

SNAPS

RU golden jubilee in December

A RU CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi The golden jubilee of Rajshahi University (RU) will be celebrated in December this year.

14 yrs- old girl, old man 'commit' suicide in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra A 14 year-old girl and an old man allegedly committed suicide by hanging in Dupchanchia upazila on Thursday night, police said.

Parvin, daughter of Joyal Abedin of Shabla village ended her life failing to sustain alleged torture by her step mother at Talora village, police said quoting villagers.

Police recovered the body from her bedroom Friday morning. Yahed Ali, 65, of Moholdar Para village committed suicide by hanging from a tree on K J College campus as his son allegedly rebuked him for selling villagers.

Police recovered the body on Friday morning. Separate UD cases were filed with Dupchanchia thana.

Six hurt in attack by youths

UNB, Cox's Bazar Six schoolteachers were injured in an attack by some local youths at Moheshkhali island on Thursday.

Witnesses said the youths attacked the teachers of Baro Moheshkhali Girls' High School in front of the school as the teachers rebuked them for disturbing their students on their way to school.

The injured were identified as Faridul Alam, Mamunur Rashid, Swapan Kanti Dey, Kamaluddin and Fakhruddin.

'Criminal' arrested

UNB, Jhenidah Police arrested a 'notorious criminal' from Alampur bridge ghat area in Moheshpur upazila Thursday night.

Police raided the area and arrested Alamgir, who was involved in different anti-social activities, including toll collection, dacoity, and snatching.

A case was filed against him with the police.

100 hurt as villagers clash over fishing in B'baria

Police fire blank shots, lob teargas shells, arrest 15

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Police fired blank shots and lobbed tear gas shells to disperse villagers who clashed over fishing in a waterbody in the Sadar Upazila on Saturday.

At least 100 people were injured in the clashes at Bodhal village, but none from police action, police claimed.

Fifteen people have been arrested and police deployed in the area.

Police said the clash ensued from a small matter.

Some boys were fishing in the waterbody. They had an altercation, which turned into a brawl.

As the news reached their parents who belonged to rival groups led by Raisuddin and Hamid Mia, their supporters flocked there with lethal weapons to take on each other.

Police said when they rushed there they saw at least 1000 people locked in clashes with lethal weap-

ons.

The clash erupted at about 7 in the morning and lasted about five hours till noon, police said.

They fired 13 blank shots and three tear-gas shells to bring the situation under control.

Many of the injured avoided going to hospital to evade arrest, local people said.

The two groups of villagers have a prolonged rivalry, they said.

3 tribesmen abducted for ransom

BSS, Bandarban

At least three tribal farmers were abducted by armed criminals from the remote village of Kalatoli under Ruagchhari upazila in Bandarban hill district on Friday night.

Police said the farmers, Mauseung Tanchoyenga, 25, Kineram Tanchoyenga, 23, and Rabisen Tangchonyenga, 24, were allegedly abducted on their way back from Ruagchhari upazila to Bandarban town by a truck.

Police disclosed they were abducted allegedly for not paying toll as demanded by the armed group.

A case was filed with Ruagchhari police station.

'Negligence caused Friday's blast at Ctg PDB station'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Friday's incident at the 33/11KV sub-station near Chittagong stadium in which four PDB employees sustained serious burn injuries occurred due to negligence by authorities and lack of safety measures, PDB sources claimed.

PDB (Power Development Board) lineman Abdul Monaf, his brother and PDB driver Abdul Wahab, work assistant Md Wajullah and electrician Mohammad Idris are now in critical condition at a clinic in Dhaka, according to a message received here.

PDB sources here said the incident occurred at around 8.00am when Monaf, Wajullah and Idris were mending defects in the transformer while driver Wahab was looking at. The transformer suddenly burst with a big bang, critically injuring the four.

PDB Sources said the four were working as per a scheduled shut down, which requires adequate precautionary and safety measures and presence of engineers concerned.

The sub-station has two circuit breakers, both linked with the Khulshni grid. Both the circuits were supposed to have been shut down before the repair work. But one circuit was functioning when the four staff started their work and none of the engineers was present at the spot," one source said.

"The accident occurred due to sheer negligence. We found that the sub-station was not fully shut down which is a must to carry such work and ensure safety of the persons concerned," he alleged.

PDB chief engineer Liakat Hossain Baro Bhuiyan, however, refuted the charges of negligence and said that it was merely an accident.

"All concerned engineers were there to supervise the work," he told this correspondent over phone on Saturday.

He said a five-member inquiry committee is investigating the matter and the actual reasons will be known shortly.

The four injured persons were first admitted to the Holy Crescent Hospital in Chittagong and then sent to Dhaka on the same night as per advise of a medical board. Two PDB doctors and few others accompanied them to the capital.

The four are undergoing treatment at the City Clinic at Panthapath in Dhaka.

When contacted over cell phone, Dr Shoyeb Ahmed from Dhaka said, "Of the four, the conditions of Monaf, Wahab and Idris are critical while Wajullah seems out of danger. Monaf has burn injury on almost the whole of his body."

Rival BNP groups clash in Magura, Kushtia: 25 injured

Process postponed in 72 wards in Magura

STAR NATIONAL DESK

At least 25 people were injured in clashes between rival BNP factions over formation of Gram Sarkar in Magura and Kushtia on Saturday.

Our Magura Correspondent reported that formation of Gram Sarkar at ward No 6 in Rajapur union under Mohammadpur upazila was postponed following a clash between two rival groups of local BNP that left at least 10 people injured.

The feuding groups used lethal weapons.

Of the injured Firoz, 22, Golam Maola, 55 and Idris Mia, 60, were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital.

On information, police rushed to the polls venue Gobormada Primary School -- and brought the situation under control.

Police said, the clash ensued as two BNP men contested to become

a 'Gannya Mannya Bekt'i' a post in the Grame Sarkar.

Meanwhile, Gram Sarkar formation in 72 wards in eight unions in the district has been postponed as the Union Parishad bodies could not be elected there due to complications in delimitation of areas.

The unions are Kasundi, Atharokhada, Moghi, Jagdal, Chowlia, Hazipur, Sreekol and Mohammadpur.

Official sources said, the last election in the unions was held in 1993 when each union was divided into three wards.

But for formation of Gram Sarkar, each union should be divided into nine wards.

District election office sources said, polls in the unions could not be held as suits regarding delimitation of areas are pending with courts.

Talking to The Daily Star, the district election officer said, "We are



trying to remove the legal complications as soon as possible to hold election in the unions."

Our Kushtia Correspondent reported that at least 15 people were injured in a clash between two BNP groups at Hirimdia village in Bheramara upazila during a discussion meeting prior to formation of Gram Sarkar.

The clash took place at Hirimdia Primary School over selection of a candidate for a post, sources said.

Three of the injured were admitted to Bheramara health complex. They are, Rabiul Islam, 22, Jamal Uddin, 25 and Jhangir Ali 25.

It's a BNP body, villagers say

Bodies formed in undemocratic way

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Giving birth to many unpleasant incidents, formation of Gram Sarkar is going on in the district with a lukewarm response from the masses.

While talking to this correspondent most of the villagers told him that despite a massive propaganda, Gram Sarkar has failed to draw the attention of the masses and the bodies were formed in an undemocratic way.

It is a body of BNP and the main opposition parties including Awami League and Jatiya Party are "unwanted" in it, they said.

In most cases, predetermined committees were announced at gatherings at venues where polls were supposed to be held, they said.

Artha Rin Adalat

'Banks harassing small borrowers'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Banks are harassing small borrowers by taking the scope of the Artha Rin Adalat-2003 Act. This was alleged by the Small Industry, Trade and Agriculture Borrowers Samity, Gaibandha, here yesterday.

"Its (Adalat) action may be compared with summary military court", said the Samity's (association) Convenor Aminul Islam Golap at a press conference held at Gaibandha Press Club. The process of loan recovery, enforced by different commercial, industrial and

agricultural banks, surpass the repression by zamindars in the past, he alleged. Other leaders of the Samity were also present at the press conference.

They complained of high interest rate and said small business is not viable with bank loan.

They called upon the government to take steps to stop filing of cases with the Artha Rin Adalat and certificate cases against loans up to Tk five lakh.

They also alleged harassment and said there should be transparency in activities of the financing institutions.

They called upon the government to form an inquiry committee to probe the alleged harassment and to constitute a 'loan arbitration board' for 'smooth' recovery of loans.

Gaibandha is a flood-affected district and farmers and small traders are in deep crisis. This should be considered, they said.

BNP factions clash in Magura, 15 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

At least 15 people were injured, five of them seriously, in a clash between two rival factions of local BNP at Rupsha village in Magura Sadar upazila on Saturday.

Locals said, armed supporters of BNP leader Hazi Abdus Salam and Lalon Member clashed over establishment of supremacy in the area.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Seriously injured Tariqu, Zarina, Belal, Pannu and Lutfar were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital.

No case was lodged in this regard till filing of this report at about noon yesterday.

15 hurt in B'baria bus mishap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

At least 15 people were injured when a bus fell into roadside ditch at Batbaria under Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila on the Comilla-Sylhet highway on Saturday.

The bus going to Madhabpur from Brahmanbaria. Quoting passengers police said the diver los control as the bus was on high speed.

The injured were treated at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital and Sarail Upazila Health Complex.

Police sized the bus but the driver and the helper escaped.

A case was filed with Brahmanbaria Sadar thana.



PHOTO: AKM HOSSAIN

Hope may turn into despair.. The golden fibre is still very dear to farmers but they do not know the government agency -- BJMC-- has stopped most of its jute buying centres across the country as harvest of the crop began this year. The picture shows farmers at a village in Manikganj processing jute but the crop will have to be sold at prices below the production cost.

Arms recovered from beggar's house in Bhola

BSS, Barisal

Firearms in large quantity were recovered from a beggar's thatched house at South Chachra village under Tazumuddin upazila in Bhola district on Friday.

Police and witnesses informed that the recovered arms included four country made guns and one pipe gun.

Tazumuddin thana Officer-in-Charge (OC) Bazul Karim and sub-inspector (SI) Monir Hossain jointly raided the house of the beggar, Hamela Khatoon near an embankment of the village at night and seized the arms from a gunny bag of the house.

Hamela informed police that somebody might have kept the arms in the house during her absence while she went on begging at the village. Local people also told BSS pirates who are active in the area might have kept arms in the beggar's house.

Pistol, statue recovered: 3 held

BSS, Thakurgaon

Police on Thursday recovered an Indian pistol, a bronze statue of lord Krishna and arrested three youths from Dheerganj Bokua village under Haripur upazila.

The arrested are Abul Kalam Azad, Hafizur Rahman, and Delwer Hossain.

Flag meeting

Accord to solve border issues at high level meetings

BSS, Dinajpur

A flag meeting on Saturday between the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) agreed to solve border problems and other outstanding issues at high level meetings of the two governments.

The decision was taken on conclusion of a five-hour flag meeting at Immigration Bhaban at Hilli Land Port here.

However, the meeting agreed to solve minor problems at sector commander level meetings immediately.

Earlier, the Bangladesh side placed eight-point agenda including push-in, trafficking of women and children, kidnapping, firing by the BSF without provocation and smuggling of drugs.

Similarly the Indian side raised six-point agenda during the meeting.

Dinajpur Sector Commander of BDR Colonel Aulad Hossain and DIG of BSF Maldah zone Ramesh Chandra Roy led their sides.

Eviction of minority families in Satkhira

Jamaat leader among 18 chargesheeted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Eighteen People including a local Jamat-e-Islami leader have been chargesheeted in the case regarding eviction of five minority community families from Biswanathpur village in Kaligonj upazila.

Police submitted the charge sheet on Saturday before a magistrate court here after one and a half month's investigation.

They have been charged under sections 143, 148, 323, 325, 295, 397, 354, 506 and 114 of Bangladesh Penal Code.

The accused are Jamaat leader Kawsar Ali Mollah, Abidur Rahman, Nuruzzaman, Sohrab Karikar, Alam Karikar, Bablu Karikar, Habibur Rahman, Maula Box Gazi, Mahabbat Gazi, Samsheer Gazi, Mazed, Romjan Gazi, Nur Islam, Montez, Mobarak, Atiar, Abu Bakkar and Fazar Ali.

Of them, the first eight were arrested and later released on bail.

A group of people allegedly led by Kawsar Ali Mollah of village Biswanathpur attacked the houses of Suvendra Nath Sarkar, Narendra Nath Sarkar, Rabindra Nath Sarkar, Dhivendra Nath Sarkar and Barindra Nath Sarkar of village the same village at night on July 6.

At least five persons including four women were injured when miscreants evicted the families, demolished their houses and occupied 1.6 acres of land.

They turned the land into a football ground.

The injured persons were Aduri Sarkar, 50, Baulata Sarkar, 40, Radha Rani Sarkar, 35, Sabitri Sarkar, 34 and Buddha Deva Sarkar.

After the incidents, Radha Rani complained to Kaligonj thana ASI Samsul Huda that she was violated.

Dhivendra Nath Sarkar filed a case with Kaligonj thana naming six persons and accusing another 40.

A devil in man

Uncle allegedly kills nephew to grab asset, marry brother's widow

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

An uncle allegedly killed his nephew to grab his late brother's property and marry his widowed wife.

The incident took place at Ramkrishnapur village in Bheramara upazila.

According to police, one Meherul Islam Ratan died of heart attack five years ago. He left behind his wife Bithi Khatun and their only son Mehdi Hussein Bijon, a student of class six at Azad Memorial High Hchool.

Late Ratan's younger brother Rezaul Islam Makhon was trying to grab their property, but failed.

Makhon then proposed to marry Bithi but she declined. Makhon threatened to kill Mehdi if she did not marry him, but Bithi was undaunted.

On Friday, Mehdi went to the neighbours' house at about 4 PM to view television. He did not back return.

The following day, Makhon filed a general dairy (GD) with Bheramara police.

On investigation, police came to now from neighbours that Makhon had wanted to marry Bithi and also threatened her. Makhon was arrested.

During interrogation, he admitted his involvement in the killing.

Acting on his confession, police recovered Mehdi's body from a sugarcane field near the school and sent it to Kushtia General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Ruhul Islam, another uncle of Mehdi, filed a case with Bheramara police station accusing Makhon.