

SNAPS

Illegal firearms, bombs found

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira Police recovered illegal firearms, hand bombs, Phensidyl syrup and heroin from a house at Khordo village in Kalaroa upazila on January 1.

Police raided the house of Kausar Ali at the same village and recovered a pipegun, a revolver, five hand bombs, 45 bottles of Phensidyl syrup and 200 grams of heroin from the house. None was arrested. Two separate cases were filed with Kalaroa thana.

Satkhira Chhatra Moitry body formed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira A new committee of Satkhira district unit of the Bangladesh Chhatra Moitry headed by Mofizul Islam Jahangir and Rokon Al Jaman as its President and General Secretary was formed at the annual conference of the district unit of the party at Shahid Abdur Razzak Park here on January 1.

Mofizul Islam Jahangir presided over the conference while Fazle Hossain Badsha, central leader of the Workers' Party and ex-Vice President (VP) of the Rajshahi University Students' Union was present as the chief guest. Among others, Advocate Mostafa Lutfulah, Pranab Ghosh Babu, Prof Sabbir Hossain, Nasrin Khan and Abdus Sattar Mollah spoke.

Octogenarian Communist leader Keshab Chandra Samaddar inaugurated the conference.

Prisoner dies

at RMCH

BSS, Rajshahi

A convicted prisoner of Rajshahi Central Jail died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) on Friday night.

Jail and hospital sources told BSS that the prisoner named Saidur Rahman, 60, hailed from Nada village under Ullapara upazila in Sirajgonj district. He was sentenced to six months rigorous imprisonment (RI) in a criminal case by a magistrate court in Sirajgonj.

Saidur Rahman, a tuberculosis (TB) patient, was transferred from Rajshahi jail to RMCH for treatment on December 11. He died after midnight. His body was sent to the hospital morgue for post-mortem.

Tourists begin to flock Kuakata

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Like previous years Kuakata sea beach is now full of tourists.

Hundreds of tourists of all ages from home and abroad are thronging here every day.

As a result, owners of hotels, motels, cottages and rest houses are doing a brisk business. All the places are now jam-packed with tourists.

Tourists are coming here with their family members to enjoy the scenic beauty here.

The main attraction of Kuakata is the scene of sun rise and that of setting sun. Not only tourists, but many picnic parties and teams of educational tour already assembled here.

Anwar Hossain Anu, of the residential hotel owners association said, after their annual examinations students crowd here and arrange picnic parties or educational tours with their teachers or guardians.

Local police said, they had not seen such a big gathering of tourists before.

However, many complained that the hotel owners are charging excessively as rent charges. They are charging Tk 200 to 300 for single seat and Tk 500 to 700 for double seats. But hotel owners said, they had a loss in their business during the last six months. So, they take the chance of getting a profit, because December to March is the season of profit, they added.

Tourists also suffered a lot due to bad condition of the 72-kilometre Patuakhali-Kuakata road.

No headway in probe into 4 Satkhira murder cases

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

There has been no headway in probe into four murder cases including three women rape and murder cases in Kalaroa upazila last year.

None was arrested and no charge was framed against the suspected killers.

Mahmuda Khatun, 32, of Alaipur village in Rupsa upazila, Khulna was kidnapped by miscreants who brought her at Hatuni village in Kalaroa upazila on February 15 last year. On the same night she was gang-raped and strangled by them.

On May 15, after three months police filed a case with Kalaroa thana and after investigation police submitted charge-sheet accusing Hafizul Islam, Lily Begum, Abdul Kashem, Dr Mair Uddin, Dr Abdul Bari and a nurse named Asia Khatun under the Women and Children Repression Preventive Act on September 28. But police failed to nab the accused.

Morzina Begum, 28, a divorced housewife of Goalpara village in

Kalaroa upazila was gang-raped and strangled by miscreants on April 1, 2003.

The body of the victim was recovered from a beel (water body) in the area on the following morning. A case was filed with Kalaroa thana.

No progress was made till then after eight months of the incident, it is alleged. Police failed to find any clue or arrest the culprits. The fate of the case is uncertain, the victim's relatives said.

On the night of July 7, Aleya Khatun, 25, a divorced landless housewife of Sowabaria village in Kalaroa upazila was killed after being gang-raped.

The body was recovered from the bank of the river Sonai on the following morning. A case was filed with Kalaroa thana but police could not find motive of Aleya's murder even after five months of the incident. They could not arrest the killers also. The Investigation Officer (IO) of the case has failed to frame any charge against the killer.

On October 10, Habibur

Rahman, 14, son of Hazrat Ali of Bhadiali, a bordering village under Kalaroa upazila was abducted by miscreants. The body of the victim was recovered from an unused latrine at Hakimpur village situated on the opposite side of Bhadiali village in Swarupnagar thana in 24 Parganas district, India on October 17. The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) handed over the body to the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) after a flag meeting.

The victim's father Hazrat Ali filed a case with Kalaroa thana accusing Manirul Islam, Romjan Ali, Absaruddin, Hafezuddin and Tamezuddin of Bhadiali village. But police failed to arrest the suspected killers during the period. Even they failed to frame any charge against them.

On contact, Officer-in-Charge of Kalaroa thana Golam Kibria, told this correspondent that due to lack of witness, the charge framing is being delayed. "But we hope to finish our task within a couple of months," he said.

7 injured in Satkhira clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Seven people including six women were injured, three of them seriously, in a clash over land between two groups of villagers at Atulia Bharbhari village in Shyamnagar upazila on January 1.

Arshad Ali and Shahjahan Ali of the village had a longstanding dispute over land. Police quoted local people as saying that the clash began at 10 in the morning as a gang of miscreants led by Shahjahan Ali tried to occupy the disputed land.

The feuding groups used lethal weapons during the clash which continued for half an hour. Of the injured, Arshad Ali, 55, his wife Monwara, 38, Meherunnesa, 25, Jamila Khatun, 36, Kod Banu, 50, Taslima, 27 and Farida, 30, were admitted to Shyamnagar Health Complex in a critical condition. A case and a counter case were filed by Arshad Ali and Shahjahan Ali with Shyamnagar thana.



PHOTO: STAR

A fishermen's rally to resist 'Jatka' (Hilsa fry) netting in the Meghna river was held at Satnol Eidgah field in Chandpur recently.



PHOTO: STAR

The lone picnic spot at Tetulia in Panchagarh has become the grazing ground for cattle due to lack of proper maintenance. But who cares?

Kaliganj Jubodal body formed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A 71-member committee of Kaliganj thana Jubodal headed by Sheikh Saifiqul Islam and Nazrul Islam as President and General Secretary was formed at its biennial conference at the Kaliganj thana BNP office on December 31.

Chaired by Nazrul Islam, the function was addressed, among others, by Abdul Jalil, President of Satkhira district BNP, Kazi Alauddin MP, Prof Modasserul Haq Huda, Abul Hasan Hadi, Maroof Khan Mithu and Sheikh Saifiqul Islam.

Teenage girl commits suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A teenage girl committed suicide by hanging herself with a tree near their house at Binerpota village in Sadar upazila on December 3.

The victim was identified as Mukti Biswas, 16, daughter of Sukumar Biswas of the village. Local people recovered the body in presence of police. An unnatural death case was filed with Satkhira thana.

Tributes paid to 15 army officers

BSS, Barisal

Speakers at a meeting here on Friday paid rich tributes to the memory of 15 Bangladesh Armed Forces officers who died in a plane crash in the West African state of Benin on December 25.

They were there on a UN peace-keeping mission.

Expressing profound shock at the untimely death of the officers and sympathy with the bereaved family members, the speakers said there supreme sacrifices for world peace would be remembered by all with gratitude in the days to come.

Barisal city and district unit of

BNP organised the meeting in observance of the National Mourning Day declared by the government.

With the city unit president Mahmud Golam Salek in the chair, Barisal City Corporation (BCC) Mayor Mazibar Rahman Sarwar, also a member of parliament (MP), addressed the meeting as the chief guest.

Among others, BNP district committee Secretary Nazrul Islam, Barisal Divisional Commissioner MA Kuddus, Deputy Commissioner Sheikh Abul Kalam and District Sports Association Secretary Asaduzzaman spoke at the meeting.

A special prayer was offered seeking peace for the departed souls.

Killer suspects threaten victim's family

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Absconding killer suspects are 'creating pressure' on the family members of the victim at Debnagar village in Sadar upazila to withdraw murder case or 'face a dire consequence'.

Anwarul Islam, 35, son of Amer Ali of the aforementioned village was murdered on July 11.

Amer Ali disclosed at a press conference at the Satkhira Reporters' Unity club on Thursday that a group of criminals belonging to a group of the local Union Parishad (UP) chairman 'chopped to death' to his son Anwarul Islam in front of Debnagar Primary School at about 5-30 pm on the fateful day.

He said that he filed a case with Satkhira thana accusing Rashed,

Jahangir, Kamrul, Nazrul, Nur Islam, Motled, Taleb, Mahataf, Shawkat, Ashraf, Alamgir, Manirul and Kenan of the area. Police have arrested Jahangir, Motled and Alamgir. But afterwards, police 'mysteriously' remained inactive. "They are not investigating the case or arresting the culprits and even after more than five months of the incident", he alleged.

Police are yet to submit a chargesheet against the culprits as a section of the ruling party men led by Sadar thana BNP Chairman Abdul Alim are allegedly harbouring the accused. They are also creating pressure to police, he claimed. He further alleged that chairman Abdul Alim had offered him a good amount of money to withdraw the case. The accused gave him the money for the ill-motive, he further said.

Looting of paddy protested

A CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

About 480 landless destitute families living on a 11-kilometre flood protection embankment in Char Manika union of Charfassion upazila protested against repression on them recently.

They also protested looting of their newly-harvested paddy on 60 acres of their land by musclemen of local influentials.

They lodged their protest before a group of journalists who visited the area. They told the visiting newsmen that they had been living on the embankment for over a decade, under the Embankment Protection and Maintenance

Project of a local NGO. They took lease of about 350 acres of land from the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) authorities and cultivated transplanted aman there.

Musclemen of local influentials known as jotdars was pressing them for eviction from the area for a long time. Even they made fake documents and filed 11 false cases against the destitute families. For this reason they looted their aman paddy on 60 acres of land and tortured them, they alleged.

The destitutes also hold a rally which was chaired by a destitute housewife named Sorfuja Khatun recently.