

SNAPS

Three of a family roasted alive

A CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj
Three members of a family were roasted alive at Bamankanda village in Hamirampur upazila on Tuesday night.

The dead were identified as Rokeya Begum, 35, wife of Rouf Fakir, their two sons Rubel, 7, and Rajiab, 4.

Beaten to death by husband

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira
A housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband at Gangnia village in Sadar upazila on Thursday night.

The victim was identified as Taslima Khatun, 25, wife of Rustam Ali.

Quoting local people police said Rustam Ali married Taslima, daughter of Sajjad Ali of Umrupara village in Sadar upazila four year back. After the marriage he took Tk 5,000 as dowry. He was demanding more dowry from his father-in-law who failed to meet the demand. He tortured his wife on the fateful day resulting her instant death.

Later, the killer husband tried to misguide people by pouring insecticide in the deceased's mouth.

On information, police rushed to the spot and sent the body to Satkhira hospital for post-mortem. A case was filed with Sadar thana.

5 of a family killed by bus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra
Six people, five of them of a family, were killed and a boy was injured when a bus hit a rickshaw van on the Joypurhat-Hill road at Khas Bagura in Joypurhat recently.

The dead have been identified as Taser Ali, 80, Farida, 35, Sathi, 10, Poribanu, 37, Mahmuda, 8 of a family at Atapur village under Panchbibi upazila in Joypurhat district and van owner Ainul, 50.

They died on the spot. Critically injured boy Piplu was admitted to Joypurhat Modern Hospital in an unconscious. Details about his particulars could not be known.

Body of 'outlaw' recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Dumuria thana police recovered on Monday the body of Iqbal Hossain, 32, from the bank of the Bhadrariver. Iqbal, belonging to BCP (Bangladesh Communist Party), is wanted in several criminal cases including four murder cases. He was slaughtered after being abducted from Rudgare union under the same upazila on Thursday last.

According to OC of Dumuria Thana, Iqbal Hossain was hiding in Khulna city since November last.

Two govt officials flee homes after death threats from outlaws

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two government officials fled homes after receiving death threats from extortionists.

The Project Implementation Officer of Fakirhat upazila, Samarjit Sen, who suffered a heart stroke following death threats from three extortionists on refusal to pay illegal toll amounting to Tk 5 lakh, is still scared to join work after recovery.

Criminals handed over a letter to him on January 28 giving him a

Bogra BNP MP to face forgery case

Tk 3.20 cr bank loans taken for "fake" project now stands at Tk 10.5 cr : Mortgaged lands "forcibly reoccupied"

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

The Janata Bank is preparing to file a criminal case against ruling BNP lawmaker Helal-uz-Zaman Thalukder Lalu and his business partner Mahabubur Rahman Talu for "violating" agreement with the bank.

The case will be filed with a magistrate court here under sections 402 and 406 of BPC (Bangladesh Penal Code) after delivery of the verdict by the Bogra Artho Rin Adalat (loan recovery court) regarding their defaulted loans, according to sources at the Shopopody Branch of Janata Bank (JB), which disbursed the loans.

The Adalat will give its verdict on March 4, sources there said.

The two persons took loans of Tk three crore 20 lakh in the name of setting up a tannery named Bogra Tannery at Lichutola in Bogra sadar upazila. The loans disbursed between 1986 and 1992 stood at Tk ten crore 50 lakh with interest as on December last year, the sources said.

But no tannery was set up there. "So it is a forgery case because the loans were taken by showing a fake project", one source at the bank told this correspondent on Thursday.

Of the amount, Tk one crore 20 lakh

was project loan and Tk two crore cash credit, he said.

The borrowers are defaulters on two counts-- for taking loans showing a "fake" project and for not repaying it, he said.

The sources also alleged that the loan defaulters have "forcibly reoccupied the mortgaged" lands at Lichutola and at other places against the loans.

The case with the Artha Rin Adalat was filed on October 18, 1999.

Lalu was elected from Gabtoli constituency (Bogra 7) in the by-election after BNP chief Kaleda Zia

vacated it as she was elected from two seats in the last parliamentary polls.

Asked how a loan defaulter could run in the polls race, the bank sources said Lalu relevant papers showing him as a loan defaulter were submitted to the election commission office here.

Sources at the Deputy Commissioner's office said the papers were submitted by the bank but those were later missing. The Deputy Commissioner acts as the Returning Officer.

He was contacted over phone but he declined to talk on the issue.

Death after arrest sparks protest in Nilphamari

Villagers lay siege to Taraganj thana, 2 cops suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Angry people from Katgari village in Kishoregang upazila in Nilphamari district laid a siege to neighbouring Taraganj thana in Rangpur following the death of a young man after arrest.

The people withdrew the siege following local lawmaker Amjad Hossen Sarkar's assurance of proper investigation. Amjad is a lawmaker from Kishoregang-Saidpur constituency. The victim, Enamul Haq, son of late Jan Mamud of Katgari village, is reportedly a BNP activist.

Rangpur Additional Police Superintendent Harun-ur-Rashid also rushed to Taraganj thana and suspended Sub-inspector (SI) Bazlur Rahman and Constable Alimuddin. Additional police were also sent there.

According to Taraganj police, Enamul was arrested by SI Bazlur Rahman of Taraganj thana on the Eid night from Taraganj Chowpatti. He



Enamul Haq

was drunk, they claimed.

He was released at about 9 am next day after he gave an "undertaking" and was escorted home at Katgari village by Constable Alimuddin.

The victim's family alleged that reaching home, Enamul told his wife that he was feeling severe stomach pain. He was taken to nearby Taraganj Upazila Health Complex and then shifted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) where he died at about 11:00 pm on Tuesday.

As the news spread, angry people from Katgari village laid a siege to Taraganj thana, alleging that Enamul died from police torture.

Enamul's mother Jokion Bewa said her son told her that a rubber pipe was inserted into his stomach through the mouth. But SI Bazlur Rahman denied this and said he died from excessive drinking.

Rangpur Police Superintendent Manjur Kader told newsmen yesterday that the reason for the death would be ascertained after the post-mortem report is available.

The body of Enamul was handed over to his relatives on Wednesday after postmortem at RMCH but police said yesterday that they were yet to get the postmortem report.

Meanwhile some sources claimed that Enamul used to collect toll for police. He was tortured as he misappropriated the whole money he collected on the eve of the Eid from different sources.



PHOTO: STAR

This beacon light at Sagar Kuakata is inoperative for the last six months.

'BIWTC negligence costs life'

Navigation risky as 22 out of 32 beacon lights out of order in Patuakhali, 4 stolen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Navigation in Patuakhali has become very risky due to absence of beacon lights in most of the routes, which often cause accidents and claim lives.

Twenty-two out of 32 beacon lights are out of order for long and another four, stolen long ago, are yet to be re-installed, BIWTC (Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority) sources here said.

At least 50 launches ply the routes during daytime and at night. The risk increases at night and in

early morning when visibility is reduced by dense fog, launch operators said.

In the recent accident that took place on Thursday, at least 12 people were killed and over 100 injured when two launches collided on the Meghna in Hija, allegedly due to poor visibility in absence of beacon light.

Sources said solar chargers of beacon lights are being stolen by an organised hand of thieves. One light costs Tk 34,000 to Tk 40,000. The thieves sell those in black market, they said.

BIWTA authorities asked police

at different thanas in the coastal areas to recover the stolen solar chargers.

Galachipa thana police arrested two persons -- Moslem and Eradul of Charchali village in the upazila with a solar charger stolen from the Agunmukha riverside.

The BIWTA sources claimed that they asked BIWTC authorities repeatedly to restore the signaling system but all their pleas fall on their deaf ears. Their negligence is causing accidents and claiming lives, they alleged.

Extortion: BNP activist caught with revolver in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

People caught an alleged BNP activist with a revolver when he swooped on a businessman at Puran Bogra near the town



Tuesday night for illegal toll.

Police said Aminul Haque Bipul, 25, had demanded Tk 50,000 toll from Anwar Hossain. But he declined to pay.

At about 8 pm on Tuesday, Bipul and one of his accomplices riding a motorbike went to Anwar's residence at Puran Bogra.

They knocked the door and asked Anwar to come out. Sensing Bipul's presence, he neither came out nor opened the door.

As Bipul threatened to break open the door, Anwar started crying for help.

His screams drew people nearby. They caught Bipul with a loaded Indian point 32 bore revolver. His accomplice managed to escape with the motorcycle.

Cheat flees Satkhira with Tk 60 lakh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A cheat fled the town with Tk 60 lakh on January 11.

The cheat, Rashedul Islam Chowdhury, son of Awlad Hossain of Sreerampur village in Dhaka district collected the amount by cheating people, unemployed youths and different banks and financial institutions for four years.

Uchchhas Furniture at Kalia in the town was the centre of his deception.

On contact, Satkhira Poursabha Commissioner Mohammad Selim told this correspondent that Rashed, in guise of a manpower agent, earned Tk 5 lakh illegally from unemployed youths like Abul Kalam Azad, Yasin Ali, Zulfikar Ali and Hafizul Islam, all of Laskarpura area in the town. He deceived them with the assurance of providing jobs in Singapore.

Advocate Babla of the Judge's court gave him Tk 90,000 for a job abroad for his relative.

The following persons fell victims of his deception. Rokonzaman of Rajnagar village in Sadar upazila who gave him Tk 50,000 for a job of assistant teacher in a primary school. Shah Alam, a teacher of Fatema Kindergarten at Katia gave the cheat Tk 1,55,000 after being assured a job abroad.

Rashedul Islam Chowdhury drew several lakhs of taka as loan by applying tricks on various occasions from different banks and financial institutions.

Rawshan Ara Begum, a BSCIC official here told this correspondent that he took Tk 1,64,000 as loan from 21 people including Ratna, Liza, Nadia and Latifa.

Satkhira BRAC Bank manager Hafizur Rahman revealed that Rashed deceived them by drawing

Tk 4 lakh as loan from the bank. He repaid only Tk one lakh, he added.

Satkhira Mercantile Bank manager Waresin Kabir told this correspondent that the cheat drew Tk 64,500 as loan from the bank. Deceived people thronged in front of Rashed's closed Uchchhas Furniture where he collected several lakhs of taka from them as "deposit" with fake assurances of 7 to 11 per cent interest.

On contacted over cell phone, Rashed told this correspondent that he has been staying in Dhaka due to a personal problem. He refuted the allegation of defalcation of Tk 60 lakh, rather he said 25 to 40 persons will get Tk 10 lakh from him. He said he had already paid a good amount of deposited money to the creditors with 7 to 12 per cent interest. "I shall be back to Satkhira within a few days when I shall solve problems with the creditors," he added.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi University (RU) will not reopen on Sunday (February 8) due to 'lack of congenial academic atmosphere' on the campus.

The university authorities have taken the decision at an urgent meeting of the Syndicate on Wednesday.

The campus will remain closed until unity is established between the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), the Syndicate meeting told.

A 10-member Liaison Committee (LC) headed by Syndicate member Prof Nazrul Islam is trying to reunite the feuding student bodies after the JCD-ICS clashes on January 13 and

14. The committee was formed after the clashes which left 50 persons injured and ultimately closure of the university.

Earlier, the committee said that despite talks for several times with the leaders of both the feuding parties, they could not come to a consensus.

BSS reports: The Rajshahi University Syndicate has suspended the admission test of first year honours classes scheduled to start from February 14. The admission committee will take further decision in this regard.

All political activities including meeting, procession and rally on the campus have also been banned until further order.

Question paper leakage 10 arrested DAE staff personnel suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Ten arrested officials and employees of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) were suspended by the authorities concerned, according to an office order issued here on January 30.

They were arrested on charge of leakage of question papers of written tests for recruitment of DAE Block Supervisors.

The suspended are Assistant Chief (project) of DAE Shah Alam Siddiquee Mamun and other employees Sirajul Haque, Abdul Aziz, ATM Bokhran, Sirajul Islam,

Md Zahurul Islam Mondal, Md Kitab Ali, Md Firro Hossain, Abdul Mannan and Shahidul Islam.

Earlier, police arrested 18 persons including one DAE official and nine employees, six candidates and two guardians for their alleged involvement in the question paper leakage scandal. All of them were arrested from the office of the DAE Additional Director at Balashpur on January 30.

Later, they were produced before a magistrate's court on January 31. The court sent 15 of them to jail hayat while rest three were remanded.

Earlier, a case was lodged with Kotwali thana in this regard.

Kolaroa Mohila Dal bodies formed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A joint biennial conference of Kolaroa thana and Poursava Jatiyatabadi Mahila Dal, ruling BNP's women wing, was held at Kolaroa on January 31.

The conference formed a 101-member Kolaroa thana Mahila Dal headed by Mazma Karim, Rashida Sultana and Shana Parvin as president, general secretary and organising secretary respectively.

A 51-member Kolaroa Poursava Mahila Dal headed by

Jesmin Nahar, Salma Akhtar and Nurjahan Khatun Dalia as president, general secretary and organising secretary respectively was also formed at the conference, party sources said.

It was presided over by Nazma Karim and addressed by, among others, Kolaroa thana BNP president Rufiqul Islam, district Mahila Dal convenor Hosne Ara, Khurshid Jahan, Farida Akhtar, Tahmina Akhter, Rashida Mirza, and Shahana.

Police officer assaulted by mob in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A police officer here was physically assaulted by mob for 'trespassing a JCD leader's house in plain clothes.'

Eye witnesses said Sub Inspector (SI) Shahjalal of Barisal Kotwali thana entered JCD leader Shakhawat Rumman's in plainclothes without prior information and tried to nab his cousin also a BCL activist named Shohag on Sunday. At that time he did not show any warrant of arrest to the inhabitants of the house.

At this stage the family members challenged the SI who, instead of satisfying them, physically assaulted them and other female members including children.

Inhabitants of the house and locals became annoyed and attacked the SI whom Kotwali police rescued.

Later, local member of parliament (MP) Majibur Rahman Sarwar settled the matter through a compromise meeting.

Acid attack Housewife fighting for life in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A housewife is fighting for life at Satkhira Sadar Hospital following an acid attack by miscreants.

The miscreants threw acid on Nargis Khatun, 30 wife of Nur Islam, when she was asleep at their house at Kamar Baisa village in the Sadar upazila on the night of January 31.

Her husband said he filed a case with Satkhira thana naming the accused but police could not arrest any of them.

She said her husband has a land dispute with Mohar Ali and Jahangir Hossain of the same village. They are behind the brutal act, the victim told this correspondent at the hospital.

She is now being treated for burn injuries on the face, hands and other parts of her body.



PHOTO: STAR

Horse race has not disappeared totally from Bangladesh. The people of Magura are trying to retain the centuries-old and exciting event. After a god harvest of paddy and vegetables this year, people of Moghi village arranged a horse race as part of a winter fair recently. There is no race course in the area. So what? They did it on the field after paddy harvest.

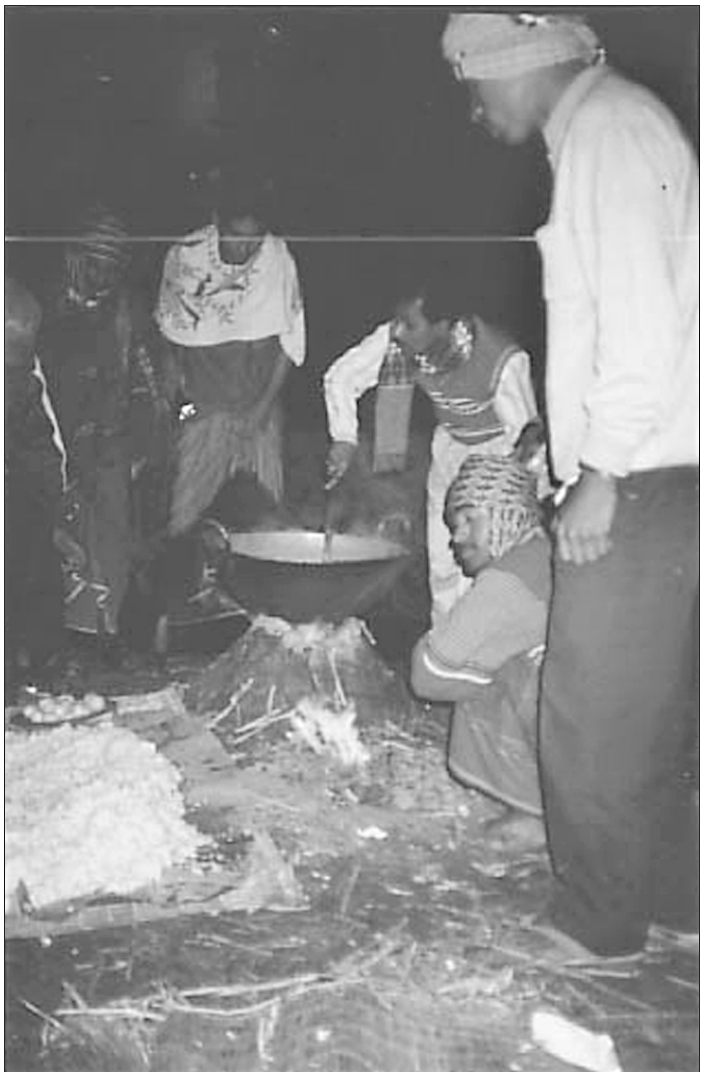


PHOTO: SRAR

Free cooking and warming up in cold ...It is nature's bounty for villagers at Bhomra Dahspara in Sadab upazila as gas started oozing out when a tube well pipe was sunk recently. This attracted hundreds of people to see the flame burning continuously but no official to stop waste of the vital energy resource despite being informed, local people said.