

SNAPS

10 Netrakona Jubo League, BCL men held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona  
Ten Jubo League and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders and workers were arrested from different parts of the town on Monday. The arrested include ex-Netrakona district BCL president Mrinal Kanti Roy Sazal, Jubo League workers Shahidul Islam Shahid, Ripon Sarkar Bappi and BCL workers Kalyan Das, Utpal Roy, Jabhad, Mahabub Alam Titu, Arif, Partha Kumar Sarkar and Dilip Chandra Sarkar.

All were involved in criminal activities, police told this correspondent.

One killed in clash over trifle matter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona  
One person was killed and four others were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers over a trifle matter at Barabaria in Sharishabari upazila, Jamalpur on Monday.  
The dead was identified as Khalilur Rahman 40, of Barabaria village. The injured were admitted to Sharishabari Upazila Health Complex.  
Police and witnesses said the clash erupted over buying bamboo-made mat.  
Two separate cases were filed with Sharishabari police station. None was arrested.

Youth killed in Magura villagers' clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura  
A youth was killed and ten others were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Atharokhada village, about four kms from Magura town on Tuesday.  
The clash centred alleged violation of a six-year-old girl.  
Sabuj Kor, 26, died on the spot. Six of the injured were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital.  
Quoting local people, police said the clash broke out immediately after a group of people caught the alleged rapist and handed him over to police.

Woman to die for killing girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha  
The Additional District and Sessions Judge Court, Gaibandha yesterday sentenced a woman -- Rehena Begum, 45-- to death for killing a young girl in January 1998.  
She had hit the girl -- Nazmeen Begum, 15-- at Betara village in Gobindaganj upazila during a feud over damage of crop by goat. Nazma later died at a hospital.

Teesta Barrage faces threat

Illegal extraction of rock and sand continues despite ban: NSI terms it a 'sabotage'

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Teesta Barrage, the country's biggest irrigation barrage and a key point installation (KPI), is facing a threat due to unabated illegal extraction of sand and rock from the "risky area" of the Teesta river bed.  
"The Teesta Barrage may become ineffective and cause a disaster if this practice continues", Dalia Division Executive Engineer of Water Development Board Zahirul Islam told newsmen on Saturday.  
This is going on though the district administration banned extraction of sand and rock from the "risky area" and the NSI (National Security Intelligence) in a report termed it a "sabotage" and suggested an immediate halt to it, he said. The NSI investigated the matter following an order by the homer ministry.  
Despite sincere efforts, the WDB could not stop the illegal extraction,

going on in the area for the last two years.  
Zahirul Islam said WDB filed 31 cases with Dilma thana against the illegal extractors in the last two years and wrote letters to different quarters including the district administration, mineral resources ministry and the Department of Envir-onment (DoE), but to no effect.  
This correspondent during a visit saw hundreds of labourers and boring machines (deep tube wells) engaged in extracting rocks and sand from the 20 km "risky area" stretching from Chhai Anir Char (one km from the Teesta Barrage) to the Kaliganj Zero point (where Teesta enters Bangladesh).  
Thirteen groins, some solid spars, T dams and many other structures have been built in the "risky area" of the river to protect the barrage and to keep the Teesta flow in the right track.  
Sand and water also come out

along with rocks during boring. After separating the rocks with nets, the sand is left and stockpiled. Sand heaps up to 30 feet height were seen in Chhai Anir Char area.  
During rain, the stockpiled sand is swept away and carried by rainwater) will form shoals and gradually clog the sluice gates of the barrage.  
"If shoals are formed near the barrage, it (barrage) will become ineffective", Zahirul Islam said.  
There will be a disaster if sluice gates get clogged and can not be opened in time, he added.  
The lifted rocks are stockpiled on the embankment and shore areas, from where those are carried by trucks. This has created many small breaches in the embankment, which will make it (the embankment) vulnerable in the coming rainy season, people working in the area said.  
Due to indiscriminate lifting of

sand and rock, formation of new shoals and erosion, the main channel of the river is approaching the 'closur dam', built to protect the barrage. If the 'closur dam' is damaged, the barrage will be threatened, Zahirul Islam said.  
When contacted, the district administration said they have banned extraction of rock and sand from the "risky area" covering 20 km in the upstream and 10 km in the downstream from the barrage. The latest official order (memo no Jep/Nifa/RA:/Ne:/PA:/BA:/2-29 (175)/96/03) was issued on January 26 this year, they said.  
Sources in the Dimla upazila administration said they have allowed a private firm to realise 'royalty' from trucks carrying sand and rock from areas other than the "risky area". The trucks carrying sand and rock from far away areas pass through the barrage area, they said.

The royalty is 30 paisa (point 30 taka) per cubic feet of rock and 10 paisa (point 10 taka) per cubic feet of sand.  
Other sources claimed that the firm is owned by a ruling party man from Dimla. He has engaged 24 small firms to extract sand and rock from the risky area, they claimed.  
Zahirul Islam said that in reply to a WDB letter, the mineral resources ministry earlier informed them that it did not give permission to any body to extract rock and sand from any place in Nilphamari district.  
He also said the Rajshahi Divisional Deputy Director (Technical) of the Department of Environmental on March 18 issued an order to stop the rock extraction immediately.



Workers engaged in collecting rock (left), a boring machine mounted on a raft made with drums extracting rocks from the river bed (middle) and rocks funneled through pipe from the river being separated from sand and water (right). The photos were taken from Chhai Anir Char on Sunday .

12 outlaws named in Havilder Akram murder case

Police accused of ransacking, looting house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Twelve cadres of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddho) have been

accused in two separate FIRs recorded with Sonadange thana here on Sunday.  
The FIRs were recorded in connection with murder of Havilder Akram Hossain in a bomb blast on Saturday.  
Outlaws Shoiab and Shumon, two sons of religious leader Moulana Abdul Wahab of Basupara were also shown accused in the FIRs.  
However, none was arrested despite special combing operations by joint forces in the city and Khulna district.  
Havilder Akram of Special Armed Forces (SAF), Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) was killed while on duty along with four constables.  
Meanwhile, Moulana Wahab's wife Sajeda Begum, also mother of Shumon and Shoiab, two PBCP (J) armed cadres in a press conference on Monday demanded an impartial probe into an incident of ransacking her house by police in absence of her husband on Saturday night. Valuables worth 12 lakh taka were looted by police during the incident, she alleged.  
She further told that both she and her husband already disowned their two misguided sons Saifuzzaman Shoiab and Sharifuzzaman Shumon through a court affidavit on May 11 last year.  
On contact, Acting Police Commissioner Sheikh Sajjad Ali refuted the allegations saying the rivals of Shumon and Shoiab might have been involved in the incident. He also assured a probe into the incident.

Man to die for killing son

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A farmer was awarded death penalty in absentia by the Additional District and Sessions Judge Court, Bagerhat on Sunday for killing his 21-day-old baby son at Pingurhia village in Kachua upazila, Bagerhat.  
The condemned convict is Anisur Rahman, 35.  
It was in the year 1991 when Anisur developed an illicit affair with Shiuli Begum, 18, a student of Daibagayakati High School in Morrelganj. After seven years of illicit affair Anis was compelled to marry her in 1998 as she became pregnant. On November 25 that year, she gave birth to a baby son at her father's house at Daibagayakati village. On December 16 the same year, Anis went to visit his father-in-law's house. At night he went to bed with his wife and son. Suddenly at dead of night Shiuli woke up and became astonished when she did not find her husband and baby son in bed. The family members searched for the baby everywhere. The next morning they traced the baby's body floating in a pond of their neighbour. Anis strangled and threw him there.

Wife beaten to death for dowry in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A housewife was beaten to death for dowry allegedly by her husband at Jodubaira village under Kumarkhali upazila Monday night.  
Trishna Khatun, daughter of Kausar Sheikh of Lahinipara village, was married to Zohurul Islam four years ago.  
According to police and the victim's family, Trishna's husband was given Tk 50,000 during their marriage.  
But the greedy husband used to beat his wife at times to compel her to bring money from her parents.  
On Monday night, he beat her as she refused to do the same, killing her.  
On information, police took the body and sent it to Kushtia General Hospital.

70 hurt in clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

At least 70 persons including five women were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Gual Khula village in Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila yesterday.  
According to eye-witnesses, Abdul Mutalib and Dewan Mia had a hot exchange of words following damage of Nuru Mia's paddy field by Abdul Mutalib's cow on Monday. On Tuesday morning both the groups equipped with lethal weapons locked in a clash which lasted for two hours leaving 70 persons injured.  
Humayun, 28, Titon Mia, 32, Jamal Mia, 30, Billal Mia, 10, Rabeya Begum, 16, Ayesha Begum, 75, Shahana Begum, 35, Muhammed Mia, 50, Shahid Mia, 25 Sapna Begum, 26, Malek Mia, 30, Rahmat Ali 35, Dulal Mia, 20, Malek Mia, 40, Kazi Mojibur Rahman, 90, and Saheda Begum, 30, were sent to the Sadar Hospital. Of them Humayun, Titon, Rabeya and Sapan are in critical condition. During the clash eight houses were damaged.  
A tense situation prevails in the area where police are yet to reach till writing of the report yesterday afternoon.

Feud in Rangpur Jubo Dal: Jt secy critically injured

A CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Rangpur district Jubo Dal Joint Secretary Najmul Islam Naju was critically injured when attacked by party rivals on Monday.  
He was shot in the back at the Station Road when he along with party activist Kamal Hossen was going to party office in a motorcycle.  
As he fell down the miscreants stabbed him and cut off his nose. He was admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) in an unconscious state.  
Jubo Dal sources said Naju was attacked due to intra-party feud. He was also attacked one month back at the same place, they said.

Diarrhoea in 34 Sailkupa villages

2 killed, 5000 attacked in three days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Two persons died of diarrhoea in Sailkupa upazila in Jhenidah district in the last two days.  
At least 5,000 people have been attacked with the disease, Civil Surgeon Dr Nazrul Islam told newsmen after a visit to the affected areas yesterday.  
The dead are Abdullah, 4, son of Arab Ali of Chardhalahar village and Piroz Ali, 85, of Chayadanga village in Dhalharchandra union. Both died on Monday.  
The disease has spread to 34 villages in five  
Unions in the upazila, district health officials said.  
The civil surgeon said the situation is under control now after nine medical team started working in the area. Three camps have been opened.  
About 100 patients have been admitted to upazila health complexes at Sailkupa and Sripur (Magura).  
He said there are families where

all the members are attacked.  
The disease spread quickly as those attacked remained at home instead of going to hospitals for treatment, the civil surgeon said.  
But Abdul Bari, chairman of Dhalaharchandra Union Parishad in the affected area when contacted over phone said the disease is spreading and more people are being attacked.  
He said besides medicine, food should be supplied in the area as relief as many people are starving because their bread-earning male members are attacked with the disease.  
During a visit to Sailkupa health complex yesterday, some patients told this correspondent that they were not getting adequate medicine.  
"A doctor gave me a slip to bring medicine from outside but pharmacists told me this medicine is available only at government hospitals", Amirul Islam said.

15 injured in fire at B'baria clinic

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

At least 15 people including eight patients were injured in a devastating fire at Nightingale Medical Centre in the town Tuesday night.  
According to Fire Brigade and Civil Defence, the fire broke out at about 11 pm when a generator exploded with a big bang on the ground floor of the clinic.  
The fire spread to the entire four storied building.  
All the patients, doctors, nurses and other employees scrambled for escape amid dark smoke, causing injury to 15 people.

On information, Fire Fighting personnel rushed to the spot and rescued the victims using ladders. They extinguished the blaze in about four hours.  
Six of the injured including a baby --Rekha-- were admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital with burn injury, police said. The others admitted to the hospital are Yeamin, Sadek Mia, Nitendra Chwodhury, Ayesha Begum and an unidentified man, Sanjoy Pal, a doctor at the clinic said.  
The fire damaged surgical equipment and property worth about Tk 100,000, its officials said.



National University Vice-chancellor Prof Aftab Ahmed addressing as chief guest a function organised to mark his visit to different colleges in Joypurhat on Saturday.



Shikhhak Karmachari Front brought out a protest procession in Barisal city after holding a rally yesterday.