



PHOTO: STAR  
Nagorik Unnayan Andolon supported Chittagong city mayoral candidate M Manjur Alam conducts mass contact at Agrabad in the city after receiving his election symbol 'pineapple'. Right, Nagorik Committee backed candidate ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury receives papers from returning officer Jesmin Tuli as he gets 'ship' symbol for the election scheduled for June 17.

## SNIPPETS

## BNP leader murdered

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

A local BNP leader was murdered in Jhikorgachha upazila on Tuesday night. Deceased Shahadat Hossain, 45, was son of Ohid Ali general secretary of Shadipur ward BNP. Police and locals said, Shahadat was attacked by criminals when he was returning home by a motorbike with his companions from the Bakra bazaar at about 11.30 pm. He was intercepted by the gang near the Shadipur village. The attackers dragged him to a nearby field and slaughtered him. The killers also exploded two bombs while fleeing the scene. Being informed police rushed to the spot and sent the body to Jessore General Hospital for autopsy. Officer-in-charge of Jhikorgachha police station said, "We are trying to find out the identity of the killers by interrogating Robiul and Shahajahan, two companions of Shahadat. Police said, Shahadat was accused in several murder cases. No case was lodged in this regard till filing of this report yesterday evening.

## Man kills son

A CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

A man stabbed his son to death yesterday morning at Mohispara village under Monohordi upazila of the district. Sources said, Rahim Uddin, a rickshawpuller of the Mohispara village saved hard earned Tk. 1,000 after maintaining his family. Yesterday morning, his son Al-Amin demanded the money but Rahim refused, triggering an altercation. At one stage Rahim stabbed his son Al-Amin with a sharp knife. Relatives rushed to the spot and took Al-Amin to the Shibpur Hospital where the on-duty doctors declared him dead. Police arrested Rahim Uddin after the incident.

## 18 'food poisoned'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Eighteen of a family fell sick after drinking tea on Monday. Of them, 12 were admitted to private hospital in the town. The incident took place at Bairidolon village of Ekaton Union under Sadar upazila. According to the family and hospital sources, family members of Monoi took tea on Monday at about 1 pm. Within a few minutes, all 18 fell sick one after another. Zohurunnisa, wife of housemaster Monoi Miah and their children became unconscious. Later all were taken to a private hospital in Moulvibazar. Among them, Sajna Akter, 37, Sweetey Akter, 12, Zahurunnisa, 60, Rukeya Begum, 38, Mina Begum, 35, Lopa Bakh, 25, Lizan Tarapder, 10, Mily Akter, 15, Sajna Begum, 35, Zitu Miah, 45, Nawa Begum, 42, and Merina Akter, 16, were admitted to hospital. Besides, Jashim Uddin, 60, Lalon, 20, Rechna Begum, 25, Tofa, 15, Riya Begum, 11, and Jumon, 12, were released after first aid. Actual reason for the 'food poisoning' could not be known.

## Health care centre opens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A primary health care centre under public-private partnership was inaugurated in the compound of Western Marine Shipyard at Kolagaon under Patiya upazila on bank of the Karnaphuli on Tuesday. State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Captain (Retd) Mozibur Rahman Fakir inaugurated the centre set up by the Shipyard to run in collaboration with the Ministry "Healthcare is a constitutional right of the citizens and the government is determined to fill 32,000 vacant posts in the health care sector within next few months" the state minister told the function. The centre would provide primary healthcare to 2500 workers and employees of Western Marine and around 26,000 people of the neighboring areas, sources said.

## Robbery in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Robbers looted Tk 11,000, five tolas of gold and others valuables from the residence of Niranjan Mojumder, zonal manager of Meghna Life Insurance Ltd at Gorostan Road in the town at about 11 am on Tuesday. All three members of the family were out of home during the robbery. Niranjan was in his office and his wife took their only son to school. Police and local said, the gang entered the house by breaking the lock and looted the money and gold.

# 30 hurt, 10 houses ransacked as rival AL groups clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

At least 30 people were injured and ten houses ransacked during a clash between two groups of Awami League (AL) in Shailakupa upazila of Jhenidah district yesterday.

The clash occurred in the morning following an altercation between the supporters of two local AL leaders--Nazrul Islam and Sirajul Islam--over the next Bogura

Union Parishad (UP) election in the morning.

Locals said the supporters of Nazrul first attacked the house of Mahabbat Ali of Sirajul group at Bogura village. In retaliation for the attack, AL men belonging to Sirajul group equipped with sharp weapons swooped on their rivals, leading to a fierce clash between the two sides.

Later, the supporters of both Nazrul and Sirajul from the adjacent Alaphapur,

Baroihuda and Kamanna villages also locked into the clash.

At least 30 people were injured and ten houses damaged during the clash that continued for two hours. On information, Rab and police men from Sailakupa upazila headquarters rushed to the spot, dispersed the clashing groups and brought the situation under control.

Of the injured, ten were admitted to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital, seven to

Shailakupa Upazila Health Complex while the rest given first aid at the hospitals.

Both the groups blamed each other for the incident. No case was filed with the police station concerned as of 6:00pm yesterday.

Shailakupa upazila AL General Secretary Shikder Mosharraf Hossain Sonar condemned the incident. He said the upazila unit will take necessary actions against those who are tarnishing the image of the party.

# Six arrested while trying to abduct trader, child

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Six criminals were arrested while trying to abduct a girl child and a trader in Moulvibazar Sadar and Rajnagar upazilas on Tuesday.

A gang of two picked up three-year-old Jimmy, daughter of late Jewel Miah, from Pahar Barshijura village under Moulvibazar Sadar upazila at around 6:00pm.

They lifted the girl onto an auto-rickshaw and left the

area. Suspecting its abduction, locals riding three motorbikes chased the gang and managed to catch hold of the two in Chhararpar area on Moulvibazar-Shamshernagar road.

Being informed, police from Moulvibazar Sadar Police Station reached the spot and arrested Roney Khan, 18, of Brahmanbaria district and Fazlu Miah, 20, of Rajnagar upazila.

In Rajnagar, police rescued an abducted trader and arrested four kidnappers on Tuesday afternoon.

Earlier on the day, a gang of four abducted Alauddin, 55, from Fenchuganj in Sylhet district. While he was being taken to Kulaura in a car, Rajnagar police, acting on a tip-off, intercepted the car near Rajnagar Degree College on Moulvibazar-Kulaura road at around 4:00pm.

They (police) rescued the trader Alauddin, arrested the kidnappers and seized the car. The arrestees are Abdul Khaleque, 21, of Zaintapur upazila, Helal Ahmed, 32, and Abdul Kadir, 48, of Golapganj upaila, and Pervaz Ahmed, 23, of Beanibazar upazila under Sylhet district.

# Indian held, statue recovered

STAR NATIONAL DESK

An Indian national was held on Tuesday with a precious statue weighing about 2.5kg at Panchbibi border under Joypurhat district.

Arrestee Binshnu Sarker, 39, is son of late Shunil Sarker of Balurghat upazila of south Dinajpur in India, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

BDR sources at Joypurhat 3 Battalion said, a BDR team recovered the stone-made statue worth Tk 2 core and arrested the Indian civilian at Panchbibi bus station on Tuesday afternoon.

In Khagrachhari, the case of six Indian nationals, arrested for intrusion on February 23, has been transferred to the court of Senior Judicial Magistrate, reports our correspondent.

Chief Judicial Magistrate Ikhtiarul Islam Mollik transferred the case on Monday and set June 25 for next hearing.

Of the six Indians, the four male arrestees are N Din Tekira, 34, son of H Narjari of Guru Bashu village under Chirang district, Bibedor, 27, son of Monesh Borgihora village under Dhubri district, Bibijit Giri, 25, son of Ronjit of Panbari village under Golaghat district B Thakari, 24, of Boglabari village under Golapara district and the two women arrestees are -- B Bithrahi, 23, daughter of G Bashumathari of Sangchali village under Nalbari district and B Anchali 21, daughter of Purna Bashumathari of Burimakha village under Golaghat district in Assam state.

Sub-Inspector Mohammad Aktaruzzaman Sarkar filed a case in this regard with Khagrachhari Sadar police station on February 24.

In the first information report (FIR) he mentioned them as the members of National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), a militant group of Assam, that demands a separate state.

Investigation officer Mohammad Shahjahan Ali told this correspondent yesterday that he will submit the charge sheet on June 25.



PHOTO: STAR  
Aggrieved third-year students of Mymensingh Medical College (MMC) form a human chain in front of the college yesterday after a clash with fifth-year students left seven injured. Students of the two batches blamed each other for the unholy incident that followed altercation during a friendly cricket match between the two groups at the ground of MMC hostel at Baghmara yesterday evening.

# Five outlaws get life for murder

UNB, Khulna

A court here on Monday convicted five outlaws and sentenced them to life term imprisonment in sensational Ganesh Kumar murder case.

The convicts were identified as Rafiqul Islam alias Hitler, Shimul Bhuinya alias Shihab, Manirul Islam alias Manirul, Shamim alias Suman and Nasimul Gani alias Nasim.

The court also fined them Tk 10,000 each, in default, to suffer one year more imprisonment.

According to the prosecution, the outlaws slaughtered Ganesh Kumar alias Sohail, an activist of Purba Banglar Communist Party, near Khulna Medical College in Sonadanga of the city on May 20, 1999.

Later, a case was filed by SI Jahidur Rahman in this connection.

After examining the records and 19 witnesses, Additional District and Sessions Judge Begum Rukhsana Parvin handed down the verdict.

# Tobacco farmers fall prey to traders' syndicate

## DC's office besieged in Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Over a thousand tobacco farmers laid siege to Lalmonirhat deputy commissioner's office on Tuesday and submitted memorandum demanding that tobacco companies directly purchase the produce from farmers.

DC Mokhesur Rahman assured them of taking proper initiative through discussion with the authorities of tobacco companies concerned.

The agitating farmers also held a rally at Mission Crossing in the town, where district BNP president and former deputy minister Asadul Habib Dulu addressed as chief guest.

Lalmonirhat district saw an astounding rise in tobacco cultivation this year as the

crop was cultivated on about 40 thousand acres of land against last year's six thousand acres, according to a Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) official.

Abandoning paddy or other crops, farmers cultivated tobacco on much larger areas of land as officials of different tobacco companies assured them of fair prices and distributed seeds and fertiliser free of cost, gave interest-free loan and other supports, he said.

Farmers alleged that unscrupulous staffs of tobacco companies are now purchasing tobacco from the traders' syndicate for bribe of Tk 800 to 1000 for a maund (40kg) of tobacco.

A maund (40 kgs) of Virginia tobacco is selling for Tk 800 to 1200 in the open market, while it is sold for Tk

3000 to 3600 at the purchase centres of tobacco companies.

Farmers who decline to give bribes are not allowed to sell their produce at the purchase centres of tobacco companies, they alleged.

They have to incur loss as they are compelled to sell it for lower prices in the open market.

"Representatives of several companies earlier motivated the farmers to cultivate tobacco by giving attractive promises. But farmers are now deprived of fair prices due to manipulation by middlemen," Nasir Uddin, 52, a farmer of Doulor village in Aditmari upazila, said.

Denying the allegation, district representatives of a few companies however said they are purchasing tobacco from the growers for fair prices.



PHOTO: STAR  
Aggrieved at stoppage of electricity supply for about a week, traders of Mahasthan Bazar block Dhaka-Bogra-Rangpur highway yesterday noon. The agitators withdrew the blockade following authorities' assurance and the power supply resumed in the evening.