



Flood water overflowing the Gobindaganj-Dinajpur highway at Kaiyaganj, disrupting road communication between Gaibandha and Dinajpur. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

## AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK, BOMB PLANTING AT KOTALIPARA 3 top CID officials visit 3 dists to 'verify' findings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Three top CID officials from Dhaka visited Khulna, Satkhira and Faridpur districts on Saturday, Sunday and Monday on a 'secret mission'.

They came to 'check and recheck' suspected connection of extremists and Islamic militants in the August 21 grenade attack at Sheikh Hasina's public meeting in Dhaka, planting of a 76 kg bomb her public meeting venue at Kotalipara and

bomb attacks on Khulna Ahmadiyya madrasa, sources said.

Members of the team are Special Police Superintendent Ruhul Amin, Senior ASP Munshi Atiqur Rahman and ASP Abdur Rashid.

The CID (Criminal Investigation department) officials made the shuttle tour to review the latest position in investigations of the cases. They held meetings with high officials of police and intelligence agencies in Khulna, Satkhira and Faridpur.

Sources seeking anonymity said that they also collected information about Jamaat leader Shahabuddin Lashkar alias Dhira to investigate whether he had any connection with August 21 grenade attack and Kotalipara bomb planting.

They also collected lists of extremists and Islamic militants hiding in different south-western districts and information on the bomb attack on a cinema hall and a Jarta Pandai in Satkhira.

## 8 get life for robbery, murder in Tangail

A CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

A court here on Tuesday sentenced eight persons for robbery and killing of a man of a bridal party on the Jamuna river in 1994.

First Additional District and Sessions Judge Aftab Uddin Ahmed handed down the punishment to Abdul Gafur, Taleb Ali, Mohammad Nizam, Mozid Miah (1), Alamgir Hossen, Mazid Miah (2), Salamat Hossen and Roice Uddin, all from Bhupur upazila in the district. Of the convicts, Mazid Miah (1), Alamgir Hossen, Mazid Miah (2), Salamat Hossen and Roice Uddin were tried in absentia. Another accused --Abdul Kader-- died during trial.

The convicts were among a gang of 25 who attacked a bridal party on the Jamuna on its way to Pachgacchi by an engine boat on June 23, 1994.

## Scouts launch tree-plantation, sanitation week in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

An annual conference of Satkhira District Rover Scouts was held here yesterday.

The scouts launched a tree plantation and sanitation week on the occasion.

The conference, held on Satkhira City College ground, was presided over by district Scout Commissioner Maniruzzaman.

Satkhira Deputy Commissioner Md. Elias was the chief guest at the function, addressed by, among others, Principal Prof Sukumar Das, Principal Emdadul Haque, Principal Nazibullah, Principal Nazibul Islam, Manirul Islam, ASM Abdur Rashid, Rezaullah, Yasin Ali, Dr Zahurul Islam, Abu Taleb, Zafar Iqbal, Abdul Mannan and Sirazul Islam.

## Human chain for trial of Jubo League leader murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Patuakhali*

A human chain was formed here yesterday demanding punishment of the killers of district Jubo League leader Mahmudur Rahman Polash.

He died on July 11 from fatal injuries he suffered in a factional clash at a party council on July 7.

Family members and local people organised the human chain in front of the Deputy Commissioner (DC)'s office from 11 am to 11.30 am.

On the occasion, a brief rally was held there, addressed by among others, slain Polash's wife Rokhana Pervin Ripa, father advocate Sultan Ahmed Mridha, Patuakhali Municipal Commissioner Akhteruzzaman Nobel and Jubo League leader Moniruzzaman. They demanded trial of the murder.

Earlier on Tuesday, family members of Polash addressed a press conference at the local press club demanding trial of the murder.

Palash's father filed a murder case accusing 18 people including Municipal Chairman Mostaq Ahmed Pinu.

## Another BSCIC estate in Jessore planned

ABU BAKR SIDDIQUE, *Jessore*

Setting up of another industrial estate in Jessore is in the offing.

A 'plan system profile' (PSP) for this effect has already been sent to the Industries Ministry.

The land allotment committee has identified 40 acres of land at Daitala in Fatehpur union along the Jessore-Narail road in the Sadar upazila of the district for this. There will be 155 plots in the new estate.

The new industrial estate is being set up considering the prospect of investments in Jessore, sources in BSCIC administration and the land allotment committee told this correspondent yesterday.

"We are getting applications for plots in the existing BSCIC estate at Jhumjhum Pur almost every day", an official said.

As there is no plot in Jhumjhum

Pur BSCIC area, steps have been taken the step to establish another estate, he said.

The decision was taken after members of the Land Allotment Committee and some prospective entrepreneurs met Industries Minister Matiur Rahman Nizami a few months back, other sources in the BSCIC said.

The PSP was sent to the ministry on April 30 along with an estimated cost for setting up the 155-plot industrial estate.

The lease money for a plot may be around Tk one lakh, the sources said.

This correspondent also talked to some of the applicants for plots. One of them said he will set up an automobile workshop as there is none in the Jhumjhum Pur BSCIC estate.

Talking to this correspondent, Jessore BSCIC official said the Industries Minister is in favour of setting up another industrial estate in Jessore, considering the prospects. Once the land is acquired, site development and other work will be completed and plots allotted to applicants within a short time.

Sources in Jhumjhum Pur BSCIC office said, the government will earn over Tk one crore revenue annually from the new estate.

He said the BSCIC is getting very good investment proposals, including some for setting up of textile, leather, garment, food processing units. This shows the enthusiasm among investors, he added. Considering the geographical location and proximity to the border, Jessore can be developed as an industrial city, he noted happily.



People formed a human chain on the road in front of Patuakhali Deputy Commissioner's office yesterday demanding trial of the killers of Jubo League leader Mahmudur Rahman Polash. PHOTO: STAR

## Rab nabs top Khulna outlaw Bappi in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Kazi Golam Kader alias Bappi, one of the 'most notorious listed criminals' in Khulna city, was arrested in Dhaka on Tuesday by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and brought to Khalishpur RAB headquarters yesterday.

An armed cadre of outlawed PBCP Janajuddho faction, Bappi is wanted in connection with cases including three for murder, one for kidnapping for ransom, one for police assault and two for 'rioting'. The cases were filed with Khulna and Sonadanga thanas of the city since 1997.

Golam Kader Bappi came to limelight in the crime world after the gruesome murder of his rival and musclemen Abdus Salam at

Tootpara under Khulna thana in 1997. Salam was killed by pushing an injection and then his body was mutilated and eyes gouged.

Khulna Rab admitted arrest of this dreaded criminal after he was brought to Khulna.

Neither RAB DG Abdul Aziz Sarker nor any KMP official confirmed information of his arrest till 9:30 pm on Tuesday.

He is now being quizzed at Rab headquarters at Khalishpur, sources said.

Son of Awami League leader late Kazi Mohammad Hashem of 24, South Tootpara Circular Road under Khulna thana, Golam Kader Bappi tops the list of wanted terrorists in Khulna.

The Officer-in-Charge of KMP Special Branch said Bappi's name is

also on top of listed bomb makers. All three murders were committed by him in Ward No 30 in the city.

According to Khulna thana police, Bappi became linked with PBCP Janajuddho faction in 2002 and went into hiding in the face of combing operations by joint forces and Rapid Action Battalion. Police suspect his involvement in all the killing by outlaws in Khulna city since 2003.

Police said he made two abortive attempts on the life of Awami League leader Moazzem Rashidi Doja in 2000. Doja is also wanted by Rab and police in connection with crimes and possession of illegal arms. He is the youngest brother of Khulna district Awami League Secretary and former Whip Mostafa Rashidi Shuja.

## A potential cottage industry in Noakhali needs attention

BDNEWS, *Noakhali*

Khalifar Haat, a place 12-kilometre off the district town, has much potential with Hogla (reed) industry if properly patronised.

Most of the people among 30,000 inhabitants of the area are in some way connected with the cottage industry as their ancestral occupation as the unique species of reed is found in plenty here.

At least 3,000 men were engaged in Hogla cultivation.

Farmers said they did not have to toil much to cultivate Hogla; if they sowed the roots in the rainy season, the land would become huge bushes of Hogla to be reaped by the month of July.

Moreover, they could make tasty foods like Vapa Pitha (a kind of steamed rice cake) with the powder

made from the bottom of Hogla flowers collected during July. This Hogla powder sells at Tk 20 to Tk 25 per kilogram.

Khalifar Haat is the major market of different products made of Hogla reeds. The wholesalers export Hogla products to Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet, Rangpur and other parts of the country from here. Some allege that the products are being smuggled to India, mainly by the Indian Khasia Adivasi women.

Belal Hossain, 30, a Hogla trader, told if they cultivate Hogla in one acre of land they could earn as many as Tk 20 to 30 thousand and on the other, they could earn only Tk 10 to 15 thousand from paddy cultivation.

At least 10,000 women were engaged in Hogla cottage industry. Various products could be made with Hogla reeds but the artisans

made only Chatais (local mat), hand fans and brooms due to lack of proper training.

Amena Begum, 50, a Hogla craftswoman, said they could make upgraded and luxury products if they were properly trained.

Hogla trader Kamal Uddin, 55, told the industry would boom and could play a vital role in the national economy if they were patronised by the government.

However, admitting the necessity to provide loans to help develop the cottage industry, agriculture officer Khalil Azad said neither the Hogla cultivators nor the traders had ever asked them for help.

The brighter prospect of Hogla cottage industry has yet been overlooked by many NGOs like BRAC and NRDS that have been working here since long.

7x2

11x3



PHOTO: BDNEWS

Two women making a Hogla (reed) in Khalifar Haat village in Noakhali. The cottage industry employs about 30,000 people but failed to draw the attention of the government and NGOs.