

Robbers kill NGO office guard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

One person was killed and another injured during an armed robbery at the office of HEED Bangladesh, an NGO, at Chalna under Dakop upazila Monday midnight, police said.

The dead is Shital Sarder,32, while the injured is Rajendra Nath Roy, both of them security guards of the NGO. Injured Rajendra was admitted to Dakop Upazila Health Complex.

Police said, a gang of robbers entered the NGO office at about 11-30 and looted Tk 8,852 from the cash box.

The robbers strangled Shital who raised a hue and cry.

Police recovered the body early yesterday morning.

Child burnt to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

A child was burnt to death and five houses were gutted in a devastating fire in Sakhipur upazila Monday night.

The victim is Bibhas Sarkar, 5, only son of Anil Sarkar of Chakdaha village.

The fire originated from a stag of straw of the house of Biswanath Sarkar. Soon it spread to four nearby houses.

Later, locals recovered the charred body of Bibhas from one of the burnt houses.

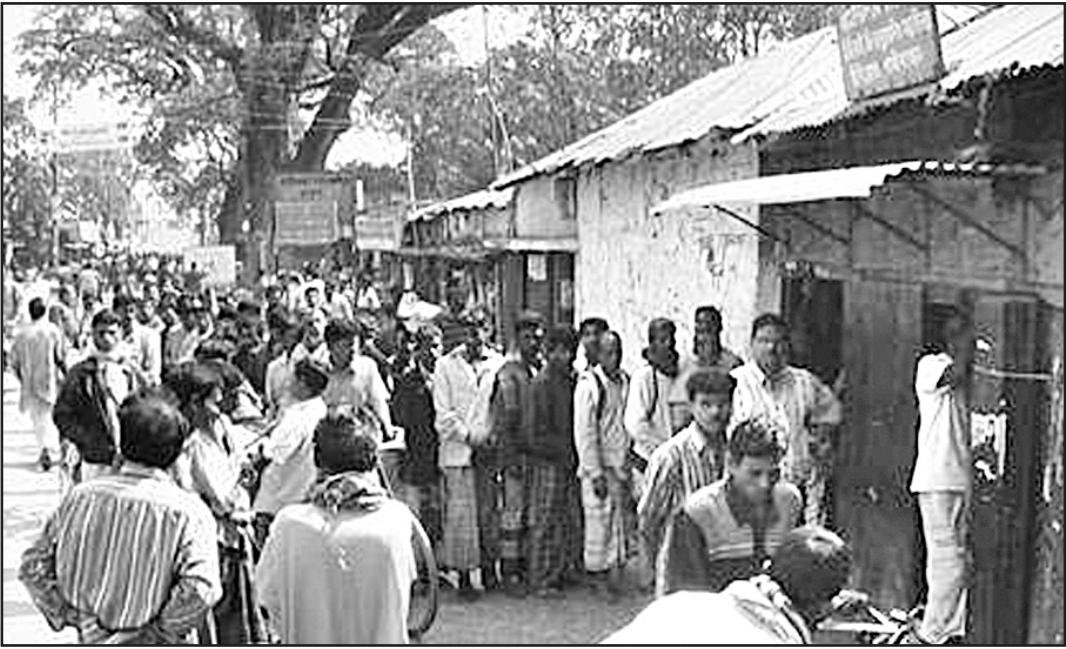


PHOTO: STAR

Gaibandha farmers crowd the fertiliser dealers' shops in the town only to find them shut on Monday.

Gaibandha farmers besiege UNO's house for fertiliser

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gaibandha*

Hundreds of farmers from different areas crowded the dealers shops in Gaibandha town Monday, but the shops remained shut as they had no supply from the buffer stocks for the last three days.

Fertiliser hungry farmers besieged the residence of Gobindagnaj Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) demanding supply of fertiliser

as local dealers stopped distribution of fertiliser specially urea from Saturday. The UNO, however, assured them of smooth supply of fertiliser from the next day.

According to Gaibandha Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) this season around one lakh 33 thousand 77 hectare of land have been brought under Rabi crop farming. This includes Boro crop on one lakh 251 hectares. The department earlier placed requirement of 40,790

metric tonnes of urea fertiliser for five months from November'06 to March'07 for Rabi crop farming in the district.

The control room of district fertiliser monitoring cell, told this correspondent that the allocation of fertiliser in the district was 13,300 metric tonnes for the month of January'07 while the buffer stock position was 15,846 tonnes.

Meanwhile, some 10,890 tonnes of fertiliser have already been distributed among hundreds of dealers in Gaibandha district from buffer stock till Monday. They will now receive the remaining 2,410 tonnes of total allocation. The present position of buffer stock is 4,956 tonnes.

The buffer stock authority is distributing fertiliser cautiously as the stock position is nearly exhausted. It will not be possible to supply fertiliser from next week unless buffer stock received fresh consignment, said a source in the control room.

'We have realised from field visit that the farmers are using much more fertiliser than the prescribed dose just for getting high yield. This is a major cause for which the requirement of fertiliser exceeded its target, said Abdul Matin, Deputy Director of Agriculture Extension Department.

The frustrated farmers at Mithapukur in Rangpur district also barricaded Rangpur-Bogra highway for over an hour Monday demanding supply of fertiliser which disrupted traffic movement between Rangpur-Bogra and Gaibandha.

Jute seeds seized, 2 held in Khulna

BSS, *Khulna*

Members of joint force arrested two persons in connection with the seizure of a huge quantity of jute seeds worth about Tk 21,64,800 from a warehouse during a drive in the city on Sunday.

Police said, during the raid, the force seized 330 sacks of Indian jute seeds from a warehouse 'Taj Trading' on the Station Road and arrested its manager A Sattar and employee Shahidulo on charge of illegally hoarding the seeds.

Beside, the force also seized 270 sacks of spurious turmeric powder and brick powder from another warehouse of the owners of 'Taj Trading'.

A case was filed against the owners of the warehouses Ali Ahmed and MA Wahab in these connections, sources said.

Former Nilphamari lawmaker Amzad Sarkar on the run

Joint forces fail to net him despite several raids

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Nilphamari*

Once most powerful BNP lawmaker from Nilphamari-4 (Saidpur and part of Kishoreganj) constituency Amzad Hossain Sarkar is now on the run.

The joint forces raided his house several times but could not catch him. They gave him 72 hours time to surrender. Time ticked away but he did not turn up.

Gossip is there in Saidpur and Kishoreganj that to camouflage his identity bearded Amzad is clean-shaven now and is trying to flee to a neighbouring country where his in-laws reside.

Amzad Hossain Sarkar is widely blamed for a number of murders, extortion, tender manipulation, harassing opponents by filing false cases and assaulting local journalists. His order was 'unwritten law' in Saidpur and Kishoreganj upazilas where police were helpless, locals said.

Once associated with an outlawed left party Amzad used to threaten his opponents by gesturing symbolic slaughtering. Later he joined a student organisation followed by joining Workers Party.

His fiery speeches for establishing the rights of the 'have-nots' brought him to the limelight. Backed by the party, he was then elected chairman of Saidpur municipality. But due to his lust for power he changed his colour again to join BNP and elected a parliament member in 2001.

During his five years five murders were committed in Saidpur town. The victims are Ayub of Shaheb Para, Mongru of Bansh Bari, Kalu of Naya Bazar, Salam of Kazipara and Kazi Rubel of Sipaiganj village.

Amzad was charged in Rubel Murder Case. The gruesome killing took place on October 30 last year, just two days after BNP's handing over power.

On February 11 this year, police framed charge sheet accusing him and his younger brother Rashidul Haque Sarkar and others.

Shaheed Minar to be built at Chowhali

Proshika, one of the country's leading NGOs, has decided to build a shaheed Minar at Sailajana under Chowhali upazila of Sirajganj district.

According to a press release of the organisation, the monument will be built in memory of martyrs of the historic language movement as there is no permanent Shaheed Minar at Sailajana, the birthplace of language movement hero Abdul Matin.

The decision came in the wake of stories published in a section of the press recently that there is no permanent Shaheed Minar at Chowhali and local people have been observing the occasion at makeshift memorial built every year with Banana trees.

The foundation stone of the proposed Shaheed Minar will be laid by Abdul Matin in the morning of February 21 at an impressive ceremony.

Proshika chairman Dr Quazi Faruque, senior members of Proshika and renowned personalities from Dhaka and the locality will attend the function, the press release said.

Degree College, Kishoreganj College, Hazarihaat College, Adarsha College and Radharani College under his constituency as they opposed Amzad's 'unjustified' decisions. One of the victims was Shakhawat Hossain Khokon, son of Dr Shamsul Haque, a renowned martyr in Saidpur during Liberation War

In July, 2005, Amzad established a business management college in Saidpur after the name of his late father Mokbul Hossain. But this college has neither any registration nor academic recognition.

Dr Abul Hasan Bulu, a leader of the Bangalee community at Saidpur alleged that Amzad Hossain Sarkar compelled the upazila administration to allot

scores of houses to the Bihari community in exchange for money.

The project sparked a fierce and bloody clash between the Bangla speaking people and police on March 20, 2004.

A case was filed and Amzad Hossain Sarkar allegedly influenced police to accuse his opponent political leaders Humayun Kabir Milon of JSD (Rob) and Mohammad Jevisco of Communist Party. Both of them had contested against him in the parliamentary election of 2001.

The Daily Ittefaq correspondent at Saidpur Gopal Chandra despatched a news item on 'broom procession' against Amjad last year. This has annoyed the former lawmaker who roughed him up.

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7X3

5.5X2