

SNAPS

Buddhist leader's funeral held

**BSS, Chittagong**  
The funeral of Buddhist religious leader 'Rajguru' Srimath Bijoyananda Mohathero was held at Mohamuni of Raozan upazila here on Friday.

Food Minister Abdullah Al-Noman and High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in Bangladesh Gaminí S Munasinghe, among others, joined the concluding programme of the two-day rite.

S Dharmapal Mohathero, Sudhananda Mohathero, journalist Bimalendu Barua, Shashil Barua, Chandra Gupta Barua and Sadamony Barua addressed on the occasion.

The minister urged all to follow the ideals of late Bijoyananda and work for welfare of the country.

**Contrabands worth Tk 12.31 lakh seized**

**BSS, Rajshahi**  
Contrabands worth about Tk 12.31 lakh were seized from different areas of the district in two days, BDR sources said.

A BDR squad went to Sultangonj frontier area under Godagari upazila on Thursday afternoon and seized a microbus and recovered 27 gas cylinders from the microbus valued at Tk 7.70 lakh. The cylinders imported from China were supposed to be smuggled out to India.

In other drives, BDR squads seized smuggled goods worth about Tk 4.61 lakh from different areas.

The seized goods and the microbus were handed over to local Customs.

**Three nabbed with pipeguns in Comilla**

**A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla**  
Kotwali police in a drive in Tomson bridge area of Comilla town recovered three pipe guns and arrested three persons on Friday.

The arrested are identified as Alauddin, 25, son of Ersad Miha of village Darikandi under Moradnagar thana, Alamin, 26, son of late Sharif Miah of Salia Kandi village under Moradnagar thana and Al-Amin son of NayeB Ali of village.

'Listed criminal' UP chairman arrested

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**

Joint forces arrested Jalma Union Parishad Chairman Abdul Gafur Molla Wednesday night from Batiaghata upazila.

The OC of Batiaghata thana said, Molla, elected through massive rigging, was a 'listed criminal' belonging to New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP) and wanted in three murder cases.

He is in possession of illegal arms and ammunition, the OC said.

On the following night, joint forces arrested three persons--Kamrul Islam, Kutu and Shah Alam--from Khulna city. A revolver and eight bullets were recovered from Kutu, younger brother of Jatiya Party (Ershad) leader and former Whip Mian Musa Hossain.

Police said the joint forces arrested 460 'wanted criminals' from different areas of Khulna division in the last three days and recovered five illegal arms.

**Clash over catching fish: one killed, 50 injured**

**UNB, Kishoreganj**

One person was killed on the spot and over 50 others were injured, seven of them seriously, when supporters of two rival groups locked in a fierce clash over catching fish at Kalna Somarchar Jalmahal in Austagram upazila on Thursday, witnesses said.

The dead was identified as Borhanuddin.

Police said the two groups were engaged in violent clashes against each other since long over taking control of this water body and another one named Chaitra-Chandri Jalmahal.

Five persons were killed in separate clashes between two groups over taking control of the two water bodies in nine months.

The deceased were identified as Ashiq Chowdhury, 22, Manik Miah, 28, and Borhanuddin Ahmed of Kamal Pasha Chowdhury group and Mozammel Haq, 30, and Khokon Miah, 27, of Monnor Khan Raza Miah group.

Banskhali massacre part of a blueprint to force out minority: AL

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong**

Main opposition Awami League yesterday blamed the government for the Banskhali arson terming it a planned massacre by the ruling party backed goons to force a religious minority out of the country.

"This government should quit as it has failed to ensure the safety of life and property of people and the Banskhali carnage is the latest proof of this."

"The ruling alliance cannot shirk its responsibility," said AL presidium member Abdus Samad Azad MP, who led a five-member team of central AL leadership to Shilpara yesterday morning.

He was holding a press briefing in the afternoon on the incident in which 11 of a family were burnt to death on

November 18 midnight.

"In a civilised world, this type of gruesome carnage is beyond anybody's imagination and such incidents were taking place every now and then since the BNP-led four-party government came to power in 2001," alleged Samad Azad.

Samad Azad criticised the "government's all-out attempt" to paint the incident as a robbery. He also condemned police for their indifferent attitude in probing the case.

"Neither any real culprit arrested nor any clue has been unearthed so far," Azad said.

"Khaleda Zia should resign as she did not yet visit the spot," the elderly AL leader and lawmaker deplored.

Other members of the delegation were Abdur Razzak MP, Amir Hossain

Amu, Tofail Ahmad and Mukul Bose.

Likening the arson attack to the dreadful incidents during the war of liberation in '71, Amir Hossain Amu said none could tolerate such brutality.

Abdur Razzak MP alleged that the arson was carried out from the shelter of the ruling party trying to "eliminate the minority from the country".

Tofail Ahmed said the number of such incidents would continue to rise as long as the BNP-led coalition government stayed in power.

They talked with relatives and neighbours of the victims at Shilpara. In the afternoon, they went to a local clinic to see Dr. Bimalendu Shushil, the lone survivor of the Banskhali bloodbath.

They said Opposition leader and AL chief Sheikh Hasina will visit Banskhali next Tuesday (Dec 2).



PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN  
Their safe abode has disappeared... A frightened monkey holds her baby as The Daily Star photojournalist snapped them at Char Muguria, about 15 miles off Madaripur town recently. Monkeys were once a menace in the area, alive with three jute mills. As wheels of the mills stopped about 12 years back, the wildlife is rarely found now due to lack of food and shelter.

Saidpur Pourasava Employees unpaid for months, 3.5 cr taxes unrealised

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari**

Saidpur municipality has over Tk 3.5 crore taxes unrealised from different government and semi-government offices for long.

This has stalled development works and made the staff go without salary for several months, municipal sources said.

Of the outstanding taxes, Bangladesh Railway (BR) owes Tk 2, 73,80,645.

BR installations cover a major area of the municipality.

The main sources of income of the municipality are holding tax, conservancy tax and revenue from markets. Most of the markets are on railway lands, over which, the municipality has disputes regarding ownership.

A lion share of the holding tax comes from government, semi-government and autonomous bodies.

Besides, the Power Development Board (PDB), Water Development Board,

airport have their offices here.

Municipality sources said they gave letters to all the defaulters repeatedly to pay the outstanding taxes, but to no result.

Many offices do not pay taxes for more than 25 days. The municipal authorities even contacted with ministries concerned but to no effect.

Salary of municipal officials and employees are unpaid for several months. The salary bill is about Tk four lakh per month.

Rickshawpuller stabbed to death Teenage girl raped in Sherpur Eco Park

**A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla**

A rickshawpuller was stabbed to death in Sasangasa area of Comilla town at about 2:30 am on Wednesday.

Police and witnesses said, a local musclemán named Fazar Ali, 25, son of Badsha Miah, intercepted the rickshaw of Shafiqul, 28, hailing from Kurigram district, on Shasangasa Mosque road and demanded money from him for purchasing Phensidyl, but he protested. At this Fazar Ali stabbed him and escaped.

However, Kotwali police headed by Sub-Inspector (SI) Ibrahim Khalil ambushed behind the place of occurrence and caught him red-handed with the knife after five hours of the incident.

A teenage girl was raped inside Samashura Eco Park in Nalitabari upazila on Thursday.

Police and locals said the 18-year-old girl of Tetultala village under Jhenaigati upazila was raped by three miscreants at about 2 pm when she came to the park with one Raju, 21.

The criminals stabbed Raju when he tried to protect the girl from the clutches of rapists.

A case was filed with Jhenaigati thana.

Schoolgirl dies while sighting Shawal moon

**UNB, Lalmonirhat**

A schoolgirl met the tragic end of her life as an under-construction wall near her house collapsed when she was trying to watch the new 'Shawal' moon on Tuesday evening.

Sumi, 13, daughter of police sub-inspector Abdul Halim and a student of class VII of Lalmonirhat Government Girls High School was climbing the wall along with other enthusiastic youngsters when it collapsed suddenly injuring her grievously.

She was rushed to the Rangpur Medical College Hospital where she died.

Noman visits Shilpara 'Do not politicise Banskhali carnage, help arrest killers'

**BSS, Chittagong**

Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman has urged all concerned to play a positive role to arrest and punish the culprits behind the gruesome Banskhali incident.

Politicisation of the incident will only help the killers escape punishment, he said while talking to the victims' relatives and neighbours on Friday during a visit to Shilpara in Banshkhalí.

The carnage, reportedly by a gang of dacoits on November 18, left 11 persons of a family were burnt to death.

Police so far arrested eight suspects.

The food minister was accompanied by State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafrul Islam Chowdhury and other BNP leaders including A M Nazimuddin, Abu Sufian and Banskhali

Pourasabha Administrator Qumrul Islam Hossainy.

The minister asked Chittagong police superintendent to set up a permanent police outpost at Shilpara for safety and security of the villagers.

Noman talked to the villagers and relatives of the victim's family and wanted to know from them about the incident.

They informed the minister that the act was simply a 'dacoity'. A harmonious social relation has been prevailing between Muslims and the Hindus in the village, they told him.

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to visit Banskhali on December 2.

Failed arbitration on rape One killed, 25 hurt in Gaibandha

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha**

One person was killed and 25 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups as an arbitration meeting on a rape incident failed at Uttara Subdin village in Palashbari upazila on the Eid day.

Two village elders -- Mojibar Rahman and Madhu Mia -- tried to settle the matter at an arbitration meeting, called after the Eid congregation.

They failed and were locked in a hot exchange of words.

Soon, the onlookers who belonged to the two sides fell upon each other, some of them with lethal weapons.

Mofizuddin, 72, was killed on the spot.

All the 25 injured were taken to Palashbari Health complex. Eight of them were admitted. They are Ramjan Ali, 42, Jainul Abedin, 35, Mokbul Hossain, 25, Nurul Islam, 30, Madhu Mia, 40, Madina, 38, Jaharul, 23, Montu Mia, 45. The rest were released after treatment.

A case was filed with Palashbari thana accusing 20 people. Police arrested one Howya Bibi.

No clue to Biswanath double murder in four months

**IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet.**

Police could not find any clue to the murders of a pregnant housewife and her 18-month child in Biswanth upazila four months after the incident though the case was transferred to CID.

Armed miscreants broke into the house of Fatik Chowdhury at Nobhagi village and murdered his pregnant wife Hosne Ara Lovely, 35, and his 18-month daughter Aklima on the night of August 8.

The sensational murders sparked agitation in the district.

It is alleged that CID police is trying to divert the case to save the killers but investigation officer Sub Inspector Murshed refuted the allegation.

Fatik filed a case with Biswanath thana accusing 12 people. They include Mujib Ali, Sorab Ali, Abdul

Bari, Ustar Ali, Shamshad Ali, Selim, Lechu Miah, Abul Hossain, Aftab Ali, Abdul Matin and Amir Hossain.

On the other hand, Jamal Ahmed, brother of victim Hosne Ara, filed a case with a magistrate court alleging that her sister was killed due to family feuds. He named the killers as Fatik Chowdhury's two brothers Farik Chowdhury and Manjur Chowdhury. They were aided by Swapan Miah of Dhonai village and Siddek of Kamalbazar, he said in his complaint.

The four persons arrested just after the gruesome murders and another person held on November 7 in their confessional statements before police and magistrate disclosed names of the alleged killers and how the double murders were planned. But none of the accused has been nabbed.

The case was transferred to the CID on September 11.

245 MT VGF rice allocated for C'nawabganj

**BSS, Chapainawabganj**

A total of 245 metric tons (MTs) of rice have been allocated against 24,500 VGF cards for 45 unions and three pourashabhas in Chapainawabganj.

About 500 cards have been allocated for each union, according to an official source.

Besides, 1,000 cards have been issued for Chapainawabganj pourashabha, 500 cards for Shibganj pourashabha and 500 cards for Rohonpur pourashabha. Each card holder will get 10 kg rice at a time.

Seventy metric tons of rice have been given against 700 cards of 14 unions in the Sadar upazila, 75 metric tons of rice for 7500 cards of 15 unions in Shibganj upazila, 20 metric tons of rice for 2,000 cards of 4 unions in Nachole upazila, 40 metric tons of rice for 4,000 cards in eight unions of Gomostapur upazila, 20 metric tons of rice for 2,000 cards of 4 unions in Bholahat upazila, 10 metric tons of rice for 1,000 cards in Chapainawabganj pourashabha, five metric tons of rice for 500 cards in Shibganj pourashabha and five metric tons of rice have been given for 500 cards in Rohonpur pourashabha.

One killed over land dispute

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**

Miscreants killed one person and injured two others in a sequel to a land dispute at Karnakati village in the Sadar upazila on Friday.

The deceased is Sohel Molla, 25, a Degree examinee from a college in Dhaka and the injured are his nephew Chunnun, 20 and relative Khokon, 35.

Sohel came to the village along with Chunnun and Khokon on Friday to visit his brother-in-law Selim Howlader, who had a dispute with Alamgir and Khokon Howlader over ownership of 34 bighas of land in the village.

Selim recently got a court decree regarding ownership of the land.

On Friday morning, the opponent group all of a sudden attacked Selim's house and abducted Sohel, Chunnun and Khokon.

They tortured them and cut tendons of Sohel's hands and legs.

Local people rescued them and took them to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospiatl, where Sohel died.

Condition of Chunnun and Khokon is critical, hospital sources said.

Police arrested one Atikur Rahman from the village in connection with the incident.

No case was filed till filing of this report till Friday evening.