

## SNAPS

### Heat wave kills 4 in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Heat wave has claimed four lives in Gaibandha district in last three days.

The victims are Abeda Begum, 70 and Karim, 65, of Pachinpara village, and Manikjan, 65 and Morium, 55, of Khanka Sharif village.

They fainted and died while working under the sun, their families said.

The current heat wave has almost paralysed life in the district.

Sources at Gaibandha General Hospital said a large number people are falling sick every day due to the heat wave.

### 50 injured in B'baria clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

At least 50 people were injured in a clash between villagers Natal Rajghar village under Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila on Friday.

The clash ensued from a quarrel between two children, who were sons of children of Union Parishad Chairman AbdurRouf and member Jahir.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. They arrested eight persons. No case was recorded till yesterday, police said.

### Stipends distributed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Makinganj

Stipends were distributed among recipients at Garpara Dighi Girls High School in the Sadar upazila at a simple ceremony on Friday.

Director General of Secondary and Higher Education Prof. Md. Junaid addressed the function as chief guest distributed the stipends.

It was also addressed by, among others, daily Janakantha Executive Editor and President of the school managing committee Borhan Ahmed, Zila Parishad Secretary Khandaker Rafiqul Islam, Islamic Foundation Deputy Director MA Awal, Upazila Prject Officer Ashahidur

### UNO manhandled by UP chairman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) was abused and manhandled by a Union Parishad chairman and his men for rebuking him earlier for felling timber trees from government land.

Sources said Angaria UP Chairman Sukur Ali Howlader had felled some trees from government lands without permission. When this was reported to Dumki UNO, he visited the area on Saturday and rebuked the UP chairman.

The UNO had told the UP chairman that felling trees without permission amounted to stealing, the sources said. This angered him.

On Saturday in the evening, the UP chairman accompanied by about 100 followers laid a siege to the residence of the UNO. They rebuked and manhandled the UNO.

The UNO was not available for his comment as he went to Barisal for official work.

Patuakhali ADC (general) Bazlur Rashid confirmed the incident.

# Outlaws moving to southern districts from SW region

## Contact with local groups established: Links with ruling, opposition parties maintained

AKTER FARUK, Barisal

Disturbed by fundamentalists under the banner of Jagrata Muslim Janata (JMJ) and law enforcers in the southwestern zone, outlaws known as Sarboharas are now taking shelter in southern Barisal division.

Ringleaders of the outlaws, mostly belonging to Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP), have established links with contact groups and agents and recruited new members in the region, according to intelligence sources.

They have chosen the quite riverine region because of its remote char (shoal) lands with no road links, which make law enforcers' operation difficult.

Although Barisal police is not well aware of their fresh move, sources in intelligence agencies said they have collected important information about their regrouping in the area.

Small groups of outlaws are

already active in Banaripara, Babuganj, Gournadi, Uzirpur, Agailjhara, Hizla, Muladi, Atghar Kuriana, Swarupkati and Nzairpur areas of Barisal and in Jhalakati and Pirojpur districts.

They maintain close connection with leaders of both ruling and opposition parties.

In the recent municipal elections, particularly at Banaripara and Gournadi, Sarbaharas worked in favor of ruling party candidates, sources said.

In December last, their program to surrender to the Home Minister at Babuganj did not take place due to absence of local ruling party MPs.

Since December, they are trying to establish new strongholds in the vast area covering 20 districts including Khulna and Barisal divisions and four districts of Dhaka division on the western bank of Padma river, the sources said.

PBCP leaders visited Barisal several times in recent months and established contacts with local

Sarbahara groups. They have selected local agents and cadres from groups led by Kamrul and Zia.

Some sources claim that the recent looting incidents at Vandaria, Neamoti Bandar, Vurghata and Shikarpur Bazar done by Sarbaharas were only to test police strength in this region.

But the PBCP has its rivals also in the region. It had sent 'advance teams' at least four times in the last two months. Eight of them were caught and killed by rival groups in Faridpur recently.

After that PBCP went slow for some time and then arranged a meeting with their contact persons at Sakaria village in Solia Bakpur union in Banaripara upazila on May 11.

It also held another secret meeting of 'front line cadres and leaders' at a college in Pirojpur town.

Khora Liton, a notorious PBCP cadre, recently visited Barisal and met some contact persons at a residential hotel in Port Road area in

the city. Plans for coordination among rival groups of local Sarbaharas, safety, and secrecy of party activities were discussed at the day-long meeting.

After the meeting, Ali Hossain, a PBCP hit-man in the south western region, was sent to Barisal to evaluate the situation and party strength set-up. He stayed for four days at the residence of a contact person at Sadar Road in the city.

"He felt satisfied", a PBCP contact person told this correspondent. "Now the total set up is ready and organised", he said.

Banaripara thana Officer-in-Charge Nazrul Islam, said, "Some Sarbaharas had gathered at Sakaria village on May 11 but could not hold a meeting due to police surveillance".

But Barisal Police Superintendent Md. Mohsin said they have no information that Sarbaharas are regrouping and gaining strength in the district.

# A police station in name only

## No speedboat, vehicle at Kuakata police station

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The policemen have no speedboat, no vehicle, not even a motorcycle. They move in rickshaws and rickshaw vans on receipt of emergency call.

Their lone electronic wireless set remains useless during loadshedding, which is 6 to 8 hours a day now.

This is how the Kuakata police station operates at the tourist spot in Patuakhali district.

It was set up at Kuakata sea beach in 1993 to ensure safety of tourists and local people, specially fishermen in the coast.

It is manned by one sub-inspector (SI), two assistant sub-inspectors (ASI) and 17 constables.

They can not communicate with other police stations or teams during loadshedding.

"We sought a generator long ago but do not know whether we will get it", a policeman told this correspondent during a visit.

There is no boundary wall or gate at the outpost. "Our guns and bullets are insecure. These can be easily looted by pirates who possess sophisticated firearms", he said.

They have no deep tubewell for drinking water. They have to fetch drinking water from nearby areas.

"Pirates often loot fishing boats but we can not move fast for want of speed boat and vehicle", said station-in-charge

Nikhil Ranjan. Fisherman Abdul Mannan said, "They (police) are of no help against pirates".

Another fisherman Akkas Ali said the policemen only patrol a limited area of the beach. "They have no ability to catch any snatcher or robber due to they have no even a motor cycle."

Hotel owner Anwar Hossain Anu at the sea beach laughingly said, "This (police station) is a sow only. Criminals escape safely after committing crimes as police move in rickshaws".

Nikhil Ranjan however said the police station is only a 'probe centre'. "We can only investigate cases in the area filed with Kalapara thana".



PHOTO STAR  
The structure is impressive and massive but not properly equipped with man and material. The Kuakata police station is of little use to the local people, tourists and fishermen in the coast. The photo was taken last week.

# ICS cadre Sohel murder in Kushtia

## Outlaws claim responsibility, police bring murder charge

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Police on Saturday recovered the severed head and two wrists of notorious Islami Chhtra Shibir (ICS) cadre Monwar Hossain Shoel alias 'cadre Shoel' from near the main gate of the university.

A tense situation is prevailing on the campus. Additional police have been deployment, campus sources said when contacted yesterday.

Police said they found on the severed parts a slip in the name of Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF), claiming responsibility for the murder. GMF is an offshoot of outlawed Shromojibi Mukti Adolon.

Police at IU outpost claimed that Shoel along with some ICS activists was going home at Saikupa in a rented private car Friday evening. A gang of eight GMF armed men stopped the car at Habibpur at about 8 pm and picked up Shoel at gun-point.

They killed him, severed his head and wrists and kept those near the main gate of the university. Police said they came to know about the killing when an unanimous caller phoned the IU police outpost. But police could not recover the body.

They said Shoel, 28, was accused in several criminal cases including two murder cases, filed with IU police.

He was involved in the killing of Kumarkahli Municipality Ward Commissioner Ali Azam on the campus on April 28, 1995. Azam had gone there with his sister for her admission.

He led another gang that killed JCD activist Hafizur Rahman on April 26 last year. He was accused in both the murder cases, police said.

Besides, there are several cases of abduction, snatching and toll collection against him, filed with Saikupa and IU police stations.

Campus sources said Shoel was admitted to the Al-Quran Department in 1992-93 session and completed his MTIS (Masters in Theology and Islamic Studies) degree on 2002.

He was the son of Mosarraf Hossain, a retired teacher of Saikupa Degree College, hailing from Sailmari in Bheramara upazila in the district.

After admission to IU, Shoel joined ICS, a student front of Jamaat-e-Islami.

Soon after, Shoel became known as 'cadre Shoel' for his leading role and notoriety.

Shoel led ICS activists in at least 25 clashes with opponents including activists of Bangladesh Chhtra League (BCL), Bangladesh Jatoyatabadi Chhtra Dal (JCD), Chhtra Union, Chhtra Moitree and Chhtra Front at different times from 1993 to 2002, the campus sources said.

Police said Shoel led a trained cadre group on the campus that also controlled area adjoining the campus to establish supremacy of ICS.

They said although Shoel completed his Masters degree, he was staying at Saddam Hossain Hall of the university.

Another source said Shoel was doing M. Phil in AL-Quran department.

He recently abducted two contractors and demanded Tk 10 lakh ransom. A case was filed against him in this regard.

The sources claimed that he maintained links with outlawed parties and shared booty with them.

ICS sources at IU said Shoel's was suspended from the party recently for his involvement in criminal activities.

# Diarrhoea kills 25 in Noakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Diarrhoea has taken a serious turn in the district, claiming 25 lives in last one month. The dead include seven children.

Over 5,000 have been attacked with the disease. Begumganj, Chakthil and Senbagh upazilas are the most affected areas, sources at the Civil Surgeon's office said yesterday.

They said over 500 people were attacked in the last two days.

Thirty to 40 afflicted people are being admitted to Noakhali General Hospital daily, they said.

A large number of patients are

being treated at different upazila health complexes and private clinics.

Lack of pure drinking water is the main cause of outbreak of the disease in coastal Sudharam, Hatia, and Companiganj areas.

Sources in the areas claimed that the disease is spreading and medicines and saline packets are lacking.

Denying the allegation, the sources said 120 medical teams are working in the affected areas. Steps have been taken to open 28 temporary treatment camps in those areas, they said.

# Aftab murder verdict tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Argument in the sensational Dr. Aftab Hossain Murder case was completed in the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Sylhet on Saturday.

The verdict will be pronounced tomorrow.

Trial of the much talked murder case began on November 1 last year. Charge-framing was completed on October 19.

The court examined 34 witnesses.

The six charge sheeted accused are Noman Uddin Murad, Jashimuddin, Sujon Ali, Luthfur Rahman, Abdul Haque and Sufian.

Among them, Jashimuddin, is absconding.

Dr Aftab Hossain, Assistant Director of Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, was called out of his private medical chamber at Dhakadakhin Bazar in Golapganj upazila by some people on the night of September 14, 2002 on the plea of attending an elderly patient.

They took him to a hillock at Ghoshgaon village and killed him there. The miscreants also took away

the doctor's motorbike, mobile phone and money.

The body was recovered in the following morning.

It was later alleged he was killed for refusing to pay toll.

Following the filing of a case, the then Officer in charge of Golapganj PS was entrusted with investigation of the case.

Dr Aftab was well known for his amiable behaviour with all. The killing sparked widespread resentment.

A hartal was observed in the whole upazila and the BMA (Bangladesh Medical Association) members in the district also observed a strike for trial of the killers.

The central BMA also gave memorandum to the government for arrest and punishment of the killers. But, all went in vain due to alleged police negligence. It was alleged that the killers moved freely in the area after the killing but they were not arrested due to the "mysterious behaviour" of the then OC of Golapganj.

The case was transferred to the Detective Branch. Later, the Police Superintendent and the OC were transferred from Sylhet.

# Gaibandha skipped from Internet network

## Only 20 km cable link can provide the service

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Telephone and Internet subscribers at Gaibandha district town are deprived of facilities provided by the sophisticated optical fibre cable network for want of only a 20 km link between Gaibandha to Palashbari cable loop.

The network connects Gaibandha with Bogra and Palashbari with the northern region up to Panchagarh but there is no link between Gaibandha and Palashbari.

The optical fibre cable network built by Chinese company CMEC in 2002 covers all northern most districts including Rangpur, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Sayedpur, Nilphamari, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh from Bogra, excluding Gaibandha.

The cable line touches Gobindaganj and Paleshbari but the district town is yet to be linked for unknown reasons.

Officials of the T&T department, when contacted, could not give any satisfactory reply.

The Divisional Engineer (O&W), Bogra, when contacted over phone however said the cable network

project is yet to be handed over to them and is still under trial. But he could not say anything about linking Gaibandha with Palashbari.

Many Internet users told this correspondent that they suffer as Gaibandha telephone exchange is still being manually operated.

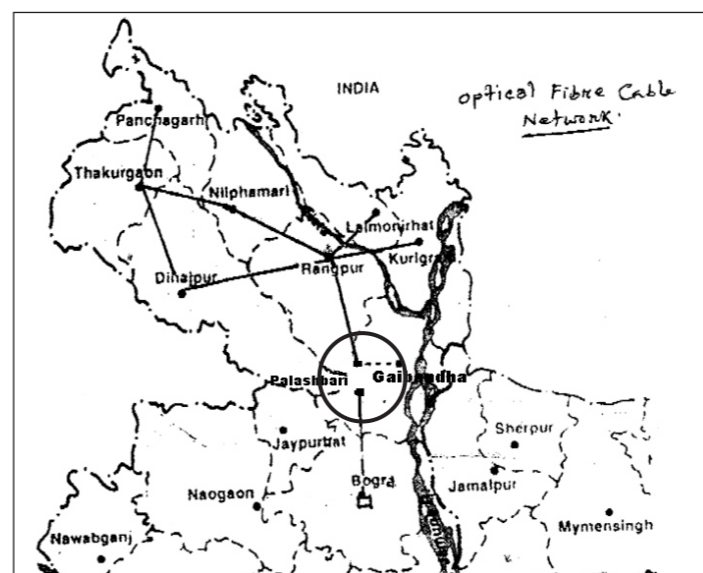


PHOTO STAR  
The circle shows the 20-kilometre stretch from Gaibandha to Palashbari, not connected by the optical fibre cable. Palashbari is connected with the rest of the northern region.

# 6X3

# 12X2