

SNAPS

4 Indians held for trespass

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushita*
Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) arrested four Indian citizens for illegal intrusion into Bangladesh through Jhenidah border Saturday night.

They are Dilip Das, his wife Anjali Das, Bikram and Sanjoy.

BDR sources at Bagdanga border outpost (BOP) said the arrested persons told them that they had from Bardhaman district in West Bengal.

BDR handed them over to Mahespur police, which filed a case.

Function held to mark launching of Unicef report

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushita*
A ceremony was held at the Shilpakola Academy here marking launching of the Unicef report on State of the World's Children-2003.

Naseem-ur-Rehman, Unicef's Chief Communication and Information Officer in Bangladesh was in the chair.

Deputy Commissioner Syed Ahasanul Haque was the chief guest while Police Superintendent Abdus Salam was the special guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Naseem-ur-Rehman lauded the government's steps for primary education. Introduction of stipend for regular attendance at school and recruitment of 60 per cent of primary school teachers from among women are "welcome decisions".

But 10 per cent of girls are still out of school. This has to be addressed, he said.

Youth freed after ransom payment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushita*
A college student abducted from Moheshpur on December 17 was freed in Kushita town on Saturday after payment of Tk 5,000 ransom.

An armed gang abducted Jony, 20, son of Shyamal Nath of Mahespur upazila and a student at Mahespur Degree College while he was going to a teacher's house in the evening.

The gang demanded Tk 2 lakh ransom. He was left blindfolded near a canal in the town after payment of Tk 5,000 following negotiation, police said family sources said.

No case was filed as the captors threatened of dire consequences, the family said.

Boy 'abducted' in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*
Tahmid Siddiqui alias Rakin, a student of class three of Khulna Zila School was allegedly abducted at about 9 am on Saturday from near his father's residence at 60, Khan Sabur road in the city.

He is the son of prominent businessman and BNP leader Kamal Siddiqui.

A general diary has been filed with Khulna.

Police however said the boy was 'missing' and not 'abducted'.

Foundation of 3 bridges laid in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Netrakona*

State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babor laid the foundation of two footbridges and one RCC bridge on Wednesday and Thursday respectively.

A 60-metre footbridge will be built on Mogra river in Netrakona municipal area at a cost of Tk 42.75 lakh. Another 63.05-metre footbridge will be built at Jimty on Dattakhila river in Mohongonj upazila at a cost of Tk 76.32 lakh.

The 54.05-metre long RCC bridge will be built on Dholay river in Modan upazila at a cost of Tk 54 lakh.

Former lawmaker Ashrafuddin Khan, Netrakona Deputy Commissioner Hossain Jamil, Police Superintendent Sheikh Omar Faruk, LGED Executive Engineer Manjurul Kader Siddiki, Senior Vice-president of Netrakona BNP Abdul Mannan Talukder, General Secretary advocate Mahfujul Haque and party Organising Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan were present on the occasion.

Doctor assaulted at B'baria after death of patient

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *B'baria*

A doctor was assaulted and property damaged at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital by a group of unruly people after the death of a patient on December 18 due to alleged negligence of duty.

According to hospital sources, pregnant Rabi Akter, 19, wife of Jibon Mia of Sibpur village in Nabinagar upazila was admitted to the diarrhoea ward on December 15.

On Tuesday, she was shifted to the gynaec ward where she died. After her death, some people attacked on-duty Dr Sifqul Islam and damaged property at the emergency ward and the gynaec ward.

The attackers fled away as police came.

Mongla BNP leader murdered as per plan, PBCP outlaw confesses

SP says murder done by 'hired' men: Victim's brother terms it 'political killing', names 8 AL men in case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Arrested outlaw belonging PBCP (J) Nuruzzaman now being questioned by police at Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) prison cell, prison cell confessed his involvement in the murder of Mongla BNP leader Talukder Abdul Halim. Halim was gunned down Monday night while he was playing badminton at Mongla Sramik Kalyan road.

The PBCP (J) outlaw told police that Halim was killed as per a plan made at a school of Khulna city. But he did not disclose the names of persons who planned the murder.

Two others were involved in the murder, but he did not disclose

their names also.

"I fell into trouble when all the bullets of my sawnoff rifle were exhausted. I could easily escape like two others with the help of bomb. But unfortunately I did not have bomb", he told police.

Nuruzzaman, 30, was caught with a sawn-off rifle while fleeing after shooting the BNP leader.

The outlaw is now being guarded at KMCH prison cell by a Sub Inspector, an ASI and six constables of Bagerhat district police in addition to eight armed constables of KMP and three security guards of district jail.

He will be taken on remand after recovery from fatal wounds caused by mass beating.

Mozammel Talukder, elder brother of the slain BNP leader filed a case with Mongla thana on the night of December 15, naming eight persons as accused.

All the FIRs named accused belong to Awami League and Juba League.

They are chairmen of Mongla Pourasava Abdus Salam, Golam Mowla Kakon, Idris Ali Jiaradar, Bulbul Jiaradar, Eskendar, Kabir, W o r d C o m m i s s i o n e r

Moniruzzaman Mondi and PBCP (Jana Juddho) cadre Nuruzzaman.

Mozammel Talukder termed it a political murder. He said Abdul Halim had an intention to contest for the posts of chairman of Mongla Pourasava and Mongla Bandar.

Sramik Sangha in the ensuing elections.

Halim was defeated by AL candidate Abdus Salam in the by-election held in April this year for the post of Mongla Pourasava Chairman.

Bagerhat Police Superintendent Moshabuddin and OC of Mongla thana Shahabuddin Khalipha said Talukder Abdul Halim was given "death threat" several times by PBCP (J) outlaws. They said the murder was committed by hired outlaws.

Sirajul Huq, another senior leader of BNP and general secretary of Mongla Banglar Sramik Sangha has termed the murder "a sequel to intra-party rivalry".

300 guest birds killed with pesticide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

About 300 migratory birds were killed at a shrimp farm at Pujila village in Shyamnagar upazila recently.

Local people said Abdus Sattar, a staff of the farm, sprayed pesticide-mixed fodder around the enclosure. The birds fell sick as they took those. Sattar caught them, slaughtered and sold their meat in the local market, they claimed.

Husband charged with Tia 'murder' case

A CORRESPONDENT, *LaMonirhat*

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police in LaMonirhat has charged the husband in housewife Aan Karobi Tias' murder case.

The charge sheet was filed against Tia's husband Shahed Pavel on December 17, three months and ten days after filing of a murder case by the victim's mother Suchitra Adhikari under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act with LaMonirhat Sadar thana. Pavel's mother Alhaj Rawshan Ara Rahman was also accused in the case.

Pavel is absconding. He is the son of Prof Alhaj Golam Rahaman.

In the charge sheet, CID said Pavel was a drug addict.

Tia died on August 29 from fatal burns injuries she suffered at her husband's house at LaMonirhat town. Her husband's family said she was injured as the stove burst while she was boiling milk. But Tia's parents claimed that she was burnt to death for dowry.

The death evoked public anger in the town. People staged demonstrations demanding punishment of the killers.

Bomb attack on DIG's jeep

Seven shown arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Seven out of 45 persons taken into custody have been shown arrested in two separate incidents of bomb attack on the Pajero jeep of Additional DIG and Sub Inspector Shahid Shurawary.

The remaining 38 were released from Sonadanga and Khalishpur police stations.

Those shown arrested area Munshi Tarak Hossain, 24, Murad, 24 and Noor Alam, 33, of Sonadanga thana area and Ershad, 22, Tanvir, 23, Ratan, 24 and Ranju, 20 of Khalishpur thana area. The incidents took place on Sunday.

All of them have been sent to the district jail.

Two on cases have been filed under the Arms Act.

SI Jalaluddin and SI Nasiruddin of Sonadanga and Khalishpur thanas respectively will investigate the cases, sources said.

Tk 64 lakh Agrani Bank scam

Manager among 6 chargesheeted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Six persons have been charged with embezzling Tk 64 lakh from Noapara branch of Agrani Bank in 2001 for lifting a quota of the godown.

The chargesheeted accused are the bank's former manager Tozammel Huq, senior officers JM Rezaul Islam and Mokaddes Ali Biswas, godown keeper Mosharaf Hossain, Chowkidar Iqbal Hossain and proprietor of New Rose Corporation Shariful Islam, sources said.

CID Inspector Shukh Rangan Samaddar submitted the chargesheet to a Jessore court on Tuesday.

It has been stated in the

chargesheet that New Rose Corporation received Tk 64 lakh and 64,000 from Noapara bazar road branch of Agrani Bank in 2001 for lifting a quota of the godown.

But the entire quota was later sold in the black market by dealer Shariful Islam in connivance with five others accused in the case.

The misappropriation was proved in a thorough investigation by a high level team of senior officers from the bank's head office. Later, a case was filed with Abhoynagar thana.

The case was transferred to CID, which took two years to complete the investigation.

Nalta Hospital gave them new life



(Left) BBA student Jahurul Islam, Ansar Uddin and housewife Kulsum with their artificial legs at the founding anniversary celebration, and (right) Mrs. Dona Bargase, President of Ciatol Prosthetics Foundation of USA, Dr. J W Rugby and Dr. AFM Ruhul Haq at a meeting on the occasion at the Prosthetics and Orthotic Shelter at Nalta Hospital in Kaliganj.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Jahurul Islam Shishir, a BBA student of Independent University, Ansar Uddin, a police man from Debbarha and housewife Kulsum Begum of Satkhira town have now new visions of life.

They can move without any body's help, thanks to their artificial legs they got from the Prosthetics and Orthotic Shelter at Nalta Hospital in Kaliganj upazila.

They are among 50 people including 12 children who came to express their gratitude to the authorities on the occasion of the first founding anniversary of the shelter. The children were given artificial legs free of cost.

It was a festive mood on the hospital premises with participation of doctors, teachers, government officials, local elite and 50

people coming from different areas of the country who are leading normal life with the help of artificial legs.

The day-long programme included a colourful rally brought out from Nalta Bazar.

They can move without any body's help, thanks to their artificial legs they got from the Prosthetics and Orthotic Shelter at Nalta Hospital in Kaliganj upazila.

A discussion meeting was held on the hospital premises with Dr AFM Ruhul Haq in the chair. Mrs. Dona Bargase and Dr JW Rugby were present as chief guest and special guest respectively.

Former lawmaker Monsur Ahmed and some others spoke

while Mrs. Dona Bargase unveiled the plaque of the shelter.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ruhul Haq said in future children will be given artificial limbs free of cost and orthopaedic operation will also be done at the shelter, he said.

Mrs. Dona Bargase said, if necessary, in case of fitting artificial limbs, the Outrich Foundation will bear the operation cost.

Dr. Ruhul Haq said the hospital has been provided with modern medical facilities and called upon the local people to develop it further for their benefit.

The hospital with financial assistance from the Outrich Foundation started producing artificial limbs last year.

He came to the shelter on February 25, 2003 and went back to normal life with an artificial leg at a cost of Tk 5000.

Citizens' rally against corruption

A CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

A citizens' rally and a procession against corruption, joined by political leaders, were held under the joint auspices of the Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB) and the Committee of Concerned Citizen (CCC) at Modupur recently.

TIB Trustee Board Chairman and noted intellectual Prof. Khan Sorowar led the procession. Government officials including the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), the Upazila Education Officer (UEO), the Officer-in-Charge of Modupur thana, NGO activists and the local elite attended the programmes.

The procession started from the Upazila Parishad campus and ended in a rally at the Rani Bhabani Pilot

High School ground.

CCC Convener Prof Golam Samdani presided over the rally. Prof. Khan Sorowar Murshed spoke as the chief guest while principal Sikander Hayat, NDI Country Representative Dr. Owen Lippert were special guests. The speakers also included TIB Study Circle Programme Coordinator Abul Momen, TIB Programme Officer Ekram Hossain, Principal Monsur Rahman, UEO Malobika Bhowmik, Awami League leader Bappu Siddiki, BNP leader Nurul Islam, Abdul Latif and Bazlul Rashid Khan Chunnu.

TIB Programme Samapika Halder presented a report on corruption in primary education and health services in the upazila.

The report was prepared as per recommendations of five TIB study circles in Madhupur.

Khan Sorowar Murshed in his speech said misuse of power breeds corruption because parliament, Baurat of Anti-corruption and Public Accounts Office are not effective and election is influenced by money and muscle power.

He said corruption has become rampant and taken many forms because corrupt people escape punishment.

Political in our country has become an investment now. All these can be checked only if people become conscious and build a social resistance, he said.

Other speakers called upon the people to unite and build a social resistance against corruption.



TIB Trustee Board Chairman Prof. Khan Sorowar Murshed (second from right) speaking at the rally. On his right is NDI Country Representative Dr. Owen Lippert.