

SNAPS

Bhola BCL leader arrested

UNB, Bhola
Convenor of Bhola district unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) was arrested from Ghuingarhat bazaar area of the town on Saturday evening.

Police said BCL leader Mostaq Ahmed Shahin, a wanted criminal, was arrested from the bazaar. BCL activists brought out a procession in the town protesting the arrest. But in the face of the hot chase by the activists of Chhatra Dal the procession dispersed.

Man stabbed to death

UNB, Habiganj
A man was stabbed to death by his rivals at Keunda village in Chunarughat upazila on Friday.

Police said a gang of criminals led by Alam Mia of the village swooped on M Shamsul Haq, 50, following a past enmity. They stabbed him to death when he was going to a village doctor. The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed.

Boy electrocuted

UNB, Sylhet
A minor boy was electrocuted while playing in Kajalshah area of the town on Friday morning.

Muminul Islam Khan Babu, 10, only son of schoolteacher Aminul Haq Khan, came in contact with a live electric wire while he was playing beside his house. He was rushed to the Osmani Medical College Hospital where the on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Road mishap claims girl

UNB, Jhenidah
A little girl was killed and another injured in a road accident at Dulalmandia in Kaliganj upazila on Dhaka-Khulna highway on Friday.

The accident took place when a Dhaka-bound truck hit the girls killing Sonia, 8, on the spot and injuring her cousin Shefali, 10, daughter of Mofazzal of Dulalmandia, seriously, witnesses said.

Girl rescued: 'Trafficker' arrested

UNB, Jhenidah
Local people rounded up an alleged trafficker and rescued a teenage girl at Kayyepara village in Chougacha upazila on Friday.

Locals said they caught Shahida Begum of Fatepur village under Moheshpur upazila while she was taking Kushari Zainiti, 15, daughter of Hazaral Biswas of the same village to Kayyepara village alluring her of giving a job. Shahida was handed over to police and a case was filed.

Train accident averted miraculously in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A train disaster was averted miraculously on Thursday in Gaibandha.

The 20 Down Bonarpara-Mohimaganj passenger train was heading for Santaher in Bogra.

When the train reached Gachhbari, its driver saw a log on the track. At once he tried to stop the train, but failed.

The train ran pushing the log on the track, and stopped automatically after travelling about 200 yards.

The front portion of the engine was partially damaged.

The train shuttled back to Bonarpara station and steamed off about two hours later.

The guard of the train told this correspondent that the log might have been placed on the track by miscreants.

Hardened outlaws cut through Spider Web

50 ringleaders, 10,000 cadres active in 10 SW districts, kill 19 in 18 days

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Ringleaders of the seven outlawed parties in 10 southwestern districts continue to evade arrest despite two successive joint drives in the region.

On the other hand, 19 people were killed by outlaws till August 5 since the Operation Spider Web by the joint forces began on July 18, sources said. Six of the killings took place in Kushtia district.

At least 50 ringleaders with nearly 10,000 cadres of the parties are active in this region, they said.

There is no ringleader of any outlawed party among the 52 "notorious criminals" nabbed during the

ongoing drive, sources claimed. They also evaded arrest during the 48-day Operation Clean Heart, launched on October 17 last year.

Police however claimed that they detained 65 "outlaws" till Saturday. The sources also expressed doubt about the lists of wanted outlaws, prepared by police. Many of them are not on the lists, they claimed.

According to a source in Kushtia police, one Akdil Hosain of NBCP, who is "in charge of three districts" is on a list of "ordinary criminals", prepared by Kushtia police. He was given life term in absentia by Kushtia court in two murder.

Juddho, Biplobi Communist Party (BCP), Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF), Gono Bahini, New Biplobi Communist Party (NBBCP) and Sarbahara Party.

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Gram Sarkar formation

30 injured in clashes in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

At least 30 people were injured in clashes during formation of Gram Sarkar at two unions in Jaldanga upazila on Saturday.

In Ward No. 3 in Sholmari union, Shafiqul Islam and Belal Hossain contested to be a 'gonnya mannya bakti' (elite), a post in the Gram Sarkar.

Shafiqul got 213 votes and Belal got 211 in the polls conducted by Upazila Agriculture Officer Mohammad ali, who represented

the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO).

Being defeated, Belal demanded recounting of votes, only to be opposed by his opponents and his supporters. The two then exchanged words, and abused each other, but the matter could not be settled.

They were then locked in a dual, and were joined by their supporters. Twenty-four people including the two were injured.

A 'gram police' tried to stop the clash but was beaten also. His name could not be known. All the injured were given first aid at a local medical

centre.

A case has been lodged with Jaldhaka police accusing nine persons.

On the same day, five others were injured in ward No. 1 in Sholmari union during formation of Gram Sarkar.

Two persons Mobaidul Islam and Mobarak Hossen contested for the same post.

After voting, defeated candidate Mobaidul attacked his opponent, ensuring a clash between supporters of the two. The two candidates and three others were injured.

Bangabandhu murder AL front stages hunger strike for execution of verdict

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Sechhaswabak League (BSL), a front organisation of opposition Awami League, observed a token hunger strike on the premises of Chittagong Press Club on Saturday demanding execution of the verdict in Bangabandhu Sheikh Muzibur Rahman murder case.

Leaders and activists of BSL, joined by some AL men, observed the strike from 10 am to 2 pm, which was followed by a rally there. Speakers at the rally said execution of the verdict has been stalled due to 'conspiracy by a vested quarter'. The government did not take any step to execute the verdict.

As law is not being allowed to take its course, criminals are not punished and law and order is deteriorating in the country, they said.

The government has failed to provide security to citizens. Business magnet Jamal Uddin could not be rescued even after two weeks of his abduction, they said. Among others, former labour minister MA Mannan, AL leader Khorsheed Alam Suzan, Khalequzzaman, Hazi Munir, BCL leader Slalah Uddin and Debashis Pal Devu addressed the rally.

Ishwardi BNP leader gunned down by 'party rivals'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Former organising secretary of Ishwardi upazila BNP, Abdul Khaleque, 40, was gunned down on Saturday in front of Pabna Sugar Mills gate, allegedly by party rivals.

Police and eyewitnesses said the murder could be the result of intra-party feud and rivalry for dominance in the area.

They said Abdul Khaleque along with some others came out of a tea stall in the mill gate. Ten to twelve youths burst forth in four motorbikes and fired shots at them, fatally injuring Khaleque.

He was declared dead when rushed to Pabna General Hospital. The killers fled away firing shots and creating panic in the area.

The victim's brother Abdul Malek, also general secretary of Pabna Sugar Mills CBA, filed a case with Ishwardi police, accusing 19 people including Shariful Islam Tuhin, Ishwardi thana Jubo Dal secretary and chairman of Dashuria Union Parishad.

'Snatcher' killed by gang men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet.

An alleged snatcher was stabbed to death by two gang men at the city's Mohajantpatti (Bandarbazar) area Friday night.

Police said Sadeque alias Khalil, 25, was stabbed by Kabir and Russel, also alleged snatchers, for not returning a bicycle he had borrowed from Kabir earlier. Sadeque was the son of one Abul Hayat of Bhatipara village under Derai upazila in Sunamganj district.

He was declared dead when taken to the MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Pedestrians caught Kabir and Russel, beat them and handed them over to police.

Police later said the three were snatchers, released from jail a week ago. The stabbing incident took place as they were preparing for snatching, police claimed.

Kabir and Russel were produced before court, which sent them to jail.

The body of Sadeque was handed over to his family after autopsy at the hospital.

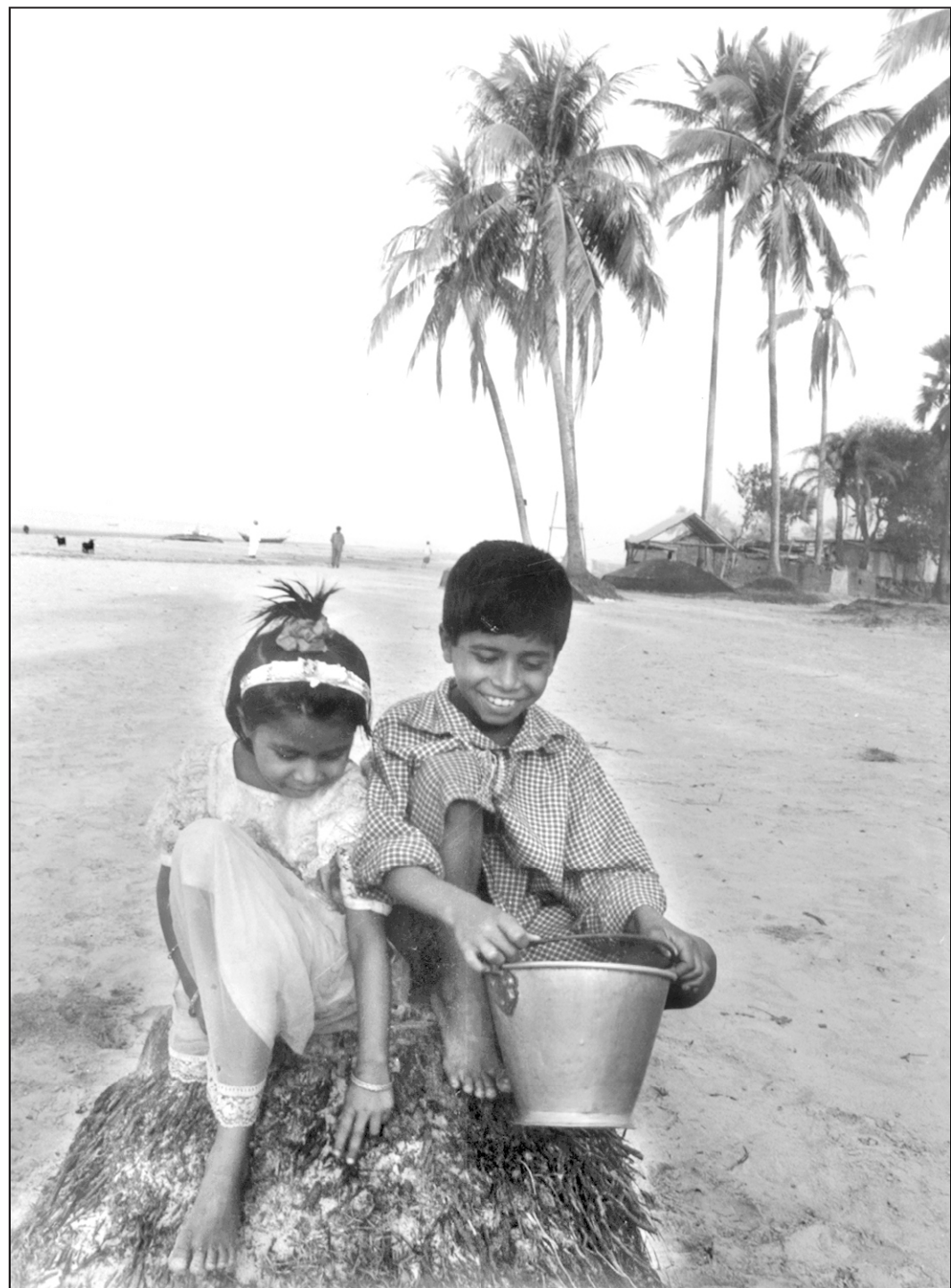


PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN
The innocent in the beauty: Two tiny tots making fun at the enchanting Kuakata sea beach. The photo was taken recently.

Sharmin rape and murder Witness names alleged killers, all-party meet demands trial

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Police have found clues to the alleged gangrape and murder of teenager Sharmin at Baruihati village in Tala upazila.

Her body was recovered from a pond there on July 23.

The main witness in the case -- Abdul Halim, 22--now in custody, in his confessional statement before a First Class Magistrate at Satkhira on Thursday named four persons who allegedly killed her after gangrape, police said on Friday.

The four are Minto, 18, Habib, 20, Mehedi, 21, and Polash, 20, police said quoting from Halim's confession.

Halim said he had an affair with Sharmin. They were going to the house of one of his relatives in the area on the night of July 22 to solemnise their marriage. As they reached behind the Tala Government College, the four miscreants caught and tied them.

They gangraped Sharmin, strangled her and threw the body in a nearby pond, Halim told police.

She was killed as she threatened to disclose the incident, he said.

Sharmin, 16, daughter of Abu Bakar of Paikgachha Sadar in Khulna district, worked as a maid at the house of Afzal Hossain at Barnihat village in Tala.

Tala thana Officer-in-charge Matiur Rahman is investigating the case.

Police arrested Habib on July 31 and Minto on Friday. The rest two are absconding.

Meanwhile an all-party meeting held on the premises of Tala govern-

ment rest house demanded punishment of the killers of Sharmin.

Presided over by Mir Abul Kalam Azad, the meeting was addressed by, among others, BNP leader Pradeep Majumdar, Tala thana Awami League General Secretary Ghosh Sanat Kumar, Jubo Dal leader Sardar Easin, Jubo League leader Rafiqul Islam, Jatiya Party leader Abul Kalam Azad, JCD leader Mirza Atiar Rahman and Workers Party leader Pranab Ghosh Bablu.

The speakers said a tougher action programme will be launched if all the killers are not arrested immediately and punished.

At the meeting, a committee headed by JP leader Abul Kalam Azad was formed to build a movement for arrest and trial of the killers.

Aborigine Day observed at RU

A RU CORRESPONDENT

The world Aborigine Day was observed on Rajshahi University (RU) campus on Saturday.

The Rajshahi University Adivashi Students Association brought out a colourful procession and paraded the campus.

It performed traditional aborigine dances at the Folklore Square and held a discussion at the Zila Parishad auditorium, highlighting various faced by aborigines in the country.

'Gram Sarkar being formed only to cling to power'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Jatiya Party chairman and former president HM Ershad Said, the government has lost the right to remain in power as it miserably failed to ensure security of life and property of people.

It can not stop crimes and terrorism as "it is sheltering terrorists", he alleged.

If voted top power, his party will improve law and order in three months, Ershad said addressing a public meeting at Nakipur High School ground in Shyamnagar upazila on Saturday.

Forsaking development work, the present government is forming Gram Sarkar to remain in power, he said. Gram Sarkar will make Union Parishads inactive and useless and create chaos in the rural areas because those will shelter criminals to capture vote, he said.

He called on the party workers to make the people aware of the "failure and misdeeds" of the government.

Chaired by Samsur Rahman, the meeting was also addressed by ABM Ruhul Amin Hawladar, HM Golam Reza, advocate Abdur Rahim, Advocate Abdur Rouf and Ashrafuzzaman.

Ershad said people want JP in power to free themselves from "misrule of the three elected government since 1990."

If Jatiya party goes to power, it will solve the unemployment problem by reopening all closed jute mills and factories.

Ershad said, he will divide the country into eight provinces and decentralise power by reviving the Upazila Parishad.

He claimed that the present government did not initiate any development work in Satkhira.

Result debacle Show-cause on 6 schools, 36 madrassahs

BSS, Joypurhat

The Directorate of Secondary Education (DSE) has issued show-cause notices on six schools and 36 madrassahs in the district for their poor performances in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Dakhil examinations in 2002.

The schools are: Chandpur High School, Deora High School, Joypurhat Girls High School, Pallibala High School, Endahar Girls School, and Aima Rasulpur Girls School.

The madrassahs are: Hanail Nomania Kamil Madrasa, Joypurhat Siddigea Senior madrasa, Kari Nurul Huda Kamil Madrasa, Nengapirhat S.A Fazil Madrasa, Bania Para Kamil Madrasa, Akkelpur Alim Madrasa, Chakvarunia Senior Madrasa, Gudumba Darul Ulum Fazil Madrasa, Bahuty Guljer Ulum Senior Alim Madrasa, Hatior Senior Madrasa, Pur M.U Fazil Madrasa, Battoly Fatema Zahura Mohila

Madrasa, Zamulhaly S. Alim Madrasa, Mohbbatpur Amina Fazil Madrasa, Zama Mazid Girls Dakhil Madrasa, Mohabbatpur Amina Fazil Madrasa, Zama Mazid Girls Dakhil Madrasa, Amira Dokhil Madrasa, Burail DS Madrasa, Fuldighi Hat Chashma Ulum Fazil Madrasa, Ketta Kosbodon Goljer Fazil Madrasa, Lalagor Hareja Fazil Madrasa, Aima, Zamalpur Dakhil Madrasa, Belkur Dakhil Madrasa, Budhail Dakhil Madrasa, Bagzama Dakhil Madrasa, Chattomanik Dakhil Madrasa, Dhaperhat Dakhil Madrasa, Gorna S. Dakhil Madrasa, Katapukhur Dakhil Madrasa, Dhuruil Dakhil Madrasa, Mohammadpur Beraky Dakhil Madrasa, Shalpara Siddika Dakhil Madrasa, Serota Rafiqul Dakhil Madrasa, Sonapur Dakhil Madrasa, Unimadop Para Girls Madrasa, Palikadoa Mohila Dakhil Madrasa and Shibpur Nomania Alim Madrasa.