

3 RU transport
staffers beaten

RU CORRESPONDENT

Unruly students of Rajshahi University (RU) beat up a transport staff, a driver and a helper of the university bus Monday night, campus sources said.

Earlier, Borhan Uddin, a first year student of Folklore Department, sustained serious injuries when he tried to climb a running bus of the university at Shaheed Bazar zero point, they said.

The students requested the bus driver to stop the bus for shifting the injured student to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH). But the driver did not pay heed to their request and drove fast towards the campus.

On arrival at the campus, agitating students assaulted both the bus driver and helper of the bus.

They shifted injured Borhan to the university medical centre for treatment immediately after their arrival on the campus.

Later, they went to the university transport office and asked for its director. At that time, a staff of the transport section, Khalilur Rahman, misbehaved with the students resulting in an altercation among them. At a one stage, the agitating students started beating Khalilur. Unruly students also tried to ransack the transport office but police rushed to the spot and controlled the situation.

When contacted, university transport director, Dr Sayed Rafiqul Alam, said they would investigate the matter.

'Listed' criminal killed by rivals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A 'listed' criminal was chopped to death by rivals at Khagorbaria village in Faridpur upazila Monday night, police said.

Rivals attacked Fazlu Hossain, 33, son of Mirjal alias Mizan Mollah when he was returning home from a market, police said. The assailants chopped him indiscriminately leaving him dead on the spot.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Pabna hospital morgue for autopsy.

Trial of extortion case against Minu begins

Hearing of first prosecution witness held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Trial of an extortion case filed against Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu began at the third court of Rajshahi Additional Sessions Judge yesterday.

The court recorded statement of Shamsul Alam Khan, first prosecution witness (PW) and plaintiff of the case.

Minu and nine other arrested accused in the case were produced before the court. The nine are district BNP vice president Nazrul Huda, BNP activists Mainul Islam, Ranju, Ashraf, Shamsul, Senu, Babu and Mamun.

However, a key accused and former city BNP general secretary Shafiqul Haque Milon is absconding.

As many as 13 witnesses including three policemen were shown as prosecution witnesses.

Earlier, the court framed charges

against 11 persons on July 26.

Tight security measures were taken during hearing of the witness. Police did not allow journalists to enter the court premises.

But, police allowed Minu's wife Salma Shahadat and some of his political aides to enter inside the court. Some police officials were also seen exchanging views with Minu and his aides outside.

Later, Khan told reporters that the public prosecutor (PP) did not help him as he was under pressure of the defence lawyers at the court.

Shamsul Alam Khan, a governing body member of Evergreen Model College filed the case with Rajpara Police Station on April 21.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Abdur Rahman Sarkar of Rajpara Police Station pressed charges against 11 persons

including Minu.

According to charges, the accused persons waylaid Khan at Baharampur Bypass intersection and demanded Tk 4 lakh as illegal toll from him on March 29 this year at the directive of Minu. They also allegedly assaulted him.

Earlier, Minu called Khan and college principal Abu Yusuf Selim at his office and urged them to include his men, Nazrul and Milon, in the college governing body in 2006.

Minu also threatened them with the dire consequences for non-compliance, Khan alleged.

But, Nazrul, Milon and Senu went to the college and demanded Tk 1 lakh as toll for not including their name in the college governing body on July 4, 2006. They forcibly took away bricks worth Tk 25,000 and school furniture worth Tk 13,000.



BDR arrested Shafiqul Islam (right) allegedly with two kilograms of heroin at Alatuli in Chapainawabganj Monday night.

34 more attacked with 'mass hysteria'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

About 34 students of Panchhari Bazaar School and College were attacked with 'mass hysteria' yesterday.

With the new victims, a total of 76 students were attacked with 'mass hysteria' in last two days in Panchhari upazila. The patients are undergoing treatment at the upazila health complex.

Hospital sources said first of all, Shahana Begum, a student of Class 8 fell unconscious at her Domdombi house in Panchhari upazila at about 8 am yesterday. Her sister, Rozina Begum, a married woman fell unconscious with the same symptom within 30 minutes of the incident. She took care of her younger sister Shahana for the last two days, locals said.

Earlier, 40 students were attacked with the disease within two hours on Monday, the school authorities said. Later, they announced closure of the school for three days. The attacked students have undergone treatment at Panchhari Upazila Health Complex.

Gayan Prabat Talukder, Principal of Panchhari Bazar School and College said the students got frightened after the incident. We sent the affected students to hospital immediately after the incident, he said.

Khagrachhari Hill District Council (KHDC) Chairman Monindra Lal Tripura, member Abu Baker Siddique, Civil Surgeon Dr Abu Taher, Upazila Family Planning In charge Dr Shahid Talukder, Dr Rafiqul Islam, Dr Mostafa and Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Nesar Ahmed visited the students at the hospital.

Mohammad Noman, an on-duty doctor at Panchhari Upazila Health Complex termed the disease a mental one. It is spreading fast from one person to another, he said.

UP member gets 2-yr RI

A CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A union parishad (UP) member was sentenced to two years rigorous imprisonment (RI) and fined Tk 5000, in default to suffer 6 months more for misappropriating corrugated iron (CI) sheets meant for relief in Noakhali yesterday.

The convict was identified as Babul Mostafa, Bijbag UP member under Senbagupazila in the district.

A case was filed against Babul Mostafa with Senbag police station after joint forces recovered 13 CI sheets from his house on February 19.

Marriage of 2 adolescents stopped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Marriage of two adolescents has been stopped at Koira village in Khulna.

Their marriage was stopped due to timely intervention of Koira Upazila Nirbahi officer (UNO) Mohammad Amin yesterday.

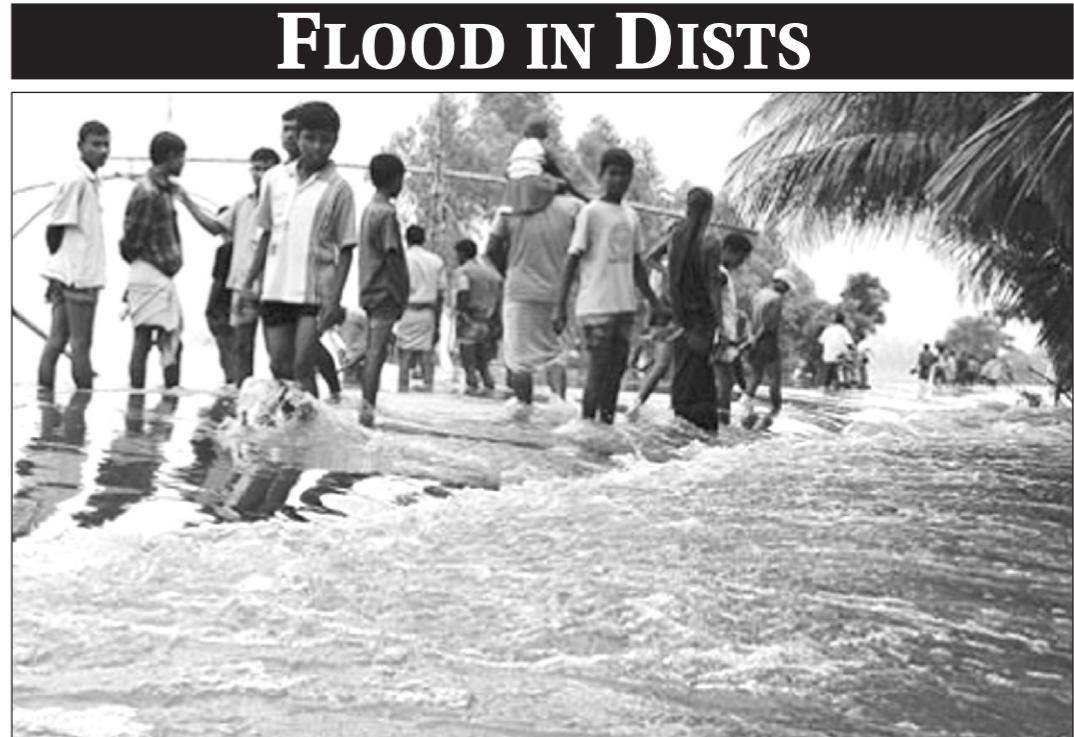
The bride was Shiuli Akhter Shima, 13, daughter of Babar Gazi of Koira village while the bridegroom was Rabiu Islam, 16, son of Rustam Ali of Bagerhat town.

As soon as the UNO came to know about the marriage ceremony, he along with Koira Police Station officer-in-charge (OC) Abul Kalam raided the venue of marriage at a house in Koira Sadar upazila and rescued Shiuli Akhter Shima and Rabiu Islam from there.

Shiuli Akhter is a student of Class 8 at Koira Dakhil Madrasa while Rabiu Islam is a ticket seller at Bagerhat bus stand. Both of them were taken to safe custody in Koira Police Station from where they were sent back to their homes at night.

Police arrested the fathers of the bride and the bridegroom under Section 6 of Child Marriage Act, 1929, the OC said. Later they were sent to court, he added.

FLOOD IN DISTRICTS



(From top) Flood-hit locals wade through surging water overflowing Balashi-Gaibandha road; women wait for raft in front of their inundated house at Kajlar Char in Sariakandi upazila of Bogra and queue for relief at Bhupur in Tangail yesterday.

8X3

3X2