

SNAPS

Two hurt in JCD intra-party feud at Patia

CU CORRESPONDENT
Two JCD activists sustained bullet injuries in an intra-party feud at Patia upazila here on Tuesday.

The injured were identified as Mahbub and Didar. Mahbub was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) in a critical condition and Didar took treatment at a city clinic.

Monir of a JCD faction rented a CD from a video shop at Adalatpara at Patia. But he did not return the CD to shop owner Angur Aziz who belongs to another faction of the student organisation. As a result a gunfight broke out at about 3pm where seven rounds of gunshots were exchanged.

Later, police brought the situation under control.

No case was filed.

'Listed criminal' held in Patuakhali

A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali
The Sadar police arrested "listed criminal" Bahadur, 28, from his Shimul Bagh residence in the town yesterday.

Police said, Bahadur is accused in five criminal cases including one for attack on District Jailor Monirul Alam.

Loans to landless women in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria
Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) has distributed Tk 10,65,000 loans among 129 landless women under its self-employment programme.

Brahmanbaria BRDB Deputy Director Musleh Uddin Ahmed and Sadar UCCA Chairman Burhanuddin distributed the loans.

10 houses gutted in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati
Ten houses were gutted in Kalindipur area of Rangamati town on Thursday night.

Witnesses said the fire originated from electric shot circuit.

Fire Brigade sources estimated the damage worth about Tk 7 lakh.

Former Rangamati Hill District Council (RHDC) chairman Ching Keu Roaza and sadar Zone Commander of army Bayezid Sarwar visited the spot at night and assured compensation to victims. The fire victims are now living under open sky.

Killing of lawyer's assistant

Justice denied as Nilphamari lawyers boycott Additional District Judge's Court

E A M ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Litigants are being denied justice as lawyers are boycotting the Additional District and Sessions Judge Court here continuously since November 12 last year.

Initially Nilphamari Bar Association called for boycotting all courts on November 2 last year in protest against killing of a lawyer's assistant named Tobarak Ali by unruly Judge Court employees on November 1. The association also demanded punishment to culprits.

Tobarak was killed as he protested while Judge Court employees took bribe from a relative of an accused under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act promising his bail.

However, they failed to fulfil the promise.

The association withdrew their court boycott programme from all courts except the Additional

District and Sessions Judge Court from November 12, 2003. The decision was taken following suspension of seven employees of the District and Sessions Judge as per a departmental investigation. It also urged the higher authorities to take action against the Administrative Officer who is now under suspension.

Meanwhile, young lawyers have demanded withdrawal of Additional District Judge Md Mokhlesur Rahman bringing an allegation of irregularities against him. Copies of the resolution were sent to Dhaka Bar Council, Supreme Court, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Ministry and other important places.

More than two months have passed, but still no signs are in sight to break the deadlock. The ministry did not take any initiative to resolve the issue. Even the ministry did not send any inquiry team here.

Lawyers called a requisition meeting to discuss the prevailing

situation on January 7 where only 27 out of 105 bar members attended. No decision was adopted due to lack of quorum. After the meeting a tense situation was created in the bar library.

District and sessions judge Rabiul Hasan told this correspondent that he had asked the bar leaders to place specific charges against the 'controversial judge,' but they failed.

On contact, both the district bar president and general secretary Advocate Anwar Hossain and Advocate Abdul Wahab expressed their firm determination to continue the court boycott till withdrawal of additional district judge Md Mokhlesur Rahman.

When asked if they had any specific allegations against him, Anwar Hossain said if any inquiry committee is formed they would definitely submit evidences before the committee. He regretted that after passage of more than two months, the ministry did not send

any inquiry committee or transfer the judge.

Public Prosecutor (PP) Md Mohsin Ali told that as a member of the bar he was obliged to follow the decision of the bar. But 'considering the sufferings of litigants it is better to review the decision and give an ultimatum to the government to withdraw or transfer the additional judge', he said.

District and sessions Judge Rabiul Hasan stressed the need for upholding the dignity of judiciary. He is in a quandary because of the boycott programme. There is no judge in Sub-judge Court-1 and 2 and out of six there are only 2 assistant judges, he told this correspondent.

Court sources revealed that about 2,000 cases are pending in courts, but the proceedings are very slow for want of judges.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Mokhlesur Rahman is now on leave.

Driver killed in Rangamati truck accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The driver of a Chittagong-bound truck was killed while helper's left leg severed from body and another injured critically in a road accident at Manikchhari on Friday.

Police said the truck fell into a roadside ditch as its driver lost control over steering when the truck was taking a turn at around 9 am.

The deceased was identified as Mohammed Selim, 26, of Modunahat in Chittagong. Shahjahan, 24, whose leg was severed is now undergoing treatment at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Injured Monsur, 19, was admitted to Rangamati General Hospital.

AL-backed panel wins lawyers' assoc election in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Awami League (AL)-backed panel Samannita Awami Ainjibi Parishad bagged all 10 posts in Magura District Lawyers' Association elections held here on Thursday.

One hundred sixty two out of 179 lawyers exercised franchise during elections held from 10 am to 5 pm at the association office.

Elected lawyers are: President- Rafiqul Akbar, General Secretary-Shafiqul Islam Babul, Vice-President-Shujit Kumar Biswas, Joint Secretary-Tapan Kumar Ghosh and Badsha Mia, Cultural Secretary-Shahina Akter, Auditor-Mijanur Rahman Firoz, Librarian-Amir-Al Manik and Treasurer-Amit Mitra.

Relief goods distributed among cold-hit People

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

The Shariakandi Area Development Project (ADP) of World Vision Bangladesh distributed emergency relief goods worth Tk 12 lakh among 1,500 cold-stricken people of Fulbari, Narchie, Bhalarbari, Khatubpur, Hatsherpur, Sariakandi, Sadar Union and the municipality area in Shariakandi here.

World Vision office sources said, Thana Nirbahi Officer, Sariakandi Mohammad Akbor Hossain distributed baby garments and other relief goods among the cold-stricken people on Wednesday.

World Vision Sariakandi ADP Programme Manager Piter Aumit, Assistant Co-ordinator of Monitoring and Evaluation Cell of World Vision Central office, Abdus Salam, Disaster Management Unit officer of Kotallipara Bishawjit Kamur Roy were present.

Meanwhile, the district Administration sources said that Bogra unit of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCS) distributed 400 blankets among the cold affected people on the Bogra Circuit House premises on Thursday.

BRCS Managing Board member Razaul Karim Badsha, Vice-President of Bogra unit Alhaj Manjurul Haque, Secretary Fazlul Bari Talukder Balal, Executive Member Doctor Shah Mohammed Shahjahan, Advocate Anisur Rahman, Munjanir Tinjina Suromi, M. R. Islam Sadhin and Morshed Milton.

Women murder doubles in Barisal divn in a year

AKTER FARUK, Barisal

At least 68 women were murdered after torture and violation in Barisal division last year, which was the highest number in last five years. The figure was 38 in 2002.

A survey by two NGOs based on newspaper reports said 144 women were violated and 12 were disabled in acid attack last year against 119 and 9 respectively in the previous year.

Forty women committed suicide, were 55 abducted and 29 were tortured for dowry.

The actual figure would be much more as many such incidents in rural areas were not reported to police or published in newspapers,

the local NGOs -- SDS and Apon Jaan-- said in its report revealed here on Friday.

At least 477 incidents of violence against women were reported in the year.

The report said 72 incidents of violence against women took place in January-April, 144 in May-July, 155 August-October and 106 in November-December.

Talking to this correspondent, Barisal Mohila Parishad leader Protima Sarkar said violence against women are increasing alarmingly as in most of the cases criminals escape punishment for various reasons.

She said steps for proper and quick police investigation, reform

in law and their strict application and creating awareness among people could reduce such incidents.

DIG Barisal Range Md. Tamijuddin however said many of the cases were false. He said a tendency has grown among people to file false cases to harass opponent as cases are being probed and tried. There are many instances of police filing cases against complainants as their allegations proved false.

In many cases, police give final reports as allegations are unsubstantiated, he said.

Many incidents of abduction took place due to love affair, he said.



PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN

A man spraying pesticide on brinjal plants at Birganj in Dinajpur. Because of such practice people's lives are at stake. But who cares?

Moulvibazar BNP leader expelled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Moazzem Hussain Matuk, Assistant General Secretary of Moulvibazar district of BNP has been expelled from the party.

M Naser Rahman MP, President of Moulvibazar district BNP in a letter to Matuk said that the district unit of BNP decided to expel him for anti-organisational activities.

Matuk, who is also Chairman of Nazirabad Union Parishad under Sadar upazila acknowledged his expulsion and told journalists that his expulsion from the party was not fair and it violated the party constitution. The district BNP has no right to do this as he did nothing against the party. He further said, he would seek justice from Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman who is a member of BNP high command and central standing committee.

He claimed that a quarter might have influenced the district BNP president to take such decision. However, Fayzul Karim Mayun, General Secretary of the district BNP told the journalists that as Matuk's reply to the show-cause notice was not satisfactory, the party has decided to expel him.

Silver Jubilee of Nalta juvenile organisation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The 25th founding anniversary of Nalta Mitali Kachi-Kachar Mela, a juvenile organisation, was observed in Kaliganj upazila in a befitting manner on Sunday.

A year-long programme was chalked out to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the organisation. The programme includes rally, discussion, sports competition, literary and cultural activities.

Kaliganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Delwar Haider opened the festivities as chief guest. A colourful procession was brought out in the morning from Nalta High School and culminated at Kashihati Government Primary School. Hundreds of students, teachers, guardians and people of all walks of life paraded four kilometre long road in the procession.

Yunus Ali, Headmaster of Nalta High School presided over the opening session.

A discussion titled "Send Your Kids to School" was held at Kashihati primary school with its president Golam Rabbani in the chair. Delawar Haider, UNO, Kaliganj and Moral Rustom Ali,

Upazila Primary Education Officer were present as chief and special guests.

Among others, Prof Gazi Azizur Rahman, Chairman Nalta Union Parishad Ansar Ali, Hasanur Rahman and Abdul Bari Al Baki took part in the discussion.

Urs at Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The 72 1st holy Urs of Hazrat Syed Shah Mustafa Bagdadi (RA), one of 360 associates of Hazrat Shah Jalal (RA) started at Moulvibazar district town from Thursday. Started from Magrib prayers, the holy Urs will be concluded with 'Akheri-Munajat, after Fazar prayer today. Programmes included Milad Mahfil, Jigir Asgar, Quran Khani and distribution of 'Shimi'.

Thousands are now visiting the Mazar Sharif to attend the Urs.

After bomb explosion in the Urs venue of Hazarat Shah Jalal (RA) in Sylhet town last week, Moulvibazar district and Police administration have taken tight security measures to quell any untoward incident.

A park only in name



PHOTO: STAR

This is Patuakhali Children's Park. At least the writings on the gate show it. The entry point is muddy and a calf is seen grazing green grass nearby. The entire park near the Deputy Commissioner's (DC) official residence resembles an abandoned land. As the so-called park is under Zila Parishad, our Patuakhali correspondent approached its assistant engineer SM Nurul Islam for comments. He told him that fund shortage hampered its work.

Bomb blast: 12 killed in Sylhet in 7 years

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Ten incidents of bomb blast took place in Sylhet region in the last seven years since 1997, leaving 12 people killed and scores of others seriously injured.

Cases were filed in each of the incidents and the Criminal Investigation Department or the Detective Branch of police investigated the incidents.

But the probes made little headway in most of the cases. People involved in making and exploding the bombs and the networks or gangs linked to the incidents are still to be detected.

In 1997, two explosions took place in Sagardighirpar and Amabarkhana areas of Sylhet city. Bangladesh Chhatra League leader Ali Ahmed died in the blast at Sagardighirpar while the Ambarkhana blast left no-one

killed or injured but damaged several houses.

On March 15, 1999, three persons were killed in an explosion while bombs were being made in the house of the then ruling Awami League (AL) lawmaker Muhibur Rahman Manik at Chhatak upazila headquarters in Sunamganj.

The lawmaker, his elder brother, a cousin, a Jubo League leader and ward commissioner and some others were arrested and charges were pressed against them.

The case was transferred to the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Sylhet, but the trial is yet to begin due to repeated stay orders from the High Court.

On September 26, 2001, during the caretaker administration, a blast left four persons killed at Shulla upazila headquarters in Sunamganj when the then AL

legislator Suranjeet Sengupta was addressing a public meeting there.

Another blast occurred at a house in the city's Fazlichist area the same day. Two persons engaged in making bombs were killed in the blast at about 8:00pm when a big public meeting was going on at the nearby Alia Madrassah Maidan. AL President Sheikh Hasina was the chief guest at the meeting.

A few days later, an explosion at a commercial firm in the city's Mirzajangal area injured several people and left three firms afire.

In another blast on the outskirts of the city in July 2003, a two-storied building was damaged at Khadimnagar.

A number of bombs and other explosives were recovered over these years from different areas of Sylhet division.

10 physicians run 100-bed Patuakhali General Hospital

A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Patients are being deprived of healthcare facilities at the 100-bed Patuakhali General Hospital due to dearth of physicians.

Twenty two out of 32 posts of physicians are lying vacant for a long time, according to hospital sources.

Vacant posts are of senior consultant (surgery), child and ENT specialists, junior eye and orthopaedic consultants, pathologist, radiologist, anaesthetist and gynecologist.

Three out of seven medical

officers and three out of four emergency medical officers are vacant for a long period.

As there is no permanent blood bank, patients do not get blood during their emergency. They have to collect blood through brokers at high rates.

The X-ray machine has gone out of order for five months. Scarcity of life saving drugs is another serious problem. Patients' attendants are compelled to buy medicine from outside stores. Surgical blade, needle, plaster, bandage, gauge and other necessary medical accessories are seldom available here.

The diet supplied to patients by the hospital authorities is of inferior quality though Tk 30 is sanctioned for daily diet of each patient.

Most often patients coming to the hospital for surgical treatment are advised to go to particular clinics.

Most shocking is the civil surgeon herself works a part-time job at a clinic in the town, local people told this correspondent.

Accommodation problem is very acute in the hospital. The construction work to turn it into a 150-bed hospital is going on at snail's pace.



PHOTO: STAR

Jatiyo Shikhhak Karmachari Front, Barisal brought out a torch procession in the divisional city in support of 8-pont demands of teachers and employees on Thursday.