

## EXECUTION OF VERDICT PM to offer *doa* at Bangabandhu Mausoleum today

A CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will attend a milad and special *doa* mahfil at Bangabandhu mausoleum mosque at Tungipara after Juma prayers today to express gratitude to the almighty Allah for execution of the verdict in Bangabandhu murder case.

The prime minister will arrive at Tungipara by a helicopter in the morning and then go to Bangabandhu Mausoleum

Complex. She will place wreath at the grave of the father of the nation and offer special prayer.

This is her first visit to Tungipara after execution of the verdict in Bangabandhu murder case. She will leave for the capital at 3:00pm.

Special security measures have been taken at Tungipara in connection with the prime minister's visit. Police and Rab personnel are searching vehicles on roads leading to Tungipara.

Temporary check posts have been set up at Tungipara municipality, Ghonapara, Patgati crossing and on other spots and roads.

A large number of security forces and detectives have already arrived in Gopalganj from outside the district.

Five condemned convicts in Bangabandhu murder case were hanged at Dhaka Central Jail in the early hours of January 28 after the Appellate Division dismissed the petitions to review their death penalties the day before.



## FOOD CRISIS, OTHER PROBLEMS IN SUNDARBANS

# Villagers kill six tigers in 11 yrs

ABU AHMED, Sakhira

At least six Royal Bengal Tigers were killed in the adjoining areas of the Sundarbans in last 11 years when the wild animal entered localities in search of food.

Villagers beat five tigers to death and shot dead another during the period.

The tigers could have been saved if forest officials had proper training and tranquillising equipment, said local observers.

Food crisis in the Sundarbans forces tigers to enter human habitations as adverse impact of climate change, environment pollution, infiltration of saline water and tidal surges threatens biodiversity of the forest, forest officials said.

On January 22, a Royal Bengal Tiger was beaten to death at Abad Chandipur village adjacent to the Sundarbans in Shyamnagar upazila of the district. Earlier, villagers trapped the tiger in a kitchen but forest department officials failed to bring tranquilliser gun after a wait for 10 hours.

On June 2 last year, a tiger entered Kholshobunia village in Shyamnagar upazila and attacked villagers, leaving three people injured. Angry people later killed the tiger the same day.

On June 20 in 2008, a Royal Bengal Tiger killed three people at Kadamtala village in Shyamnagar upazila. Villagers beat the tiger to death the following morning.

Local people killed a tiger

at Nalian village in Koirapuzila of Khulna December 19 in 2007.

On December 12 in 2006, a tiger entered Harinagar village in Shyamnagar upazila and killed two people. The villagers later beat the tiger to death.

Mohammad Mohsin, a resident of Datmekhali village of Shyamnagar upazila gunned down a tiger on September 21 in 1999 as the animal entered the village in search of food.

Forest guards captured an old tiger on January 25 in 2000 from Harinagar village and sent the animal to Khulna for treatment. But the tiger died while undergoing treatment.

Principal Ashek-e-Elahi, an

environmental worker, said forest department could easily capture those tigers by using tranquilliser gun and send them back to the Sundarbans.

In most of the cases, villagers killed the tigers in presence of law enforcers.

The Royal Bengal Tiger will face extinction if the forest department fails to take long-term conservation programmes, said local experts.

When contacted, Assistant Conservator of Forest Rejaul Karim said villagers beat the tigers to death before forest guards could reach the spots.

He, however, said they could not capture tigers due to lack of tranquilliser guns and skilled manpower.



STAR FILE PHOTO  
Royal Bengal Tigers that are forced to enter human habitations due mainly to food crisis in the Sundarbans often meet tragic end in the hand of panicked villagers.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of oriental art at Rajshahi University lay siege to the administrative building yesterday demanding recruitment of teachers for the subject.

## The art of teaching art without any teacher

### RU students agitate

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Students of oriental arts at Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday laid a siege to the administrative building demanding recruitment of teachers for the subject.

Scores under 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 academic sessions also blocked the building's main gate for an hour at noon.

Earlier, the students formed a human chain in front of the university central library followed by a silent procession that paraded the campus.

At a rally in front of the administrative building, the students said there is no teacher for the oriental group at the fine arts department for

the last five years.

They alleged that the authorities did not take any initiative to recruit any teacher for the subject although the demand was raised several times.

"We had to sit for exams without attending any class on the subject while six students out of fifty in each session had to take the course," Sourav Ahmed, a third year student of the group said.

The classroom allotted for the subject is locked for the last six months due to lack of teachers, he said.

The agitating students alleged that the authorities appointed two teachers for sculpture although they issued circulars for recruiting two lecturers on oriental medium.

Alleging indifference to their right to proper education, they called upon the university authorities to take immediate steps to recruit teachers on the subject.

Later, a six-member students group met vice-chancellor Prof Abdus Sobhan and placed a memorandum containing a five-day ultimatum to resolve their teacher crisis.

The students also threatened to go for indefinite strike including class boycott programme if their demands were not met within five days.

The vice-chancellor assured the agitating students of looking into the matter and taking necessary steps in this regard.

## SNIPPETS

### Housewife murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A housewife was murdered allegedly by her husband yesterday for dowry at Gudhibari village in Shahzadpur upazila. Police and victim's family sources said, Shafiqul Islam, 30, of the village married Morium Khatun, 25, daughter of Abdul Mannan of Ghorzan village of the same upazila about five years ago. Since their marriage, Shafiqul had been demanding a big sum of dowry from her father. But her father failed to pay the amount due to poverty. On the fateful day, the couple locked in a quarrel as Shafiqul pressed for dowry from her father. As Marium refused to bring the money, she was beaten to death. After the incident, Shafiqul and his other family members went into hiding. On information, police went to the spot and recovered the body. Later, the body was sent to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was lodged with Shahzadpur police station in this connection.

### Bullet-hit AL leader dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

An Awami League (AL) leader who received severe bullet injuries on Tuesday died at Enayetpur Khwaja Yunus Ali Medical College and Hospital yesterday morning. Victim Shahzahan Ali Bhuyian, 35, of Rukshi village in Shahzadpur upazila and also president of ward AL was shot at around 10:30 pm by a rival group while he was returning home from a village market. A case was lodged with Shahzadpur police station in this connection. But none was arrested till filing of this report yesterday afternoon.

### Outlaw held in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police arrested an outlaw on Wednesday from Dumuria bus stand of Khulna district. Arrestee Habibur Rahman, 28, alias 'Bomaru' Habi is son of Abdul Rahman Biswas of Dumuria Sadar union. He is a bomber belonging to Janajuddho faction of outlawed PBCP and was so long wanted in seven criminal cases filed against him with Dumuria police station, police said. Police further said 'Bomaru' Habi had participated in several Tablig sessions with a view to evading arrest in the face of special operations by law enforcing agencies. Police on Wednesday also arrested two notorious pirates of the Sundarbans from Betunia village under Paikgacha upazila. They are Abdul Majid Goldar and his cousin Asadul Goldar. Police recovered from them a home-made pipe gun and two cartridges.

### 1 killed, 30 hurt in clash

UNB, Narsingdi

A man was killed and 30 injured in a bloody clash between two rival groups at Bashkalipur village in Sadar upazila yesterday morning. The victim was identified as Based Miah, 30, son of late Hasen Ali of the village. Locals said there was a longstanding conflict between the two rival groups - one led by Renu Mia and another by Jalal Mia over establishing supremacy in the area. Police quoting witnesses said, an altercation ensued between the two groups over a trifling matter at about 11:30 am. Later, both the groups equipped with lethal weapons attacked each other that left Based of Jalal's group killed on the spot and 30 others injured from both sides.

### Robbers held in Noakhali

UNB, Noakhali

Police arrested seven suspected robbers and recovered two sharp weapons in Darussalam Madrassah area on Basurhat-Chaprashirhat road in Companiganj upazila early Wednesday. The arrestees are Mainuddin Rubel, 24, Saiful Islam Rubel, 25, Parveez, 22, Abdul Hashem alias Kaka, 25, Sohag, 23, Ismail Hossain Rubel, 22, and Harun, 31. Police said when a police team was patrolling Basurhat-Chaprashirhat road late at night in an auto-rickshaw, a gang of robbers swooped on their vehicle. Police chased the robbers and shot four rounds of bullets when they tried to flee. Locals rushed in hearing the gunshots and caught the seven robbers.

## One to die, two siblings get life for murders

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A Bagerhat court yesterday sentenced a man to death for murder while two brothers got life term in a double murder case in Joypurhat.

Bagerhat Additional District and Sessions Judge-2 Md Rezaul Karim yesterday gave death sentence to Md Shahidul Islam, 32, of Umajuri village under Mollahat upazila in Bagerhat for a murder on December 10 in 2005, reports a correspondent from Bagerhat.

The convict was also fined Tk 10,000.

Ilias Mridha of Char Baniari village under Chitolmari upazila in Bagerhat started a fish farm on his five bigha of land in Umajuri village under Mollahat upazila in 2005.

On December 10 that year, Shahidul along with a few musclemen went to Ilias's fish enclosure and demanded money and fish, goes the prosecution.

As Ilias declined to meet the demand, Shahidul hit him with a sharp weapon, killing him on the spot, it adds.

Our Dinajpur correspondent adds: Joypurhat District Sessions Judge's Court yesterday awarded life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) to two brothers for killing an elderly man and his nephew.

The court also fined Tk 5,000 each, in default to suffer more six months in jail.

The convicts are Jalal Uddin Jalu, 45, and his brother Liton, 30, of village Uttar Ganipur in Akkelpur upazila.

According to the procession, Jalal Uddin and Liton on April 1 in 2006 injured Reaz Uddin Mollah, 65, following a dispute between cousins Adari, 3, and Shihab, 4, over a trifling matter. Jalal and Liton also caused serious stab injury to Md Ukil Mollah, 50, as he tried to save Reaz Uddin, his uncle and also grandfather of Shihab.

Family members and locals rushed the two wounded to Akkelpur Upazila Health Complex where Reaz Uddin succumbed to his injuries. Ukil Mollah also died after he was shifted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital the same day.



PHOTO: STAR  
Bare electric wires set in a dangerously slanting bamboo pole at Kholahati in Gaibandha Sadar upazila pose serious risk of accidents as a section of local Power Development Board staff continue giving electricity connection for irrigation and domestic purposes without safety measures.

## Common sense is not always common

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A section of Power Development Board (PDB) staff are engaged in giving power connection for irrigation pumps during the ongoing boro season with bare wires set in bamboo poles in remote areas of the district, much to the risk of accident.

In some cases, connection for domestic purposes is also given in the same way, making people and animals vulnerable to electrocution, locals said.

Bamboo poles carrying bare electric wires may fall to the ground even in a moderate wind, they said.

On August 6 last year, Faruk and Asadul, two young men of village Tarafkamal in Gaibandha

Sadar upazila, were electrocuted after contacting a live power line that had fallen on the ground.

Demanding punishment to PDB officials responsible for connecting power line with bare wire on bamboo poles, people took up a series of agitation programme including rally, human chain and protest meeting but local PDB has continued the risky practice, said Younus Ali, convener of Faruk-Asadul Smriti Sangsad.

He demanded removal of all the bare wires from bamboo poles for safety of local people, especially children.

When contacted, local PDB officials said they are giving temporary electricity connection to irrigation pumps in the ongoing boro season on emergency basis.

They however said measures are being taken to replace bare wires with those with safety cover.

## DEATH IN JAINTAPUR CLASH

# Villagers go into hiding as victim's brother sues 500

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Five hundred people, 41 of them identified, have been sued in connection with Wednesday's clash that left one killed and 100 others injured in Pakhiteki area near Haripur Bazar of Jaintapur upazila.

Mokbul Hossain, brother of deceased Abdul Latif, filed the case with Jaintapur Police Station on Wednesday night.

Police arrested three people yesterday and later produced them before Sylhet Judicial Magistrate's Court that sent them to jail.

Villagers around Haripur Bazar on the Sylhet-Tamabil Highway have left their houses apprehending mass arrest.

Villagers of Hemu Tinpara and Haudpara clashed over capture of a grazing land in Pakhiteki area at about 10:30am on Wednesday. Both the groups used lethal weapons in the hour-long clash that left Abdul Latif, 60, dead and 100 others injured.

Law enforcers lobbed 11 tear gas shells and fired 45 bullets to disperse the clashing groups. Rab and police teams later removed the barricades that put up on the adjacent Sylhet-Tamabil Highway by the two rival groups.