

SNAPS

Three murdered in Kishoreganj

UNB, Kishoreganj

Three people were murdered in separate incidents in the district recently.

Police said Aiyub Ali, 40, of Nilganj village in Sadar upazila was slaughtered allegedly by a drunken man at Rail Station.

A gang of assailants killed Kalachan, 40, of Karpasha village in Nikli upazila and took away his trawler when he was going to Itna.

In another incident, a body was recovered from a water body at Terichar village in Bhairav upazila. The victim was identified as Selim, 35.

BAF graduation parade

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The summer graduation parade of Bangladesh Air Force was held at the BAF Academy, Jessore on Sunday, said an ISPR press release.

Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury attended the ceremony as the chief guest and handed over awards and certificates to the cadets. He also distributed flying badges amongst the Flight Cadets.

Thirty-one cadets including eight Flight Cadets and six female cadets were commissioned. Earlier, 22 female cadets were commissioned.

Verdict on Mirabazar murders tomorrow

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Verdict in the sensational Mirabazar double murder case is likely to be delivered tomorrow.

Cross-examination of 48 of the 56 witnesses at the Divisional Speedy Trial Court, Sylhet was completed on June 26.

Anwara Begum, wife of business magnet Ajab Ali Sheth and housemaid Jubedia Begum were killed at their Mirabazar house in the city on February 17, 2001.

The detective branch of police submitted charge sheet in the case on June 15, 2002, accusing 10 persons.

They are Chamak, Salek, Hannan, Matlib, Kala Miah, Faruque Uddin, Tojoi Miah, Fakhru Islam, Jainal Ahmed and Sattar Miah.

Five of the charge-sheeted accused are in jail hajat, four on bail and the rest one Jainal Ahmed is yet to be nabbed.

Public prosecutor advocate Fakhar Uddin Ahmed told The Daily Star that trial of the case was delayed as the prime witness -- Shithil Ranjan Dey-- is did not appear in court despite issuance of warrants three times.

Shithil along with his family is 'missing' from their village home in Salutikat under Gowainghat upazila since 4 March.

Complainant Ajab Ali Sheth had alleged that Shithil was kept in hiding by his cousin Fanindra Ranjan Dey for realising money from him (Ajab Ali).

Some sources said Fanindra did so due to threats by the accused. Ajab Ali also alleged that the killers were threatening him to withdraw the case.

But Fanindra said the killers had forced Shithil to go on hiding.

Training for Bhaluka newsmen

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A six-day training on journalism concluded at the auditorium of Upazila Nirbahi Office, Bhaluka in Mymensingh on Friday.

Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism and Communication (BCDJC) in collaboration with Bhaluka unit of Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity and Mymensingh Press Club organised the training course.

Mir Aftabuddin Ahmed of the Ittefaq, Saleem Samad of The Bangladesh Observer, M Aszazzaman of the Independent, Sudhansu Sekhar Roy of East-West University, Md Sazzad Hossain of BCDJC and ZAM Khairuzzaman of The Daily Star conducted the course as resource persons.

About 15 local correspondents of national and regional dailies participated.

Tk 15.85 cr Patuakhali municipal budget

A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A Tk 15.85 cr proposed annual budget of Patuakhali Pourashabha for fiscal 2003-04 was announced by its chairman Mostaq Ahmed on Sunday. No new tax was imposed in the new budget.



Nature's fury: Saterkandi village under Sadar upazila in Gaibandha district faces extinction due to unabated erosion by the mighty Brahmaputra (left) and the Dharla river devouring another village under Moghalhat union in Sadar upazila in Lalmonirhat district (right).



PHOTOS: STAR

UPDF activist killed, bazaar looted in Naniarchar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Activists allegedly belonging to the Parbattya Chattagram Jono Sanghati Shamity (PCJSS) looted shops at Ghilachhori bazaar in Naniarchar upazila, shot dead a UPDF supporter and abducted another on Thursday.

The dead is Indrajibon Chakma, 24, according to a UPDF (United Peoples Democratic Front) press release issued here yesterday.

A group of about 15 PCJSS

activists led by Uttam Chakma swooped on the bazaar and looted cash and valuables from shopkeepers. At one stage, they shot Indrajibon point blank, killing him on the spot, said the release.

Army and police forces played the role of silent spectators during the attack, the press release signed by Rangamati UPDF Convenor Sachib Chakma alleged.

Uttam leads a gang of about forty. They very often come out of

their hideouts in Ghilachhori and Chetchhori hills and extort money from villagers, he alleged.

The gang is also involved in other crimes in the area but security forces do not take any action against them, he alleged. He demanded action against them.

Meanwhile, another UPDF activist -- Shamiron Chakma, 18-- was abducted by PCJSS activists from Rangamati Government College premises on the same day, the UPDF press release claimed.

Mother jailed for 43 years for killing daughter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

A woman has been sentenced to 43 years' imprisonment for killing her minor daughter.

District and Session's Judge A R Masud handed down the punishment to Monwara Khatun, wife of Zohurul Islam of Shontoshpur village under Jibon Nagar upazila on Saturday.

Monwara had fed her daughters Doyel and Dolon poison on August 10, 1998. Dolon, 2, died at a hospital. Doyel survived.

Criminals cut tendon, tongue in Barisal, Pirojpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Rivals cut the left hand tendon of alleged notorious criminal Amirul, 20, and stabbed him at the Bot Tola tempo stand in the city on Friday night.

Amirul and leader of his rival gang, Shazada, are wanted by police but they move freely in the city, it is alleged. Amirul, a vendor turned criminal, is now being treated at the Sher-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) with injuries in shoulder and left thigh.

In another incident on the same night, tongue of a young man -- Ruhul Amin-- was cut by his opponents at Mithakhali under Mathbaria upazila in Pirojpur district in a dispute over possession of land. The victim is undergoing treatment at the SBMCH.

An IU Correspondent, Kushtia Students of Computer Science and Technology (CST) Department at the Islamic University (IU) on Sunday boycotted classes and locked rooms in the department from 10 am to 1 pm, demanding appointment of more teachers and other facilities including internet and e-mail.

They threatened to go on a greater movement if their demands are not met.

Bus service resumes in Barisal

BSS, Barisal

Bus service on different routes in Barisal resumed on Sunday after nine days following a fruitful meeting between leaders of Barisal and Jhalakati bus owners associations.

The routes are Barisal-Pirojpur, Barisal-Jhalakathi, Barisal-Bhandaria and Barisal-Rajapur.

Among others, Hemayetuddin Himu and Mahiuddin Sarder of Barisal Minibus Malik Samity; Alhaj Majid Hawlader, Mir Ziauddin Miraj of Jhalakathi Bus Malik Samity and Jashimuddin Khan, president of Pirojpur Bus Malik Samity attended the meeting.

35 tonnes of fish fries to be released in Kaptai lake

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation (BFDC) will release 35 metric tons of fish fries this season in the 680 sq km Kaptai lake.

Eighty percent of the fries will be collect from BFDC hatcheries and the rest 20 percent from Halda river, BFDC sources said.

Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Affairs Deputy Minister Moniswapon Dewan is expected to launch the programme next month, BFDC's Kaptai lake project manager Qazi Nurunnabi said.

The fries to be released in phases, will add to the naturally bred ones.

Last year, BFDC release 32.5 metric tons of fry in the lake.

5000 flood victims move to Baghaichhori camps

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

About 5000 flood-hit people have moved to five relief centres at Baghaichhori, opened by the upazila administration, as Katchalong river overflow both its banks inundating five villages following ten days' rains.

The people at the centres are being given wheat as relief, official sources said.

The Baghaichhori Upazila Nirbahee Officer has sent an

17 unions flooded in Feni

BSS, Feni

Incessant rain and onrush of water from hills in India caused flash flood in 17 unions under four upazilas in the district.

Officials of the Water Development Board (WDB) and local administration on Sunday said Muhuri river was flowing two meters above the danger level and Kahua river was overflowing its banks.

The Chagalnaiya-Muhuriganj road has gone under water at four points, they said.

Vast croplands in the Sadar, Sonagazi Parshuram and Fulgazi upazilas have gone under water. Floodwater has also inundated some areas of Sonagazi Pourasabha.

Villages in Gopal, Shuvapur, Radhaanagar and Pathan Nagar unions are the worst affected, where most of the roads have gone under water.

Some of the flood victims in the four unions have taken shelter at Joypur Sorojini High School.

Local people said the flood situation in Chithalia union in Parshuram upazila deteriorated as Muhuri

embankment was damaged.

The strong current of water has also damaged a road on the bank of Kahua river near Natunbazar bridge, inundating two kilometres of the Feni-Parshuram road in Fulgazi.

6 get life term for killing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Additional District and Sessions Judge, Brahmanbaria, AKM Nasir Uddin Mahmud, sentenced five persons to life imprisonment for killing a man in 1999.

The convicts are Juke Mia, Hira Mia, Altab Ali, Mafiz Mia and Neherali.

They killed Ushan Ali at a village under Sarail thana in a dispute over uprooting some trees.

The judge in the verdict passed on Sunday also sentenced Taher Begum to one year's imprisonment and acquitted six others in the case.

Armed robbery at Rangpur court bldg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

An armed robbery was committed at the district judge court building on Saturday night, police and court sources said.

About 15 dacoits tied the night guard and broke open doors of 11 rooms. They opened 14 steel almirahs, ransacked documents and files and took away Tk 1,160, according to a case filed with Kotwali thana by nazir Nur Amin.

The court officials are yet to ascertain whether any important document was taken away.

10 injured in Mymensingh train accident

BSS, Mymensingh

At least 10 people were injured when two bogies of a passenger train derailed near Mintu Collage here on Sunday.

The people were injured when they jumped from the Jagannathganj-bound train out of fear when two of its bogies skidded off the track, railway officials said.

The cause of the accident could not be known immediately. Railway officials rushed to the spot and sent the injured people to hospital.

Fishing nets, boats seized from Kaptai lake

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A special vigilance team has seize 3000 yards of fishing net and 11 boats from the Kaptai lake since a drive was launched earlier this month to stop illegal fishing in the district during the current fish breeding season.

Four people were also arrested during the drive. They were released after realising fines, Kaptai lake project manager Qazi Nurunnabi said.

thesaid.

The team conducting the drive is led by Magistrate Mohammed Amin and includes Ansars and men of Bangladesh Fisheries Development Corporation (BFDC).