

SNAPS

2 killed for ransom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban Police on Thursday recovered beheaded bodies of a tribesman and a Bangalee, both abducted earlier for ransom.

Body of Ullah Mong Marma, 40 was recovered from Battali under Roangchari upazila in the district.

Police said Marma was abducted on October 4 by some unidentified criminals, who demanded Tk two lakh ransom.

The beheaded body of Mohajer Mia, 60, a small trader, was recovered from Sualock. He was also abducted for ransom.

One killed, 8 hurt as villagers clash

A CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabganj

One persons was killed and eight were injured in a clash between two groups of people at Singrail village in Nachol upazila over grazing cows in a field on Thursday.

Two of the injured— Zabbar and Eusaf—were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in critical conditions, where the former died on Friday.

A case was filed with the local police station.

90 pc tube-wells arsenic affected in Matlab

BSS, Chandpur

About 90 per cent tube-wells in Matlab upazila in Chandpur district are highly arsenic-contaminated.

Sources in the Public Health and Engineering Department (PHED) here said there are 7750 tube-wells in the upazila, of which 6700 are contaminated with arsenic.

About 130 people are suffering from arsenic related diseases in the upazila, they said.

These were revealed in a survey conducted by Arsenic Mitigation Water Supply Project.

The worst affected unions are Khadergan, Narayanpur and Upadi.

Extortionist gets 3 years RI

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

An extortionist was sentenced to three years rigorous imprisonment (RI) by the Speedy Trial Court here on Thursday on charge of collecting illegal toll.

Speedy Trial Court Judge MI Siddique also fined him Tk 5,000, in default, to suffer three months more RI.

The covict is Shamim Reja Deuk, son of Sajedur Rahman of Puratan Satkhira in Sadar upazila. He was collecting toll from rickshaw-pullers by creating barricade on road at Puratan Satkhira intersection on August 28. Acting on a tip-off police rushed to the spot and arrested him.

A case was filed with Satkhira thana accusing Shamim Reja under Section 4.

The punishment was awarded to the convict after recording statement of 11 prosecution witnesses.

Padma Bridge at Daulatdia demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Diamond Theatre' and 'Kant-habithi', two local cultural organisations, on Wednesday demanded construction of the proposed 'Padma Bridge' at Daulatdia.

The demand was made at a joint rally on the local public library premises.

Presided over by Khan Mazharul Huq the meeting was addressed, among others, by Khan Rokibul Huq, Abu Bashar Akhand, Rubayet Firoz, Zahanara Ferdous, Methun Zaman and Kajol Godler.

VGF rice being stolen in diarrhoea affected areas

One more treatment camp opens at Nilphamari Sadar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

As diarrhoea situation deteriorated in Nilphamari, people in some of the affected areas alleged misappropriation of food grains supplied by the government.

People in Itakhola under the Sadar upazila beat a Union Paishad member on Thursday, protesting distribution of 6 kgs of rice per special VGF card against an allotment of 10 kgs, said Atiar Rahman, a BNP leader and Gram Sarker chief at Shangalshi union under the same upazila.

Although there was no fresh death, 88 diarrhoea patients were admitted to five upazila health complexes and the Sadar Hospital in the last 24 hours ending at noon yesterday. Another 872 took treat-

ment at the hospitals, district health control room said.

Earlier, in 48 hours ending Wednesday noon, 106 patients were admitted to the hospitals.

Another makeshift treatment camp has been opened at Chander Hat village under the Sadar upazila, the control room said.

The Civil Surgeon however claimed that the situation is under control.

Doctors suspect that the diarrhoea in the district is unrelenting because the patients being attacked with a new type of germ which is stronger and more harmful than the typical diarrhoea germ.

But this is yet to be determined as report on stool culture is yet to reach from ICDDR,B Dhaka, doc-

tors said.

The civil surgeon told this correspondent on Wednesday that the new type of germ might have been carried by the Teesta water.

Meanwhile, to create public awareness, different NGOs and social organisations are blaring health advice through loud speakers in the affected areas.

The government started distributing rice through VGF cards on September 30, amid speculation that the disease could be spreading as people were taking uneatable food due to food shortage.

The district administration yesterday said 308 tonnes of rice have been distributed in the district as test relief and more 638 tonnes will be distributed through 63800 special VGF cards.



Worried women and children around a diarrhoea patient at Haluapara village under Kachukata union in Sadar upazila, Nilphamari, (right) a patient with her baby on the floor of a makeshift diarrhoea treatment camp at Babrijhar in the district.



PHOTO: STAR

Fire at Reckitt godown in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A huge quantity of coil processing powder was gutted in a fire at a godown of Reckitt Benckiser Bangladesh Limited at Nasirabad in the city on Thursday.

Fire Brigade and company sources said the fire originated from a short circuit and engulfed the entire godown.

Fire brigades from Bayezid Boatami, Chandanpura and Agrabad extinguished the blaze in about four hours.

Fire Brigade sources said they recovered goods worth Tk 20 lakh. The fire gutted Tk 40 lakh goods, they said.

However, Personal Manager of the company, Mubarak Ali Majumder, when contacted said, "We are yet to assess the loss of properties and it would take at least two to three days to estimate the damage."

RU Golden Jubilee registration till Oct 31

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University authorities have asked interested persons to register their names by October 31 for participating in the golden jubilee celebration of the university.

The three-day celebrations will begin on December 21.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to inaugurate the programme, sources said.

Registration forms will be available at the science faculty office at the Second Science Building. Ragistration can be made also on the web site www.ru.ac.bd.

Interested persons will have to deposit Tk 700 fees along with the registration form or a pay order in favour of account No 33005805, Agrani Bank, RU branch.

Guests can also register their names.

70 out of 107 new leaders are non-students

Magura BCL activists confine new president, beat organising secy in protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Protesting formation of Magura district Chhatra League committee mostly with non-students, its activists yesterday locked their new district president at his residence in the town and beat one of its organising secretaries.

Contractor Mainul Islam Polish is president of the new 107-member committee with 70 non-students, announced on Thursday.

Babul Hossain Babu, the new general secretary is a businessman, who could not even pass Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination, sources in the party said.

Most of the members of the new committee are "unemployed vaga-

bonds", they said.

The committee was approved on October 6 by Liakat Shikder and Nazmi Islam Babu, president and general secretary respectively of the BCL central committee, who on several occasions earlier said non-students have no place in BCL (Bangladesh Chhatra League), they said.

Inclusion of a large number of non-students in the committee has evoked a sharp reaction from the BCL activists, the sources said.

On Friday, the angry activists swooped on of Mainul's residence and kept him locked inside for several hours.

They also beat Ziaul Huq Zia, one of the five organising secretar-

ies and a close associate of general secretary Balul Hossain Babu.

Many mid-level leaders and workers this correspondent talked to expressed their anger and frustration.

"There is no need to make any comment while about 70 non-students and married persons have been placed in the leadership," one activist said seeking anonymity

At the top in the hierarchy, nine of the 13 vice-presidents, three of the five organising secretaries, four of the six joint secretaries are non-students. Among the members, at least 38 are non-students, the sources said.

Woman, 'lover' jailed for killing husband in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The District and Sessions Judge's Court (Fourth Court) here on Wednesday sentenced a woman including her illicit lover to life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) for killing her husband.

Judge Begum Jesmin Anwara delivered the judgement in presence of convicts Monwara Khatun 35, mother of two and her illicit lover Tamiz Uddin. The court also fined Tk 10,000 each, in default, to suffer five years more RI.

Monwara Khatun along with her illicit lover on March 13 2001 chopped her husband Abdul Gani, 40, to death at the victim's house adjacent to lswarganj Upazila Land Office.

The victim's son Dulu filed a case with lswarganj police station accusing his mother and Tamiz Uddin. After investigation police submitted the chargesheet accusing the two.

Earlier, police arrested the two convicts and sent them to jail.

Two held for 'kidnapping' jewellery owner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police arrested a former activist of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and his accomplice on Thursday on charge of kidnapping a jewellery shop owner from Mirzajanagal and looting another shop in the area on Tuesday.

They are Ahmed Ibne Islam Chamak and his accomplice Hasanur Rahman Bab, also wanted in several criminal cases.

The kidnapped businessman -- Nitaiwas however released by the captors after beating.

Scrap 'false' cases against 2 Khulna UP chairmen, Jubo League demands

'Wanted' chairmen avoid oath-taking fearing arrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two Union Parishad chairmen of Dumuria upazila, wanted in criminal cases, did not come to take oath at the Khulna Deputy Commissioner's office.

The chairmen and two members of Gultudia and Bhandarpara UPs were given official letters to take oath at the DC's office.

They are Khan Alamgir Kabir Alam of Gutudia and Shahidul Islam Litu of Bhandarpara.

Kabir Alam is general secretary of Dumuria upazila Awami Jubo

League, while Shahidul Islam Litu is a front ranking leader of the same party.

According to Khulna police superintendent, the two are wanted in some criminal cases and police in civil dress were ready to arrest them from the oath-taking venue.

The Officer-in-charge of Dumuria thana, when contacted, said the chairmen are linked with outlawed New Biplobi Communist party.

Meanwhile, presidents and general secretaries of Khulna district and city units of Jubo League threatened of a "tough movement" if

"false cases" against these two UP chairmen are not withdrawn to enable them to "serve the people".

The Jubo League leaders at a press conference later warned police of "dire consequence" for "implicating" the UP chairmen in "false cases at the instruction of BNP leaders".

They termed "unfounded and concocted" the statement given by NBCP second-in-command Debu in his judicial confession that the UP chairmen were involved in the murder of Dumuria Jubo Dal leader Molla Sirajul Islam.

Khustia Sadar thana OC closed

Shibir files another case accusing 31 JCD men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) has filed another case against Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), following the clashes between the two since Monday.

Faruq Hassan, ICS president at Kusutia Alia Madrassah, on Thursday filed the case with the Sadar police station accusing 31 JCD men including its Alia Medrassah unit president Noor-e-Alam and its secretary Dar-ul-Huda

in connection with Wednesday's clash at the madrasahsah that left 10 ICS activists injured.

Two other cases were filed on Monday following the clashes at the Kushtia Polytechnic Institute, in which ICS activist Safiqur Rahman Shimul was killed and 25 people were injured.

Noor-e-Alam and Dar-ul-Huda have been arrested and sent to jail. Both were also accused in the murder case filed after the death of the ICS activist at the polytechnic

institute.

Meanwhile, officer-in-charge (OC) of Sadar police station Naimur Rahman has been closed to Kushtia police line after JCD alleged that ICS activist Shimul was killed in police firing. JCD is demanding the OC's removal.

A body headed by the ADM, Kushtia, is probing the matter.

Meanwhile Kushtia BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami are blaming each other for the incidents.

Tk 1 cr fish washed away in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Fish worth over Tk one crore washed away in the district due to heavy downpour on Tuesday and Wednesday.

About 200 shrimp enclosures and 150 ponds in Shyamnagar, Assassuni, Debhata, Kaliganj and Sadar upazilas were inundated, local people said.

More than 500 kutcha houses collapsed and crops on a vast tract

of land damaged. Low-lying areas of Shyamnagar, Kaliganj, Debhata, Assassuni and Sadar upazilas were submerged.

The district administration opened a control room to combat the situation.

However, the extent of damage could not be ascertained officially. Met office recorded 156-millimetre of rainfall in two days in the district.

Sequel to 'illicit affair'

Mother of five kills husband

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A mother of four sons and one daughter killed her husband as he came to know about her 'illicit relation' with another person.

The incident took place at Islampur village in Babuganj upazila in the early hours of Thursday.

Nasima Begum, wife of Shadat Hossain alias Sader Ali, allegedly had an illicit relation with Amir Hossain, 28, husband of her sister-in-law for about two years.

As the affair came to light, Nasima and Amir planned to hill him.

At about 12:30 am on Thursday, Nasima and Amir entered Sader Ali's room and slaughtered him while he was asleep.

Hearing Sader Ali's groaning and screams of his children, neighbours rushed there and caught Nasima.



PHOTO: ISPR

Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury giving away the Champion Trophy to the Chittagong Area team who clinched the title of Bangladesh Army Annual Athletics Competition concluded at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium on Tuesday.