

## SNAPS

**Man killed by tiger**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira**  
A fisherman was killed by tiger in Agunjala river in the Sundarbans on Sunday.

Abul Kalam Gazi, of Kaikhali village in Shyamnagar upazila, was fishing in the river when the tiger swooped on him, killing him on the spot, police said quoting villagers.

**Life term, Tk 50,000 fine for rape**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**  
Mohammed Shahinor Islam, Judge of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, Khulna has sentenced Omar Ali, 28, to life term and fined Tk 50,000 for raping a minor girl.

The girl, a student of class four, was raped on the night of October 11, 2000. Her father Nahor Ali, an employee of Daulatpur Agriculture College, filed a case with Daulatpur thana.

**Armed robber nabbed**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**  
A notorious armed robber was nabbed by Kotwali police from a clinic in the city on Tuesday.

The criminal was identified as Swarup Ali, 35, one of the most wanted gang leaders of dacoits in the southern region. He was accused in more than 50 cases including triple murder of Babuganj.

According to the police sources, Swarup committed armed robberies in Bhandaria of Pirojpur, Bhurghata of Barisal and looted arms from Kakchira police camp in Barguna.

He was sent to jail after rejection of his bail prayer by the court.

**Baralekha AL council held**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar**  
The triennial council of Baralekha upazila Awami League (AL) was held at Baralekha auditorium on Saturday. Presided over by Baralekha upazila AL president and an ex-member of parliament (MP) Shahab Uddin Ahmed, the conference was attended by central organising secretary of the party Abdur Rahman as chief guest.

**Top criminal released in Barisal under BNP pressure?**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**

A top criminal of Barisal was released by Kotwali thana police under pressure from the ruling BNP on Tuesday.

The top criminal named Saidul Islam Polu was arrested from the Bou Bazar area of Amanatganj in the city on Monday night. He was detained at Amanatganj police outpost.

A police personnel unwilling to be named told this correspondent that an influential quarter of the ruling party started creating pressure on police for Polu's release just from the moment of his arrest.

Meanwhile, Kotwali thana Officer-in-Charge (OC) Kamrul Islam said Polu was not arrested, but he was detained only for interrogation for the purpose of investigation in a case.

Criminal cases like extortion, torture, terrorism, and toll collection were lodged against him, police sources said.

The joint forces arrested Polu with arms during the Clean Heart operation. Nevertheless, he was released and engaged himself again in criminal activities.

# Outlaws scare people away from by-polls

## No campaign in Taherpur municipality: Only two women vying

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi**

Traditional polls campaign was not seen at Taherpur yesterday, a day ahead of the by-election in the municipality.

Panic has dismayed the two women contestants for the post of municipal chairman and their electorate alike following distribution of leaflets in the name of Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP).

The leaflets called for shunning election and threatened of violence for non-compliance.

By-election to the post of municipal chairman will be held today, following the murder of Alo Khondokar, an Awami League leader and first chairman of the municipality.

Alo's widow Khandaker Saira Parveen and Shamsunnahar Wahid, daughter of BNP leader late Prof Abdul Wahed are still in the race in the municipality in Bagmara upazila, an area stalked by PBCP outlaws.

"We are now terrified following the leaflets as police are virtually helpless before the outlaws", said a businessman in

the small town.

The two women candidates were also not seen campaigning in the tense situation.

Alo Khondokar and Abdul Wahed were killed by outlaws on December 8 and February 7 respectively last year.

Two males -- Jatiya Party (E) leader Nurul Islam Shah and independent candidate Muhammad Zakaria collected nomination papers, Nurul Islam submitted his nomination paper but withdrew it later.

Some people this correspondent talked to said they are panicked following distribution of the leaflets.

"Saving life is important, not campaigning", one person said seeking anonymity.

"We do not want to see any more blood here", said a businessman.

Many said they would go to polling centres if the situation remains peaceful.

Saira had demanded army deployment to ensure fair elections in a peaceful atmosphere.



Samsunnahar Wahed

"People became afraid and campaigning did not get momentum following threats by outlaws", she said.

Shamsunnahar also apprehends violence on the election day. She hoped the government would take necessary steps for a peaceful and fair election.

High police officials said they



Khandaker Saira Parveen

have tightened security in the town and haunt for identified miscreants is on.

Police so far arrested an alleged outlaw from Bagmara and three others from Rajshahi city when they were pasting PBCP posters.

But people said these steps will not allay fear from their minds.

# Tk 55 lakh forged stamps recovered, 8 held in Satkhira

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira**

Police in two drives recovered forged non-judicial stamps worth about Tk 55 lakh from two houses in the town on Monday and Tuesday and arrested eight persons.

The arrested persons are Sirajul Islam, 38, and Khokon Khan, 45, of Gadaipur village; Babar Ali, 40, of Nakua village; Fazlur Rahman, 50, of Fotikkhali village; Abdur Razzak, 32, of Kashimari village; Ranajet Sarkar, 45, and Abul Kalam, 35, of Bagmara village and Tarapada Sarkar of Bagerhat in Khulna district.

Tipped off, a Detective Branch team led by Sub-Inspector Ruhul Amin raided two houses at Palashpole and Sultanpur in the town and arrested Sirajul Islam and Abdur Razzak.

Acting on their confession, police arrested the six others. Police said they are members of an organised gang involved in forging non-judicial stamps, deeds and stamp pads of several government officers.

The forged stamps were deposited to relevant government authorities. All the arrested persons were produced in court yesterday, which planned five of them on remand.

## Businessman mugged inside Sonali Bank

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**

A businessman was mugged inside the Sonali Bank at Torki Bandar in Gournadi upazila on Tuesday.

The victim is Abdul Khalek Munshi, a prominent businessman in the area. He told this correspondent that he was waiting at about 12-45 pm on the day at the bank counter with Tk one lakh for TT.

As the bank cashier was not present, he waited in front of the counter with the money. Suddenly a mugger snatched away Tk 50,000 from him. He chased the criminal, but failed.

During the incident, the on-duty bank guard was not present.

On contact, bank manager Khitish Chandra Raha told this correspondent that he had heard about the incident, but yet to receive allegation from the victim. He denied absence of cashier and guard of the bank during the incident.

No case was lodged.

## 525 phensidyl bottles recovered from inter-city Turna Nishita in Brahmanbaria

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria.**

Five persons were arrested and 525 bottles of smuggled phensidyle were recovered from their possession from inter-city train Turna Nishita at Brahmanbaria station at around 4 am Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off, a DB police team headed by SI Kaiser Ali searched the Dhaka-bound train at the station and recovered the bottles soon after those were loaded.

Those held are Abul Bashar, Ibrahim, Monir Hussain, Jahangir and Shahin Mia.

A case has been filed with Akhaura railway police station. The arrested persons were produced before court, which sent them to jail hajat.

## Man killed, 21 hurt in clash over land in Madaripur

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**

One person died and 21 others were injured in a rivals clash over land in Madaripur on Tuesday.

The victim, identified as Abdul Malek Molla, 50, died at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (BSBMCH).

Among the injured, condition of Abdus Satter, 40, was stated to be critical. He was under treatment at BSBMCH till filing of this report on Tuesday afternoon.

The clash occurred at Andharchar under Kalkikni Police Station in Madaripur bordering Gournadi Police Station in Barisal on Monday.

Other injured took treatment at different hospitals at Gournadi, Barisal and Kalkini.

The body was handed over to the relatives of the deceased after postmortem at BSBMCH.

A case has been lodged with Kalkini PS accusing 31 persons. Nobody was arrested.

## Rangamati's rough road on email

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati**

Subscribers of BTB (Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board) internet service are suffering in E-mail browsing due to shortage of 'log-in' ports.

"We rarely get connection and mails can not be sent despite repeated attempt", said Abbas Uddin, an internet subscriber.

When contacted, Sub-assistant Engineer Sattayajit at the BTB office here said, there are only six 'log-in' facilities for 87 subscribers. One 'log-in' can provide service to a maximum of five subscribers. Their number is increasing.

He however said efforts are on to increase the number of 'log-in' ports, which will not materiale before March.

A Chinese company--Shanghai Bell-- conducted a survey in December and is likely to begin work soon, he said.

This company also worked for turning Rangamati telecommunication digital in 2001 and installed the internet facility in July 2003.

Two of the six 'log-in ports' have been permanently booked by the UNDP-funded Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF) office. The rest four are used by other subscribers, sources said.

# Netrakona dist AL body elected

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona.**

The council of Netrakona district Awami League was held here on Tuesday after seven years.

The council was inaugurated by AL Presidium member Abdur Razzak MP, while party general secretary Abdul Jalil was the chief guest.

Shamsujjuha and Ashraf Ali Khan were elected president and secretary respectively of the district unit. A total of 256 councilors

took part in the election, party sources said.

The conference, held at a local auditorium, was presided over by former district AL president Fazlur Rahman Khan, also a former lawmaker.

It was addressed by, among others, central organising secretary Ashim Kumer Ukil, central leaders Sabar Hossain Chowdhury, Shafi Ahmed and Ahamed Hossen and local leaders.

## Local govt leaders resent lack of security

### Corrupt political leaders, officials get security, workshop told

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi**

Speakers at a workshop here on Tuesday said local government leaders are being murdered one after another due to lack of government security.

They are not given government security despite appeal but leaders of ruling parties and government officials are getting protection by law enforcers though many of them face corruption charges, they lamented.

The workshop on Empowerment of Local Government, held at a city hotel, was organised jointly by the National Union Parishad Forum, USAID and ARD.

It was addressed by South Asian Partnership Project Coordinator Nadira Mollik, ARD official Kajol Chakrawarti and Union Parishad leaders Golam Sarwar, Abdul Latif and Wajedul Islam.

Rajshahi Local Government Association Convenor Rizvi Al

Hasan Manjil was in the chair.

The UP leaders also resented a recent order requiring permission from Deputy Commissioners and UNOs if they want to go out of upazilas, districts and to any foreign country. But lawmakers are never asked for their absence from parliament, the speakers said.

## Rice for poor during Eid

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban**

The government sanctioned 130 metric tons (MTs) of rice for poor people in Bandarban hill district on the occasion of holy Eid-ul-Azha.

Official sources said each family will get 10 kilogram of rice for per VGF card.

According to the local relief office, a total of 13,000 VGF cards have been sanctioned for 29 union councils and two municipalities.

# Launch dacoity on Meghna in B'baria

## Arms snatched, 4 policemen tossed into river, one still missing: Tk 5 lakh looted

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria**

Dacoits snatched firearms, threw four policemen into the river and looted money and valuables from passengers of a launch on the Meghna river near Lalpur village under Ashuganj upazila Tuesday evening.

One of the policemen, Constable Sukumer, stabbed during the incident, was missing till yesterday afternoon.

Two of the policemen--Constables Jane Alem and Mni Chakma-- swam shore and Havilder Abdul Matin was rescued

by fishermen later.

Havilder Abdul Matin and Constable Jane Alam are being treated at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital. Mni Chakma was released after first aid.

The dacoits looted at least Tk five lakh in cash and valuables, police said quoting the ill-fated passengers.

They said the dacoits numbering over 20 had boarded the Bhairab-bound launch from Nabinagar in the guise of passengers.

As it reached Lalpur, they

swooped on the policemen and passengers.

As they were looting the passengers on gunpoint, a speedboat approached the launch. The dacoits finished their looting and fled away in the speedboat.

Police said the looted firearms could not be recovered. Additional District Magistrate Muhammed Hanif visited the injured policemen at the hospital Tuesday night.

Brahmanbaria Police Superintendent ATM Tarek and ASP Jahangir Alam were at the spot when the report was filed at about noon yesterday.

# Half-day hartal observed at Rangamati

## BCP demands 'equal rights' for Bangalees, tribesmen

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati**

A half-day hartal, called by Bangalee Chhtrata Parishad (BCP), was observed in Rangamati town yesterday.

BCP, a forum of Banglaspeaking students in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), called the 6am-12 noon hartal demanding scrapping of the CHT peace agreement, equal rights for Bangalees and tribesmen in the jobs, education facilities and in development programmes, and

removal of Jotirinadriya Bodhipriya Lama alias Santu Lama and Moniswapan Dewan from government posts.

Parbattya Chhatragram Jana Sanghati Samity chief Shstnu Lama is the chairman of CHT Regional Council and Dewan in Deputy Minister for CHT Affairs.

During the hartal, BCP brought out several processions and held a rally at Bonorupa in the town. The rally was presided over by BCP Rangamati President Delwar

Hossain.

The speakers alleged that Bangalees are being discriminated against the tribesmen in all respects. They called upon all Bangalees in the hills to unite to realise their rights.

BCP units at Bandarban and Khagachhari also held rallies and brought out processions though hartal was not called there, a BCP press release said.