

## SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

## CHT Commission in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A 15-member team of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Commission started its two-day visit to Bandarban yesterday. Led by former adviser to the caretaker government Advocate Sultana Kamal, the team members of the commission will meet Bandarban Hill District Council Chairman Kew Sai Hla, Bandarban Brigade Commander and the deputy Commissioner (DC).

## Couple to die for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court, Nilphamari, yesterday sentenced a man and his first wife to death for killing his second wife. According to prosecution, Zahidul Islam, 28, son of late Abdus Sattar of Station Para area under Sadar upazila beat his second wife Rina Begum, 23, dead for a trivial matter in collaboration with his first wife Lucky Begum, 26, on January 22, 2006. Later, they hung the body from the ceiling of the roof. An unnatural death case was filed with Sadar Police Station which was later turned into a murder case. Judge Sharif Lutfar Rahman delivered the verdict after examining the witnesses and relevant documents.

## Farmer electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

A farmer was electrocuted as he came in contact with a snapped live electric wire while working in a paddy field at village Kusingao in Mohonganj upazila yesterday morning. Four other co-farmers were injured seriously when they came forward to save the victim. Abdul Mannan, 30, Mohonganj police sources said. The injured farmers are Shafiq Mia, 25, Anwar Hossain, 26, Abdul Morali, 50, and Russel Mia, 20. They were admitted to Mohonganj Upazila Health Complex.

## Accused snatched from police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A group of rural women snatched away an accused in an extortion case from the police at Sabgram in Bogra on Monday night. A team of Detective Branch (DB) of police raided the house of Jahidul Islam, an accused in an extortion case, at the village. As police tried to take the arrestee with them, a group of women equipped with sticks and lethal weapons attacked the law enforcers, sprayed water on their faces and snatched handcuffed Zahidul. Four persons, including three policemen, were injured in the attack. A case was filed with Sadar Police Station against 21 people.



PHOTO: STAR

Rajshahi Rakkha Sangram Parishad forms a human chain at Shahab Bazar Zero Point yesterday protesting increase of water and holding taxes in the city and demanding steps to keep prices of essentials under control during the coming Ramadan.

## 16 injured as villagers clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Sixteen people, including women and children, were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers at Bishnupur village under Kamalganj upazila yesterday. There was a long-standing dispute over ownership of a paddy field among them. A group was led by Abdul Basit and Hamid while the other by Abdus Shukur, police and villagers said. The clash ensued when people loyal to Basit-Hamdu group came to plough the land yesterday morning. Equipped with sharp weapons, Shukur's group attacked them causing injuries to 16 people of both the groups. The injured were admitted to Kamalganj Upazila Health Complex and Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital. Police have been deployed in the area to avoid further untoward incident.

## Two 'outlaws' held with arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested two suspected members of the outlawed Sarbahara Party with a foreign made pistol and bullets. Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-12 raided the house of Karatia Union Parishad Chairman Khalekuzzaman Chowdhury Maznu at Karatia Purbopara village under Sadar upazila and arrested the youths with the pistol and three bullets, Rab sources said. The arrestees are Ashikuzzaman Chowdhury alias Apu, 25, son of Khalekuzzaman Chowdhury Maznu of Purbopara village, and Ashrafur Islam Talukdar alias Rony, 20, son of Azizur Rahman Talukdar of Talukderpara in Karatia.

## One gets life for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

The Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court, Faridpur, yesterday sentenced one person to life imprisonment (RL) in a murder case. The convict, Shaheed Khan, 27, of village Charnadhabdia in Sadar upazila was also fined Tk 50,000, in default, he is to suffer two more years in jail. According to the prosecution, Lal Mia, a day-labourer was seriously stabbed by his rivals at Bhashanchar in Sadar upazila on January 14, 2005. They also snatched over Tk 3,000 from him. The next day, he succumbed to his injuries at Faridpur General Hospital. A murder case was filed with Kotwali Police Station against three people including Shaheed. But two others were acquitted of charges.

## Abducted girl rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police rescued a girl at Osmanpur village in Ghoraghat upazila on Monday evening. Lisa Begum, daughter of Md Alamgir Hossain, was abducted for Tk 1 lakh ransom by their domestic help named Moslema Begum from their Shipahibagh house in Khilgaon, Dhaka, on August 8, police said. Victim's father filed an abduction case with Khilgaon Police Station on August 9. Police also arrested Moslema.

## 25 hurt in Magura clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

At least 25 people were injured, nine of them seriously in a clash at Shinghodanga village in Magura Sadar upazila yesterday morning. Two rival groups, one led by Abdur Razzak and the other by Belal Sheikh, locked in a clash over payment of bill from a customer at a local tea stall, police and locals said. Both the groups used lethal weapons during the clash that lasted for about one and a half hours. Being informed, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

## High yield, good price make jute growers happy

But they face problem in processing fibre due to scanty water

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Jute growers in Tangail, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts are happy as the areas see good yield and high prices of the item this year.

However, the farmers are facing problem about rotting and processing the fibre as water bodies lack necessary water in absence of adequate rain.

The farmers in Tangail have got good production as weather was favourable during the cultivation period, reports our Tangail correspondent. Jute plants grew up to 10 feet to 12 feet high as there was necessary rain in the last week of March and necessary dry weather followed.

Jute was cultivated on 15,165 hectares of land in 12 upazilas of the district this year. The cultivation target, however, was 18,000 hectares.

"I have got five maunds of jute from 20 decimals of land this year whereas last year I got only two maunds from the same land. We the jute growers of two villages are rotting our jute in a small water body in the area which contains some water," Abu Hanif of Pachh Bikramhati village under Sadar upazila said.

Soenuddin Master of Tarabaria village under Tangail Sadar upazila expects at least nine maunds of jute from 40 decimals of land this year.



Farmers cutting mature jute plants from a profusely yielding field at Paach Bikramhati village in Tangail Sadar upazila but they are worried about carrying them to a distant water body for rotting.

PHOTO: STAR

"However, I shall have to spend more labour cost for carrying the jute to other place for rotting," he said.

Hariyada Ghosh, deputy director of Agriculture Extension Department (AED) in Tangail, said, "We have introduced ribbon method among the jute growers as an alternative for decomposing jute. We are holding motivational programmes to make the farmers aware about it."

Meanwhile, jute fibres started coming at local markets including Karatia, Soya-Palima, Hamidpur and

Jamurki-Pakulla while brokers are going door to door to the farmers to buy the fibre.

"I have already sold three maunds of good quality jute fibre to a broker at Tk 1,400 per maund," farmer Yaad Ali of Poulue under Kalihati upazila said.

Our Thakurgaon correspondent adds: Jute was cultivated on 6,300 hectares of land against the target of 6,000 hectares with the production target of 60,000 bales in Thakurgaon, AED officials said.

In Panchagarh, jute was

cultivated on 6,000 hectares of land against the target of 5,789 hectares with the production target of 57,000 bales, said Abul Hayat, deputy director of Panchagarh AED office.

Farmers and AED officials said tosha variety of jute covered about 85 per cent of cultivated land and the quality of harvested jute is good.

Now jute harvesting is running in full swing and depending on quality, each maund (one maund is equal to 37.32 kg) of raw jute sells from Tk 1100 to Tk 1250 in the local markets. The price is higher

than the previous year, market sources said.

However, the farmers are facing problem to rot jute plants as the current rainy season sees scanty rainfall.

With good return due to increasing demand in the local markets during the last couple of years, farmers in these districts are getting interest in jute cultivation again.

"I cultivated jute on two bighas (one bigha is equal to 0.33 acre) of land in this season and got 17 maunds of raw jute, spending Tk 7,000. I sold the produced jute at Tk 19,550. I hope to sell jute sticks for Tk 4,000. My net profit will stand at about Tk 16,000," said Ruhul Amin, a farmer of Vimpukuri village under Boda upazila in Panchagarh.

"Environmental awareness is developing worldwide. Following ban on polythene bags, demand for environment-friendly and diversified jute goods is increasing at national and international markets. This is the time for regaining the lost glory of our golden fibre," said Golam Sarwar Choudhury, vice president of Thakurgaon Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

If the government extends help for spreading jute cultivation, jute-based industries will revive and the country will earn a lot of foreign exchange by exporting jute and jute products, he said.

## 3 children rescued, trafficker held in Bogra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police yesterday rescued three children and arrested their trafficker at Bogra Rail Station.

The arrestee, Golbar Mannan, 30, said he hails from Golagathi village under Ullapara upazila of Sirajganj district and met the three children when he was returning home from Bonarpara in Gaibandha district where he worked as a farm labourer.

He claimed that he was taking the three children -- Sagor, 11, Bablu, 12, and Hamidul, 12 -- to their mother in Bogra but the children said differently.

"Mannan was bringing me and two other children with the promise of giving job in a six-storey building in Dhaka. Peanut sellers on the train became suspicious about his motive. They caught him and handed him over to Bogra Rail Police," said Sagor, 11.

Golbar Mannan also said he would buy them good clothes and show them the houses of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, the rescued children said.

He also assured them of taking to India for travelling, they said.

## Ex-minister Aminul gets bail in another case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Rajshahi court yesterday granted bail to former minister Aminul Haque in the case for abetting militancy of the outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and masterminding the murder of Monwar Hossain Babu.

Judge AR Masud of the District and Sessions Judge's Court granted the bail following a petition filed with the court by Aminul's lawyers challenging a lower court's refusal to grant him bail, court sources said.

Aminul's lawyers pleaded that a total 29 accused, including former deputy minister Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar Dulu and former BNP lawmaker Nadim Mostafa, were given bail in the case.

Meanwhile, a judicial magistrate court in July last rejected Aminul's bail twice in the case.

M. Mohsin Ali, father of JMB victim Monwar Hossain Babu of Chalk Sarkutia, Naldanga in Natore, lodged the case after the executed JMB leader Siddikul Islam Bangla Bhai's men killed his son in Bagmara of Rajshahi in April 2004.

## 2 killed in clashes over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Two people were killed and 25 others injured in clashes over land dispute in Kalmakanda upazila of the district yesterday.

The first incident took place at Bamongoan village under the upazila at around 10:00am.

Police said there had been a long standing conflict between Mohammad Ali and Alauddin of the village over ownership of a land. When Mohammad Ali and his men went to the disputed land for cultivation, Alauddin and his supporters swooped on them with lethal weapons, leading to a fierce clash between the two groups.

During the clash, Mohammad Ali was killed on the spot and 20 people from both sides were injured. The serious injured Abdur Rashed, 35, Abdul Khalek, 27, Mostafa

Mia, 23, and Wares Ali, 60, were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital while the rest to Kalmakanda Upazila Health Complex.

Mohammad Ali group filed a murder case with Kalmakanda Police Station. No one was arrested as of filing of this report at 6:00pm.

Another incident occurred at Radhanagar village under the same upazila in which an Adivasi youth was killed and five others were injured.

Two rival groups—one led by Ripon Hajong and the other by Amar Hajong—clashed over a disputed land at the village at noon, leaving Ripon Hajong, 30, dead and five others from both sides injured.

The injured are undergoing treatment at Kalmakanda Upazila Health Complex. Police arrested Amar Hajong after filing a case with Kalmakanda Police Station by his rivals.

## 3 Jamaat men sued for 'ransacking' madrasa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

Three local Jamaat men were yesterday sued for allegedly ransacking Agardari Aminia Kamil Madrasa on August 9 for hanging the portraits of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the principal's room.

The accused are Agardari Union Jamaat leader Maulana Mahmudul Hasan and Jamaat activists Abul Kashem Bablu and Azizul Hasan Faud of village Agardari under Sathkira Sadar upazila.

Acting Principal Md Habibur Rahman filed the case with Sadar Police Station.

The complainant alleged that the Jamaat men came to the Madrasa on August 9 and asked him to remove the portraits. "As I refused to do so, they ransacked my office and some classrooms," the principal stated in the case.

## Party men assault AL leader in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

District Awami League leader Aminur Rahman, also elected vice chairman of Daulatpur Upazila Parishad, was assaulted in presence of Awami League lawmaker ABM Anwarul Haque following a dispute over party activities at a meeting on Monday night.

Aminur Rahman, forest and environment affairs secretary of district AL, was general secretary of Daulatpur Upazila AL for the last 15 years.

Daulatpur upazila AL organised a preparatory meeting on the premises of Daulatpur Madrasa in Manikganj district for observing the National Mourning Day, party sources said.

Upazila AL President advocate Abdul Aziz presided over the meeting where AL lawmaker ABM Anwarul Haque and senior AL leaders including Aminur Rahman addressed.

As Aminur raised questions about irregularities by Daulatpur upazila AL committee, upazila AL President, advocate Abdul Aziz rebuked him at the meeting and ABM Anwarul Haque, lawmaker from Manikganj-1 constituency, told him to leave the meeting room. Aminur told The Daily Star over phone.

He was leaving the room after end of the meeting at around 8:30pm, 10 to 12 AL men led by Daulatpur Upazila AL General Secretary Md Farid and his relative Sanwar assaulted him in presence of the AL lawmaker, Aminur said.

District AL President advocate Golam Mohiuddin and General Secretary Gazi Kamrul Huda Selim said organisational action will be taken against those who were involved in the attack.

When contacted, lawmaker ABM Anwarul Haque said no incident of attack on Aminur occurred.

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