

3 Jamaat leaders held for 'anti-state' speech

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Three Jamaat leaders were arrested on charge of delivering anti-state speech in a meeting of the party's women workers in Gobindganj upazila on Friday night.

The arrestees are Abu Taleb Mondol, Gobindganj upazila Jamaat ameer, Nurunnabi Prodhan, president of the Gaibandha district unit of Labour Welfare Federation, an associate organisation of Jamaat, and Sohrab Ali, Rajaher union Jamaat ameer.

Police said Mahfuza Begum, wife of Abu Taleb Mondol, and Akhter Banu, wife of Sohrab Ali, arranged the meeting of Jamaat women workers at the house of local Jamaat leader Abu Bakker Siddique at Panitola Kachua village.

Being informed, Gobindganj police rushed to the spot and arrested the three while the women Jamaat workers managed to flee.

Police filed a case against



Police arrest three local leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami at Gobindganj in Gaibandha district on charge of anti-state activities on Friday night.

He said the Jamaat men held a secret meeting at upazila Jamaat office recently and decided to launch anti-state and anti-government propaganda. They arranged Friday's meeting at Panitola Kachua with this end in view, the OC added.

The arrested Jamaat men were yesterday produced in a

court that sent them to jail. "This is a conspiracy to harass Jamaat men by filing false case," Gaibandha district Jamaat Ameer Dr Abdur Rahaim Sarker said, adding that the Jamaat leaders did not deliver anti-state speech in the meeting.

Police Saturday night arrested four people including a local Juba League leader for their alleged involvement in the Dhaka Shrimp Enclosure manager Pashupati Barkandaj murder case.

Killing of staff at shrimp enclosure, 4 arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sakhira

The arrestees are Shyamnagar upazila Juba League vice-president Sheikh Zaher Hossain, 29, Hafizur Rahman, 26, of village Chunkuri, Abinash Hawlia, 26, of village Munshiganj and Abdur Aziz, 20, of village Bhetkhali in Shyamnagar upazila.

Pashupati Barkandaj, 45, son of Mahadev Barkandaj of Chunkuri in Shyamnagar upazila and manager of Dhaka Shrimp Enclosure at Chunkuri was killed while 15 others were injured in a clash between two rival groups over taking possession of the enclosure at Chunkuri in Shyamnagar upazila on April 27.

Victim's daughter Bijali Rani Barkandaj of village Chunkuri filed a case with Shyamnagar police station accusing 36 people including Shyamnagar upazila Awami League (AL) joint general secretary and Munshiganj union parishad (UP) chairman Asim Kumar Mridha of killing her father on April 27.

Physically challenged, he knows no defeat

KONKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

Belal Hossain, left physically challenged by polio during early childhood, has become a successful farmer through diligence and will power.

Struggling against all odds, Belal, 35, son of late Mozahar Ali of Zamalganj-Pirpara village of Joypurhat Sadar upazila, is now known as an ideal farmer in the area.

"Belal, sixth of my seven children, was affected with polio when he was only one year old. He read up to class III at the local primary school but could not continue study after his father's death. He got about 20 decimal land from his father and started farming. He looks after everything of his land," said Belal's mother Rokeya Begum.

Recently Belal built a brick-built house where he lives with his mother. He also purchased a colour television.



Physically challenged Belal Hossain talks over his mobile while returning from work at his agriculture field at Jamalganj-Pirpara village in Joypurhat Sadar upazila.

Belal has been cultivating cash crops for long and people know him as a good farmer in the area, said local farmer Reazul Alam.

"Defying physical challenge, Belal has set an example of success for farmers in

the area. To invest for farming, he received loan on a few occasions and refunded it timely," said Joypurhat Sadar upazila Social Welfare Officer Nurun Nahar Begum.



Phensidyl traders and their accomplices hassle a Bangladesh Rifles member from Rajabari check post in Godagari upazila of Rajshahi district 'protesting' arrest of a man engaged in the contraband business, right, the unruly men vandalise the check post.



PHOTO: STAR

KMP makes fresh list of students creating chaos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) has made a new list of students who often create anarchy on the campuses of different educational institutions.

The institutions include Khulna University (KU), Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET), Daulatpur Government BL University College, Government MM City College, Government Azam Khan Commerce College, Sundarban Government College, Khulna Polytechnic Institute (KPI) and Khulna Medical College (KMC).

Necessary actions will be taken against the listed troublemakers, as they are equally responsible for creating violence on the campuses, hampering academic activities of the general students, the official said.

Recent violence between the rival student organisations led to closure of KU, KUET and KPI, creating session jam.

A top KMP official told this correspondent that 70 students belonging to Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Ialami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) units of these educational institutions have been listed as troublemakers.

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"We have already taken

serious view about the troublemakers as they were mainly responsible for compelling the authorities to close KU on April 5 and KUET on April 11 this year, the official further said.

Besides, Khulna Medical College was closed for an indefinite period on November 16 last year, BL University College on January 15 last year and KPI on July 14 the same year.

Assistant Police Commissioner Sirajul Islam, who is in-charge of the special branch of Khulna Metropolitan Police, said backgrounds of the listed students are being thoroughly checked and rechecked.

Madhupur pineapple to be smaller but 'healthy'

MIRZA SHAKIL, Tangail

The size of famous Madhupur pineapple is likely to be smaller this season as the plantations did not get sufficient water due to lack of rain while the local growers have decided to minimise use of chemicals that makes the fruit larger.

As a gesture of good will, farmers at a technology hand-over programme at Holdia village in Madhupur upazila recently also vowed to stop using harmful chemicals to ripen the fruit.

Well-known for tasty 'honey queen' variety of pineapple, Madhupur Garh region produces over one lakh tonnes of the delicious fruit a year and it is sent to different parts of the country including the capital.

Pineapple was cultivated on 7,000 hectares of land in Madhupur and 1,000 hectares in Ghatail upazila of Tangail district this year, said sources at the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE).

The hilly areas of the two upazilas got bumper yield last season as weather was favourable, local DAE office sources said.

"Pineapple growers will harvest the fruit in July and they are expecting good yield this season also. Local agriculture officials are visiting the fields to give necessary support and advice to the farmers," Madhupur Upazila Agriculture Officer Mohammad Abu Hanif said.

But size of the fruit will be smaller this season as there was not required rain during the months of Falgun and Chaitra, said Abdul Aziz, a pineapple grower of Shaliabaha village in Ghatail upazila, who has got this year's Channel i Agriculture Award.

Pineapple growers at a technology hand-over programme at Holdia village in Madhupur upazila on April 18 vowed to stop using harmful and banned chemicals to ripen the fruit and minimise use of chemicals to make the fruit larger.

They also held a demon-

stration protesting use of harmful chemicals to ripen immature fruits by a section of greedy wholesalers and middlemen (brokers).

As a result of the bad practice, consumers of the fruit are attacked with different diseases while Madhupur pineapple is losing its original taste, making it less popular to consumers, the growers said.

Among others, scientific officers of Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (BARI) Dr Mofazzal Hossain, Dr Mosleuddin Miah and Dr MA Siddique, Ausnara union parishad Chairman Nasir Uddin and general secretary of Idilpur Pineapple Growers Cooperative Association Ali Akber Fakir addressed the programme chaired by Abdur Rahim Talukder.

With saplings brought from Meghalaya in India, local Garo leader Jevier Chishim (still alive) first cultivated pineapple at Idilpur village in Madhupur upazila in 1942 and since then pineapple cultivation has become gradually popular in the area.

All to free a youth arrested in phensidyl case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A mob led by Awami League men besieged Godagari police station and assaulted policemen yesterday protesting 'harassment' of a youth in a phensidyl case.

The incident occurred in the morning after BDR men of Kharchaka outpost caught Bablu, a youth of Kharjagati village, with 20 bottles of Indian Phensidyl and handed him over to the police at 1:00am yesterday.

Hearing the news, locals led by AL men, including district Krishak League Organising Secretary Helal Uddin, besieged Godagari police station demanding release of Bablu.

According to police and witnesses, as police refused to release Bablu, Helaluddin and other AL men assaulted three cops, including Sub-Inspector Abdur Razzak. Cops encircled Helal Uddin and three other AL men at the police station, beat them up and put them into *hajat*. Protesting the incident, the

agitating locals blocked Chapainawabganj-Dhaka road at Rajabari for three hours and damaged four vehicles. An hour later, the mob drove out all BDR personnel, including Lance Nayek Siraj and Havildar Probbhash, from Rajabari check post and damaged its furniture.

They withdrew the road blockade following release of the four AL men and an assurance given by additional SP Abdul Kuddus Chowdhury that Bablu would be freed soon.

The additional SP told this correspondent that SI Abdur Razzak was closed to the police lines for his 'excess' against the AL men. Villagers alleged that BDR men took Bablu to their camp from a tea-stall, beat him up and later implicated him in a phensidyl case out of a previous grudge.

One and a half months ago, Bablu and some other villagers caught Shafikul Islam, a BDR constable of the camp, with a woman while they were engaged in an indecent act, the villagers said.

Lightning kills 11 in 5 dists

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Eleven people have been killed and several others injured in lightning in five districts.

Our Staff Correspondent in Sylhet reports: Five people were killed by lightning during storm in Bahubal and Sadar upazilas of Habiganj district yesterday morning.

Police and hospital sources identified the deceased as Mantu Rabi Dass, 40 of village Haripur, Rasel Ahmed, 20 of village Burinao and Mafia Khatun, 17 and Nizam Uddin, 18 of Snaught of Bahubal upazila and Mohima Khatun, 32 of village Baro Bohula under Habiganj Sadar upazila.

Besides, Mohima Khatun's daughter Nargis Akhtar, who sustained serious injuries is being treated at Habiganj Sadar hospital while Faisal Ahmed of Bahubal upazila admitted to the Bahubal upazila health complex.

In Gaibandha, One Mofizul Hoq, 35, of village Kismat Bagchi under Sadullapur upazila was killed a thunderbolt struck him Saturday night, reports our correspondent.

Locals said it all happened when Mofizul came

out of home during rain at the call of nature.

A UNB report from Sunamganj said two persons were killed and 8 others injured by lightning in the morning in remote villages of Tahirpur, Sadar, Jamalganj upazilas.

Anwara Begum, 44, of Rajargaon village was struck by the lightning when she was in the kitchen in the morning. Her three children were also injured. School teacher Ramanda Talukdar, 44, was killed by lightning in Rajapur village.

Of the injured, Abdul Kalam and Ibrahim were admitted to Sunamganj Sadar Hospital.

In Narayanganj, farmer Liton Mia was struck by thunderbolt when he was working in the field at Paturia village in Sonargaon upazila.

UNB from Mymensingh adds: Two siblings along with their two cows were killed by lightning at Haski village in Haluaghat upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased were identified as Monir, 18, and his younger brother Shakil, 12, sons of Shah Zaman of the village.

Police quoting family sources said the thunderbolt struck them as they were taking the two cows to a nearby field.



PHOTO: STAR

Famous Madhupur pineapple will see harvest in July but the delicious juicy fruit is unlikely to attain its usual size as the plantations did not get sufficient water in time and the farmers did not use chemicals that make the fruit larger.

One to die, 21 jailed for killing four

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal Judge Md Mahubul Islam on Wednesday awarded death penalty to one person for killing four people including a boy in Moulvibazar district.

The judge also sentenced two to life and 19 others to two years rigorous imprisonment (RI) and acquitted four others in the sensational case, court sources informed.

Absconding accused Abdur Matlib was sentenced to death while Shoeb Miah and Abdur Rahim were awarded life term.

The judge also fined Shoeb and Rahim Tk 20,000 each, in default, to suffer 6 months more in jail.

Ala Miah, Salam Miah, Selim Miah and Abdur Rab were acquitted of the charges

brought against them. One accused, Mokhles Miah, however, died during the trial.

According to the prosecution story, the aforesaid people armed with guns, attacked their rivals at about 12:30 pm on September 28 of 2003 when a village arbitration was in progress at Kashimpur of Rajnagar in Moulvibazar district. They fired at the rivals killing Farid Miah, 12, Lulu Miah, 30, Ripon Miah, 20 and Faisal Miah, 22, on the spot.

Six others with critical wounds were admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College and Hospital.

After a few hours the same day, Mujibur Rahman filed a case with the Rajnagar police station. He said in his case that Farid and Lulu were his cousins and Ripon and Faisal were nephews by relation.



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