

SNAPS

50 hurt in B'baria clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

At least 50 people were injured in a clash between two groups at Ataydar Kandi village in Sarail upazila on Friday over weighing paddy.

The clash erupted as the buyers tried to deceive the seller through sleight of hand while weighing paddy.

Nine of the injured people were admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital and the rest were treated at Sarail Upazila health complex, sources at the hospitals said.

Police said they heard about the incident but no case was filed.

Tiger kills honey collector

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A honey collector was killed by tiger on Tuesday at Kachhi Kata in the Sundarbans.

A tiger swooped on Abdul Hai, 37, when he along with four others were collecting honey. The man eater dragged him to deep forest. The body was recovered next morning, the victim's relatives said.

Hai is the son of Ruhul Qudus of Munshigonj village in Shyamnagar upazila.

Wife beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband on Tuesday at Langaldari village in Assasuni upazila.

Fazila Khatun, 22, second wife of Abud Samad Gazi, died on the spot following the beating, police said quoting neighbours.

After her death, the killer husband poured poison on her mouth to show it as a suicide and is absconding now, police said.

2 children drown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Two school children drowned in a pond at Akua Hazibari on Monday.

The victims, Rea, 9, daughter of Ranjan Sarker and Sajoy, 9, son of Badal Chandra Sarker of Akua South Boundary Road area were missing since 2 pm on the day. Later, local people found the two bodies floating in the pond.

Being informed Kotwali police rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies.

Trader abducted for ransom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Miscereants on Monday night abducted businessman Abdul Rashid, 38, of Brajabaksa village in Kalaroa upazila while he was returning home from Kazirhat market.

Next day, the abductors called his wife Rokeya Begum over cell phone and demanded Tk 20 lakh ransom, according to a case filed by her with Kalaroa police.

The accused are Abdul Gaffar, son of Abdul Rahim of Barali village; Mintu, son of Jamal Gazi of Brajabaksa village and Abu Sadeq of Madra village in Kalaroa upazila.

Rokeya later told local journalists that the accused had demanded Tk 50,000 toll from her husband a week ago. They abducted her husband as she declined to pay the toll, she said.

'Jubo Dal cadre' shot at by rivals in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

An alleged notorious criminal, toll collector, drug peddler and Jubo Dal cadre was injured by party rivals here on Monday.

Injured Laden Tarek, 26, was shot at by rival's pistol after he attacked a Barisal jail contactor, MA Bari alias Berek belonging to Jubo Dal's Syed Akbar alias Behari Akbar group. He attacked Bari for refusal to pay him toll amounting to two lakh taka, police and eye witnesses said to this correspondent.

Laden and his two associates attacked Bari in a barber's shop in Nazirer Pole Benisingh Habeli area. When Bari along with associates and local people resisted Laden ran for safety. But he was caught, beaten and shot at.

He managed to flee and was admitted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital for treatment.

Bari lodged a case with Kotwali thana against Laden.

Meanwhile, city Jubo Dal secretary Syed Akbar denied Laden's connection with the party.

Laden, an accused in various cases, was granted bail after arrest in connection with businessman Azhar Gazi murder two years ago. The murder case is pending at Barisal STT which was stayed for four times by the High Court.

Interns on strike at BSMCH

Hospital office ransacked for alleged neglect of treatment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Interns at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital are on strike since Tuesday afternoon as relatives of a child patient ransacked the office room at surgery ward for alleged negligence by doctors.

No initiative was taken till yesterday afternoon to restore normalcy at the hospital as the district administration is busy with municipal polls, sources in the administration said.

Treatment facilities have virtually collapsed as the 500-bed hospital is dependent mainly on interns, numbering about 500. The hospital with a handful of senior doctors accommodates over 700 patients, sources at the hospital said.

The Director of the hospital lodged a general diary with police after the untoward incident.

Eight year-old Mohiuddin Sheik, son of businessman Abdur Rahman Sheikh of Hatkhola Chawak Bazar road in the city, was playing on the rooftop of their house. Suddenly he became in contact with a live high-voltage electric wire that crossed by the side of their residence.

Fatally injured Mohiuddin was rushed to the hospital at about 1.30 pm Tuesday. His hands, legs, chest and abdomen were seriously burnt, doctors and other sources at the hospital said.

Relatives of the boy alleged that doctors, without giving any emergency treatment or proper nursing, advised them to take him to Dhaka immediately.

The relatives requested the hospital authorities to allow a doctor to accompany the boy on way to Dhaka. But the authorities declined, saying there is no such provision.

At this, they became agitated and ransacked the office room at the surgery ward and assaulted some of the doctors and staff. Attendants of the other patients and police from the campus controlled the situation.

After the incident, interns began an indefinite strike demanding security of hospital staff and punishment of the attackers.

The Director of the hospital, when contacted, refuted the charge of negligence by doctors in treatment of the boy. He said the patient was referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as his condition was critical and facilities for his proper treatment were lacking at the hospital.

The child died Tuesday evening while he was being taken to Dhaka by a private air service.



The ransacked office at the surgery ward at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

PHOTO: STAR

Five-day agri-technology fair begins at Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Abul Mannan Bhuiyan inaugurated a five-day Agri-Tools and Seed Technology Fair on Bogra Rural Development Academy (RDA) premises on Tuesday.

State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Rural Development and Cooperative Secretary Hedayatul Islam Choudhury and a large number of Bangladeshi and foreign researchers and officials attended the inaugural function.

Bangladeshi researchers and officials included those from

Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI), Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU), Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute (BSRI), Department of Agriculture Extension (DEA), Rural Development Academy (RDA) and from some non-government institutions.

The purpose of the fair is to popularise various modern and affordable technologies used in agriculture. Various indigenous machines and tools used in fields and post-harvest processing of crops are on display at the fair.

Speakers at the inaugural function included Kazi Rafiqul Islam MP

and Golam Mohammad Siraj MP, both Managing Board Members of RDA; Patric Renz, General Manager of Swicecontact-KATALYST and Veena Khaleque, Country Director ITDG-Bangladesh.

RDA Director Abdul Matin presented the keynote paper.

The fair has been organized jointly by the RDA Bogra, DEA Bogra, TMSS-Bogra, ITDG - Bangladesh, KATALYST, a multi-donor project funded by the Department for International Development (DFID), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

Diarrhoea kills 3 in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Diarrhoea claimed three lives and attacked at least 200 in Bauphal and Dumki upazilas in last seven days, sources at Civil Surgeon's office said yesterday.

The dead are Rima, 8, daughter of Amir Hossain of Kashebpur village in Bauphal upazila; Jeshmin Akter, 25, wife of Mosharaf Hossain of Srirampur village and Mahinur, daughter of Mannan Mia of Rajakhali village in Dumki.

Civil Surgeon Dr. Nurun Nahar Begum told The Daily Star that oral and intravenous saline are in short supply at hospitals in the district.

"We sought 2000 saline packets for the current month but got only 400.

"So we can not supply adequate quantities of saline at hospitals and upazila health complexes," she said.

Labourer dies while working on May Day!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A labourer met the tragic end of his life on the International May Day on Saturday.

Ill-fated Ibrahim alias Baitul, 16, son of Ayub Ali of Dakkhin para village in Gangachhara, Rangpur was killed here while working on the holiday in Dhaka Tobacco Industries Ltd at Golara here.

However, Rabiul Alam, administrator of the industrial unit held Mohammad Monayem, a contractor of an under-construction building of the unit responsible for the death. He told this correspondent that no work was done on the day in his unit. But Monayem informed that Ibrahim was not a labourer of his construction site. He was electrocuted inside the industrial unit, he affirmed.

Meanwhile, labourers and local people claimed that the victim might have been saved if the authorities of the industry provided vehicle to shift him to a hospital for his treatment.

Md Yunus Ali, cousin of the ill-fated teen alleged that neither the industrial unit authorities nor the contractor concerned gave any financial help to the victim's family, rather they compelled the deceased family to leave Manikganj as early as possible after the incident, they lamented.

POLLS CAMPAIGN

Remarks by state minister anger Jhalakathi imams

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Imam Samity, an association of Muslim clerics, has declared State Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Maj (Rtd) Shajahan Omor "unwanted" in Jhalakathi district for his alleged "objectionable" comments about the Samity, made at an election projection meeting.

The Samity had earlier distributed leaflets calling upon voters to cast vote for "honest and competent candidates" in Jhalakathi municipal polls, scheduled for May 9.

At a meeting of imams organised by the Four-Party Alliance at the circuit house on April 30 in support of its candidate in the polls, the state minister allegedly criticised the

Samity for its leaflet and abused Abu Hanif, Imam of West Jhalakathi Din-Wali Mosque.

This angered the imams. They left the venue and held a meeting on the circuit house premises.

The Samity later distributed a leaflet declaring Omor "unwanted" in the district.

On Friday, after Jumma prayer, the Samity also held small meetings at different mosques at Jhalakathi town and condemned the state minister for his comments.

This correspondent tried to contact Omor over phone for his comments. Someone replied from the other side that the state minister was at a meeting and had no time to talk to newsmen.

Municipal polls: Sujon's 7-day motivational programme ends today

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Sujon (Sushasaner Janiye Nagorik), a citizens' committee floated aiming at establishing democracy, development and good governance, organised motivational programmes in 35 municipal areas for a week.

Programmes such as 'Candidates Face to Face Voters' or meetings were organised to make voters aware about election of honest, efficient and dedicated candidates in municipalities, said a press release.

The programmes began on April 29 from Noapara in Jessore and will conclude today at Pangsha in Rajbari.

Earlier, similar programmes were arranged at Rangpur, Narail, Maheshpur in Jhenidah, Brahmanbaria, Daudkandi in

Comilla, Barura in Comilla, Gazipur, Naogaon, Gaibandha, Ghatail in Tangail, Tangail, Couthchandpur in Jhenidah, Chatkhil in Noakhali, Jessore, Moulvibazar, Patharghata in Barguna, Noakhali and Jhalokati.

Our Gaibandha Correspondent reports: Sujon organised the meeting here on the Shaheed Minar premises on May 2 which was presided over by convener of its district unit Moshirur Rahman Khan. It was addressed by Wahiduzzaman Khan Titu, Farhad Abdullah Harun, Shamsul Alam, chairman candidate Mohammad Khaled, president of the district Awami League, Sekender Azam Anam, president of Bar Association, Rafiqul Islam, senior programme officer, The Hunger Project, Shaikay Singha Goshawmi and Jahurul Kaiyum.

TOLL COLLECTION

Sramik Dal man caught by people, freed by police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

An activist of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal was released hours after he was caught and handed over to police yesterday for alleged illegal toll collection in the city.

Traders in Hatkhola area caught Ajay Shaha, 35, for alleged toll collection and handed him over to police in the morning.

Hearing the news, District Sramik Dal Secretary Bashir Ahmed along with some party men went to the thana.

Witnesses said there was exchange of words between the OC and Sramik Dal men at the thana. At one stage of the altercation, Bashir thumped the table, breaking the glass sheet on it. The Sramik Dal leader got another purchased immediately to replace the broken one, the witnesses said.

Ajay Shaha was released. When asked later, the OC told newsmen that Ajay Shaha was caught following a "misunderstanding among the traders". Moreover, there was no written allegation against him, the OC said.

Bashir was not available for his comment.

6 killed in Tangail road accidents

JAHANGIR ALAM, back from Tangail

Netrakona: Six persons were killed and three others injured in separate road accidents at Ghatail and Tangail on Monday.

Police sources said three tempo passengers were killed on the spot and three others injured when a Sagordighi-bound bus hit a tempo from behind near Ghatail bazaar on Monday. The dead victims were identified as Harun-ur-Rashid, 35, Abud Samad, 20, and Rangu Mia, 60. The injured were admitted to Ghatail Upazila Health Complex.

Three others were killed in another road accident at Tangail on the same day. The accident occurred when the driver of a loaded truck coming from Bogra lost control over steering at Ashakpur. The truck fell into a roadside ditch killing three persons on the spot. Their identity could not be known, but all of them were coming from Bogra by the truck.

Tk 4 lakh wood recovered: 24 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) jawans recovered about 6,000 maunds of wood worth four lakh taka from six boats in Khutikata canal under Kabodak forest station in the Sundarbans on Monday.

The woods were stolen from the Sundarbans allegedly in collaboration with forest officials.

Twenty-four people including six boatmen and 18 labourers engaged by notorious wood thieves Ashraf Mir, Amir Mir and Kalu Mir of Dhamraji village in Paickgachha upazila, Khulna were arrested. Wood thieves paid their labourers at the rate of 100 taka per head each day for cutting and carrying wood, arrested labourer Hafezur Rahman disclosed.

All the arrested along with the wood were handed over to Forest officials.



Bogra Motor Sramik Union brought out a procession in the town yesterday protesting dropping of names of two BNP men from the charge sheet in Manik Murder case.

PHOTO: STAR

MANIK MURDER

Dropping of BNP men from charge sheet protested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

About 5000 people brought out a procession in the town yesterday protesting dropping of two BNP leaders from the charge sheet of Bogra Motor Sramik Union leader Moniruzzaman Manik murder case.

The two-Dhanut thana BNP Secretary AKM Tayedul Islam Mamun and his brother AKM Thairul Alam Maksud -- are the main accused in the case.

The processionists paraded the main streets of the town and handed

over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner demanding trial of the killers.

The Bogra Motor Sramik Union also brought out a procession in the town protesting dropping of the two BNP leaders from the charge sheet and demanding punishment to the killers.

Manik was murdered on November 3 last year during day time at Chalopara in Bogra town.

After the killing, Manik's wife Shahinuruzman filed a case with the Sadar thana accusing nine

people including Mamun and Maksud.

She alleged that her husband was killed by ruling party activists for protesting illegal toll collection at Chalopara minibuss stand.

But Mamun and Maksud were dropped from the charge sheet, submitted to court recently.

After submission of the charge sheet, Bogra police however told newsmen that involvement of Mamun and Maksud in the murder was not found during investigation.

100 illegal acid traders at Bogra

Officials do not know how many licences issued

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILLU, Bogra

At least 100 traders are selling acid illegally in Bogra town and joining areas.

Some of the traders have employed teenagers to sell the dangerous item, according to sources in the district administration and police.

A recent investigation revealed that at least 50 of the traders are selling highly dangerous Nitric

Acid, Hydrochloric Acid and Sulfuric Acid illegally in Galapatty, Matidailamor, Charmata, Tinmata, Chadnibazar, Old Bus Stand and New Bus Stand areas in the town, they said.

Tapan, one of the retailers while talking to this correspondent admitted that he purchases acid from Dhaka and sells it in the town. He has no license but keeps a minimum stock of 100 pounds of acid.

The Sadar thana police during a raid a few days ago seized 195 pounds of illegal acid from Shofiyen Chemical, a shop in Old Bus Stand area. A teenaged boy was seen selling acid at the shop, a senior police official said. The boy told police that he had no idea about the item.

Sources in the administration when contacted said they have no record how many licences were given to sell acid in the district.

New technology to boost rice yield

Drum Seeder method reduces time, cost, gives 15 pc more yield

HOSSAIN SERAJ, back from Bagherpara (Jessore)

Magura: Drum Seeder method, a new way of sowing paddy seeds, has raised new hopes among farmers because it gives higher yield at lesser cost and time.

The method, innovated by Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), was displayed recently at a 'farmers' rally' held at Sholna village in Bagherpara upazila in Jessore district.

Dr Zainul Abedin, a senior researcher of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), who was present at the rally among others, highly appreciated the new technology. Boro crops raised using the method in the last sowing season were harvested and seeds were also sown during the rally, attended by many farmers from Jessore, Jhenidah and Magura districts. BRRI has so far distributed 80 Drum Seeder machines to farmers, sources said.

Dr Abedin told the rally that proper use of this technology would immensely benefit Bangladeshi farmers.

The technology is very simple

and user-friendly. Seeds can be sown in lesser time and cost than in traditional transplantation method, farmers and BRRI officials said.

Paddy seeds are kept in water for a day or two. After germination, those are sown through the Drum Seeder on prepared muddy land.

Farmers Liakat Ali and Mizanur Rahman of Sholna village and many others from adjoining Rampur, Khanpur, Keshabpur and Keshapur villages said they cultivated BRRI-29 in the current IRRI-Boro season using the method.

They said the production cost in Drum Seeder method was around Tk 900 per bigha against Tk 4,200 in traditional transplantation method.

The yield is 10 to 15 percent more, said Mizanur Rahman.

This is because seeds can be sown properly in the new method and all the plants get light, water and fertilizer equally, said Alauddin, Bagherpara upazila Agriculture Extension Department Block Supervisor.

Drum Seeder method takes 128 days from sowing to harvest while transplantation method takes at least 140 days, he said.



Paddy seed being sown in a filed at Sholna village using a Drum Seeder. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: STAR