

SNAPS

Trade fair begins in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
A month-long trade fair began at the Collectorate field in the city on Friday. It has been organised by the Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industries and the National Association of Small Industries in Bangladesh. Besides Bangladeshi products, items from Pakistan, Iran and Thailand are also on display at the fair. The local products include Rajshahi silk, traditional tribal dresses from Rangamati, Khadi from Comilla, bed sheets from Kushtia, pottery and handloom products. Some 120 stalls have been opened at the fair.

Goldsmith shot in Faridpur

UNB, Faridpur
A goldsmith was shot by a gang of extortionists in Bhangabazar area of the town on Tuesday. Police said three armed youths called Nani Gopal Karmakar out of his house and demanded Tk. 1 lakh in toll. As he refused to pay the money, the gang fired at him and fled the scene. The victim was rushed to Faridpur Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Relief for flood victims

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar
Moulvibazar district unit of BNP has distributed relief materials among flood victims in Rajnagar upazila. The relief materials included rice, biscuits and clothes. District BNP General Secretary Fayzul Karim, joint secretary Abdul Wali Siddiquee and other BNP leaders distributed the relief goods among flood victims in Kunagan, Kamarchak, Ekamodhu and Kadamhata villages.

Abducted girl rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira
A schoolgirl has been rescued after one month of her abduction. Police said, Munira Khatun, 13, daughter of Mozammel Haq of village Talia in Shyamnagar upazila was abducted by some miscreants on her way to Kalbaria Jalia High School on May 15. Police rescued the girl from a house in Kalbaria village on the confession of Ashraf Ali who was arrested earlier.

Daulatpur Jute mills

Outlaw Masud confesses to looting rifles, killings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Riazul Huq Masud, 32, an armed cadre of Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP), has confessed to the looting of 20 rifles and 600 bullets from the store of Daulatpur Jute Mills (DJM) on April 24. The looted rifles have been distributed among the PBCP cadres in the southwest region, he told a special police team during interrogation. He was quizzed at Rampal thana during a three-day remand. Masud, also known as Birhi Masud, was arrested along with two associates – Tamal, 25, and Rajib, 28, -- from the house of one

Moulana Abdul Mannan of Faila village in the evening of June 12. He is the 'third-in-command' of PBCP, headed by its ringleader Abdur Rashid Malitha alias Tapan, who had escaped from police custody at Khulna Judges' court early last year. Shown arrested in the rifle looting case, Masud made judicial confessions in the court of First Class Magistrate Syed Rabbiul Alam at Bagerhat. His confessions were recorded under Section 164. He also confessed his direct involvement in the murders of Bagerhat district BNP Vice President Abdul Awal, frozen food exporter Farhad Hossain, two

policemen of Fakirhat thana, and Bahirdia Union Parishad Chairman and Awami League leader Atahar alias Atar Ali. Once a student of Bagerhat Government PC College, Masud told police that all the murders were committed and arms looted to carry out his party's decision to eliminate 'class enemies' and get equipped with arms to launch an intensified 'guerrilla war' in the South-Western region. Masud also mentioned the names of his godfathers, but Bagerhat Police Superintendent refused to disclose the names.



PHOTO: STAR
Khelaghar, an organisation for children and juveniles, took out a colourful procession in Chittagaong city on Friday to celebrate its silver jubilee.

Tea factory gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar
A fire has gutted the factory along with processed tea and equipment at Rajnagar tea garden. Sources at Moulvibazar fire brigade said the fire originated from an electric short circuit or a gas burner at about 3 pm on Sunday last and soon engulfed the entire factory. On information, firefighters from Moulvibazar and Kulaura rushed there and doused the fire after about three hours. Alhaj Ragib Ali, Chairman of South East Bank Limited, is the owner of the garden. The garden authorities claimed that the fire gutted all machinery and 24,000 kilograms of processed tea. Fire brigade sources said they will estimate the losses after inquiry.

Three outlaws wounded in encounter with police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna
Three outlaws were wounded during an exchange of gunfire with the police at Kathaitala near Dumuria-Keshabpur border on Thursday. However, the armed cadres belonging to New Biplobi Communist Party managed to flee, Jessore police said. Over 100 rounds of bullets were fired during the half-an-hour encounter.

Crackdown on gang of inter-dist car lifters: 7 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Seven members of an inter-district gang of car lifters have been arrested and four stolen cars and one motorcycle recovered from different areas of Barisal and Bhola districts. Sources in the special police team which came from Dhaka and conducted the drive said a transport workers' leader who is a member of the ruling party's labour front Sramik Dal is the alleged godfather of the gang. Of the gang members, Md Hanif, Khokan, Qaium, Akter and Hassan were arrested from Barisal and Aslam from Charfassion, Bhola.

Two of the recovered cars had been stolen from Dhaka. A special team led by SI Shahjahan of Ramna thana, Dhaka arrested five of them from Nathullabad bus stand in Barisal, acting on the confession of one Shamim of Mohammadpur Chan Housing in Dhaka, held earlier. Acting on their confession, the

team recovered one stolen Indian TVS motorcycle and two cars -- one from the house of Farid, a motor mechanic, and the other from in front Comilla Hotel in the city's port area. The car recovered from Farid's house belongs to advocate Hamid of Shahbag area and the other is owned by an army officer, both of Dhaka, police said. Police said Shamim used to get appointed as driver in houses or firms and then, in opportune moments, escaped with cars as per directive of the gangsters. The police team also raided different areas in the Bhola, Charfassion, and Lalmohan. It recovered two stolen cars from Bhola kheya ghat (launch terminal) and a rent-a-car service in Charfassion. The gangsters in the areas were allegedly led by the transport workers leader, police said. The operation and investigation are going on, police said.

Housemaid found dead at employer's bedroom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A housemaid was found dead at her employer's bedroom at Shamsur Rahman road in Khulna city on Thursday. Police recovered the body of Momena Khatun, 36, at midnight on Thursday. She worked at the house of Abdur Rahman, a school-teacher. According to the inquest report, Momena was strangled. Police have taken the teacher and a woman, Usha, 32, into custody for questioning. Daughter of Taleb Moral of Srikantapur village of Paikgacha upazilla, Momena was buried on Friday after an autopsy. Asked about the incident, Khulna police said they were waiting for autopsy report. Neighbours said Abdur Rahman's wife has been staying in her father's house at Sayedpur village, Chandpur, since the last week of May because of strained relations with her husband.

'Frame policy for NGOs'

CU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable held at the Chittagong Press Club stressed formulation of a policy for NGOs in the country. The Credit and Development Forum (CDF), an NGO, organised the roundtable on "Internal Resource Mobilisation for Poverty Alleviation Through Micro-finance". Food minister Abdullah Al

Noman was the chief guest while Executive Director of CDF Md. Abdur Rouf Bhuyian presented the keynote paper at the discussion. The speakers said there are so many NGOs in the country and most of them are doing "nothing but their own business". The system for registration of NGOs should be tightened and their rates of interest lowered, they said. The NGO's charge high rate of

interest, making economic activity with their loans unviable, they said. The keynote paper put forward a nine-point recommendation including setting up of a 'pravasi bank' (bank for expatriates) to make the micro-credit programme of NGOs a success. A total of 40 representatives of different NGOs took part the discussion.

Tk one cr heroin seized in Bhaluka, 2 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Bhaluka police arrested two persons and seized one kilogram of heroin worth about Tk one crore from a house at Bhandabo Boydapara village in Bhaluka upazila. The arrested persons are Mafiz, 35 and Maleka Banu, 50, wife of Mutaleeb of Meduari village. Being informed, Bhaluka police raided the house of Mafiz and seized the heroin. Later, on his confession, police arrested Maleka

Banu. The heroin has been sent to Dhaka for test, police said on Thursday. In another drive, Phulbaria police arrested five alleged dacoits. A police team led by SI Shahjahan arrested Ali Hossain, 50, an alleged gang leader of dacoits, from his house at Bakta Dakmin village under Phulbaria upazila. Acting on his confession, police later arrested Kalam, 32, Monsur, 28, Helal, 35 and Helim 30 from Kahaligoan village, police said.

12 arrested for illegal power connections

UNB, Bandarban

A mobile court arrested 12 people here in last three days and sentenced them to different terms for taking illegal power connection to their houses or business establishments. Power Development Board sources said they also disconnected over 400 electricity lines and realised outstanding bills amounting to Tk 1.47 lakh during the drive against bill defaulters and illegal power users.

Defamation suit protested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

A human chain was formed on the premises of Gopalganj Deputy Commissioner's office on Thursday protesting the defamation case filed by Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Advisor Salauddin Quader Chowdhury against the editors of The Daily Star and the Prothom Alo. The Gopalganj unit of Prothom Alo Friends Association staged the protest. Local elite, newsmen and political activists joined the programme, preceded by a brief rally.