

SNAPS

Six get 10 yrs' RI for demanding toll

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrokona Six persons have been sentenced to 10 years' RI for demanding toll and threatening one person with death.

The Assistant District and Session Judge, Netrokona, handed down the punishment to Shamusil Haque, Nayan, Habul, Babul, Ebadul Haque and Shahabul, all from Sreepur village in Purbadhola upazila.

They had demanded Tk 40,000 from one Siddiqui Rahman of the village in August last year and threatened him with death for non-compliance.

Robbery at school

A CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj Robbers took away Tk 23,000 from Manikganj Government Boys High School on Wednesday night.

According to a general diary filed with Manikganj police, the robbers entered the headmaster's office by breaking window grills and took the money from the almirah.

They also ransacked his office and the office of the assistant headmaster.

There is no night guard at the school for long, sources said.

Fisherman killed

by tiger

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira A fisherman was killed by a Royal Bengal tiger in the Sundarbans on Wednesday.

Local people said, Shahar Ali, 35, son of Asgar Ali of village Sora under Shyamnagar upazila went to catch fish in the mangrove forest. When he was catching fish in Dingimari canal, a tiger swooped on him killing him on the spot.

Jubo League founding day observed

A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali The 31 st founding anniversary of the Bangladesh Awami Jubo League was observed here recently.

The party organised a discussion meeting at its office on the occasion.

With district AL president Mehtabuddin Sabu in the chair, the meeting was addressed by party leaders.

100 injured in B'baria villagers' clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

At least 100 people including children and women were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Durgapur village under Ashuganj upazila on Friday.

According to eyewitness, hospital and police sources, Dana Mia of Azampur village had an altercation with Khalil Mia of Durgapur village over return of loan money.

At one stage they were locked in a duel. This drew fellow villagers.

Led by Yusuf Ali and his rival Kulirbari, the villagers fell upon each other with lethal weapons. The clash lasted for over two hours.

Of the injured, 35 were admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital. Others were treated at Ashuganj and Sarail upazila health complexes.

Those admitted at Brahmanbaria hospital are Arman Mia, Abul Hussain, Md Nazim, Zinnat Ali, Sahera Begum, Robbani, Sabuz Mia, Razib, Fatema, Mito, Yeakub, Samim, Rony, Junayed,

Marium, Abu Kasem, Sushil, Monil, Razia Begum, Jahangir Alam, Sattar, Jalil Mia, Jaynal, Alkaz, Yelia, Aatur, Kazol, Bahar, Samsu Mia, Masum, Delwar Hussain and Nazir Mia.

On information, Ashuganj police rushed to the spot and quelled the violence. No case was filed till filling the report yesterday.

Sources said the group had rivalry for long. They also clashed about a month earlier, leaving 150 injured.

On Friday last they met for the second time.

More 15 hard days to go

Aman harvest yet to begin in monga-affected Gaibandha: Irregularities in VGF rice distribution

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

People in remote villages in Gaibandha are still in grip of acute hardship for want of food and work.

This situation will continue till harvest of Aman crop begins in about 10 to 15 days.

The government allocated 1648 metric tons of rice in October and November to face the monga situation in the district. The rice is being distributed through 1200 VGF cards in each of 54 unions and 700 in each of 28 unions.

But local Union Parishad chairmen and members say at least 2000 VGF cards are needed in each union.

Meanwhile, irregularities have been reported in distribution of the VGF rice in different areas. Protests took place at certain unions for alleged misappropriation of relief goods, sources said.

A case has been filed against Akbar Hossain Sarker, Fulchari thana Awami League secretary and chairman of Kanchipara Union Parishad, on charge of irregularity in relief.

Gaibandha district Awami League at

a recent meeting demanded withdrawal of the case, terming it false and conspiratorial.

The Gaibandha Workers Party at a meeting at local Shaheed Miner criticised the government for its failure to face the monga situation.

The Gaibandha district unit of Communist Party of Bangladesh brought out a procession and held a protest meeting demanding adequate government steps to meet the monga situation. It also demanded an end to "looting VGF rice" by ruling party men.

25 injured as buses collide at Ashuganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

At least 25 people were injured when two buses collided head-on at Bertola on the Dhaka Sylhet highway at Ashuganj on Friday.

According to eyewitness and police, a Dhaka-bound bus from Habiganj collided with a Sylhet-bound bus from

Dhaka.

Ten of the injured have been admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar hospital and the rest were treated at Ashuganj health complex and other clinics.

The drivers and helpers of the buses managed to escape.

Murder of Sylhet Chhatra Samaj leader None held, no clue in 25 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police could not arrest any one or find any clue to the murder of Sylhet district Jatiya Chhatra Samaj president Jainal Abedin alias Jainul 25 days after the incident.

The killing sparked protests from all section of people including political leaders.

Jainul's body, contained in a gunny bag, was found on October 19 morning. Golapganj police recovered it from a paddy field at Baishmura, about 10 kilometres off his village home at Srirampur in South Surma.

After autopsy at the Sylhet MAG Osmani Hospital, it was buried at Manikpir Tila graveyard in Sylhet city as an unclaimed body in the same evening.

Next day, Jainul's family came to know about the incident from a local newspaper.

Jainul's family said he left home on October 17 evening in an autorickshaw for his maternal uncle's house at Dharampur village under Moglabazar union in South Surma upazila. They said the autorickshaw was sent by his maternal uncle Siraj Miah, absconding since the murder.

After the family identified Jainul, police started investigation into the murder.

A police team from Golapganj thana went to the house of Siraj Miah at about 2:30 am on October 21. They also took

Sad tale of a good doctor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

A doctor had to leave Chuadanga because he became popular as a good physician.

Dr SM Nurul Islam joined Chuadanga Sadar Hospital one and a half years ago as a consultant doctor in medicine.

He became popular for rendering better treatment to patients both at the hospital and at his private chamber.

As a result, other doctors of the hospital became jealous. The rush of patients to Dr Nurul Islam chamber made them envious.

Dr. Nurul Islam was threatened over mobile phone several times earlier by unidentified persons to leave Chuadanga.

Last week, he was threatened to leave immediately, or to "suffer consequences".

He left Chuadanga for Dhaka by a private car.

Before leaving, Dr Nurul Islam said patients are hostage to some doctors of Chuadanga Sadar Hospital.

Chuadanga ASP suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

The Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP), Chuadanga, Mizanur Rahman has been suspended on various charges on Wednesday.

The charges include misappropriation of seized money and use of government transport for personal work.

Earlier, he was asked to explain as to why he would not be suspended. A departmental inquiry has also been started against him.

Can farmers take Aman paddy home?

Attack by jotdars' mercenaries feared in Barisal shoals, no police action

AKTER FARUK, Barisal

Aman is ready for harvest in Char lands but farmers are afraid whether they will be able to take the crop home.

Tension is mounting in shoal areas in Barisal division as mercenaries of jotdars (landlords) loot Aman crops every year, leading to bloody clashes and deaths. Forcible occupation of newly emerged shoals is behind the attacks. Farmer families are evicted, their houses razed to the ground and women often raped by the jotdars' men during the attack.

Although the local administrations with limited law enforcers have taken measures to ease the tension, farmers are still apprehensive of attacks. The mercenaries make the swoop in opportune moments.

Government rules for listing shoals as Khas lands give rise to disputes among jotdars and the people affected by river erosion.

Influential jotdars, failing to lease government Khas lands in Char areas, engage mercenaries to loot the paddy and occupy the area. Farmers and share croppers and their families become the victims.

In absence of proper demarcation among districts and upazilas and lack of roads and telecommunication facilities, police often can not take prompt action against the jotdars and their men.

Tensions is prevailing among farmers in Hizla, Muladi, Mehendiganj, Bakerganj, Uzirpur, Babuganj, Banaripara, Gournadi and Agailjhara, Nalchhity and Razapur upazilas in Barisal division.

Char Bangla, Char Lata, Char Karfarma, Char Ganga, Char Maya, Char Ananta, Char Ananda, Char Nazir, Char Kumkumi, Char Montaz, Char Kapalbera, Char Kazal, Char Gaguria, Char Ajanti, Char Rustam, Char Chaltabunia, Char Kamal, Char Chhoto and Baro Baishdia, Char Biswas, Char Rangabali, Char Akter, Char Vashan, Char Agunmukhi, Char Agosti, Char Kasem, Char Halim, Dhal Char, Char Baret, Char Raishaheb, Char Nimdi, Char Mominpur, Char Miazan, Char Wadel, Char Kachua are the most vulnerable areas.

Home Minister Air Vice Marshal (Ret.) Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, who is also a lawmaker from Patuakhali and minister-in-charge of the district, earlier

ordered the administration to ensure law and order in char lands during the harvesting season.

Golam Mustafa, DIG of Barisal Range, said police have been ordered to prepare a list of mercenaries and to arrest them, if necessary.

Temporary police camps will also be set up in some of the shoals. Range Reserve Force (RRF), Armed Police Battalions (APBN) will be deployed in vulnerable areas.

In the last harvesting season, law and order in shoal areas was better because of the Operation Clean Heart, the DIG added.

Newly emerged shoals in border areas of districts where there are disputes over demarcation are the most vulnerable spots because law enforcers avoid going there saying the area is not under their jurisdiction.

According to official sources, 12 out of 38 shoals in Baufal upazila and 30 out of 60 in Galachipa upazila in Patuakhali are disputed.

At least 174 acres of land are also disputed in Dhal Char in Charfession in Bhola district. Char Gaguria located on the boarders of Barisal and Bhola Sadar, is also a disputed area.



Sheikh Abdul Wadud, Headmaster of Bashpur Government Primary School in Gopalganj receives the Best Teacher's Award from Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Md Mortuza Ali Munshi at a function in the capital recently.

Obituary

Moulavi Safiuddin Mia died of old age ailments at Bishaw Zaker Monjil Hospital in Faridpur on October 27. He was 97, says a press release.

An eminent social worker, Safiuddin was elected President of Manikdah Union Board under Sadar Sub-division in 1937. He held the post for 17 consecutive years.

He was again elected President of the same union board in 1957. Besides, he was elected chairman of Manikdah Union Parishad in early eighties.

His janaza was held at Bishwa Zakir Monjil and at his Village home Adompur where he was laid to rest in their family graveyard.

He is survived by five daughters, grand sons, grand daughters and a host of admirers and relatives to mourn his death. His only son AKM Shahed Ali alias Shahib Mia, former chairman of Manikdah Union Parishad was assassinated on the night of September 25 in 2003.



PHOTO: STAR

Transparency International Bangladesh and Concerned Citizens' Committee, Muktagachha, Mymensingh, jointly organised an exchange-of-view meeting at Kutubpur Government Primary School on Tuesday.

2 outlawed party leaders acquitted of murder charges

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

Leaders of two outlawed parties were acquitted of murder charges recently.

The acting Additional District and Sessions Judge, Chuadanga passed the acquittal order.

The acquitted persons are Sirajul Islam Siraj, leader of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (Siraj group) and Nuruzzaman, leader of Banglar Communist Party. Both of them were accused in Nazim and Samir murder case at Jamjami Bazaar under Alamdanga upazila. The two persons were murdered on December 8, 1990.

Police camps demanded in shoals

A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Farmers of six shoal areas in Bauphal upazila (UZ) have urged the administration to set up temporary police camps in every shoal to protect their crops from the clutches of mercenaries during the ongoing paddy harvesting season.

The shoals are Char Wadel, Char Diara, Char Kachuas, Char Kachua, Char Mijan Baret and Char Ray Shahed.

Farmers made the demand at a press conference on Thursday at the Patuakhali Press Club, organised by Char Unnayan Parishad, a local organisation of farmers.