said that the slain UP chairman played a vital role against criminals and toll collectors irrespective of their party affiliation. He was vocal against shrimp cultivation at the cost of paddy cultivation, local people said.

Habibur Rahman was elected chairman, contested his four-party alliance rival.

But Rampal thana OC Nasiruddin said the slain chairman was a terrorist and wanted in some criminal cases.

No let up in push-in bid by BSF**Several attempts foiled, hundreds assembled across the border**

BSS, Rangpur

The Border Security Force (BSF) of India in the last 48 hours ending on Tuesday made several push-in attempts at different points on Bangladesh's north-western border by adopting new tactics.

BDR along with the frontier people foiled all the attempts, official sources said here.

Tension is simmering along the whole north-western border as the BSF, with reinforcements, increased its push-in bid. BDR is preparing for a flag meeting with BSF to ease the tension, the sources added.

The BSF tried to push six Bengali-speaking Indians through the remote Shaljhore border under Bhurungamari upazila in Kurigram district on Monday night.

As BDR personnel and local people resisted, BSF forced the Indians to keep sitting on the zero line for hours. Finally, they took them back Tuesday morning.

Sources said the six were party of a group of 15, split into two groups.

BSF tried to push in another four persons through Bhurungamari border in Kurigram district on Sunday but failed because of a joint resistance, the sources said.

Two other attempts to push in 35 Indians through Jhalongi border in Patgram upazila in Lalmonirhat district were foiled by the BDR and villagers during past couple of days.

In the early hours of Monday, BSF tried to push in 15 Bengali-speaking Indian nationals including women and children through Mohanpur border in Dinajpur dis-

trict.

Talking to BSS, senior officials of the BDR said several hundred Bengali-speaking Indians, mostly women and children, were assembled by BSF in bordering Indian villages.

They are being shifted from one place to another in the darkness of night to push them into Bangladesh at a convenient time.

The BSF personnel have devised a new tactics of keeping themselves in the second row during push-in bids, placing the victims in the front row and forcing them to enter Bangladesh. Earlier, the BSF men were in the front row with the push in victims.

"We are now on a maximum alert to foil any push-in bid. Villagers are cooperating with us spontaneously", one of the officials said.

Killing of Bangladesghi at Majhipara**BDR-BSF flag meeting agrees on border peace**

BSS, Tentulia

A sector commander level flag meeting here on Monday discussed the April 29 killing of a Bangladeshi by BSF in Majhipara border and BDR-BSF exchange of fire.

Col. Ferdous Rahman, Rangpur Sector Commander of BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) and Balbeer Singh, Deputy Inspector General of BSF (Border Security Force of India) led their respective sides at the six and a half hours meeting, official sources said on Tuesday.

Bangladeshi farmer Nur Mohammad, 30, was killed, and BDR personnel Anisur Rahman, 35 and a BSF hawilder were injured in the firing.

At the meeting, BDR strongly protested the "unprovoked firing" by BSF.

Nur Mohammad was shot dead when some BSF personnel and Indian miscreants attacked Bangladeshi farmers while they were planting Boro seedlings in a land which is part of 26 acres of disputed land near the international demarcation pillar no. 434 in Majhipara border.

The BDR relied to the BSF attack and the skirmish continued for about seven hours creating tension in the area.

Later, a Battalion level flag meeting on the incident was held on May 1.

At Monday's meeting, both the sides agreed to co-operate to maintain peace and tranquility along the border.

Talking to BSS, Col. Ferdous said the flag meeting was successful and held in a cordial and co-operative atmosphere.

BCL leader abducted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A local BCL (Bangladesh Chhatra League) leader was kidnapped Monday night from his house at Kownia in the city.

Police and family sources said a gang of 10 to 12 armed men swooped on the house of Arifur Rahman Shohag, also former AGS of Barisal College Chhatra Sangsad, at about 9:00pm Monday.

As Shohag was not at home, the gang attacked neighbouring houses in search of the BCL leader. A group of the attackers lay in wait for him near his house.

After some time, as he was returning home, the miscreants severely beat him and kidnapped him.

Police arrested Mortuza Abedin, a local ward commissioner, for his suspected involvement in the incident. He was produced before court yesterday.

The court rejected Mortuza's bail prayer and sent him to jail custody.

Shohag's father Shah Mohammed Enamul Huq filed a criminal case accusing Mortuza and four others for kidnapping his son.

Mortuza's supporters brought out a procession in the city on Tuesday and submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner demanding his release.

One killed, 3 injured in Barisal road accidents

BSS, Barisal

One person was killed and three others were injured in two road accidents in the district on Monday, police said.

Fatejan Bibi, 52, was crushed under the wheels of a bus at Illah bus stand under Gournabdi upazila when she was crossing the Barisal-Dhaka highway.

In another accident, a minor boy -- Mohammad Ali was injured when a motorcycle hit him in Chaumatha area of the city. Khokon Sarder and his sister Nasrin Akhtar, who were on the motorcycle, were also injured.

Nasrin is a third year honours student of BM College.

They were sent to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Rapists of college girl go scot-free, threaten family

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

Alleged killer rapists of college girl Zzahida of Borochichara village in Sreepur upazila move at large while her parents are being threatened with eviction if they do not withdraw the case.

Police could not arrest any of the killers even in one year after the incident though the district administration selected the case as a 'sensitive' one and transferred it to DB (Detective Branch) police.

The victim's parents came to The Daily Star correspondent with the photo of their daughter and complained of police inaction and treats by the rapists, allegedly protected by an influential quarter.

At one stage they broke into tears and asked, "Are terrorists more powerful than government and law?"

Zahida Khatun, daughter of Raihan Zoarder, a poor farmer, appeared at the HSC examination last year from Dariapur College. She secured first division in HSC from Humanities Group as she got also in SSC.

But ill-fated Zahida could not know her HSC result as she was gangraped and strangled by some local miscreants on July 5, 2002, few



Old parents of ill-fated Zahida with the photo of their beloved daughter. Criminals raped and killed her and threatening her parents to withdraw the case.

days after the examination.

Family sources said, Zahida was caught by the miscreants in daylight and dragged to a jute field while she was returning home from her friend's house.

A case was lodged with Sreepur thana.

One of the alleged killers Mamun--, son of Mobarak Molla,

was handed over to police by his elder brother.

The local administration at a meeting on law and order on August 27 last year put the case on the list 'sensitive' cases.

After about six months, the charge-sheet of the case was submitted to court.

Pirates rule the Sundarbans

500 maunds of honey looted, 13 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Thirteen honey collectors (mouals) were injured, eleven of them seriously, when they came under armed attack by an organised gang of pirates on Monday night in Charakhali canal in the Sundarbans.

While going away in engine boats, the pirates looted 500 maunds of honey from the injured honey collectors.

Shyamnagar thana police said the attacks by pirates belonging to Kalu Bhaini of the Sundarbans came when honey collectors were asleep in their boats.

The pirates are Indians who are dominating in a part of the Sundarbans, injured honey collectors told police.

Police said the pirates made the attack with bombs and firearms. Left hand of one of the honey collectors -- Shawkat Hossain--

was blown off, police said.

The injured are now undergoing treatment in Shyamnagar upazila health complex.

RU golden jubilee

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University is going to celebrate its golden jubilee in December next.

Several committees and sub committees have been formed for this at a discussion meeting held in the Senate Bhavan yesterday.

Deans of different faculties, departmental chairmen, syndicate members, hall provosts, proctor, students' advisor and other administrative officers attended the meeting.

A decision was also taken to invite prime minister Khaleda Zia as chief guest.

Public Safety Tribunal settles 385 cases in Ctg

BSS, Chittagong

The Public Safety Tribunal of Chittagong has set a record by settling 385 cases out of 548 during the last three years.

Judge A N M Bashirullah delivered verdicts of all cases from April 2000 to April 2003 during his 33 working months.

This was stated in a fact-finding report jointly written by president and secretary of the Chittagong sadar chapter of Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights Advocate Zia Habib Ahsan and Advocate Mohammad Sharifuddin.

The report said that a total of 548 cases were filed with the Tribunal and the court settled 385 cases during the period. Among the unsettled cases, the Higher Court stayed 63 cases while 100 cases were pending for the disposal.

The Tribunal recorded statements of 3,816 witnesses during the period.