

SNAPS

One gets 17 yrs' jail for keeping illegal arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Salkhira
A man was sentenced to 17 years' imprisonment for possessing illegal firearms.

Acting on a tip-off, Kaligonj police caught Mizanur Rahman Dhali of Beeldigha village on July 21, 2001. He was wanted in several cases, police said. As per his confession, police later recovered gun from his house.

Judge Tapas Kumar Dey of the Special Tribunal gave the verdict on Monday.

Man to die for killing wife in Faridpur

BSS, Faridpur
A court here on Thursday sentenced a man to death for killing his wife.

Mohammad Atzal Hossain, Judge of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Court, Faridpur, handed down the punishment to Azmal Hossain of Lakkhipur area in the town. The convict is in custody.

Azmal, 28, strangled his wife on December 24, 2001 following a family feud. After investigation, police submitted charge sheet against Azmal and his mother. However, the court acquitted the mother.

Mohalchhari victim's body exhumed, autopsy done

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban
The body of Ithan Chakma, a victim of August 24 violence in Mohalchhari, was exhumed and autopsy done on it on Wednesday.

Police exhumed the body in presence of a magistrate and sent it to Khagrachhari district hospital for autopsy.

Part of the decomposed body was also sent to Dhaka for viscera test, sources said.

Eight-month old Ithan was allegedly strangled when a group of unruly settlers attacked some villages of Mohalchhari in Khagrachhari.

Attack on Barisal BNP leader Chand's house in 1999

12 Jubo League, BCL men get 7 yrs RI**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**

Twelve activists of Awami League's fronts Jubo League and Chhatra League have been sentenced to seven years imprisonment for an armed attack on Barisal BNP leader Eabaidul Huq Chan's house in the city during AL rule in 1999.

The convicts are Jubo League leader Faruk Ahmed alias Panama Faruk, his brothers Chhakku and Maana, district Chhatra League treasurer Sheik Masud Ahmed Rana alias Qutub Rana; and Sultan, Babul, Nazir, Babul Dhali, Nasir, Alai Hossain, Faruk Commander and Mostak, all activists of Jubo League

or Chhatra League.

They were also fined Tk 5,000 each, in default to suffer more three months' RI.

Judge Mahbubur Rahman of Barisal Special Tribunal No. 4 passed the verdict on Thursday in absentia.

They were tried under Section three of the Explosive Act, court sources said.

According to the prosecution story, the youths had attacked and looted houses of the then Barisal district BNP secretary Eabaidul Huq Chan and his late brother Firoz Ahmed adjacent to Amanatganj police outpost during daytime on October 10, 1999. Chan is now

president of Barisal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI).

The attackers opened fire, exploded bombs, and torched the houses. They looted and destroyed properties more than Tk ten lakh.

But police declined to take any case.

Farida Begum, widow of Chan's brother, lodged a case on August 31, 2001 after formation of a caretaker government for holding parliamentary election.

The accused went into hiding after the caretaker government took over.

500 pirates, 20 illegal arms factories in Cox's Bazar-Moheshkhali**Man held with M-16 names godfathers****OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar**

Arrested with a US-made M-16 rifle, Jamir Uddin has given important information and disclosed names of his godfathers and beneficiaries during interrogation by Cox's Bazar police.

But police declined to disclose their names to the journalists for the sake of investigation.

Jamir has also provided valuable information about criminal activities in Moheshkhali and Cox's Bazar.

Jamir is now in jail after interrogation during a three-day remand which ended recently.

Jamir, was arrested from his house at Sairerdail village in offshore island Moheshkhali during a pre-dawn police raid on September 10.

Anjum Ferdous, OC of

**Arrested Jamir Uddin with the M-16 rifle**

Moheshkhali thana conducted the raid.

Police recovered the M-16 rifle and a magazine by digging the floor of his house.

Jamir had looted the M-16 from another notorious criminal— Rezaul Karim—who was killed at a shrimp enclosure in Matorbari on August 7, sources said.

Moheshkhali thana police had been looking for Jamir since Rezaul's murder.

Jamir's godfather Ebadulla, who led a gang of pirates, was arrested earlier.

Moheshkhali has long been a safe haven for more than 500 pirates and robbers belonging to as many as 15 gangs, police said. There are some 20 illegal arms factories in the area, they said.

Fifteen notorious criminals were arrested and 288 firearms recovered from the offshore upazila during the recent countrywide anti-crime drive.

Life chained to agony**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi**

Sixteen year-old beautiful Parul is chained for about a year.

Neighbours and villagers call her 'pagli' (mad).

Her poor day labourer father Abdus Samad says he has no money for her treatment.

This correspondent along with some newsmen visited her at Baruihati-Rasulpur village in Bagmara upazila recently and came to know the tragic tale behind her present condition.

Poor Abdus Samad is the only bread earner for his family with five sons and daughters. They are having very hard days.

One day, in early 1998, a wealthy man in the village proposed Samad that Parul could work at his house as a maid. Samad readily accepted as his Parul would be well-fed and also earn some money.

"The offer of three meals a day for Parul and money in the month-end came to us as a blessing at the time", Samad said wiping tears.

Parul was also happy at her master's house and so was the houseowner.

But within a few days, the eyes of the house owner's son Sayem fell on her. The young man succeeded to seduce her, promising marriage.

"My daughter loved him seriously, but he deceived her", Samad claimed. She became pregnant.

She started pressing Sayem for marriage.

**Parul**

One day, he took her to Atrai in Naogaon in the name of court marriage and forced her to undergo abortion.

Returning home, Parul informed the matter to the Sayem's parents. They drove her out the next day and she returned to her parents.

A number of arbitration meetings were held at the village but nothing went in her favour as Sayem's family was influential, Samad said.

Parul's mother Raheda went to the local police station to file a case, but police declined to record any case.

She then filed a rape case against Sayem with a Magistrate Court in Rajshahi on May 6, 1999.

The local police station, allegedly at the influence of Sayem's family, submitted a final report and the case was dismissed.

Deceived and not getting justice, Parul became mentally retarded.

Samad sold the only land and arranged her treatment at Pabna Mental Hospital.

She returned home cured after six months.

Following her recovery, she was married to one Saidul Islam of Shingara village in Atrai upazila.

But Parul was fate obsessed. Her husband and his family started torturing her physically for dowry.

One day, after a severe beating, she started talking irrelevant. This mounted the torture. She became mentally retarded again. Her in-laws kept her at her father's house about a year ago.

Now Samad has nothing to sell for her treatment.

During the visit on September 15, she was found chained with a tree in the backyard of the house. At night she is brought to the thatched house and kept chained, her parents said.

"What else I can do?" Samad said.

Her brother Rahidul said, earlier, whenever freed, she used to run towards Sayem's house.

"Sayem loves me, take me to him," Abul Kalam, a villager quoted her as saying once.

Officials at Bagmara thana said the policemen who were there one year ago have been transferred and they can not say anything about her matter.

At Sayem's house, none was found to comment on the matter.

UP polls in Hajipur held**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura**

BNP backed Abul Kashem was elected chairman of Hazipur Union Parishad in Magura Sadar upazila, according to unofficial results announced on Wednesday night.

Abul Kashem bagged 7,411 votes while Awami League backed candidate Lutfar Rahman got 4,445 votes.

Barring a few incidents of false voting, polling in the outlaw-infested upazila was peaceful and votes turned up spontaneously, polling officials said. Voters were seen waiting for hours to cast votes.

A total of 12,328 voters out of 14,349 were cast, they said.

The three women members elected from three reserved seats are Begum Mahmud, Begum Farida Akter Banu and Kohinoor Begum.

Other UP members are Begum Golapi Sutana (ward No.1) Md. Serajul Islam (ward No. 2), Abu Taleb Biswas (ward No. 3), Majnu Mian (Ward No. 4), Abul Kalam Molla (Ward No. 5), Md Moshiur Rahman (ward No. 6), Md Mokbul Laskar (Ward No.7), Md Akram Hossain (ward No. 8) and Md Oliar Rahman (ward No. 9)

2 cops beaten by snatchers**OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria**

Two policemen were injured when beaten by snatchers at Medda in Brahmanbaria town on Thursday as they resisted snatching of a moor bike.

Later, a police team rushed to the spot and charged batons on the crowd which gathered there, leaving at least 20 hurt.

Habilder Noor Alam and SI Amulla Ratan Deb Nath of Medda police outpost chased Ronel and his two accomplices who were fleeing with a snatched motorcycle.

The two policemen caught Ronel. But his two accomplices beat the two policemen and fled away. A crowd gathered there by this time.

On information, a police team rushed there and charged batons indiscriminately.

The two policemen have been admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital.

Police said arrested Ronel is an accused in several cases.

Reports on Imam murder**PBCP threatens journalists of 'severe consequence'****STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**

Outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (Janajuddho) has threatened local journalists of severe consequence for writing against them in newspapers.

The threat has been given through two-page leaflets circulated in different areas of Khulna city.

Giving reference to murder of Khulna city AL president advocate Manjurul Imam, the leaflets claimed that it was done in accordance with an unanimous decision as part of a plan to physically liquidate "class enemies".

The leaflets said, "PBCP(J) finds no reason to publish so much stories on the murder as is being done by some local and national dailies".

'Death threat' to four Khulna BNP leaders**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**

Four senior leaders of Khulna BNP including Whip Ashraf Hossain and a central leader of JCD have received letters that there is a secret plan to kill them within two months.

The three others are Khulna city BNP President M Nurul Islam MP, its secretary Nazrul Islam Manju, member-secretary of district BNP and Ward Commissioner Shafiqul Alam Mona and JCD central leader Asaduzzaman Murad, party sources said.

The typed letters sent by post recently cautioned them not to move unguarded.

The plan to kill them was taken at a recent secret meeting, held at the residence of an employee of Khulna City Corporation, the unsigned letters said.

None of the four BNP leaders could be contacted as they are in Dhaka.

But wives of Shafiqul Alam Mona and Nazrul Islam Manju have admitted that their husbands received such letters.

But none of them filed GD with police.

225 bags of smuggled sugar seized in B'baria**OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria**

BDR seized Indian smuggled sugar worth about Tk 3,60,000 at Kawtoli under Brahmanbari Sadar upazila on Wednesday.

Acting on tip-off, a team of BDR personnel led by First Class Magistrate Dewan Shahriar kept waiting at Bhadugar on the Comilla-Sylhet highway.

BDR chased the truck loaded with the sugar at Kawloty and recovered 225 bags of sugar.

They also seized the truck and arrested driver Rubel and helper Abul. The sugar and truck were deposited with Brahmanbaria customs and a case was filed with Brahmanbaria Sadar police.

imported goods from India and other vehicles were stranded for seven hours.

The miscreants demanded suspension of the anti-smuggling drive in the area and return of the seized sugar.

The BDR personnel restrained themselves despite provocation by the miscreants.

Later, due to the BDR's rigid stance, a meeting was held at Hakimpur and the bus drivers signed a paper that they would not carry smuggled goods in buses and would not cooperate with the smugglers.

The paper was signed in presence of the Hakimpur UNO, BDR officials and officer-in-charge of Hakimpur thana in the afternoon. The barricade was withdrawn. BDR deposited the seized goods with Hilli customs.

Hundreds of trucks loaded with

6 get life for murder**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj**

Six persons were sentenced to life imprisonment on Wednesday in the handloom worker Abu Musa murder case.

District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Mozammel Hoque delivered the judgement in presence of the six convicts.

They are Abdul Aal, Sahidul,

Abdul Hamid, Abdul Hannan, Naker Ali and Abdul Khaleque.

The court also fined the convicts Tk 5,000 each in default to suffer one year more imprisonment.

The six murdered Abu Musa of Gopalpur Charkadha village under Enayetpur Darber Sarif police station, over a land dispute on September 23 last year.

'False' case against Mirza Azam protested

Jubo League rally, procession at C'nawabganj**A CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabganj**

Awami League's youth front Jubo League on Thursday brought out a procession and held a rally in the town protesting filing of a 'false' case against its central general secretary Mirza Azam MP and 16 leaders and activists of AL, Jubo league, Chhatra league under the Speedy Trial Act.

Starting from in front of the AL office, the processionists marched to the Deputy Commissioner's office and held a rally on its premises.

The processionists carried banners and chanted various anti-government slogans protesting filing of the false case and demanding its withdrawal.

A large number of leaders and

activists of Jubo League, AL and its student front Chhatra League joined the march and the rally.

The rally was addressed by, among others, central Jubo League leader Anwarul Islam, Shariful Alam, Masidur Rahman, Subas Pande, Sakhawat Hossein, Amanullah Babu and Mirza Monirul Islam Milon.

The speakers said the four-party alliance government is harassing opposition leaders and activists throughout the country by filing false cases.

Failing to run the country, it has taken the path of suppressing the opposition to cling to power. This can not continue.

They called upon party men to resist the repression and build up a movement against the government.

Lynching of 'top terror' Tera Shajahan Tension in Barisal as gangmen vow revenge**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**

Two cases and one GD have been filed in connection with the lynching of Tera Shajahan, one of the 'top terrors' in Barisal city, police said on Thursday.

On of the cases was filed by Abdus Sobhan, president of a 'peace committee' in Ward No. 22 and the other by SI Shahjalal of Kotwali thana.

Tera Shajahan's wife Pervin Renu, went to the thana to file an FIR but police recorded a GD (no. 807, 16-9-03).

In the FIR (no.37/19-9-03) lodged with the Kotwali thana, complainant Sobhan said, Tera Shajahan, his brother-in-law Rattan Mridha and their accomplices used to create terror with firearms and bombs and collect tolls.

On Weerndnesday, a mob caught Tera Shajahan and lynched him after some persons including Mintu, Zakir, Khalek were injured in one such attack. Tera's accomplices fled away.

Sobhan in his case accused 13 alleged criminals including Tera Shajahan's brother-in-law Rattan Mridha and his associates Md Faruk, Abdur Rahman Ripon, Abdur Razzak, Dhalu Howlader, Shakhawat, Liton, Milton, Nurul

Islam, Shah Alam, Masud, Abdur Rashid and Salam Talukder. SI Shahjalal in his FIR (no.38/16-9-03) also brought similar allegations against Tera Shajahan and his accomplices.

He said he went to the spot after getting information that 'top terror' Tera Shajahan and his accomplices attacked and injured many people and that he (Tera) was caught by a mob after a clash and lynched.

He recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy. There were 19 cases including five sensational murder cases against Tera Shajahan. The cases include those for murder of Tahat and a policeman.

Meanwhile, sources said accomplices of Tera Shajahan, now led by his brother-in-law Rattan Mridha, vowed to take revenge by killing Abdus Sobhan and Md Sultan another leader of the 'peace committee' before Tera's 'chehnam' (religious rites 40 days after death).

Meanwhile, sources said, withdrawal of blessings of his godfathers from him and his alleged threat to blackmail them led to the his murder.

Tension is prevailing in Nayakanda, Chohutpur, Ruya and Kudghata areas of the city and police patrol has been increased.