

SNAPS

Listed criminal nabbed

BSS, Barisal

Police arrested a notorious criminal from Etimkhana Road of Kalapara town in Patuakhali district on Wednesday night.

Police sources said a police team raided the Etimkhana Road of Kalapara upazila and held listed criminal Malek Fakir, 38, from his house.

Malek was wanted in a number of cases including robberies, extortion, piracies and other crimes. The people in the area heaved a sigh of relief hearing the news of arrest of Malek by police.

Cases were also filed against Malek with the Forest Department and the Bangladesh Navy for his involvement in cutting trees and torturing fishermen in rivers.

Jail term for two for possessing illegal arms

A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali Additional District Judge of Lalmonirhat AKM Jahurul Islam sentenced two persons to 10 years imprisonment for possessing illegal arms in a judgement on November 30.

The convicts are Babul, son of Late Abdur Razzaq Howlader of Pakhiya village and Abu Kalam, son of Moslem Howlader of Chalabuina village under Galachipa upazila.

Galachipa police arrested both the convicts on February 1, 2000 and recovered a country made gun and bullets.

4000 Phensidyl bottles recovered in Sathkira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira Joint forces recovered 4000 bottles of Phensidyl from a truck at Patkeliyata in Tala upazila Wednesday night and arrested one drug peddler.

Tipped off, joint forces seized a truck (No. Jessore Ta 02-0614) standing beside a bush near a filling station and seized the contrabands.

The arrested person is Bepul Bairagi of Baiguni village in Tala upazila, police said.

Nine 'pirates' held in Bhola

A CORRESPONDENT, Bhola Police arrested nine alleged pirates from different areas of Tajimuddin and Borhanuddin upazilas on Wednesday.

Police sources said that these arrested are engaged with robbery, extortion and other criminal activities. Some of them are wanted accused of many cases.

Tojumuddin thana police arrested Nazu, Hannan, and Mannan from Char Johiruddin; and Jafar, Fazlu and Mohiuddin from Chandpur. Borhanuddin police arrested Ibrahim, Jabol Hoque and Siddique Mazi from Hasan Nagar.

Mokhlisur Rahman murder in Sylhet

Main suspect Matin Chowdhury declines involvement in killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Jatiya Party leader Abdul Matin Chowdhury, the main suspect in the murder of leading aviation businessman Mokhlisur Rahman has declined his involvement in the killing incident.

He declined it at a press conference at Sylhet Press Club on Saturday.

Chowdhury has been freed on bail.

In a written statement he claimed that the litigation which he had with late Mokhlisur Rahman ended long ago. He also said that police during filing of the case told about a dispute over land between him and Rahman.

It is not correct, he claimed. He, without naming anybody, also alleged that an organised group of people was playing foul implicating himself in the case. He also

alleged that police harassed his two minor sons and his driver after the murder.

Police took them into custody in name of interrogation. An organised group of criminals were behind the conspiracy against him for a long time, he alleged.

However, he declined to give the identity of the group while demanding a judicial inquiry into the matter.

Abdul Matin Chowdhury was absconding since the broad daylight killing of Mokhlisur Rahman in his business firm on October 6. Chowdhury appeared before a High Court bench on October 18 and got ad interim bail on October 25.

The High Court asked him to appear before the district Judge court within four weeks to seek bail. At the same time, the High Court also asked police not to

harass him.

Accordingly, Matin Chowdhury appeared before the District Judge Court on November 22, when the court granted him ad interim bail as the Public Prosecutor did not raise any objection regarding the bail.

Meantime, family members of Mokhlisur Rahman alleged death threats from Chowdhury and demanded his immediate arrest.

Rahman's wife Nazma Begum gave press statement in the last week of November while her son Abdul Hasan Mohammad Ashraf alleged that since granting of his bail Chowdhury had been threatening their family members. He also lodged a General Diary with Sylhet Kotwali Police Station on November 23 stating the threats.

The Investigating Officer of the murder case, Sub Inspector Fazlul Haque Shibli also applied to the Judge court for cancellation of Chowdhury's bail for the safety of Mokhlisur Rahman's family members.

Judge court for cancellation of Chowdhury's bail for the safety of Mokhlisur Rahman's family members.

Matin Chowdhury appealed for permanent bail in the judge court on December 1. But, the court set December 4 for hearing of the matter while asking police for producing the case diary before the court.

Accordingly it was done, but the hearing could not be held, as the PP was absent. However, an APP was present.

Mokhlisur Rahman's wife Nazma Begum has termed Matin Chowdhury as the main architect of her husband's killing and demanded his immediate arrest. She alleged that all the family members got worried due to continuous threats from Chowdhury and his men.

Orientation programme for journalists

BSS, Manikganj

A two-day orientation programme for journalists on family planning, reproductive health and gender issue concluded here on December 8.

Held in the conference room of Zilla Parishad, the programme was jointly organised by the IEM unit, the Family Planning Directorate and the District Family Planning Office with the financial assistance of UNFPA.

A total of 25 newsmen from various national dailies, news agencies and electronic media participated in the programme.

The workshop had a detailed discussion on causes, symptoms, prevention and treatment of cancer and recommended creation of awareness among people to combat the deadly disease.

Dr Md Habibullah Talukder, Chief Medical Officer, the National Cancer Research Institute and Hospital, Dr AKM Azad, Assistant Professor of the same hospital conducted the workshop as resource persons.

Dr M Abdul Mannan, Civil Surgeon, Manikganj presided over the sessions and distributed certificates among the participants.

Workshop on prevention of cancer

BSS, Manikganj

A daylong training workshop on 'Orientation of Opinion Leaders for Prevention and Control of Cancer' was held in the Civil Surgeon's office here on Wednesday.

The National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital and the World Health Organisation (WHO), Dhaka jointly organised the workshop.

Heads of 40 educational institutions, public representatives, religious leaders, NGO representatives and journalists participated in the workshop.

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Jhalakati journalists still on the run

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The journalists of Jhalakati are still on the run. The accused journalists went to Dhaka on Friday to appear before the High Court with prayers for interim bail.

A case was filed by Jubo Dal cadres against them.

Family members of the journalists already fled their homes and went underground.

Meanwhile, the Jhalakati Press Club members have decided to boycott all positive news of BNP, Jubo Dal, JCD and other ruling party organs.

Black Flag is hoisted atop the press club. On the other hand the central committee of Jubo Dal has formed an inquiry committee to investigate on alleged involvement of their leaders and cadres in attacking the journalists.

Jhalakati Jubodal has

demanded withdrawal of case lodged by the assaulted journalists against the attackers.

In Barisal, a human chain was formed and protest rally was held in front of the Aswini Kumar Hall in protest against attack on journalists and cultural workers at Jhalakati.

Barisal Sangskritik Sangathan Samonaya Parishad (BSSSP) organised the rally which was presided over by BSSSP president Syed Dulal and addressed by BRU president Anisur Rahman Swapan, journalist Mintu Bose, SM Iqbal, Manabendra Babotaboy (president, Bar Association), Majibur Rahman Talukder (CPB), Hiron Das Mithu (GanoForum), Altaf Vatti (JP), Professor Satar (Workers Party), Nikhil Sen (cultural personality) and others. They condemned the attack by ruling party cadres and demanded punishment to the attackers.



PHOTO: STAR

Mosammat Olima, widow of Md Shafiqul Islam, a martyr of the Liberation War of Bangladesh receiving a blanket from the Prothom Alo Bandhu Sava in Nilphamari recently. Its patron Asaduzzaman Tipu (2nd from left) join hands with chief advisor Dr Mamtaul Islam Mintu (4th from right) in the warm clothes distribution ceremony. Among others, Bandhu Sava advisor Mir Mahmudul Hasan Astak (1st from left) look on.

Jibon Tori's silent service to distressed humanity

AKTER FARUK, Barisal

Floating hospital 'Jibon Tori' a project of Impact Foundation of Bangladesh is serving the distressed humanity silently since October 14.

Now the floating hospital has been anchored at Old Doarika ferry ghat of Babuganj upazila.

About 5,000 people of the region have been benefited by its appreciable medical treatment, advice and medicine in last two months.

'Jibon Tori' has been built abroad a three-storey launch and equipped with 12 beds for serious patients, one modern operation theatre for surgical operation on three patients at a time with oxygen and anaesthesia facilities.

The cost of surgical operation is only Tk 500 per patient. There is a full-free facility for poor patients here. There is also a post-operative intensive care unit here.

There are emergency and out-door units with one ambulance, two speedboats and two motorcycles for carrying patients. Thirty-six staff and officers including four full-time doctors serve here.

Doctor Ikhtiar Ahmed Shaon, administrative officer of Jibon Tori said anyone could avail of its service by paying an entry ticket fee of Tk 20 only.

Out door facilities are available from 9 am to 2 pm every day. With the general medical check up and medicine treatment, Jibon Tori



PHOTO: STAR
Jibon Tori's serving the distressed humanity silently since October 14. About 5,000 people in Barisal region got medical treatment in last two months.

also provides treatment of ENT, Ophthalmology, Gynecology, Pediatrics and Orthopedics.

Short training on first aid, gynaecology, child care and delivery, family planning and primary health care are also given, while poor patients are provided with full-free treatment.

Impact Foundation is a sister concern of World Impact Foundation, established by vision disabled (blind) John Wilson of UK.

'Jibon Tori' started its activities three months at a particular stoppage.

However, the time period is increased if the pressure of patients is higher at any stoppage.

Wangala to celebrate Nabanno

JAHANGIR ALAM, back from Modhupur (Tangail)

NETRAKONA: Thirty thousand aborigine Garos celebrated their three-day 'Nabanno' (harvest) festival named 'Wangala' at Peergachha High School ground in Modhupur, Tangail.

This is the greatest jocial festival of the Garo community during 'aman' paddy harvest.

Legend goes, previously Garos used to live in jungles and ate



Traditional dance by Garos

meat of beasts and fruits. One day their God Salong ordered them to sow seeds in land and produce crops. From then on they began to cultivate crops. During harvest of crops they make their God happy through Wangala festivities. Usually they dance during the festival in groups and enthrall the audience.

Though many of Garos embraced Christianity still they celebrate the festival.