



PHOTO: STAR

Fishing in dried up water bodies is a common scene in rural Bangladesh during the winter. The photo was taken from Basail in Tangail.

MORE RU SHIBIR ROOMS RAIDED

Bomb ingredients seized, plan to hit BCL unearthed

Huge iron rods, leaflets, jihadi books found also in Suhrawardy Hall

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Police along with university authorities yesterday raided several rooms of Islami Chhatra Shibir men at Suhrawardy Hall and recovered bomb making materials, hockey sticks, huge iron rods, stones, sticks, leaflets and fake identity (ID) cards.

During the raid the law enforcers also found a list of 17 leaders and activists of the hall unit Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and seized a Shibir action plan including attack on BCL men and a photo album of BCL leaders titled 'Warning for Blood.'

Police also seized over 200 books on religion and jihad including one titled 'Ora 11 jon tothakothita budhijibider mukhus unmochan' by Shamsul Hantu.

In the book the writer made offensive remarks on Shahrar Kabir, Shamsur Rahman, Muntasir Mamun, Kabir

Chowdhury, Abed Khan, Barrister Amirul Islam and five other eminent personalities in the country, police said.

However, none was arrested in this connection or no room was sealed during the four-hour raid till 1:00pm on seven Shibir-controlled rooms, the hall authorities said.

Suhrawardy Hall provost Prof Akhter Faruque told reporters that they raided the rooms on receipt of allegation from the general students that Shibir men have kept weapons in their (Shibir) rooms during the campus violence on February 9.

Earlier on Tuesday, police along with university authorities raided Habibur Rahman Hall and seized over 200 'Jihadi' books while on Wednesday the authorities raided Madar Bux Hall and recovered a cocktail, iron rods, more jihadi books and sealed 13 Shibir-controlled rooms of

the hall.

Besides, Motihar police yesterday noon recovered three shrouds from the university central library premises where BCL of the university unit organised a mass signature campaign demanding ban on Jamaat-Shibir politics.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Motihar police station Tofazzel Hossain said someone might have kept the shrouds there for creating panic on the campus.

"We will take legal steps after investigating the matter", he said.

Meanwhile, Rajshahi University unit BCL yesterday wore black badges on the campus as a part of their protest programme demanding punishment to the Shibir cadres who allegedly hacked BCL activist Faruque Hossain to death at Shah Makhdoom Hall in the early hours of February 9.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS



8 cocktails recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Eight cocktails were found at Talukdarpara village in Karotia in Tangail Sadar upazila yesterday morning. Police recovered the cocktails wrapped with scotch tape and left near a pond at about 10:00am. The cocktails were brought to the police station and kept in water in a bucket. Informed by police, a bomb disposal team from Ghatail cantonment in the district led by Captain Touhidul Islam came to the police station. Later, the army team exploded the cocktails in lonely Bhallukkandi area near Tangail town at around 6:00pm, said Jasim Uddin Sarkar, officer-in-charge of Tangail police station.

Transport strike called off

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Lalmonirhat motor workers union withdrew its indefinite transport strike on Lalmonirhat-Burimari land port route yesterday noon after police assured the workers of taking action against the attackers. The motor workers called the indefinite strike demanding arrest of the culprits who vandalised bus and assaulted a transport worker in Barokhata area under Hatibandha upazila on Tuesday. "If police fail to arrest the attackers within a week, the union will go for tougher programme," warned secretary of the organisation Bul Bul Ahmed.

4 held with pistol, bullets

UNB, Thalakati

Rab members arrested four people and recovered a pistol and seven bullets from their possession at Satura village in Rajapur upazila on Wednesday. Rab did not disclose the identity of the arrestees 'for the sake of investigation'. Acting on a secret information, a team of Rab-8 raided the den of infamous 'Mizan-Morshed Bahini' at the village and arrested the four along with the firearm and bullets. But they failed to arrest the two gang leaders. In another drive, Rab personnel recovered a sawn-off rifle in an abandoned condition from the BRTC bus counter premises in the district town in the morning.

Seven gamblers held

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Seven people including ruling and opposition party activists were caught while gambling at Taluk Khutamara village in Lalmonirhat municipality at around 11:45 pm on Wednesday. The arrestees are BNP activists Rezaul Karim, Mazmul Islam, Akhter Hossain, Awami Jubo League activists Saidul Islam, Islam Hossain and two local gamblers Jahangir Alam and Abdul Mannan. Following a tip-off, a police team from Lalmonirhat Sadar raided the house of Abdul Mannan where he and six others were gambling. Locals said, day and night gambling became a regular affair at the house of Mannan for the last one month.



PHOTO: STAR

A worker weighs rice at an open market sale (OMS) centre at Dalpatti in Lalmonirhat town after inauguration of the centre by the deputy commissioner yesterday.

Tornado damages 50 houses in Chandpur

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

At least 50 houses in Badarpur and Toragarh areas in Hajiganj upazila were badly damaged by a tornado that lashed the area early morning yesterday.

The members of the affected families are now living under open sky. Hajiganj municipal mayor Abdul Mannan Khan Bachchu visited the area yesterday noon.

The tornado damaged 30 houses in Badarpur and 15 in Toragarh area. The storm also uprooted or damaged many trees, the mayor said.

Train movement on Chandpur-Laksam route in

Badarpur area remained suspended for several hours due to the tornado, informed Railway's assistant station-master at Chandpur Md Mostafa.

Locals said hailstorm caused extensive damage to crops in Chandpur Sadar, Matlab North and Kachua upazila.

Storm also lashed Faridpur town and its adjoining areas yesterday evening.

Strong wind disrupted power supply in the town for a long time as the 11 KV line on Mujib Sarak in Niltuly area snapped all of a sudden.

However, the power supply was restored after necessary repair work for five hours, reports BSS.

A correspondent in Natore adds: Hailstorm caused serious damage to crops in the district on Wednesday night.

The hailstorm lasted around 20 minutes in Tebaria, Horishpur and Haybatpur areas under Natore Sadar, and several places in Singra upazila.

The Department of Agriculture Extension sources said hailstones damaged wheat on 1425 hectares of land, lentil on 635 hectares, onion on 320 hectares, garlic on 80 hectares and mustard on 275 hectares.

Besides, mango bud, papaya, banana orchards were also damaged during the hailstorm.



PHOTO: STAR

Profusely budding mango trees in Chapainawabganj, the country's highest mango producing district, shows bright prospect of bumper yield of the delicious summer fruit this year.

Growers happy as mango trees blossom profusely

NATIONAL DESK

Mango growers and experts see bright prospect of a bumper production of mango this year as trees are in full bloom in Chapainawabganj and Rajshahi districts.

According to the Regional Horticulture Research Station (RHRS) in Chapainawabganj, about 80 percent mango trees in the country's largest mango-producing district have so far flowered, reports our correspondent Rabiul Hasan.

The weather has been favourable for flowering and if there is no prolonged draught, storm or foggy weather there would be a bumper production of mango this year, said Dr Md Shafiqul Islam, chief scientific officer of RHRS.

There are 16,72,500 mango trees on 22,300 hectares of land in Chapainawabganj district and Shibganj upazila has the highest 9,18,375

mango trees on 12,245 hectares of land, said sources at the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE).

The district produced 1,05,000 tonnes of mango last year, they said, adding that the Barind region sees a gradual increase in mango cultivation as farmers find it more profitable than crop farming. The weather, temperature and soil of Barind region are suitable for mango cultivation.

Nazrul Islam, president of district mango traders association, said they have requested the authorities not to allow mango import at least for three months from May to July every year as mango orchard owners and traders face financial losses due to import of Indian mangoes.

Our staff correspondent reports from Rajshahi: Almost all the mango trees in the region are now covered with buds while a few early variety

trees have started bearing fruits, as there is favourable weather condition, they said.

"If the climate remains favourable, we will see a bumper production this year," said M Yunus Ali, additional director of DAE in Rajshahi region.

The annual average mango production is about 500,000 tonnes from over 45,000 hectares of land in eight districts including 'mango capital' Chapainawabganj, he said.

DAE officials are advising mango growers about taking some precautionary measures to protect the buds from hoppers during the fruiting period, he added.

Growers are taking care for protecting buds from insects by spraying insecticides, pouring water and fertiliser around the mango trees to ensure a good yield, said Sanwar Hossain, a mango orchard owner at Kasidanga in Rajshahi city.

Muggers kill ASI of DB police at Naogaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, C'naabganj

Muggers yesterday morning killed an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of Detective Branch (DB) of police in Naogaon.

Victim Belal Hossain, 42, was posted in Naogaon while he hailed from Shibganj in Bogra district.

Police said, Belal was returning home from Dhaka by a passenger bus after finishing his training. He was going to his residence at Bangabari Moholla by a rickshaw.

When the three-wheeler reached in front of Naogaon Government Women's College at Chakdevpara at around 2:30am a gang attacked him with lethal weapons leaving him critically injured.

He was rushed to Naogaon Adhunik Sadar Hospital in an unconscious state. As his condition deteriorated the on-duty doctor sent him to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital (RMCH).

Belal succumbed to his injuries at RMCH yesterday morning at around 9:15am.

Aminul Islam, officer-in-charge of Naogaon Sadar police station said the attackers are yet to be identified.

SP Mofazzel Hossain said Belal scuffled with the muggers as they swooped on him at about 2:30am.

"The criminals then hit him with sticks and sharp weapons leaving him severely injured," the SP told UNB.

Belal was selected for UN Peacekeeping Mission in Haiti. Hence, he went to the capital for the training, sources said.

WAR CRIMES

Jamaat leader Yusuf faces another case

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Wife of a martyred freedom fighter yesterday filed a case against 12 'razakars' people including Jamaat-e-Islami central nayeb-e-ameer Abul Kalam Muhammad Yusuf on charge of killing two freedom fighters at Bagerhat during the Liberation War.

The accused killed her husband freedom fighter Asmat Ali Munshi of Khuriakhali village in Sharankhola upazila of Bagerhat district and another freedom fighter Ismail Hawlader in front of Rayenda RKDS Girls School on June 7 in 1971, said plaintiff Jaiful Bibi.

The razakars dumped the two bodies into a canal adjacent to Rayenda Bazar, she said in the case filed with the court of Bagerhat Senior Judicial Magistrate Md Rakhibul Islam.

The criminals also attacked the houses of the two killed freedom fighters, set those on fire and looted, she added.

The court ordered the officer-in-charge of Sharankhola Police Station to take action as per law.

Jubo League leader's house attacked by Krishak League leader's supporters

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Pabna Jubo league leader's house came under attack allegedly by district Krishak League leader and his supporters at Joutgari village under Sadar upazila early yesterday, while BCL factions clashed at Kulaura under Moulvibazar district the day before.

Locals said a group of people equipped with lethal weapons attacked the house of District Jubo League Office Secretary Dewar Hossain Badsha at around 1:00am and injured five family members.

Three of the injured--Khorshed Alam, 30, Reshma Khatun, 25, and Abdus Samad, 35, received severe injuries and are undergoing treatment at Pabna General Hospital.

Badsha at a press conference at the local press club yesterday alleged that District Krishak League President Sahidur Rahman and his men ransacked the house and beat up five members of his family, reports our correspondent.

He further alleged that Shahidur, also the vice chairman of Sadar Upazila Parishad, launched the attack as he strongly protested his (Shahidur) criminal activities in the area.

Denying the allegation,

Krishak League leader Shahidur Rahman said Badsha blamed him for the attack to tarnish his political image.

Protesting the attack on Badsha's house, jubo League brought out a procession in Pabna town last night. The processionists demanded exemplary punishment to the persons involved.

Our Moulvibazar correspondent reported that two Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders were injured in a factional clash at Kulaura upazila headquarters on Wednesday.

Supporters of both groups blamed each other for the incident that occurred in front of Kulaura Upazila Awami League (AL) office in the afternoon.

Local AL sources said the feud in the upazila BCL surfaced after formation of Kulaura Degree College unit.

One faction is led by Mahbubur Rahman Manna, general secretary of BCL upazila unit while another by Ataur Rahman Chowdhury Sohel, vice president of the unit.

Following the clash, Upazila Awami League in an emergency meeting yesterday suspended the BCL activities at the upazila headquarters.

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