

SNAPS

1,400 chocolate bombs recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha Palashbari police recovered 1,400 chocolate bombs and arrested one person at Palashbari recently.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team waylaid Saiful Islam and recovered the bombs from a cartoon in his possession.

A case has been filed under the Explosives Act.

Token hunger strike by Satkhira lawyers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira The Satkhira Bar Association staged a token hunger strike in front of the Judge Court building on Thursday as past of its month long agitation to press its six-point demand.

The demands include separation of the judiciary and repeal of amendments to civil procedures and the Bar Council order.

The two hour hunger strike from 10 am ended with a rally.

2 jungle bandits held in police raid, 2 rescued

A CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali Police in a raid arrested two jungle bandits and rescued two abducted persons at Murshid Karing Bazar and Saddam Bazar in shoal areas in Noakhali recently.

The alleged bandits are Siraj And Alauddin, belonging to notorious gangs led by Jahangir and Bashra, police said. They were wanted in some criminal cases. The rescued men are Shabiqul Hoq of Char Gazi and Shahjahan of Ramgati.

Police also demolished and torched two hideouts of the bandits, Noakhali Police Superintendent Nabi said. Over 100 policemen from Noakhali and Laxmipur joined the drive.

Hindus celebrate 'Kalipuja' in Manikganj wearing black badges

A CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj The Hindu community in Manikganj Pouroshabha on Friday celebrated 'Kalipuja' wearing black badges, protesting alleged attack on a temple on Thursday.

The district Puja Uddjapan Committee hoisted black flags atop all temples in the municipal area.

They have also undertaken a programme of protest rally and human chain in front of Manikganj Press Club.

The Hindu community and people of all religions including Muslims held a protest rally in the town on the day.

JCD activists attack RU Islamic History dept Classes suspended for 3 days, exams postponed

A RU CORRESPONDENT

The Islamic History and Culture department at Rajshahi University suspend all classes for three days from yesterday and postponed the first year honours final examination for an indefinite period.

The academic committee of the department took the decisions after a group of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists vandalised the department during first year final examination on Thursday.

Chairman of the department ABM Shahjahan, two teachers -- Prof M Faikuzzaman and Prof Mushfiqur Rahman -- were manhandled and two female students were injured in the attack.

The teachers later in a statement also said that they were manhand-

led by the alleged JCD activists.

The attackers also damaged several doors and windows of the examination hall and tore answer sheets of some examinees.

The injured students -- Akhtar Banu Joly and Sumi -- were given first aid.

The attack was made 15 minutes after the first year final examination began at 1pm as JCD's demand for rescheduling the examination date was not met.

JCD activists demanded the rescheduling as two students -- Tanveer Ahmed Bakul and Shamim Ara Sultana who are reportedly JCD supporters were sick and could not sit for the examination. They had applied for rescheduling the examination.

Assistant Proctor Prof Belal

Uddin later termed the incident 'atrocious'. He however said he was not sure about the identity of the attackers.

Prof ABM Shahjahan said the decision was taken in protest against the incident.

RU JCD President Motiar Rahman later claimed that the attackers were not their party men and demanded probe into the incident.

In a statement Thursday evening, Prof Shahjahan demanded expulsion of the two female students (Bakul and Sultana), saying that they called the 'terrorists' who vandalised the department.

He also demanded proper investigation into the incident and exemplary punishment of the persons responsible.

AL list of 'godfathers' BNP MP files Tk 8 cr suit against 11 AL leaders

A CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

BNP lawmaker Nazim Uddin Alam filed a Tk eight crore defamation suit yesterday against eleven Awami League central leaders for calling him a 'godfather'.

Alam's name was in the list of 'godfathers' announced by AL at a press conference held at its central office on October 16.

Alam appeared before a court and filed the defamation case under Section CRPC 500/120 B /124 and 107.

The accused AL elders are Abdul Jalil, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdus Samad Azad, Tofael Ahmed, Suranjit Sen Gupta, Sajeda Chowdhury, ASHK Sadque, SAMS Kibria, Fazul Karim Selim, Motia Chowdhury and Obaidul Kader.

The court issued warrants against the accused persons, court sources said.

After Hilsa, now Koral fish...

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

After Hilsa, fishermen's dragnet has fallen on sea fish Koral.

As catching of Hilsa fry (Jatka) is banned, fishermen in southern coasts are now indiscriminately netting Koral fry, locally known as Chatki.

Chatkis from one and a half inch to eight inches are now being caught and sold in large quantities in markets in the region.

These are selling at between Tk 50 and 100 per 100 pieces. Chatkis are available in all areas of the southern coastline, but areas near Patuakhali and Barguna are good spots, some fishermen said.

Local fishery official admitted random catching of Koral fries, but said they can not stop it because it is not banned.

OC chargesheeted in rape case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

The officer-in-charge of Jiban Nagar thana in Chuadanga has been chargesheeted in a rape case.

The investigating officer (IO) of the case submitted the charge sheet against Md Shah Alam under the Women and Children repression Prevention Act in a magistrate court here recently.

Alam is now in custody and under suspension.

Alam had raped a woman brought to his residence on on September 11 to work as a domestic help.

The two women -- Shahinoor Begum and Chhoti Begum -- who took the woman to the OC's residence have also been chargesheeted.

The OC was arrested on September 15 after the victim filed a case.

Truck kills one, injures another

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

One bicycle rider was killed on the spot and the other sustained severe injuries when a truck hit them at Bazarpara on the Gaibandha-Sunderganj road Thursday night.

The dead has been identified as Jynal Abedin, 26. Jabeldul Huq is now fighting for life at Rangpur Medical College Hospital, police said. Both the victims are from Bhabanipur village under Sunderganj upazila.

Police seized the truck but the driver fled away.

New labour law for tea sector underway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Formulation of a comprehensive and updated labour law for the tea sector is underway to preserve rights of tea garden workers.

This was disclosed on the concluding day of a two-day workshop of tea sector stakeholders, beneficiaries and government representatives here on Friday.

The workshop, titled "ILO's Tea Sector Intervention in Bangladesh", was organized by ILO GENPROM (Gender Promotion) in collaboration with GENPROM-WEEH (Women's Empowerment through Employment and Health). It was held at the Chittagong chamber auditorium.

Wahidul Haque, chairman of Bangladesh Cha Sangsad, was the chief guest at the workshop, chaired by Shushil Chandra Khan, joint-secretary of the Ministry of Labour

and Employment.

Kabir Ahmed Chowdhury, Deputy Director of the Department of Labour, presented the keynote paper at the workshop moderated by Dr. Rana P Satter, ILO Coordinator in Bangladesh.

Zahin Ahmed, Executive Director of Friends In Village Development in Bangladesh (FIVDB), Tapan Datta of Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra (BTUK),

Lotta Nycander, Chief Technology Advisor, GENPROM - WEEH, ILO, also spoke at the workshop.

It was said at the workshop that there were labour laws and policies, but their implementation to safeguard rights of workers, particularly those in tea sector, was not satisfactory.

On the other hand, of the 48 labour laws in general, five were exclusively applicable for labourers in the tea sector, the workshop was

told. As such, proper implementation and application of labour laws for tea garden workers was important, the speakers said.

Moreover, out of 184 ILO conventions, only 33 have been ratified by Bangladesh.

The speakers said tea garden workers were not getting their agreed upon salaries, pension and other benefits. Facilities for education, healthcare were insufficient and poor.

Absence of sufficient education hinders labour migration from the tea sector while the sector can not absorb the increasing work force.

There should be more jobs in the sector. But such a possibility is bleak as the export market is shrinking, rather than booming.

Moreover, an educated work force is required for development of the sector, the speakers said.

Outlaw murdered by rivals, bullet-hit JCD leader dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

An outlaw allegedly belonging to Jashod Gono Bahini (JGB) was shot dead by members of outlawed New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP) at Durbachara village in Kumarkhali upazila Friday night.

According to police, Jalil Uddin, 35, was shot dead at his house as he returned home after three months. Six NBCP members stormed into the house and shot him pointblank, killing him on the spot.

He had left home after a murder was committed at his village. It was alleged that he was involved in the murder.

Police sent the body to Kushtia

General Hospital for autopsy yesterday morning.

In another incident, a leader of BNP's student front Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), shot here on October 14, died at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital in Dhaka Friday night, according to a message received here yesterday.

Police said Anwar Hossain, joint convener of Kushtia Government College unit of JCD, was shot during an altercation with some drug peddlers at Amlapara in the town over supremacy in the areas.

Police claimed that Anwar was involved in drug trade.

15 hurt as villagers clash in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

At least 15 people were injured, six of them seriously, in clash between two rival groups of people at Kainargar village in Magura Sadar upazila yesterday.

Police and locals said, the two groups equipped with lethal weapons clashed over cutting a tree on a disputed land.

Seriously injured Rahima Khatun, 40, Azizur, 25, Mahmuda, 22, Banik Molla, 40, Paku Sheikh, 35 and Osman, 13 were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital.

No case was lodged till filing of this report at 12-15 pm yesterday.

Highway blocked for food and work

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Demanding food and work, local activists of Bangladesh Khet Mojur Samity blocked the Rangpur-Bogra highway at Palashbari for one hour from noon on Monday.

They chanted slogans like 'save us from starvation'.

The blockade created snarl-ups of hundreds of vehicles on both sides of the road.

Earlier the Samity held a rally there, addressed by among others, Ramendra Nath Barman, CPB (Communist Party of Bangladesh) leaders Biplob Chaki, Sahadat Hossain Laku and Nirmalendu Barman Roy. The rally was followed by a red flag procession.

BCL forced out of polls at Golachipa college

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) attacked Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists at Golachipa Degree College on Thursday and prevented them from submitting nomination papers for contesting in the students union election, it has been alleged.

BCL president at the college, Anisur Rahman, injured in the attack, has been admitted to Golachipa health complex, BCL sources said.

October 23 (Thursday) was the last date for submission of nomination papers. The election is scheduled for November 9 but only one panel submitted by JCD will be in the fray as BCL has been kept out of the race, they said.

Principal Rafiqul Islam when contacted also said only one panel is in the race as no other student body submitted nomination papers.



Nestle Bangladesh Limited Managing Director Carlo Cifello distributing saplings among members of a 'Mothers Club' in Chuadanga. Mothers clubs comprise rural poor women. Nestle Bangladesh is supporting Impact Foundation in training mothers on how to grow vegetables all the year round to meet their nutrition needs. Under the programme, 18,000 women have been organised through 900 such clubs.

Businessman murder in Sylhet

Police told about 'masterminds' but none held yet

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet.

Twenty days into the murder of noted businessman Mokhlesur Rahman in the city, police are yet to find any clue to the incident that sparked protests and demonstrations by all quarters including political parties.

Elderly Rahman, a likeable person by all for his amiable character, was gunned down by unidentified miscreants on October 6 at his travel agency office in the city.

A number of government agencies started probing the incident but nothing could be unearthed, nor any of the killers or masterminds arrested.

Soon after the murder, people came on streets and held rallies and processions demanding arrest of the killers. The Mayor of Sylhet City Corporation addressed one of the rallies.

All political parties including BNP, Awami League, Jamaat-e-Islami, Khelafat Majlish and left parties condemned the killing and demanded arrest of the killers.

The Sylhet Zila Bayboshayee Oikya Parishad observed an 8-hour strike in all business establishments on Friday.

Former Awami League lawmaker Monser Ahmed inaugurated the conference. Eminent orthopedic surgeon Dr AFM Rahul Haq was present as chief guest.

The conference formed a 51-member committee with Hosne Ara Lovely and Nurjahan Elahi Jharna as president and general secretary respectively.

Mohila Dal confce held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The biennial conference of Shyamnagar thana Jatiyatabadi Mahila Dal was held at the thana auditorium recently.

The conference formed a 51-member committee with Hosne Ara Lovely and Nurjahan Elahi Jharna as president and general secretary respectively.

Syed Iftekher Ali, general secretary of Satkhira district BNP, was present as chief guest.

also some prime land near the house of Shahed.

Police said they made several failed attempts in Sylhet and Dhaka to nab Shahed and Mokbul.

A police official however claimed that the mystery would be unveiled soon.

Some sources claimed that Rahman had a long-standing dispute with his neighbour Abdul Matin Chowdhury, a leading contractor and Jatiya Party leader.

Two sons of Chowdhury were picked up and released after interrogation.

Police went to Chowdhury's house several times recently but none was found.

Chowdhury, who had been in hiding after the killing, in a written statement sent to local newspapers said he had litigation with Rahman but things were settled and they performed Hajj together two years ago. Some interested quarters are spreading rumors linking him with the killing, Chowdhury said in the statement.

Shahed and Mokbul, both cadres of Chhatra League and are known as hoodlums, were wanted in a number of cases, police said.

Police said they are in a dilemma, whether the two (Shahed and Mokbul) were hired by some quarter or they were the masterminds.

Local people said Rahman had



(Left) The Oikkyabaddhya Nagorik Andolon (combined citizens' movement) formed a human chain at Majidee Court on Thursday demanding good governance, which was followed by a rally at the Shaheed Minar (right).



PHOTO: STAR

One killed by dacoits at expatriate's house in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Dacoits killed a young man at the house of an expatriate at Hoshir village in Bianibazar upazila Wednesday night.

Police said a gang of five miscreants stormed into the house of Azir Uddin by breaking the doors.

They beat the inmates and asked them to hand over valuables. As the inmates raised a hue and cry, neighbours came.

The miscreants while fleeing fired shots, killing Abdul Motlib, 32, on the spot. He is the son of Araj Ali of the same village.

A case has been filed with Beanibazar thana.



The newly-elected office-bearers of Chittagong Sangbadpatra Hawkers' Bohumukhi Samabay Samity taking oath at a function held at its Cheragi Hill office in Chittagong on Wednesday.