

SNAPS

2 'commit' suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati  
Two persons allegedly committed suicide by hanging themselves in separate incident in the district, police said.

Md Siddique, 38, a cook of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), was found hanging from the ceiling at his residence at the Baghichhori upazila headquarters on Tuesday. Police suspected family feud behind his alleged suicide.

In Chandraghuna in Kaptai, a mid-aged tribal woman - Katching tui Marma-committed suicide at her residence on the same day, police said.

Lightning kills 2

UNB, Habiganj  
Two people, including an ex-member of No 9 Ranganag union, were killed in lightning at Mirashi village in Chunarughat upazila Monday night. The victims were identified as former Union Parishad (UP) member Khorshed Ali, 50, and Abdul Aziz, 45, of Rajakuna village.

That's how a Gram Sarkar is born

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A Jamaat-e-Islami worker in Itakhola union, Fazlur Rahman Sadhin, read out 15 names one by one.

With a feeble applause from the small audience, the 15 became Gram Sarkar members without any voting.

A young man, Mozammel Haq, protested.

A local BNP leader ran to him and asked, "How old are you?"

"Twenty-two years sir," he replied.

The BNP leader said grumpily, "Go home. You will not understand Gram Sarkar until you reach 25."

Thus was formed the Gram Sarkar committee in Ward No 1 in Itakhola union under Nilphamari Sadar upazila on Thursday.

Nilphamari Sadar Upazila

Statistics Officer Samsul Islam conducted the programme as representative of the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO).

Four-Party Alliance and Jamaat leader Moniruzzaman Montu, District BNP Joint Convenor Mostofa Haq Prodhan Bachchu and other BNP and Jamaat leaders were present.

With formation of the committee on Chowdhury Para Forkania Madrassa premises, the process began in all the 15 unions of Nilphamari Sadar upazila.

Monwar Hossen of the village was sitting at a corner. He had no ready reply when asked about functions of the Gram Sarkar. "I don't know", he said after a while.

Zarina, Kohinoor, Hazera said they thought it was a BNP meeting and so they came to listen.

At one stage, some visibly agitated BNP workers at the village

encircled Mostafa Haq Prodhan Bachchu.

They complained to him that the entire committee was formed with Jamaat workers.

As the meeting was nearing its end, the confused-looking audience became restless and somewhat indisciplined. They left the venue, many of them murmuring.

When asked, local Awami League leader Mizanur Rahman alleged that no other party except BNP was invited. He alleged that members of the Gram Sarkar committee were made in exchange of money.

"This is completely an undemocratic process. There was no participation of the masses", said Hedayet Ali Fakir, Chairman of Itakhola Union Parishad, who was present there. UP members Monirur Rahmani and Surot Ali echoed.



PHOTO: EAM ASADUZZAMAN

Selection of Gram Sarker at Itakhola union: (1) Fatema Begum and her neighbour ponder what a Gram Sarkar is, (2) poor turn-up of villagers, (3) curious people encircle Nilphamari district BNP joint convener Mostafa Haq, (4) Jamaat and BNP leaders addressing the people while UNO's representative is seen at the centre, (5) people leaving the venue, (6) Jamaat worker Fazlur Rahman Sadhin Chowdhury announcing names of 15 members of the Gram Sarkar.

Lupu murder case

23 chargesheeted after five years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Twenty-three people have been chargesheeted in the sensational Lupu murder case, five years after the incident.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police recently submitted the charge sheet in the court of Magistrate Ashraful Islam in Gaibandha.

Police, meanwhile, arrested six persons. But the main accused, Shah Alam, is still absconding.

Borhan Walid Lupu, 22, a student of Rajshahi University (RU), was murdered allegedly by his business partner Shah Alam and his accomplices on the night of September 26, 1996.

The body was recovered from a marshy land at village Ekbarpur under Saduallapur upazila.

Sadullapur thana police had initiated investigation into the murder, but they could not make any headway.

The case was transferred to the Detective Branch (DB) and then to CID.

Amullah Chandra Das, assistant

police super (ASP) of Rangpur CID, said in the charge sheet that Lupu of village Dhaperhat under Sadullapur upazila and accused Shaha Alam Fuuku of Masterpara under Palashbari upazila were partners for nine years in a brick-field business.

A dispute started as Shaha Alam misappropriated Tk 20 lakh and started separate business.

Lupu was killed on the night when a settlement of their accounts was scheduled to be made.

The killing sparked protests by local people, who brought out processions, held meetings and submitted memos to the deputy commissioner (DC), the police superintendent (SP) and the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) demanding culprits' arrest.

Theft at sugar mills

UNB, Thakurgaon

Police arrested four employees of Thakurgaon Sugar Mills on Wednesday on charge of stealing fuel pumps of 38 tractors worth Tk 22 lakh.

Barisal BM College to be made varsity soon:UGC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal.

The Barisal Government Brojomohan College will be upgraded to a full-fledged public university soon.

This was announced by the visiting eight-member inspection team from the University Grants Commission (UGC) during a meeting with teachers of the college on Thursday.

This institution has required infrastructure facilities more than many private universities in the country and it is on top of a list of institutions to be turned into a university, the team said.

The UGC team is led by its Chairman Prof Dr Asaduzzaman.

The team visited the college campus, different departments and student hostels.

The meeting was presided over by principal of the college Prof. Nurul Anwar and addressed by UGC the and its members Prof. Dr. Monzur Morshed Mahmud, Prof. Manirul Huq, Prof. Dr.K M Mohsin, Prof. Mahfuzul Huq, Patuakhali Science and Technology University

Vice-chancellor Prof. Dr. A K M Abdul Hannan Bhuiyan.

There are about 50 universities in the country, most of which are less equipped than BM College, the team said.

Creating more facilities for higher education at less cost is an election pledge of the government.

After submission of the team's report, the prime minister will make an announcement and the education ministry will approve a plan and allocate budget for the new university, the team said.

'Listed criminal' held in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A 'listed criminal' has been arrested in the city.

Acting on a tip-off, Detective Branch (DB) of police raided Nandan Karon area and nabbed Ilias, 32, in the early hours of Thursday.

Ilias was wanted in seven criminal cases for toll collection and abduction, police said.

Body of schoolboy recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Police recovered the body of a schoolboy from near the rail track at Elangi village in Kotchandpur upazila on Thursday.

Mehedi Hasan Oni, 13, did not return home after he was called out of his house on Wednesday allegedly by some of his friends.

Police said Oni was strangled.

Police arrested Oni's friend Rahmat after his father filed a case with Kotchandpur thana.

Rally, meeting for arrest of Giasuddin's killers in Barisal

Hartal threatened

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Madrasah teachers, students and imams of mosques brought out a huge procession in city and held a meeting on the premises of Aswani Kumar Hall on Thursday demanding arrest and punishment of the killers of Madrasah teacher Hafez Mufi Giasuddin.

They submitted memoranda to the deputy commissioner and the police superintendent and threatened to call a hartal if the killers are not nabbed immediately.

The program was organised by Shahid Hafez Mufi Maulana Giasuddin Memorial Committee.

The meeting was presided over by the committee's president Maulana Abdul Majid, principal of Khwaja Mainuddin Madrasah, where Giasuddin was a teacher.

It was addressed by, among others, Islami Oikkya Jote leader Prof AKM Shahjahan, Barisal city Ameer of Jamat-e-Islami Advocate Moazzem Hossain Helal, principal of Mahmudia Madrasa and the committee's secretary Maulana Obaidur Rahman Mahbub, Maulana Ruhul Amin, Mufi Maulana Md Shabbir Ahmad, Maulana Ibrahim Ali, Maulana Abdul Latif, Maulana Jubair Ali, Maulana Obaidur Rahman, Maulana Barkatullah.

They said some vested quarters are making false propagation about Giasuddin's family life to save the killers.

Police could not arrest any body in connection with the murder.

Investigation officer (IO) of the case, Detective Branch Sub-inspector Abdul Hye, said important clue to the murder will be found if

suspect Mahbub can be arrested. He said Mahbub's house at Indrakul village under Baufal thana in Patuakhali was raided but he was not found.

The IO said complainant of the case and victim's brother Abdul Jabbar and brother-in-law Hafez Abu Hanif suspect Mahbub to be involved in the murder. It is claimed by certain quarters that Mahbub had a relation with Giasuddin's wife Maksuda.

Post office night guard stabbed by robbers

A CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A night guard of Manikganj post office was seriously injured when robbers stabbed him in the early hours of Wednesday.

The victim was identified as Sanwar Hossain, 35.

Police said, a gang of 10-12 robbers entered the post office by breaking the gate at about 4 am. They beat up and stabbed the night guard when he resisted them.

However, the post office sources said the robbers could not take away anything from the post office.

Injured Sanwar Hossain was admitted to Manikganj Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

A case was filed with Manikganj Sadar Police Station.

Journalist Akkas released on bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Jhalakati Distict Judge Asgar Ali on Thursday granted bail to journalist Akkas Sikder.

Akkas was arrested by Jhalakathi Detective Branch of police on July 31 and named in a murder case filed about two months back.

His arrest followed publication of a report on alleged corruption by the Jhalakathi superintendent of police in a local daily.

The judge in his order said the bail was granted considering the professional identity of Akkas, the complainant's affidavit and police report.

The complainant and police report said in the court that Akkas was not involved in the murder.

Advocate Enayet Pir Khan, a human rights activists and political leader, moved the bail petition.

His arrest sparked protest by different quarters. The Jhalokati Newspaper Hawkers Welfare Association brought out a procession in the town and held a protest meeting in front of the local Press Club Tuesday evening.

The Jhalokathi Sangbadik Samity (Journalists Association) also held a meeting demanding his release.

Local human rights bodies and cultural said Akkas was falsely implicated in a case and demanded his release.

PCP leader, village headman kidnapped in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A leader of PCJSS-backed Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP), has been kidnapped from his house at Pekua village under Chitmorom union in Kaptai upazila, police said.

A group of five armed young men swooped on the house of U Thuai Mong Marma in the early hours of Thursday and kidnapped him on gunpoint.

In another incident on Monday, the Karbary (village headman) of Matchalong village in Baghaichhori upazila was abducted by a group of armed tribesmen.

The Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNOs) at Kaptai and Baghaichhori confirmed the incidents.

BNP leader injured by party rivals in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A BNP leader was seriously injured as rival party activists attacked him at village Haringachi in Daulatpur upazila in the district on Thursday.

The rivals also torched his motorcycle. Police arrested one of the attackers with a rifle from the spot.

According to police, the rivals waylaid and attacked Nazrul Islam, Treasurer of Daulatpur upazila BNP, when he was going to the upazila headquarter riding a motorcycle.

They beat him and shot at him, but the bullet was missed.

On information, police rushed to the spot, rescued him and arrested one of the party men -- Mizanur Rahman--with a rifle and two bullet.

A case was filed with Daulatpur police in this connection.



PHOTO: STAR

Mymensingh Sadar upazila unit of Jatiya Sikkhak Karmachari Front brought out a procession in the town on Monday demanding realisation of their eight points of demands.

Search for outlaws in Rupsha Joint forces pick up 768 in 24 hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Outlawed PBCP (Jana Juddho) has claimed responsibility for murdering Rupsha fish trader Azhar Fakir, terming him a 'class enemy and traitor'.

PBCP in a fax message said Azhar Fakir built fortunes by illegal means.

Meanwhile, joint forces have continued combing operation in almost all unions of Rupsha upazila to track down outlaws.

Chairman of Icegati and Naihati unions said the operation by the joint forces has created panic among local people as they have been virtually forced to remain confined in their houses.

The joint forces intensified their search for outlaws since murder of Azhar Fakir on Monday.

Many people picked up on Monday and Tuesday nights were roughed up by the joint forces, the chairmen alleged.

The joint forces have restricted movement of people and asked shopkeepers to close their shops after 7 pm in seventeen villages under Rupsha upazila.

The forces picked up 768 people from different villages from Monday night till Tuesday evening. Forty of them have been detained for further verification.

Nine persons have so far been picked up as suspects in Azhar Fakir murder case.

Khulna varsity construction Contractors muscled out in bidding

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Musclemen including a cadre of outlawed Purb Banglar Communist party (PBCP) prevented contractors from dropping tenders invited for construction of teachers quarters on the Khulna University campus at an estimated cost of over Tk one crore.

The incident took place on Monday, the last date for submitting tenders, at the office of Acting Chief Engineer Biswas Shahadat Hossain.

They stormed into the office with arms. They snatched the tender paper from one Shawkat Hossain, who represented a Dhaka-based company, bank draft and other relevant documents in presence of the acting chief engineer at 11:30 am, witnesses said.

The musclemen threatened bidders in the name of an influential member of parliament.

The witnesses said the acting chief engineer kept quit when the terrorists entered his office and forced others including bidders to

leave the place.

Security guards of the university also kept mum at that time, they said.

Shawkat was also threatened not to proceed further regarding any work concerning Khulna University.

When asked later, Biswas Shahadat Hossain however said that four tenders were dropped peacefully and that the name of the winner would be disclosed after "checking and rechecking" papers.

Monetary assistance for fire victims

UNB, Jhenidah

Five fire victims received Tk 2,000 each from the Local Social Service Department.

Deputy Commissioner of Jhenidah ABM Shajahan distributed money among Rina Dashi, Sharmin, Moina, Rokon and Shumi at a function here Wednesday. Official sources said the Ministry of Social Welfare allocated the money in fiscal 2002-2003.