

SNAPS

Tree fair at Kishoreganj

UNB, Kishoreganj
A five-day tree fair began on the Deputy Commissioner's office premises here on Wednesday as part of countrywide tree plantation drive.

Deputy Commissioner Fazle Kabir inaugurated the fair. Saplings of fruit, timber and medicinal trees are being sold in 20 stalls. A seminar on planting trees was also held at the DC office to motivate the people. The Sadar Upazila Agriculture Officer presented the keynote paper in the seminar.

Teenage girl killed after rape

UNB, Mymensingh
A teenage girl was killed after rape allegedly by a son of her landlord at Hospital Road in Gafargaon upazila on Wednesday.

According to the complaint filed with the police, Mohiuddin, son of Riaz Uddin, violated Rubia Begum, 16, and later strangled her when she went to his room to pay monthly rent in the morning. The victim and her brother Rafiqul Islam was residing in the house for the last few months.

Human trafficker arrested

UNB, Panchagarh
A woman trafficker was arrested by BDR jawans when she was crossing the Balia border of Atowari upazila with two youths on last Saturday.

Acting on a tip-off, BDR members raided the area and nabbed Kalpana Rani, 30, along with Pradip Kumar Roy, 20, son of Surendra Chandra Roy, and Sotyen Chandra Roy, 20, son of Supendra Nath of Thakurgaon district. She lured the youths with good jobs in India. They were handed over to police. A case was filed.

English course at PSTU

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali
A communicative English language course has been introduced at Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU).

Vice-chancellor Prof A K M Abdul Hannan Bhuiyan inaugurated the seven-week course at a simple function at the university.

100 hills disappear in Ctg in 30 years

Landslides due to hill cutting kill 100

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Over 100 hills disappeared from Chittagong city and surrounding areas in the last 30 years due to illegal hill cutting.

Nearly 100 people died in landslides as a result of the hill cutting that caused serious ecological imbalance and environmental disaster.

These were revealed by Dr Md Shahidul Islam of Geography department of Chittagong University in a keynote paper presented at a seminar on 'Hill Cutting in Chittagong and Environmental Disaster', held at the Chittagong Press Club on Thursday.

Unscrupulous people of seven categories including local political leaders, 'mastaans' and a section of officials are involved in a syndicate engaged in the lucrative

business, speakers told the seminar.

Worst still, relevant laws promulgated in early nineties to stop illegal hill cutting is actually 'favourable' for the illegal business because of its many loopholes, they said.

Engineer Sultan Mahmud chaired the seminar, organised by the civil society in Chittagong.

Poet and resident editor of Prothom Alo Abul Momen moderated the discussion.

Earlier, a human chain was formed by the civil society and professionals in front of the Press Club protesting hill cutting.

The seven categories of people include real estate developers, contractors, brick kiln owners and truck owners, the speakers said.

Of them, the most powerful ones are the local political leaders and 'mastaans', who work from behind the seen, they said.

The areas worst affected by the unabated hill cutting are Khulshi, Panchlaish, Sholoshahar, Baizid Bostami, Foy's Lake, Lalkhan Bazar, Oxygen Intersection and Polytechnic area, Dr. Islam said in his paper.

City mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, architect Zarina Hossain, engineers and environmentalists Subash Barua and Ali Ashraf, advocate Shafiqul Alam and secretary general of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan Abu Naser Khan spoke at the seminar, among others.

The Speakers called upon the government to top the illegal business to stop destruction of the ecology and environment disaster.

They said the relevant laws should be amended immediately.

They also urged the local people in those areas to launch a movement against illegal hill cutting.



Members of civil society formed a human chain in front of the Chittagong Press Club on Thursday demanding effective steps to stop hill cutting that poses a serious threat to environment.

Kalidas Boral murder AL man involved, victim's wife tells court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Secretary of Chitalmari upazila Awami League Pijush Kanti Roy was directly involved in the murder of advocate Kalidas Boral, senior vice-president of Bagerhat district AL, the victim's wife Happy Boral told the Additional District and Sessions Judge's court, Bagerhat.

Her deposition was recorded by the Additional District and Sessions Judge who is trying the murder case. Happy Boral is the complainant in the case.

Kalidas Boral was murdered on August 20, 2000 at Bagerhat town. Trial of the case began on Sunday last. The next hearing will be held on June 25.

Happy Boral's deposition has

severely jolted the Bagerhat Awami League. Awami League leaders of Bagerhat held an emergency meeting Thursday afternoon where they unanimously resolved to issue a press statement condemning her for the deposition.

Pijush Kanti Roy who happens to be a nephew of Kalidas Boral was named the main prosecution witness among 72 others in the murder case.

"We are really perturbed as her deposition in the court has seriously hit our sentiment", said Bagerhat district AL president and former state Minister Dr Moazzam Hossain.

Meanwhile, Happy Boral has again filed two written petitions with Bagerhat Sadar thana and

Chitalmari thana, seeking security of her life and property as some of the accused are allegedly threatening her not to make deposition in court, sources said.

Minor girl electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

A 10 year-old girl, Ruma, was electrocuted at Chandradash village under Damurhuda upazila.

She came in touch with a live wire while going to mosque for religious studies on Tuesday last. She died on the spot. She was the daughter of one Bozluur Rahman.

Newsmen now can enter CMCH for professional work

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A meeting between leaders of Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) and the director of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) over journalists' entry into the hospital for professional work was held here on Thursday.

The meeting, held at CMCH director's office, discussed recent incidents of barring newsmen from entering the hospital.

CMCH Director Brig Gen Md Toufique Alam termed the incidents as "simple misunderstanding" and assured all out support and cooperation to newsmen in their professional work.

He also requested journalists to meet him directly if they face any obstacle in performing professional work inside the hospital.

CUJ acting president Shamsul Haq, general secretary Shahid Ul Alam, Joint-secretary Nazim Uddin Shyamol were present, among others, in the meeting, initiated by the Chittagong unit of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA).

Five cops sued for 'abducting' girl, 'assaulting' woman

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A policeman has been sued for allegedly abducting a schoolgirl in Gaibandha while four others have been accused of assaulting a woman in Chuadanga.

Our Gaibandha correspondent reported that a cop has been sued under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act for allegedly abducting a schoolgirl from Harinabari village under Palashbari upazila.

The victim's father Abdul Matin Prodhan of village Kumargari filed a case against Musa Mia, a constable at Harinabari Police Investigation Centre, for abducting his daughter Rukshana Akhter, a student of a class nine at Harinabari High School. The case was filed with a court in Gaibandha on June 14.

In the case, the victim's father alleged that Musa Mia, while on duty, often disturbed her daughter on her way to school.

He alleged that Musa Mia kidnapped Rukshana on June 1. When contacted, the officer-in-charge (OC) of Palashbari Thana

said he did not know anything about the matter. He said Musa joined duty on June 16 after a long leave.

Our Correspondent reported from Chuadanga that a woman filed a criminal case against a sub-inspector and three constables of Karpashdanga police outpost in Damurhuda upazila for allegedly assaulting her.

Sub-inspector Kobad Ali and three policemen went to the house of one Rabeya Khatun, wife of late Noimuddin, on May 27 in search of her son in connection with a case against him.

Not finding her son, the policemen allegedly assaulted her. Rabeya brought the matter to the notice of the human rights monitoring cell at Chuadanga district bar association, which arranged her treatment and advised her to lodge a complaint to the Chuadanga superintendent of police.

As the policemen allegedly pressed her to withdraw the complaint, she lodged a criminal case with a court in Chuadanga.

Indian national arrested in Sylhet

UNB, Sylhet

An Indian national was arrested from Haripur bus stand in Jointapur upazila here on Wednesday.

Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Jitu Bhoomik, 45, who hails from Meghalaya of India.

Jitu, son of late Chandra Kanta of Shilong Billbong upazila, was residing in the house of one Salimullah of Hemu Majhpara village illegally for the last few months, police said.

Fake non-judicial stamps recovered in Joypurhat

UNB, Joypurhat

Police arrested a man with 74 fake non-judicial stamps from the district court premises on last Sunday.

Police said Touhidul Islam Dulal sold the stamps at Tk 50 each to stamp vendor Abdus Samad. But the people who bought the stamps from Samad found that these are fake and caught hold of him.

When they came to know about the real culprit, they caught Dulal and handed him over to police.

Two killed, 48 hurt in bus accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Two person were killed and 48 injured when a Rangamati-bound bus skidded off the road and fell into a ditch at Kutwamara under Naniarchar upazila on Thursday.

The dead were identified as Amrita Lal Chakma 33, and Modhu Ranjan Chakma, 55. They died on the spot.

Critically injured 15 people were admitted to Rangamati General Hospital. They are Abul Hasan, 20; Habibur Rahman, 40; Emdadul Islam, 20; Mongal Kumar Chakma, 15; Mongol Boti Chakma, 35; Rabiul Islam, 30; Sonadhan Chakma 18;

Md. Jahangir 25; Shahinur Begum, 5; Doli Akter, 8; Sujan, 12; Shuvas Chakma, 27; Mritunjoy Chakma, 40; Maya Debi, 45 and Chigi Bala Chakma, 45, according to hospital sources.

Another critically injured passenger was later shifted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

Police and other sources said the bus (Khulna-Ba-727) was coming to Rangamati from Nanirchar upazila headquarter.

Local people rushed to the spot and rescued the injured 48. Many of the injured were released from Rangamati hospital after treatment.

Daulatpur mill incident

Escapee 'outlaws' yet to be nabbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two alleged outlaws suspected of looting arms and ammunition from Daulatpur Jute Mill, who escaped from the custody of DB police on Tuesday, are yet to be reassessed.

Source in the special branch of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) said the outlaws--Dabirul Islam and Moyeen-- escaped with handcuffs from the custody of Naik Jamaluddin, and constables Hum Kiri and Selim Khan when SI Rashid of DB entered the house of 'Choto Boyra' for recovering arms.

SI Rashid has filed a case with

Sonadanga thana against the three policemen.

Twenty rifles and 600 bullets were looted from the store of the state owned mill at Khalishpur last month. Islam and Moyeen, allegedly belonging to Purba Banglar Communist (PBCP), were arrested after a case was filed with Khalishpur thana.

The one-man probe body comprising AC (Force) Anisur Rahman formed to probe the escape of the outlaws submitted its report on Thursday.

Anisur Rahman could not be reached over phone despite repeated attempts.

Wife 'poisoned to death' by husband

Another housewife acid victim

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

A housewife was killed allegedly by her husband by pushing poison-mixed saline at Khanpur village in Sadar upazila on Wednesday.

The victim was identified as Ofura Khatun, 25, wife of Nazrul Islam. Police and local people said, Ofura and Nazrul were married about 10 years back. Recently, Nazrul married another woman.

On Wednesday in the morning, Nazrul and his second wife beat Ofura. As she fell unconscious, he called a quack.

It is alleged that Nazrul in collab-

oration with the quack pushed a poison-mixed saline and Ofura died soon after. A case has been lodged with the Sadar thana.

In another incident at Bahera village in Debhata upazila, a housewife sustained severe burn injuries in an acid attack allegedly by her husband and his second wife.

Police said Jahanara Khatun, 35, was asleep when her husband Mousa Box and his second wife Sharifa Khatun threw acid on her. She was taken to Sathkira Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

A case was lodged with Debhata police station.

Two arrested on charge of cheque forgery

UNB, Faridpur

Police arrested a bank officer and a peon of a college in connection with a cheque forgery on Wednesday.

Police said Zakir Hossain, a peon of local Saroda Sundari Mohila College, deposited a cheque for Tk 2.75 lakh to local Pubali Bank branch.

But the principal of the college denied issuing any cheque when the bank officials contacted him.

The branch manager then informed the police who arrested Zakir and Motahar Hossain, cash officer of the bank.

Motahar was arrested on the basis of confessional statement of Zakir.

Abducted girl yet to be rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

A 14 year-old schoolgirl allegedly abducted by some miscreants from Bhadiali village in Kalaroa upazila on May 27 is yet to be recovered.

Police said, Taslima Khatun, 14, gaughter of Azharul Islam was abducted allegedly by Bablu 25, son of one Shamsur Rahman of Madaripur, while she was going to school.

Police said a team of Kalaroa police raided some villages in Madaripur and some areas of Khulna town, but could not trace the girl.

Bangladeshi student selected global rep

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Iftekhar Alam, a student of computer science at Waterloo University, Canada, has been selected global representative of Bangladesh and shadow volunteer for the university.

He would be assisting Bangladeshi students interested to study engineering, software engineering, environment, mathematics and in other faculties at Waterloo University.

Iftekhar, a former student of Scholastica, Dhaka, hailing from Sughandha residential area of the port city, will be available on ift360@hotmail.com or ift360@yahoo.com for advise, said a press release available here.

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