

Four bombs recovered in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtia*

Meherpur police recovered four bombs from a file at Chengarmath in Kushtia Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team went to the field and recovered the bombs wrapped in a polythene bag.

The bombs were later defused at the police station, police said. No one was arrested.

Shaikupa UNO office besieged for fertiliser

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jhenidah*

Hundreds of fertiliser hungry farmers besieged the Shaikupa Upazila Nirbahi Officer's (UNO) office for two hours on Thursday.

They laid siege to the UNO office demanding 500 metric tons (MT) of fertiliser. They alleged that earlier 800 metric tons of fertiliser was allocated for them in August but they needed 500 metric tons only in the current month (September).

When the UNO along with the farmers searched the fertiliser dealer's godown, he found it empty. He sent a message to the higher authorities to supply fertiliser without any delay to deliver the same among the farmers as soon as possible.

Hatem Ali, a farmer at Balaidanga village said he has cultivated paddy on seven bighas of land this year. He got only 20 KG fertiliser while he needs 50 KG.

Golam Sarwar, another farmer at Aushia village said he did not get any fertiliser although he cultivated paddy on four bighas of land this season. When contacted, Shaikupa UNO Mahmudul Hasan said the farmers assembled in front of his office demanding fertiliser. Immediately after the incident, he contacted the higher officials to supply the required quantity of fertiliser to farmers.

Mannan Bhuiyan's expulsion 'appropriate', says Satkhira BNP leaders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Sixty leaders of Satkhira district BNP and its front organisations in a statement yesterday said expulsion of secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan by the party chief was 'appropriate' as he violated party constitution.

They hailed appointment of Khondokar Delowar Hossain as party secretary general. They also said stripping Abdul Mannan's party membership was a correct decision.

"There was no alternative for the party chief to expel him (Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan) from the party in the interest of the party and the country as they were hatching conspiracy against the party and its chief Begum Zia."

Some party men led by Mannan Bhuiyan were misleading party leaders and activists to divide the party", they said in the statement.

Supporting the expulsion, they said, "Begum Zia only implemented demands of lakhs of party leaders and activists".

WORKERS' THREAT OF HUNGER STRIKE BJMC chairman in Khulna for talks with high officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) chairman Ataharl Islam arrived in Khulna yesterday noon for talks with high officials of state-owned jute mills in Khulna-Jessore

Expressing their full support to Begum Khaleda Zia's leadership, they also congratulated the newly appointed secretary general Khondokar Delowar Hossain and said the party will not lose anything for expelling 'conspirators'.

The BNP leaders also urged party men to remain alert so that they are not misled by expelled Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan's statements.

Later talking to this correspondent, some of the leaders claimed that BNP leaders and activists at all levels in Satkhira are united under the leadership of Khaleda Zia.

Asked about Satkhira BNP president Habibul Islam Habib, who is on the run to evade arrest, they claimed that he reiterated his 'full confidence' on the Khaleda Zia's leadership.

District committee member and its former joint secretary Sitajul Islam alleged that Mannan Bhuiyan and others who rave rallied around him are 'corrupt'.

"They have taken recourse to reform only to hide their corruption and are misleading party men", he

said. In the statement, the BNP leaders expressed grave concern over arrest of the party chairperson and former prime minister.

They said people of the country are disappointed at the arrest.

"The arrest is very unfortunate", the statement said.

Signatories to the statement are district BNP member secretary Samuzzoha Bablu; district committee members Yusuf Ali, Shah Arifur Rahman, Abu Sayeed, Sheikh Manirul Islam, Abdul Khalique, Abdur Rafique and Sirajul Islam; Satkhira poura BNP president Imamul Islam Sharif, organising secretary Kazi Abdus Sabur and law secretary Abdul Jalil; Sadar upazila BNP vice presidents Lutfor Rahman and Md. Yusuf Ali; district Mahila Dal president Hosne Ara Ahmed; district Krishak Dal secretary Abu Zahid Dabli; district Shramik Dal president Abdus Samad and secretary Khan Chowdhury Hymayun Maksud; Sechchasebik Dal president Ahsan Habib, secretary Asadur Rahman and organising

secretary Asad and Sheikh Masud Mostafa Sohel; district JASAS president Syed Eklas Ali Bachchu and leaders Golam Azam, Rafiquzzaman, Ainul Islam Nanta, Aman Ullah and Khorshed Alam; district Zia Parishad vice-presidents Nur Mohammad Par and Altaf Hossain and secretary Sheikh Mizanur Rahman; district Juba Dal vice-president Tariqul Hasan and leaders Salah Uddin, Ashik Mahmud and Sheikh Saidur Rahman, Debhata upazila BNP president Nazibar Rahman and secretary Mahiuddin Siddique;

Kalaroa poura BNP president Kalbuli Karim; Kalligonj upazila BNP convenor Prof. Khoda Baksa; Shymnagar upazila BNP convenor Abdul Wahed and member secretary DM Abdus Samad; and Tala upazila BNP organising secretary Shafiqul Islam.

Signatories to the statement also include leaders of BNP's other front organisations like Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Jatiyatabadi Tanti Dal, Matsajibi Dal, Chhatra Dal and Sechchasebik Dal.

Three more prosecution witnesses (PWs) of the sensational Arnab murder case gave statements before a court here on Thursday.

District and Sessions Judge Court judge Ashish Ranjan Das recorded the statements and fixed September 16 the next date of hearing. The witnesses are inspector Shah Jahan of Criminal Investigation Department (CID), constable Mosharrif Hossain and Kartik Chandra Banerjee. Earlier, the court recorded statements of 21 prosecution witnesses (PWs). They are: Samir Kumar Das, Murari Mohon Sarkar, Dr Abu



PHOTO: STAR
The hanging bridge in Kaptai Lake in Rangamati has gone under water as the lake swelled following heavy rains in the hills in last few days.

Arnab murder case: 3 more PWs examined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Hossain, Sheikh Mohammad Ali, Saidur Rahman Sardar, Fazlur Rahman, Nur Mohammad, a classmate of Arnab, former first class magistrate ANM Ahmad Ali now additional deputy commissioner (ADC) of Bansal, assistant superintendent of police (ASP) Khasrul Haque of CID, constable Tayebur Rahman, victim's father Bimal Krishna Das and others.

Eight-year-old Arnab Kumar Das, son of Bimal Krishna Das of Salaih village in Kalliganj upazila was abducted by a group of miscreants on June 18, 2000. Later, villagers recovered the trisected body of the victim on June 21, 2000.

DU VIOLENCE BCL leader, 30 Sust students sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

A case has been filed against Mustafizur Rahman, organising secretary of the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and 30 others for bringing out processions on the campus following violence at Dhaka University (DU) on August 22, police said.

Mustafiz is also a final year student of political studies.

Sub-inspector (SI) Shahed Uddin of Sylhet Kotwali police station filed the case on September 3, police said.

5x2

Bridge collapses within a year

Use of substandard materials alleged

OUR CORRESPONDENT *Kishoreganj*

A Bailey bridge constructed by the Roads and Highways Department (R&H) collapsed within a year of its construction, allegedly due to use of substandard materials.

The bridge on a narrow tributary of Brahmaputra at Hossainpur Bazar in Kishoreganj inaugurated on August 10 last year collapsed on August 8 this year. It was built at a cost of Tk 15,94,900.

Talking to this correspondent during a recent visit, locals claimed that the bridge collapsed due to use of substandard materials, not for pressure of floodwater. Floodwater did not approach the bridge and even the soil on both sides of the bridge were not eroded by water, they said. The approach roads to the bridge were also not submerged by water, they said.

Contacted, executive engineer Joinal Abedin of Kishoreganj R&H said, the contractor who built the bridge was engaged to rebuild the bridge on emergency basis.



PHOTO: STAR
The Bailey bridge at Hossainpur Bazar in Kishoreganj that collapsed within a year of its construction.

6x2

12x3