

SNAPS

Trader killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Barisal

A trader of Madaripur was killed at Amtali in Barguna district on Thursday.

Majid Sadar, 60, of Kalkini in Madaripur along with his step brother Hannan and six others came to Amtali Wednesday morning in their trawler. On Thursday in the morning, others went out for business purpose leaving Majid alone in the trawler.

On return at about noon, they found Majid dead in the trawler with his throat slit.

Amto police on suspicion arrested Hannan and two of the six—Jhangir and Shafiq. Police said the murder could be due to business rivalry.

2 killed by lightning

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Two persons were killed by lightning at two villages under Kalapara upazila in Ptuakhali on Friday.

Ismail Howlader, 60, was killed in Jiompara and Rustom Ali Mridha, 65, in Naypara when they were working in fields.

Suspected car lifters nabbed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police arrested four suspected car lifters from Sheikirkanda on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway on Wednesday.

The arrested persons are Goddee, Parvez, Iqbal and Shafiq, police said.

A patrol team of Kotwali police challenged a private car, nabbed the suspects and seized the car.

They were being interrogated, police said. Several cars were stolen from the town recently but those could not be recovered.

Acid attack on 5

BSS, Sirajganj

Five persons received acid burn injuries in Shahjadpur upazila in seven days.

The victims are Bahadur Ali, 30, of Rupabati village; Siddique and his wife; Kovanu, 60, and her granddaughter Shoma, 6, of Sahilka village under Shahjadpur upazila.

3 caught while stealing timber from reserve forest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Timber worth over Tk one lakh was seized while being stolen from Lauachhara reserve forest in Komolganj upazila.

Three persons including the driver and the helper of a microbus used for carrying the timber were arrested and the vehicle was also seized.

Range officer of Rajkandi forest and a special patrol team from Srimangal thana caught them from Rail Gate area recently when the stolen Segun timber was being processed at a saw mill, police said.

The arrested are the alleged timber Jiten Mallik, microbus driver Suman Majumder and his helper Ranjit.

Besides, seven pushcarts carrying 24 pieces of Segun and other varieties of timber stolen from forests were seized by the team the same night.

The arrested were sent to court, which sent them to the jail hajat.

Separate cases under forest law have been filed.

Rival BNP factions hold separate conventions in Raozan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Amid a tense situation, two rival factions of Raozan Upazila BNP held party conventions separately within a distance of 300 yards on Friday.

There was no untoward incident as police were deployed.

Sources said that on the previous night, tension was created in the upazila as activists belonging to the factions reportedly fired several hundred shots and threatened their rivals.

The faction led by Golam Akber Khondoker held its convention Nizam Uddin Public Hall. Khondoker, president of Chittagong (north) district BNP, was the chief

guest.

The other faction led by Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury held its convention at Raozan College ground at the same time. Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, parliamentary affairs advisor to the Prime Minister, attended the convention as chief guest. Giasuddin, central BNP secretary for industrial affairs, was special guest.

BNP central committee had approved holding of the convention by the Khondoker-led faction, party source said.

Addressing the convention, Khondoker called upon the party men to strengthen the organization through abiding by the chain of command. Chittagong (north) district BNP executive committee with MA Halim and Nazim Uddin Chowdhury as its president and general secretary respectively. It also formed Raozan Poura BNP executive committee with Sekander Chowdhury and Quazi Abdullah Hasan as president and general secretary respectively. Details of the convention of the Giasuddin-led faction could not be known.

Body of man, schoolgirl recovered

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Decomposed bodies of a schoolgirl and an unidentified man were recovered in Manikganj and Chuadanga on Friday.

The body of Lipi Akter was recovered from a sugarcane field in Panch Para village under Singair upazila in Manikganj Friday evening, said a BSS report.

She was a student of class eight at Bayra High School. She was the daughter of Joynal Abedin.

Quoting the victim's family, police said Lipi had love affairs with a youth Arshed— of same village. Her father lodged a GD with Singair police after she was missing since June 6.

A regular case was filed against five persons including Arshed after recovery of the body. Police arrested three persons.

Our Correspondent reported from Chuadanga that decomposed body of an unidentified man aged about 40 was recovered from near Tushar beel in Nabin Nagar village under Chuadanga Sadar upazila.

Surajganj camp police took the body to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital morgue where its autopsy was done. Legs and the left hand were severed from the body, police said.

For lack of a bank

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Saidur Rahman cultivated boro paddy on three bighas of land but the entire produce was taken away by the moneylender.

The marginal farmer at Khola village in Sadar upazila produced about 40 maunds.

Saidur had borrowed Tk 6,000 from a moneylender in the village and promised to repay it with paddy at the rate of Tk 150 per maund.

So the moneylender took away the entire paddy to realise his money.

Talking to this correspondent, Saidur cursed the government for this. He said he had to borrow from the moneylender at very high interest rate as there is no bank in the area.

Asked why he did not go to an NGO, he said they are no better. They also charge very high rate of interest.

There are more shocking stories, he said. Some farmers had to buy paddy from market at around Tk 250 per maund for moneylenders as their yield did not cover the borrowed money in the just concluded IRRI-boro season, Saidur said.

To meet the cultivation cost poor farmers borrowed from moneylenders at the rate of up to 20 per cent interest per month on condition to pay back with paddy, he said.

Journalist Delwar's death condoled

BSS, Faridpur

A meeting held at Faridpur Press Club on Friday condoled the death of Delwar Hussain, News Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS).

Delwar died of cardiac arrest on June 11.

The meeting, presided over by club President Syed Imamul Azam and addressed by local journalists, expressed deep sorrow at the premature death of the Delwar who had contributed a lot to journalism.

The meeting prayed to the Almighty for salvation of the departed soul and expressed sympathy with members of the bereaved family.

The meeting was also attended by the local elite.

Three schoolgirls not rescued in 24 days



PHOTO: STAR

Abducted schoolgirls (left to right) Mahmuda, Chameli and Sabana are yet to be traced.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Police are yet to trace three school girls 24 days after they were allegedly lured from Patoa village under Gobindaganj upazila by a youth of the same village.

According to cases filed with Gobindaganj thana on May 29, one Monirul Islam lured the three girls on May 18 in the name of giving them

jobs in a garments factory in Dhaka.

The victims are Chameli Begum, 14, a student of class nine and daughter of Sohrab Ali; Mahmuda, 11, of class six and daughter of Joynal Abedin; and Sabana, 11, of class six and daughter of Khaja Mia.

In the cases, the victims' families alleged that the girls might have been handed over

to women traffickers in Dhaka.

Guardians of the girls, accompanied by a team of Gobindaganj police, also searched some places in Dhaka but could not trace the girls, they said at a press conference at Gaibandha Press Club recently.

They sought help from all quarters to rescue the girls.

BPCP cadre held in Jessore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Majedul Islam Mukul, 29, an alleged armed cadre of outlawed Purbo Bangla Communist Party (BPCP) and an accused in three murder cases and five other criminal cases, was arrested on Tuesday from Noapara bazaar in Abhoynagar upazila in Jessore.

He is the son of one Mafizul Islam of Damodar village under Phultala police station in Khulna.

According to police, Mukul was directly involved in the killings of BPCP cadres Gouranga, Debu and Ratan. Besides, he is a charged sheeted accused in five cases recorded under the Speedy Trial Act, they said.

Officer-in-charge of Abhoynagar police station said Mukul came to Noapara along with seven others to kill a top leader of Sramik League, workers' front of opposition Awami League. But his associates managed to escape during the raid.

'Probe irregularities in Gaibandha municipality'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A section of ward commissioners have brought allegations of irregularities and corruption against Gaibandha municipal chairman Anwerul Hasan Sabur.

A written complaint against Sabur has been submitted to the local government ministry, a joint statement signed by three ward commissioners said at a press conference held at Gaibandha press club on June 10. The three were Shamsul Alam, Kazi Ziaul Hafiz and Faruk Ahmed.

They alleged that the chairman was running the municipality at whims while citizens were deprived of minimum civic amenities. Even, untreated water is supplied they alleged.

The chairman rarely holds monthly meetings and decisions are taken at his sweet will.

They said commissioners walked out of a recent monthly meeting in protest when the chairman placed a development project which was not on the agenda.

In the current financial year, Tk 20 lakh was allocated for Gaibandha municipality under the annual development plan (ADP) but the chairman floated tenders for projects involving Tk 98 lakh.

It was stated in the tenders that 'payment of bills will be subject to availability of fund under ADP'. But as per law, bills have to be paid from the pourashava general fund if there is no ADP allocation. "This is a whimsical decision of the chairman", said Shamsul Alam.

Such payments are misuse of public money while the pourashava is in fund crisis and can not pay its retired employees.

They demanded investigation into activities of the pourashava.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Galbandha

The district court has cancelled election of a ward commissioner in Gaibandha pourashava and declared the runner-up elected, four years after the polls.

Joint District Judge AFM Mahabubul Huq gave the verdict on June 8.

Shah Md. Nurullah Jahangir contested for the post of commissioner in Ward No. He ran second in the polls, held on February 25, 1999.

A gazette notification declared Ragib Hasan elected the ward.

Nurullah then filed a case challenging that the original name of the person declared elected is Ragib Hasan Chowdhury and that he changed his name as Ragib Hasan in the voter list as he was a bank loan defaulter.

Nurullah also alleged that Ragib Hasan Chowdhury was elected twice in earlier elections in the same name (Ragib Hasan Chowdhury). But in the last election, he changed his name in the voter list.

After examining evidences and

witnesses, the court found that the

real name of the elected person was Ragib Hasan Chowdhury.

The judge canceled the election of Ragib Hasan and declared runner-up Nurullah Jahangir elected commissioner of Gaibandha Pourashava Ward No. 1.

Cruel father

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A girl child was killed allegedly by her father at Chhandhara village in Phulpur upazila.

The victim was identified as Amena, 5, daughter of Ainuddin alias Kudu.

Police said, Ainuddin stabbed her daughter Amena to death following a quarrel with her wife Noor Jahan recently.

Hearing the mother's screams, neighbours caught Ainuddin and handed him over to police.

It is also alleged that Ainuddin used to beat up his wife off and on for dowry.

After examining evidences and

witnesses, the court found that the



PHOTO: STAR

Employees and workers laid a siege to the deputy commissioner's office at Gaibandha on June 12 demanding withdrawal of a decision to lay off Rangpur Sugar Mills.

Schoolgirl, housewife 'commit suicide'

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A school girl and a housewife allegedly committed suicide in Rajbari and Natore.

Daughter of Anwar Ullah, Anjumanara was a student of class X at Rajbari Al-Gazali Academy.

School girl Anjumanara Begum allegedly committed suicide by pouring kerosene on the body and torching herself at her house at Sajjankanda village under Rajbari Pourasabha here on Friday, our

correspondent reported from Natore.

BSS reported from Natore that housewife Sufia Bibi, 45, allegedly committed suicide by taking poison in Nazirpur village under Gurudaspur upazila recently.

Police said, Sufia, wife of Ansar Ali, ended her by taking poison. The cause of suicide was not known.