

National

Clash over paddy harvesting: 54 hurt in Barguna

News snaps

Two police officers sued

NETROKONA, Nov 28: The officer-in-charge and a sub-inspector of Kotwali thana were sued Thursday allegedly for torturing a leader of pro-Awami League Chhatra League, reports UNB.

Monwar Jahan Sujan, district organiser secretary of BCL, filed the case against OC Syed Badruddoza and SI Mohammad Glasuddin with the First Class Magistrate Court. In his case, Sujan alleged that police picked him up from his business firm Monday night, brought him to the police station and tortured him on false allegations. Sujan also accused the police officers of grabbing his money and other belongings.

Discussion on Bhasani

NETRAKONA, Nov 28: A discussion meeting on the political life of Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani was held here recently, reports BSS.

Netrakona district unit of Bhasani Smriti Sangsad sponsored the discussion as a part of its three-day long programme to mark the 23rd death anniversary of Moulana Bhasani. Presided over by president of Netrakona district unit of Bhasani Smriti Sangsad T A Rahmatullah, the meeting was addressed, among others, by president of Netrakona district unit of JSD (Rab) Golam Ershadur Rahman, convenor of Netrakona district unit of Jatiya Party Advocate Liakat Ali Khan, Professor Muazzem Hussain and Journalist Haider Jahan Chowdhury. The speaker paid tributes to Moulana Bhasani.

Workshop for newsmen

BANDARBAN, Nov 28: A three-day long workshop, on indepth reporting on 'Democracy and Human Rights', for journalists concluded at the hilltop rest house here on Friday, reports BSS.

A total of 22 journalists, including free-lance journalists, participated in the workshop presided over by Shahiduzzaman, Editor of News Network. Hassan Shahriar, special correspondent of The Ittefaq, distributed certificates among the participants as the chief guest. Zagul Ahmed Chowdhury, special correspondent of BSS, and workshop coordinator Manirul Islam Moni were present in the workshop.

World Diabetic Day observed

MANIKGANJ, Nov 28: The World Diabetic Day was observed here on Sunday, reports BSS.

Various programmes were arranged on this occasion. A colourful procession was brought out which paraded the main roads of the town. A discussion was held at the local ADAB office. The meeting was presided over by Md Mahfuzur Rahman, Additional Deputy Magistrate. Prof Abu Azha Ahmed Asaduzzaman, Vice-President of Manikganj Diabetic Society, Nina Rahman, Secretary of the organisation Dr Sayeed Al-Mamun, and Abu Taher spoke on the occasion.

College building inaugurated

LALMONIRHAT, Nov 28: The newly constructed building of local Mazida Khatun Government Women's College was inaugurated on November 21, reports BSS.

State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir inaugurated the newly constructed building. Facilities Department constructed the building. According to Facilities Department sources, the building was constructed under Education Ministry's 'New Nationalised Women College Development Project'. After completion of the building, at least 2,000 girl student will get better education facilities.

Two terrorists arrested

SATKHIRA, Nov 28: Shyamnagar thana police arrested two alleged terrorists along with 35 rounds of live cartridges from Chandipur Mollah Bari area under Kaliganj thana on Thursday, reports BSS.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the area and arrested Mostak Sheikh, 40, and Mijanur Rahman 38, and recovered 35 rounds of live cartridges from their possession. A case was filed in this connection.

Conference held

BARISAL, Nov 28: A day-long conference of Continental Courier Services (CCS) was held here on November 17, reports BSS.

The conference was presided over by Barisal Divisional Representative of CCS M Rafikul Islam. Managing Director of CCS M Ruhul Amin Chisti attended it as the chief guest while Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Mir Muhibur Rahman as special guest. It was attended, among others, by senior executives Golam Mostafa and Shahkhatul Ullah Mukul and executives Monowar Hossain, Saiful Islam Tapan and SI Ikh Nurul Islam and Paurashava Panel Chairman Golam Mah...

Deer skins recovered

SATKHIRA, Nov 28: Officials of Kadamtali Forest Station recovered three deer skins from South Kadamtali village under Shyamnagar thana recently, reports BSS.

According to an official source, acting on a tip-off, the officials raided the house of one Sirajul Islam of village South Kadamtali and recovered the deer skins from his house. A case was filed in this connection.

Training on management dev

COMILLA, Nov 28: A two-week long training course on management development for officers of Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) concluded at Comilla BARD on Thursday, reports BSS.

Certificates were distributed among the participants in the concluding session. Director (Adm) of BARD Shahjada Elahi distributed the certificates. Director of BARD Khafrul Kabir, Course Director Mir Kashem and Assistant Course Director Abdul Karim addressed the participants. Twenty-five officers of PDB participated.

Man killed in rivals' clash

MYMENSINGH, Nov 28: A clash between two rival groups at Borchar in Sadar thana on Friday left one person dead and eight others wounded, four seriously, reports BSS.

Police and locals said the clash ensued at about 10 am over land dispute. There has been a quarrel between two families of Razab Ali and Sharifuddin of Bartipara for long that erupted in a bloody fighting on the day. The victim, Billal Hossain, 45, died on the spot being struck with a sharp weapon amid the rioting. Four of the injured, identified as Razab Ali, 60, Tofazzal, 28, Hazrat Ali, 35, and Abdus Sattar, 30, were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in 'critical condition'.

Youth hacked to death

BARISAL, Nov 28: Unidentified assailants hacked a young man to death and left another one seriously injured at Billabari village in sadar thana on Friday, police said, reports BSS.

They said the armed goons waylaid Masud, 24, son of Adam Ali, and his friend Sohrab, 25, and hit them indiscriminately with sharp weapons while they were returning home. Masud, who recently returned home from abroad, died on way to hospital while condition of Sohrab, admitted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, was stated to be critical. The body was taken to hospital morgue for autopsy. Cause behind the killing could not be known.

College student killed

BARISAL, Nov 28: A college student was killed in Banaripara thana on Thursday over an affair with a schoolgirl, reports BSS.

Police said Suman Peyada of village Bolar and his associates chopped and killed Ruhul Amin Ruku, 20, a degree student of Chakhar Government College, when he went to his fiancee's home at the village Thursday noon. The girl's family sources said Suman and his henchmen were threatening her repeatedly against maintaining affair with Ruku, also a college-unit activist of Chhatra League. After arrest, Suman confessed to his guilt to police.

Housewife beaten to death

RANGPUR, Nov 28: A housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband over dowry in Pirganj thana on November 21, reports BSS.

The victim was identified as Asma Begum, 22, wife of Motaleb of village Pachishimpura, in the thana. Police sources said Motaleb used to torture her wife to realise dowry money of Tk 6,000 promised during their marriage. But her father failed to pay the money due to his extreme poverty. On the fateful day, Motaleb started beating Asma mercilessly causing her instantaneous death. A case was filed with local police. Motaleb went into hiding soon after the incident.

Muslemen threatening farmers of shoal areas in Barisal divn

From Aroop Talukdar

BARISAL, Nov 28: With the arrival of Aman harvesting season, most farmers in shoal areas of Barisal division are being threatened from the local influential and their armed muslemen.

It is a regular feature every year when Aman paddy is ready for harvesting, muslemen known as *lathials* are engaged by the so-called landlords for looting paddy from fields shedding farmers' blood in the alleged disputed shoal areas.

Armed muslemen loot Aman paddy, kill and injure innocent, helpless farmers, sometimes rape their women and damage their houses by setting them on fire.

Poor farmers are easily exposed to the attack by armed hoodlums when they face resistance from them.

About one thousand shoal lands are sensitive, police said. Every year some influential landlords, failing to take lease of government *khas* lands in shoal areas, engage their muslemen in looting paddy from their fields.

They also occupy huge tracts of *khas* lands and newly emerged shoal lands in absence of proper demarcation line. They bring those under their possession by tagging with red flags.

From the last few years bloody clashes have been taking place over the harvesting of Aman paddy in different shoal areas along the river sides in the districts of Barisal, Barguna, Patuakhali and Bhola, Laxmipur and Pirojpur.

Despite setting up of temporary police camps, bloody clashes could not be checked in the previous years.

Local farmers alleged that red flags have already been hoisted in the vulnerable shoal areas in the districts.

This season, farmers of Barisal division are expecting bumper production of Aman.

Meanwhile, police administration have already directed 32 thana administrations to make lists of muslemen and remain alert and vigilant about their activities.

Administration sources said, there are nearly 100 muslemen leaders under whom about three thousand muslemen create panic in different shoal lands over harvesting crops.

It is learnt from both administration and local sources that over 40 police camps have already been set up in the different shoal lands in the districts.

In some places, farmers alleged that police remained almost inactive as silent spectators during the swoop of muslemen.

Police Super of Patuakhali said, we are stressing on people's motivation than setting up police camps in the vulnerable shoal areas during the harvesting season.

In a big swoop of 200 armed muslemen on Charlatia under Galachipa thana of Patuakhali district, at least 100 helpless farmers had been injured and about 10 women had been raped in the harvesting season last year. Two farmers had been killed on the spot. Many houses had also been gutted and razed to the ground during the attack.

Seven cases had been filed against 300 innocent farmers there.

Earlier, in the December last, at least 60 people had been injured in clashes between two armed groups over harvesting of paddy at Dhankhali village of Kalapara thana in Patuakhali. Sixteen persons were admitted to hospital after the incident.

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Meantime, more information and news of illegal activities of the armed muslemen have been received here from Bhola through the administration and local sources.

A very tense situation is prevailing in at least 16 shoal areas of Bhola. District administration advised to set up police camps in these shoal areas, but due to shortage of police personnel are yet to be set up, said police sources.

A very tense situation is prevailing now at Chatkimali and Char Sitaram, Kandakpur, Megh Bhasan, Bheumia, Char Kalim, Bheduria, Charbarat, Char Chhamiruddin, Char Zahiruddin, Balkunthapur, Char Naldagi, Char Lulin and Latarchar.

Meanwhile, Bhola police demanded two platoons of Range Reserve Force (RRF) to

injured in clashes between two armed groups over harvesting of paddy at Dhankhali village of Kalapara thana in Patuakhali. Sixteen persons were admitted to hospital after the incident.

In another incident armed people of a rival group set ablaze at least 20 dwelling houses that left at least 35 people hurt at Char Monohar along the Bhola-Patuakhali border-line.

They looted away paddy on more than 250 acres of cropland. At least 30 dwelling houses had been torched at that time.

In Putiakhali village under Rajapur thana of Jhalakati district one Yusuf Gazi, 52, had been killed on the spot and 20 people injured from both the clashing groups last year.

In these circumstances, more police personnel are needed now in the disputed shoal areas in the southern region to ease the situation and to save the farmers from muslemen's attack.

Meantime, more information and news of illegal activities of the armed muslemen have been received here from Bhola through the administration and local sources.

There is a demarcation problem and dispute along the borderlines of Mehendiganj thana of Barisal district and Bhola.

Earlier in a joint meeting a decision had been taken to set up police camps at 11 sensitive shoal areas, but due to shortage of police even after deploying 11 magistrates in turns by the district administration this decision could not be materialised.

Meanwhile, Bhola police demanded two platoons of Range Reserve Force (RRF) to

separate clashes over harvesting paddy in the district on Friday-Saturday.

Twenty-six of the injured were admitted to Barguna General Hospital while five to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital with serious wounds.

Hospital sources said the clashes took place in different villages of sadar, Betagi, Amtoli and Bamma thanas.

They said 22 people were injured in Charchacha village in sadar thana on Saturday.

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