

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Acid throwers move freely

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

All the accused in an acid throwing case are moving freely under the nose of police, alleged victim Amena Begum at a press conference at Patuakhali Press Club on Wednesday night.

Kidnapper gets life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A court here yesterday sentenced a man to life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) and fined Tk 10,000, in default, to suffer two years in jail for abducting a teenage girl.



PHOTO: STAR

Ishwardi upazila Ghatak Dalal Nirmul committee forms a human chain yesterday demanding early trial of the war criminals and restoration of the 1972 constitution.

3 bombs recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Detective Branch (DB) police yesterday seized three bombs from a house at Borunatol in Magura municipality area.

Patharghata OC closed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The officer-in-charge (OC) of Patharghata Police Station under Barguna district was closed to the district police lines yesterday for 'mishandling' the Rexona Akter gangrape and murder case.

Boat capsized victim's body found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Body of a garment worker, who went missing along with three others in an engine boat capsized in the River Karnaphuli on Monday evening was recovered yesterday.

Municipal councillor arrested

A CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

Police arrested Joyal Abedin Nagarsi, 50, a councillor of Kotalipara municipality under Gopalganj district on charges of embezzling test relief rice by forging the signature of the project implementation committee.

College students clash: 20 hurt

A CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

A clash between two groups of students at Bangaratna College in Maksudpur upazila yesterday left at least 20 injured. Two 2nd year students Monir and Ashish first locked in an altercation and later scuffled over seating arrangement in a classroom yesterday morning.

5 BCL men hurt in clash

A CORRESPONDENT, Natore

At least five BCL men were injured, office rooms at science building vandalised and two rounds of gunshots fired during a clash between two rival BCL groups at Natore NS College yesterday.



Tea stalls and workshop for rickshaws occupy part of the walkway in front of the Divisional Museum adjacent to Barisal City Corporation office.

Shops, vendors occupy footpaths around Barisal Nagar Bhaban

RAFIQUL ISLAM, BARISAL

Illegal occupation of pavements in different areas of Barisal City Corporation (BCC) has become a nuisance for pedestrians and transport users.

A large number of makeshift shop owners and floating traders have kept the footpaths beside roads in the city centre occupied for long, making them virtually unusable for passers-by.

A number of vendors have long been doing business on the footpath adjacent to Nagar Bhaban that houses BCC office.

At least eight tin shed shops have been erected in recent days on the east side of the pond on the premises of District Council office and east side of BCC boundary wall.

About a 200-foot stretch of footpath in front of Nagar Bhaban is used for car parking by the officials of BCC and police.

Footpaths in front of Barisal Central

Jail have also remained occupied for long.

BCC often conducts drive to evict vendors and hawkers from city pavements, but initiative to remove makeshift shops from there is very rare.

A few months ago, BCC dismantled some of these shops but they were reinstated within a short time.

Several vendors on the footpath said they do not face any trouble in doing business as they regularly pay toll to the BCC staff.

The footpaths in Sadar Road, Girzamohalla, Rupatali, Nathullabad, Battalla, C&B, College Road, Natun Bazar, Hospital Road, Sher-e-Bangla Medical College, Hospital Road, Sagordi Road, Launchghat, Port Road, Bangla Bazar, Police Lince Road and Chawkbazar areas are occupied by vendors.

They have set stalls for various things including clothes, fruits, cigarettes, shoes, and tea there. Besides, there are

tea stalls and workshops for repairing rickshaws and small vehicles.

"I started shoe business on the footpath of Chawkbazar adjacent to Nagar Bhaban a few weeks ago. Some employees of BCC advised me to vacate the footpath one month ago," said Shahin Islam, 28.

When contacted, Mehedi Hasan, executive officer of the BCC, said illegal occupiers of the pavements in front of the BCC office would be evicted very soon.

"We evicted them several times but they came back shortly afterwards. We cannot keep footpaths free without the help of police and if they allow them to sit, we are helpless," said a BCC official.

About 40 percent of the total footpaths in the city are now occupied by the street vendors, Abdul Jalil, Traffic Inspector at Kowatali Police Station, said adding, "We do not want to see any hawkers selling goods on the footpath."



PHOTO: STAR

Samajtantrik Mohila Forum forms a human chain in Gaibandha town yesterday demanding closure of spurious medicine companies and punishment of the perpetrators.

Five get life in Sylhet for killing businessman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet Divisional Speedy trial Tribunal yesterday awarded life imprisonment to five people in a businessman Mokhlisur Rahman murder case.

Mokhlisur Rahman, a leading businessman and owner of a travel agency, was killed by a gang of criminals in the city in 2003.

The convicts are Nur Mohammad alias Sohag of Ulalmohal under Dakshin Surma Police Station, Shabed Ahmed of Kalibari Road and

Asim Sarker of Ponitola under Kotwali Police Station, Mokbul alias Mokoddu Ali of Sonapur under Balaganj upazila and Sohel Ahmed of Bhatipara under Derai upazila of Sunamganj district.

The court fine the convicts Tk 10,000 each, in default they are suffer six more months in jail. Tribunal Judge Mahubul Islam acquitted five other accused as charges brought against them were not proved.

According to the prosecution, a gang of criminals swooped on Mokhlisur Rahman at his business firm,

Jalalabad Air Express, at Taltola at around 1:30 pm on October 6, 2003. They gang hit him with sharp weapons and shot him dead.

Kotwali police filed a case against three people on the day of incident. The case was later transferred to the Criminal Investigation Department that pressed charges against nine accused on August 16, 2005. Later, the CID included another accused in the chargesheet.

The court recorded the statements of 37 prosecution witnesses during the trial of the case.

AL men ransack UZ auditorium

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Awami League (AL) activists yesterday ransacked Badarganj upazila parishad auditorium as the name of upazila Chairman Bishwanath Sarker Bitu, special guest of a discussion held there, was not mentioned on the banner.

Panic spread as AL men stormed the auditorium and ransacked the amplifier, chairs, tables and banners there, said sources of the upazila administration.

The meeting, organised by Fishery Department of Badarganj upazila in observance of the 'Fishery Week', was later held outside the auditorium in presence of a few people, mostly speakers including the upazila chairman.

Local lawmaker Anisul Islam Mondol was the chief guest while upazila Chairman Bishwanath Sarker Bitu and two vice chairmen were special guests on the occasion.

"A group of people stormed the auditorium when the upazila chairman asked me why his name was missing on the banner. The unruly people left after ransacking the auditorium," Upazila Fishery Officer Mahfuzur Rahman said.

Asked about the matter, the upazila chairman said, "There was some argument with the upazila fishery officer regarding name on the banner. But no incident of ransacking occurred at the auditorium."

Body to probe 'wrong' surgery at KMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Acting Superintendent of Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) Dr Q H Asgar has formed a five-member committee to probe an allegation of wrong surgical operation upon six-year old girl Drishti Rani Basu.

Headed by Senior Consultant Surgeon Israil Biswas, four other members of the committee are Associate professor (Finance) Syed Mohammad Elias, Associate professor (Surgery) Mozammel Hossain, Dr Mehedi Newaz and Dr Didarul Alam Shahin.

The committee has been asked to submit its report on or before Saturday. Meanwhile, surgical operation was conducted upon the girl for second time on Wednesday.

Ruling party men assault doctor, ransack hospital Staff stage strike

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Doctors, nurses and other staff of Hatibandha Upazila Health Complex yesterday abstained from work for six hours from 10:00am protesting attack on a doctor of the emergency department and four other staff by Swechchhasebok League men on Wednesday night.

They also demanded exemplary punishment to the persons responsible for assaulting the doctor and other staff.

Hospital sources said upazila Swechchhasebok League Secretary Darodi Islam brought a patient to the emergency department at around 11:00pm and asked the on-duty doctor Aminul Islam to see him.

As the doctor refused to break the serial, the Swechchhasebok League leader became furious and assaulted the doctor. He and

some of his party men also swooped on health assistant Waheedul Islam and three other staffs as they came forward to save the doctor.

Hearing the news, a group of 18 Swechchhasebok League men reached the hospital and vandalised door, windows and some equipment of the emergency department.

The doctors and other staff of the hospital resumed their duties at around 4:00pm after local administration and AL leaders assured them of taking actions against the Swechchhasebok League men involved in the incident.

When contacted, General Secretary of Hatibandha upazila AL Liaquat Hossain Bachchu said stern action will be taken against the attackers within a short time.

No case was filed with Hatibandha Police Station in connection with Wednesday night's incident as of 4:00pm yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Traders gather in front of the officer-in-charge's room at Bogra Sadar Police Station yesterday demanding arrest of the extortionists who attacked a businessman and his son on Sunday.

EXTORTIONISTS GO SCOT-FREE Traders in Bogra stage sit-in at police station

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Baro Masjid Lane Traders Association yesterday observed a sit-in inside Bogra Sadar Police Station demanding arrest of extortionists Feroz Khan and his men for attack on businessmen Korban Mollah and his son Babu.

Demanding toll, Feroz Khan and his accomplices attacked Korban Mollah and his son Babu and snatched money from them at around 8:00pm on Sunday, Korban Mollah said in a case filed with the police station on Monday.

Earlier on Monday noon, the traders laid a siege to the police station and Officer-in-Charge Jahangir Hossain assured them of arresting Feroz Khan and others accused within 48 hours.

As the accused people could not be arrested within the time, over 100 traders again went to Sadar Police Station and took position in front of the OC's

room yesterday.

Several businessmen alleged that police is not arresting Feroz Khan as he is close to Bogra additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) AKM Ehsan Ullah and some influential persons of the ruling party are backing Feroz.

When contacted over cell phone, Additional SP Ehsan Ullah said, "I directed the OC and second officer of Sadar Police Station to quickly arrest Feroz Khan and others involved in the incident. It is true that I know Feroz Khan."

"I have sought 15 more days' time to the traders for arresting the accused," Bogra Sadar Police Station OC Jahangir Hossain said.

"The businessmen have urged police to arrest the accused by Sunday. Otherwise we will announce greater movement programme," Baro Masjid Lane Traders Association General Secretary Rashedul Islam told journalists in front of the police station.

Jubo League men clash over extorted money at RU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Three Jubo League activists were injured by rival party men following a brawl over share of extorted money on Rajshahi University (RU) campus yesterday afternoon.

A group of Jubo League men led by Shahin forced Kajim, contractor of electricity works in Shaheed Habibur Rahman Hall, to give Tk 1.23 lakh on Wednesday, sources said.

As the news became known, another Jubo League group led by Anar met Shahin in front of RU Officers Association office and demanded their 'share'

yesterday. Following Shahin's refusal to the demand, the two groups involved in a scuffle. At one stage, Shahin's accomplices beat up Anar, Iqbal and Rashid of the rival group, leaving them injured.

Later police rescued them. Anar lodged a case against five people including Shahin with Motihar Police Station.

Shahin and Anar could not be contacted for their comments.

Contractor Kajim told reporters that the 'extortion money' was given to Shahin following a consensus arbitrated by RU Contractors Association.



PHOTO: STAR

Sundarbans Supporters Committee and KCC jointly organise a large procession in Khulna city yesterday to boost campaign for the largest mangrove forest's winning as one of the seven natural wonders of the world.