

SNAPS

SMG recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhori Army personnel recovered an SMG, one 303 rifle and 126 bullets from South Kamani Para in Laksmichhari Upazila of the district in the early hours Monday.

Toll collectors beat woman UP member

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Shakhira A woman Union Parishad member was seriously injured as she resisted toll collectors at Saihati Nath Para in Kaligonj upazila on Monday.

Proshika internet launched in Ctg

BSS, Chittagong, Proshika Computer System (PCS), a leading internet service provider, launched its operation formally at Chittagong on Monday.

Polls in Patuakhali UP Oct 2

A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali Election in Kalikapur Union Parishad under the Sadar upazila will be held on October 2.

Notorious criminal Anu Dakat held in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet A notorious criminal and heroin trader -- Anu Dakat-- was arrested on Monday at Lalbazar in the city.

Court notice on DC for declaring Kesharhat a municipality

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi An Assistant Judge's court here on Monday asked the Rajshahi Deputy Commissioner (DC) and three other officials to show cause why declaration of Kesharhat as a municipality and upcoming election there would not be cancelled.

Police ruin schoolteacher's family

Teacher under suspension, three sons on the run after police threat: Victim's allegations seem true, says Rajshahi SP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A horrifying tale how some corrupt police officials in nexus with fraudulent manpower exporters ruined a schoolteacher's family has come to light.

Abdul Aziz, headmaster of Chandrarara Government Primary School in Bagmara, is under suspension for the last 15 months, facing a 'false' case.

His three sons --Mustafizur Rahman, Monimur Rahman and Moshirur Rahman--are fleeing their Hasnurpur village home to avoid arrest.

Talking to this correspondent, Muatafiz alleged that police threatened to arrest him and his two brothers as outlawed Sarbahara Party men if the cheating case filed by him with Rajshahi Judge Court against the fraudulent manpower agents is not withdrawn.

The ordeal began for the family after Mustafiz informed local people in August 2001 that he was cheated of Tk 1.10 lakh by five fake manpower recruiters in the area. The

five are Shamsul Alam, Mojibur Rahman, Saidur Rahman, Ajmat Ali Rana and Abdullah Mamun Ponny, who had earlier told local people that they represented the Welfare Trading Corporation (WTC), a manpower exporter based in Dhaka.

Muatafiz gave the amount between October 12, 2000 and August 14, 2001 for going to Saudi Arabia.

Their fraudulence came to light when Muatafiz went to the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training and the WTC office in Dhaka. WTC officials told him that the above-mentioned persons were not their agents.

Back home despaired, he went to Bagmara thana to file a case but police officials declined to take any case.

This angered the fraud manpower exporters. Saidur demanded Tk two lakh from Mustafiz for 'damaging' their business and threatened of police harassment for non-compliance.

On May 2, 2002, police picked up Mustafiz's younger brother Monimur Rahman. After he was taken to the

thana, Saidur filed a 'false' complaint against the schoolteacher and his three sons that they took money from him. The thana officials availed that they represented the Welfare Trading Corporation (WTC), a manpower exporter based in Dhaka.

Facing the false charge, Abdul Aziz and his two other sons Mustafiz and Moshirur surrendered before a magistrate court. They, along with Monimur were granted bail by the court.

Mominur and Moshirur were preparing for HSC examination when they faced the ordeal.

Hell befell the family when Abdul Aziz was suspended from service on May 25, 2002 as he faced a case.

The worst was yet to come. On December 12, 2002, Saidur's brother Abdus Samad filed another case with Bagmara thana against Mustafiz, Moshirur and Mominur that they beat Saidur. Police promptly filed a charge sheet. But the court however rejected it and ordered fresh investigation.

On May 21 this year, Mustafiz filed a case with Rajshahi Judge Court, narrating the ordeals.

The most heinous thing took place on August 11 this year when a policeman from Bagmara thana, also reportedly a relative of Saidur, went to Muatafiz's house and asked his mother to send Mustafiz to the police station with whatever documents he has.

Mustafiz went to the thana. Sub-inspector Sirajul Islam allegedly abused him and at one stage snatched and tore the main document on his giving Tk 90,000 to the manpower agents.

He was then taken to OC Abdul Mutalib Prodhan. The OC allegedly misbehaved with him and asked him to withdraw the case filed with the Judge Court.

Otherwise, he and his brothers would be arrested as a members of outlawed Sarbahara Party, the OC and the SI allegedly threatened him.

As Mustafiz declined, he was kept at the thana. He was released on the next day on alleged payment of Tk 10,000 as bribe and after giving a written undertaking that he would withdraw the case, Mustafiz told this correspondent.

Since then, the three brothers

are fleeing home.

Mustafiz lodged a written complaint to the Rajshahi Superintendent of Police on September 8 seeking security of life of the family members.

When contacted on Sunday, Rajshahi SP Anwar Kamal told The Daily Star that he along with detective branch police has started investigation into Mustafiz's allegations.

"The allegations seem to be true. If his allegations are proved in our investigation, departmental action will be taken against the police officials", he said.

In four days, this correspondent tried at least ten times to contact the Bagmara thana OC and SI over phone. "They are not here", was the reply from the other end. "The OC is on leave", a policeman said on Sunday.

When contacted, Rajshahi District Primary Education Officer Abdur Rashid said Abdul Aziz was suspended because he faces a charge. There is legal provision for action in such cases, he said.

Earlier, a general diary (GD) was filed with local police, but to no effect, the sources said.

Allegation of extortion by JCD men Teachers boycott classes at Boalkhali college

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Teachers of Kanungopara Sir Ashutosh Government College at Boalkhali, on Monday started boycott of classes protesting extortion allegedly by local activists of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of ruling BNP.

Despite class boycott, all the teachers were present at the college during class hours, sources said.

The campus however remained peaceful as principal Abu Taher explained the situation to students, who also expressed their solidarity with the teachers.

Sources said, the JCD men who realised tolls from the campus are former members of the college students union. They also allegedly misbehaved with teachers.

The teachers told they would not take any class until previous incidents of toll collection are probed and extortionists punished. They also demanded unconditional apology by the JCD activists.

On the other hand, an effort was reportedly going on for an understanding between the teachers and JCD leaders.

Four more die of diarrhoea in Nilphamari

About 100 attacked a day

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The diarrhoea situation improved in Dimla upazila but deteriorated in Nilphamari Sadar, Domar and Jaldhaka upazilas in the last two days.

Four persons died in the last two days in Nilphamari Sadar and Domar upazilas, raising the toll to 14.

The dead are Begum, 45, of Chekonmali village in Domar upazila; and Afiza, 24, of Hatipara village, Shomsher Ali Tonna, 70, of Bazid Para village and minor girl Sabuj, 2, of Halaupara village under the Sadar upazila.

On an average, about 100 people are being attacked with diarrhoea daily in Nilphamari Sadar, Domar and Jaldhaka upazilas and 30 to 40 of them are being admitted to different hospitals.

On Monday, 70 people were admitted to hospitals in the three upazilas; 36 in Nilphamari, 16 Domar and 18 Jaldhaka, district health officials said.

The situation in Dimla upazila is under control due to adequate measures taken by the district health officials.

A diarrhoea ward has been opened at Dimla upazila health complex and a temporary treatment centre has been set up at East Chattrai union. Mobile teams are also working there.

But people in the affected areas of the Sadar upazila told this correspondent that the disease spread and claimed three more lives as the health officials did not take adequate measures. Saline is scarce, they alleged.

They said 64 medical teams are working in the district.

Citizenship certificates of 'Outsider Bangalees' will be suspended: Larma

CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

PCJSS chief and Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council Chairman Jiotirindira Bodhipriyo Larma alias Santu Larma has said all citizenship certificates given to "outsider Bangalees" by deputy commissioners (DCs) in Chittagong Hill Tracts will be "suspend when time comes".

He said, "After complete implementation of the CHT peace accord, we will suspend all citizenship certificates given by the DCs".

He was speaking at a function here on Monday, marking launching of a project to create awareness about the role of local governments. A local NGO Jabarang launched the

project. He alleged that the DCs are also allocating lands in CHT to "outsider Bangalees" by violating terms of the CHT peace agreement.

"Prior to giving lease of any CHT land to anybody, they (DCs) need to consult the Headmen but they often violate the rule", he said.

Santu also expressed his disappointment at the role of Headman. In CHT, a 'Headman', appointed by the DC, collects revenue and is responsible for his area.

Santu said a Headman is particularly responsible for ensuring peace, security and welfare of people in his Mouja (an area)". He

acts as chief of local government at grassroots level.

They have enough scope to do good to people, but they are not playing their role, he said.

Presided over by Jabarang chief Shucharita Roaza, the function was addressed by, among others, PCJSS (Parbatyia Chattagram Jano Shanghati Samitee) Organising Secretary Shaktipad Tripura, former Khagrachhori Hill District Council chairman Jatindra Lal Tripura, CHT Regional Council Member Zafar Ahmed, retired teacher Nabeen Kumar Tripura, Muthuralal Tripura and Protiva Tripura.

BAT provides free IT training to youths

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Under-privileged youths are acquiring basic knowledge on Information Technology without any fees at a training centre at Lake Road in Moulvibazar town for the last five months.

The British American Tobacco (BAT) set up the small computer training centre named Dishari. The first centre of Dishari was established at Chechya in Kushtia last year.

"It is a great opportunity for me to get such a chance without any fees", Abdus Salam, a student of Balaganj College, told newsmen, some of them from Dhaka, who visited the centre on Thursday last.

Salam from Hamidpur village in Rajnagar upazila got two months' training in the first batch from May 5 to July 5 this year.

"I am now working at a private computer centre in the town and earning Tk 2000 a month by spending my leisure time after studies".

Tuslima Akhter, a student of Masters in Bangla at Moulvibazar Government Girls College, also had two months' training in the first batch. She visits the center and uses its library now. She wants to acquire further knowledge on IT after her final examination.

Trainer Moushumi Ahmed said,

"I get great interest in imparting IT training to these girls and boys. They want to learn. We also stress on basic English".

September 11 was the last day for the second batch which started on July 15.

"I am really delighted to get such a facility", said Rumi Begum, first year student at Moulvibazar Government College.

They all thanked the BAT for creating this opportunity. Seven boys and five girls were in the second batch, completed on September 11.

Dishari Officials said the third batch started from September 15.

There is also a provision for light refreshment for trainees free of cost. Classes continue from 9 AM to 4 PM. Each student can use separate computer. Examinations are taken by a team coming from BAT, Dhaka.

The BAT launched Dishari as part of its social commitment, said Asit Kumar Das, counsellor of the centre.

"We will try to continue the programme in future since the project has good achievements".

He said three more centres would be set up in the country by 2006. The company intends to provide 500 young people with basic IT training yearly, he added.

Polls in outlaw-infested Hajipur today, BDR sent

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

The long-awaited election in outlaw-infested Hajipur union in Magura Sadar upazila will be held today with deployment of BDR.

Although local body polls are held on non-party basis, the two chairman candidates are being backed by the two major parties. Abul Kashem is being backed by ruling BNP and Lutfar Rahman by opposition Awami League, sources there said.

No incident of violence was reported till yesterday.

Earlier, in a petition to the Chief Election Commissioner, Lutfar Rahman demanded deployment of BDR, alleging that criminals and outlaws were active in the area, which could be a threat to the free and fair election.

Adequate security personnel have been deployed in the nine

wards as all the 10 polling centres were identified as vulnerable.

"We are determined to hold a free and fair election in a peaceful atmosphere", Magura Police Superintendent Biswas Afzal Hossain said. Security teams comprising police, BDR and Ansar will be deployed in each centre and there will be mobile teams also, he said.

The election is taking place after 11 years.

A total of 14,349 voters are expected to exercise their franchise. The last election was held in 1992.

Election had been withheld due to legal complexities over delimitation of areas.

A total of 43 candidates including two for the post of chairman and eight for the three reserve seats of women are in the fray.

RU hall female students stage sit-in

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Female students of Tapashi Rabeya Hall of Rajshahi University staged a hour-long sit-in at the hall gate on Monday to press their eight-point demand.

The demands include solution to the accommodation crisis, cancellation of guest charge, faculty-based seat allotment, supply of more newspapers at reading room and renovation of the hall.

Nearly 100 students under the banner of Tapashi Rabeya Students' Movement Council (TRSMC) joined the sit-in from 11am to 12 noon.

Later they handed over a memorandum to Provost Dr Rezaul Karim Sheikh at his office.

When asked, Asmaul Husna Masuma, a student, said the hall authorities allot one seat for three students.

One to die for killing girl

A CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A court here on Monday sentenced one person to death in the sensational Rasheda murder case.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Shirin Kabita Akhter handed down the punishment to Abdul Malek of Mitora village in the Sadar upazila.

Rasheda Akter, 20, daughter of Taher Ali Taru, was killed on February 4, 1999 by a professional killer hired by Abdul Malek. She was strangled and the body was felt near her house.

Nineteen witnesses were examined during the trial.

One sentenced to death for murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The District and Sessions Judge, Rajshahi on Monday gave death sentence to one person in the sensational Liton murder case.

Judge Zebunessa handed down the punishment to Alamgir Hossain. Yusuf Ali Liton, a businessman, was murdered on August 30, 1998 in Boalia. The verdict was delivered after examining 23 witnesses.

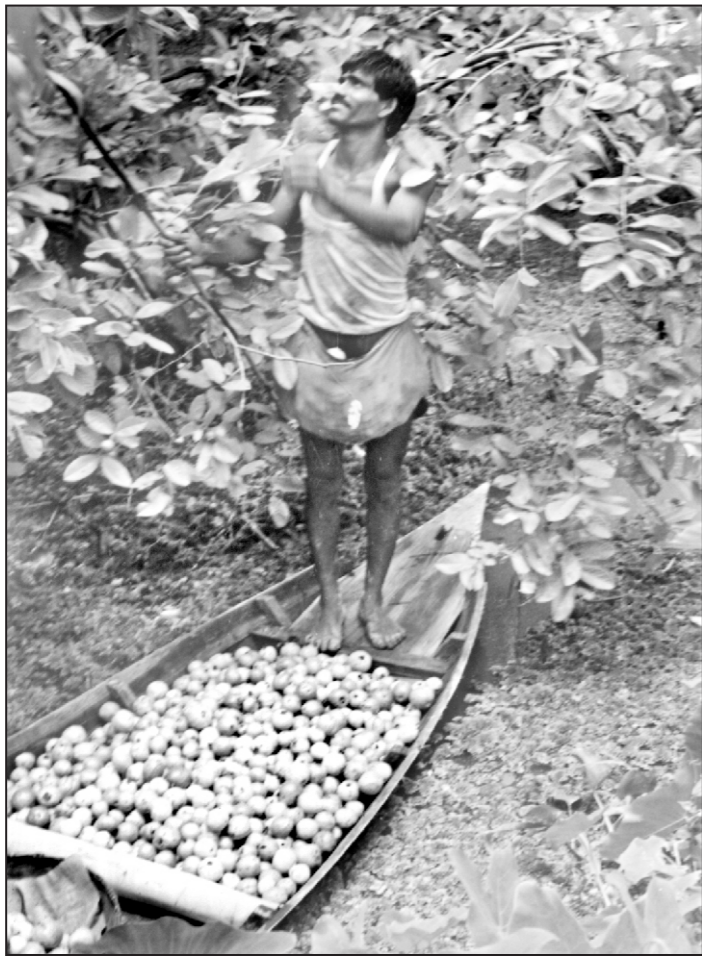


PHOTO: STAR Guavas are produced in plenty in the country, so not cared. Guava jelly is imported in Bangladesh. Is there no entrepreneur to add value to this popular and nutritious fruit? Picture shows a farmer plucking guava in Barisal.

Tk 43 lakh scam 3 former Bogra Palli Bidyut officials, 2 directors sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A corruption case has been filed against five persons including a former general manager of Bogra Palli Bidyut Samity (BPBS) under the Anti-corruption Act for allegedly complicity in misappropriation of Tk 43 lakh.

BPBS Assistant General Manager Zahangir Alam has filed

the case with the Special Judge Court here.

The four others are a former executive engineer of BPBS, its former president and two directors.

In the case, it is alleged that they were involved in the misappropriation of the money from funds allocated for purchase of land for BPDS.

One killed by truck

A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A man was killed and another injured when an autotempo was hit by a truck coming from the opposite direction in Dumki upazila on Sunday.

The dead was identified as Jalil, 20, of Char Boyra village in Dumki. The injured Kamal of the same village is being treated at the local health complex, police said.

One gets life term for killing wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

One person has been sentenced to life term for beating his wife to death.

Second Additional District and Session Judge, Bogra Anwar Hossain gave the punishment to Abu Syed of Shonpocha Char village under Sariakandi upazila on Sunday.

Anwar had killed his wife Monowara on on July 19, 1098 and hanged the body to show that she committed suicide.



The Comilla branch of Chittagong Women Entrepreneurs (CWE) was opened in the district town by its president Monowara Hakim Ali on Saturday. Pioneer of small industries in Bangladesh Jahanara Begum and CWE Senior Vice President Khaleda Awar were special guests at the function presided over by its Comilla branch president Umme Salma Urmil.



PHOTO: STAR A partial view of the biennial convention of Nilphamari Sadar BNP, held on Sunday.

Nilphamari Sadar BNP convention held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The Nilphamari Sadar thana unit of Dargladesh Nationalist Party at its biennial convention held on Monday elected its new executive body amid great enthusiasm.

Alamgir Sarkar has been elected president through direct vote of party men at the convention, held at the Shilpakala Academy.

Mir Selim Farooq and Mostafa Proshan Bachchu, who got equal votes were made general secretary for one year term each.

BNP chief's nephew and president of its Nilphamari district unit

Shahrin Islam Tuhin attended the convention as chief guest.

A good number of senior district leaders were present at the largely attended convention.

Speakers at the convention urged the party men to work hard with dedication to materialise the dream of establishing a self-reliant, prosperous and peaceful Bangladesh.

Democracy is the only way to reach the goal. They also urged the party men to practise democracy within the party and to be tolerant to opposition parties even in the face of provocation.



The 'Smile Brighter Programme' of Dutch Bangla Bank Foundation for Rajshahi division for operation of cleft-lipped boys and girls was opened in Rajshahi on Saturday through a simple function. Chief guest at the function Rajshahi University Vice Chancellor Faisul Islam Farouqui and special guests Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner Mia Mustaque Ahmed and Rajshahi Krishni Unnayan Bank Managing Director Dr Mujibur Rahman Khan are seen in the picture.