

SNAPS

Kala Jahangir's 3 'accomplices' nabbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna  
Chandanga thana police on Tuesday arrested three 'accomplices' of listed criminal Kala Jahangir of Dhaka.

They are Robin, Michael Roy and Russel. Police said that they came to Chuadanga after abducting Hafizur Rahman, 42, an employee of Flour Trade International Agency, Dhaka.

Youth with pistol arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj  
Sirajganj police on Wednesday night arrested one criminal with an Indian made pistol from Khan Shaheber Edigha ground.

Police sources told this correspondent that the criminal, Shohag, 20, son of Abdul Karim of Diardhangora area was going to Bahirgola by a rickshaw. When his rickshaw reached near the Edigha ground, police challenged and arrested him with a pistol. A case was lodged with Sirajganj Sadar police station.

JCD activists 'harass' AL MP in Sherpur

UNB, Sherpur

An Awami League (AL) member of parliament (MP) was harassed allegedly by activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) in presence of ruling party MPs at a public function here on Tuesday.

Witnesses said AL MP from Sherpur-1 Atiur Rahman Atiq attended the inaugural function of Fisheries Fortnight 2003 as special guest.

Whip Zahed Ali Chowdhury attended the function as chief guest while BNP MP Mahmudul Haq Rubel as special guest.

From the very beginning of the function, JCD activists were taunting at the AL MP. At one stage they tried to manhandle him.

As the JCD men turned violent, Whip Zahed Ali Chowdhury took Atiq into his car and left the place.



PHOTO: STAR

Nilphamari district Jubo League took out a procession, left, and formed a human chain at Smrity Amlan square in the town, right, on Thursday demanding immediate execution of the verdict in Bangabandhu murder case.

All top leaders summoned for a Dhaka meet tomorrow

Showdown by Khulna city BNP factions as rift widens

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

Amid showdowns and muscle flexing by rival groups, top leaders of Khulna city BNP including Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman and Whip Ashraf Hossain have been summoned by the party high command for a meeting in Dhaka to mend the rift.

They have been asked to attend a meeting at 7 pm on August 17 at the official residence of Food Minister Abdullah AL Noman, party sources said here.

The minister who is joint secretary general of central BNP has been assigned by the party high command to resolve disputes regarding organisational matters in Khulna city BNP.

Noman has asked all the leaders of city BNP to refrain from any organisational activities till holding of the meeting.

Meanwhile, the rift in Khulna city BNP has further widened with formation of some ward committees in absence of its president Nurul Islam MP and secretary Nazrul Islam Manju. Intervention of the Mayor and Ali Asgar Lobi MP in forming ward committees in Sadar and Sonadanga thanas has been termed "extra-constitutional" by

leaders and workers loyal to Nurul Islam and Manju.

On Tuesday in the evening, party men loyal to Manju brought out a procession in a showdown against the Mayor and Ali Asgar Lobi, warning them of "serious consequence" for violating party constitution.

The rival groups in city BNP are now at loggerheads. One group is led by Whip Ashraf Hossain, M Nurul Islam and Nazrul Islam Manju and the other by the Mayor and Lobi.

Supporters of the two rival groups are flexing muscles openly against each other following formation of party units at wards in Sadar and Sonadanga thanas.

Nurul Islam and Manju briefed top central leaders including Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuigan about the "deep crisis arising out of unwanted intervention" by Tayebur Rahman and Lobi "with a motive to perpetuate the prevailing rift", the sources said.

Asked by this correspondent, however Tayebur refuted the allegation that the rift in city BNP is widening.

"We have been told by the central committee to contact

ward committees by August 30 and accordingly work is going on in full swing without waiting for those who are opposing our move", the Mayor said.

On the other hand, Manju blamed some senior leaders for widening of the rift and "ignoring" his "dedicated services".

Nurul Islam could not be contacted as he is in Dhaka.

Some sources said Lobi, elected from Khulna-2 constituency in by-election, is an aspirant for the post of city BNP president.

Meeting, procession against grading system

CU students boycott classes, exams

CU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Chittagong University (CU) boycotted classes and examinations, locked the examination halls and took out a procession on the campus on Thursday demanding cancellation of grading system in the university examinations.

Scheduled examinations in seven departments were not held. The departments include Journalism, Anthropology, Public Administration, Micro-Biology, Sociology, Chemistry and Physics.

The students are agitating under the banner of General Student Action Council (GSAC) for the last several days to realise their demand.

They say, in the present grading system, students of CU get up to Grade Point 3.5, which is equivalent to First Class mark. Still, they are ineligible for applying for jobs because of the grade point.

Dhaka University does not follow grading system.

The university authorities on Tuesday held an emergency meeting with deans and chairman of all departments and formed a advisory committee to give a report on the grading system within ten days. The committee has been asked to identify problems with the grading system and to recommend measures.

But the students rejected the committee and demanded immediate cancellation of the system and revival of the 'class system' as in Dhaka University.

The students said they will begin a tougher action programme tomorrow, which will include a 'grand rally' on the campus.

They have also launched a signature campaign in favour of their demand. Till Thursday, they collected signatures of 8,000 students of CU.

Meanwhile a teacher at Journalism department preferring anonymity told the Daily Star that their understanding of the grading system is not clear.

"We are not well informed about the whole system. The authorities can arrange symposium and seminar to make the teachers aware about the grading system", he said.

General Secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Kazi Mazharul Islam while talking to this correspondent said BCL supports the students' demands.

House attacked for 'filing case' Acid victim's father killed, 6 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal.

Miscreants, who killing a woman by throwing acid on her about two months back, killed her father and critically injured her mother and six of the family on Wednesday allegedly for filing a case for the acid attack.

The incident took place at Naailtala village under Nazirpur upazila in Pirojpur district.

According to Nazirput police, Shewli Begum Shilpi, daughter of Jalal Fakir and mother of a 7 year-old boy, was critically injured in an acid attack. She died at hospital.

Jalal Fakir filed a case with Nazirpur thana. One of the accused – Swapan Bepari was arrested and is in custody now.

The rest are absconding. They had been threatening the victim's family since filing of the case.

On Wednesday morning, the armed miscreants attacked the house of Jalal Fakir and hacked all the inmates indiscriminately.

Jalal Fakir, 60, died on the spot. His wife Rizia Begum, 50, sons Lokman, 32, Milon, 23, Hiron, 13, Saddam (11) and grandson Sabbir (late Shilpi's son) are fighting for life at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

No case has been lodged and none has been arrested in connection with Wednesday's incidents.

'Sylhet is the most vulnerable area for HIV'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Greater Sylhet is the "most vulnerable area" for HIV/AIDS in the country.

The highest number of 40 out of the total 248 people tested positive for the disease in the country is in the region, according to official statistics presented at a seminar here yesterday.

The speakers stressed the need for launching a vigorous awareness campaign with a special attention to Sylhet.

Some speakers expressed doubt about the officially recorded number of HIV positive cases in the country. The actual figure may be much higher, they said mentioning records in other Asian countries including India.

The WHO has estimated the number of HIV positive cases in Bangladesh at around 13,000, they said.

HIV/AIDS should be treated as a development and human rights issue and integrated to poverty alleviation programmes, they said.

The Bangladesh Human Rights Journalists Forum (BMSF) and CARE organized the workshop, participated by journalists, lawyers and NGO representatives working with HIV/AIDS prevention programme.

Sylhet City Corporation Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran attended the inaugural function as chief guest while Dr Shabbir Ahmed Shibly, head of Community Medicine, Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College, and Sylhet Press Club President Iqbal Siddiquee spoke as special guests.

Syed Imtiaz Ahmed, Programme Officer of CARE also spoke at the workshop with BMSF Executive Director Khairuzzaman Kamal in the chair.

The mayor said creating awareness among people is the best way to prevent the disease. Any person tested HIV/AIDS positive should not be neglected in the society. This would be a violation of human rights, he said.

Diarrhoea claims 2, attacks 144 in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Diarrhoea has broken out in Haragachh Pourasabha, a densely populated municipality in the district, claiming two lives and attacking 144 more in last seven days, according to a spokesman of Rangpur Civil Surgeon's office.

The dead have been identified as Shamsul Haque, 35, and his only son Fool Babu, 5.

The worst affected areas are Menhaj Bazaar, Dhumerpar, Seat Sarai, Munshipara and Pathanpara.

Wares Ali, a health worker disclosed this correspondent that they were facing problems due to acute shortage of saline and necessary drugs to combat the situation. Unhygienic living conditions in the overpopulated municipality have

been attributed to outbreak of the deadly disease, according to health workers.

Many diarrhoea affected persons of all ages, both male and female, have been admitted to Haragachh Health Centre and Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH), hospital sources said.

Anwarul Islam, Chairman of Haragachh Paurasabha told this correspondent that the situation was under control.

Rangpur Civil Surgeon-in-Charge Dr A Rahim, echoing the poura chairman's view, informed the correspondent that field workers had been working in the affected areas round the clock to combat the diarrhoeal situation.

Kidnap case tried in 36 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

The speedy trial court, Rangpur on Monday disposed off a kidnapping case within 36 days sentencing three years rigorous imprisonment (RI) to 3 kidnappers each.

Magistrate Zobair Hossain Bablu gave the verdict and fined each convict Tk 1,000, in default, to undergo three months more RI each.

The convicts are Ranjoo Chandra Roy, Ripon Roy Khokon and Mohaiminul Islam Sumon. All are below 25 years of age.

Sometime in July this year Sumit, 16-year-old son of Advocate Elias Ahmed, general secretary of the district Awami League came to Rangpur to visit his parents on a vacation from India where he studied. On July 2 he went to meet his friends at Rangpur Government College. The three kidnappers abducted him from there at a suitable time and took him to nearby station club area. They

forcibly took his undertaking in a white paper to pay them Tk 10,000 within three days. After release, Sumit narrated the story to his parents.

On expiry of the three-day deadline, the kidnappers threatening him over telephone to pay the money without fail on the same day, or face a dire consequence.

Sumit's father Advocate Elias immediately informed the matter to Kotwali police who instructed him to send his son along with money at 3pm to Rangpur Government College Shaheed square. Plainclothes policemen was watching from a safe distance. When the abductors came near to Sumit, police rushed and caught all of them red-handed.

Advocate Elias filed a case with Kotwali police under Speedy Trial Act. Within seven days police completed the investigation and submitted chargesheet to the court for trial.

14 yrs RI in arms case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The Barisal Speedy Trial Tribunal sentenced two persons to 14 years' imprisonment for possessing illegal firearms.

Judge M A Quddus Mia on Wednesday handed down the punishment to Nur Hossain and Wadud in absentia.

They were caught at Rangabali Bazar in Golachipa in Patuakhali district on January 8, 2000 with a pipe gun and one LG.

All set for Dhaka-Agartala bus service: BRTC chairman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria.

All preparations for Dhaka-Agartala bus service have been completed. Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) chairman Taimur Alam Khandaker said on Thursday.

He was talking to newsmen at Brahmanbaria Curcuit House at night after visiting the Bangladesh portion of the route and other facilities.

It is up to the governments of Bangladesh and India when the service will begin, he said.

BRTC Director (administration) Md Azhar Ali Talukder, ADM of Brahmanbaria Mia Abdullah Al Mamun and Executive Engineer of Roads and Highway Department Md Muhiuddin accompanied the BRTC chairman during the visit.

He said BRTC has also a plan to introduce its service in Dhaka-Brahmanbaria route.

They has 800 BRTC buses now and is planning to buy 100 more, he said.

Spider Web closed in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Operation Spider Web has been closed in Khulna city and six upazilas of the district with effect from Wednesday.

Striking forces have been formed to launch anti-crime drives. The decision was taken at a high level meeting held at Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) headquarters.

Kaptai Lake: Fishing begins

UNB, Rangamati

Fishing in the Kaptai Lake began from Friday as the authorities lifted a ban on fishing in it.

The ban was imposed on May 15 this year to ensure natural breeding and growth of fish in the lake.

However, the ban on fishing in four square kilometre area of the lake in Sadar and Longodu upazilas will remain in force, officials said.