

SNIPPETS

Lightning kills three

OUR CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabganj

Three farmers were killed by lightning at Tarapur-Thutapara village under Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj district yesterday. The dead were identified as Arshad Ali, 55, son of Rahmat Ali of Tutapara village, Khairul Islam, 50, son of late Samed Ali of Tarapur, and Nasir Uddin, 38, son of Fazlur Rahman of Bhabanipur under Monakasha Union of Shibganj upazila. Sub-Inspector Rezaul Hossain of Shibganj Police Station said the farmers were struck by lightning while working in a field at the village at around 3:30pm. They died instantly.

Student electrocuted

UNB, Chuadanga

A college student was electrocuted at Kulpala village in Alamdanga upazila on Friday. The deceased was identified as Mizu, 16, a student of Chuadanga Government College. Son of Motaleb Mondol, Mizu came in contact with a live electric while he was cutting a branch of a tree at a field near his house at around 3:00pm. He died instantly. Locals with the help of staff of the electricity office recovered the body.

SI closed

UNB, Sherpur

Sub Inspector (SI) Badruzzaman of Sherpur Sadar Police Station was closed to police lines yesterday morning for torching the banner of Durga Puja in Goalpatti area of the district town on Friday. Defying the directive of the sub-inspector, some Hindu devotees organised a lottery and started selling tickets carrying banner of Durga Puja at a club in the town. SI Badruzzaman went to the club Friday evening, seized the banner and torched it. Later the devotees met the superintendent of police and informed him about the incident. After preliminary investigation, SI Badruzzaman was closed to the police lines.

Acid attack on housewife

UNB, Gaibandha

A housewife sustained serious burn injuries in an acid attack by a criminal at Roydaspur village in Gobindaganj upazila of the district on Friday night. The victim was identified as Rina Robi Das, 28, wife of Channa Robi Das of the village. Police quoted neighbours as saying that Sabuj Mia, 18, son of Shamsul Haque of the village, threw acid on Rina at around 8:00pm while she was working at her house. The incident was a sequel to a previous enmity between Channa and Sabuj, they added. Hearing scream, neighbours rushed to the spot and took Rina to the upazila health complex. A case was filed with the police station concerned. The acid thrower has gone into hiding soon after the incident.

Three houses, jute gutted

UNB, Madaripur

Three houses were gutted in a fire at Brahmandi village in Sadar upazila on Friday. Locals said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at the house of one Yunus Molla at around 5:00pm and soon engulfed the adjacent houses of Sobhan Molla and Shaha Molla. On information, the fire fighters from the district headquarters rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze with the help of local people after an hour. The affected house owners claimed that cash and other valuables, including jute and paddy, worth about Tk 15 lakh were gutted in the fire.

Schoolboy stabbed to death

UNB, Saver

A schoolboy was stabbed to death allegedly by his friends at Gajirchat munshipara under Ashulia Police Station on Friday night. The victim was identified as Sujun Miah, 15, a class ten student of Gajirchat M High School. Family sources said Sujun's friend Saiful called him out of the house at around 8:00pm. Sujun was taken near a garments factory where Saiful and others stabbed him and left the scene. Sujun was taken to a clinic and later shifted to Square Hospital in the capital where doctors declared him dead. Victim's father filed a case with shulia Police Station.

Woman tourist killed at Cox's Bazar cottage

Manager arrested

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Police recovered the body of a 22-year-old woman tourist from a room of Dhaka Cottage at Kolatoli on Cox's Bazar sea beach Friday night.

Police suspected that the woman was strangled in the room. They arrested Manager of Dhaka Cottage Amir Hossain, 42, for his alleged involvement in the incident.

Police and Dhaka Cottage authorities said a youth named Shamim Ahmed booked room No 102 of the cottage and boarded the room along with a woman.

In the register of the cottage, their names were recorded as Shamim Ahmed, 27, son of Abdul Latif and his wife Rokeya Begum, 22, of Narayanganj, Dhaka, they said.

Dhaka Cottage Manager

Amir Hossain told police that Shamim and Rokeya booked the room for two nights. They went out of the room at around 9:00am and returned to the cottage in the afternoon.

When the room was found locked from outside in the evening, staff peeped through the window and found the body of the woman lying inside the room. Later, police were informed, the manager said.

Cox's Bazar Model Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Shahjahan said police recovered the body of the woman by breaking open the door of the room and sent it to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

He said law enforcers are looking for the youth who identified himself as the woman's husband. Police also found a cellphone in the room and seized it.

38 sued for killing two brothers in Kishoreganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Thirty-eight people have been sued on charge of killing two brothers at Dhuldia Bazar under Katiadi upazila of Kishoreganj district on Friday night.

After filing of the case, police arrested three of the accused. They are Bachhu Mia, 23, Borhan Uddin, 25, and Abdul Mannan, 28, of Dhuldia village in the upazila.

At around 7:30pm on Friday, two siblings, Madhu Mia, 45 and his younger brother Nuru Mia, 40, were beaten to death by a mob as

suspected robbers at Dhuldia Bazar.

Witnesses said as the two siblings were preparing to commit a robbery at the bazar, locals chased and severely beat the two, leaving them dead on the spot.

Ferdous Mia, son of Madhu Mia, filed a murder case with Katiadi Police Station accusing 38 people yesterday.

Farid Ahmed, officer-in-charge (OC) of Katiadi Police Station said Madhu, Nuru and their four other brothers were accused of looting and other criminal activities in the area.

Six muggers arrested in Bogra

UNB, Bogra

Local people caught six muggers at Atil in Shahjahanpur upazila of the district on Friday and handed them over to the police.

The muggers are Enamul Haque, 22, son of late Afsar Ali of Mohipur village, Rezaul Karim, 28, son of Abdul Karim of Dharmakom village, Hamidul Islam, 20, son of Khoka Pramanik, Jagat, 22, son of Abul Hossain Talukder, Zahidul Islam, 26, son of Abu Bakar Siddique and Hossain Ali, 28, son of late Abdul Aziz of Mirzapur Fultola in Sherpur upazila.

Police said smuggler Bidyut

of Nandigram upazila was carrying Indian saris to Santahar from Shahjahanpur upazila headquarters in an auto-rickshaw on Friday night. When the tree-wheeler reached Birkula area, the gang intercepted the vehicle and looted the saris from Bidyut at gunpoint.

Hearing the news, locals chased the muggers, caught them in Atil area and beat them up.

On information, police rushed to the spot and took the muggers to Shahjahanpur Police Station. They recovered 50 pieces of Indian saris from the gang.



Pedestrians, rickshaws and motorcycles move amid risk through the bamboo-made link of Gangasagar bridge on Aricha-Harirampur road while the area has remained off-limits to buses and cars as the approach road of the bridge has collapsed.

PHOTO: STAR

B'BARIA TOWN CANAL BEAUTIFICATION

Project work stalled as encroachers not evicted

SHEIKH MD SHAHIDUL ISLAM, B'baria

The beautification project-work (phase-two) on the 4.8-kilometre-long canal flowing across Brahmanbaria town has come to a halt, as the local municipality authorities are yet to demark the canal and evict the encroachers from both the banks.

Tk 7 crore project on both the banks of the canal was supposed to be complete in March this year in two phases after the municipality authorities started the project in 2008. According to project design, a 1.5 metre wide foot-path, a flood protection wall, a huge sitting arrangement including gardening and tree plantation, two landing stages and at least 13 staircases were supposed to be constructed at different points of the canal to facilitate anchoring the boats

and using the water.

"Municipal authorities started the project without evicting any illegal structures from Kazipara to Poiratala on the both banks of the canal. Rather, they completed the earth filling work of the banks from Tufayel Azam Bridge point to Moulovi Hati," said Kazi Safi Uddin of Kazipara area.

During the last caretaker government, the surveyor of Brahmanbaria Zila Parishad marked all illegal structures with red colour. Later on, the authorities of Brahmanbaria municipality ignoring the said step started the reconstruction work according to existing flow of the canal, Safi Uddin added.

"The authorities did not even re-excavate the bed of the canal at all. They only filled the banks with sand from the nearby Titas River. As a result,

the width and depth of the canal has become reduced," said Matin Ahamed of Jail Road area.

Different organisations including Sacheton Nagorik Committee and Paribesh Bachao Andolan urged the authorities to save the canal. They also warned that the canal would die if the real structure is changed. The authorities are yet to pay heed to this issue, said Prof Muklesur Rahman Khan, convener of Sacheton Nagorik Committee.

According to a latest survey report done by the engineering section of Brahmanbaria municipality, now the width of the canal is only between 17 metres and 29 metres although actual width is in between about 39.5 metres and about 19.7 metres.

The breadth of the canal has now come down below 26

metres by the top side while 10 metres by bottom side or at the canal bed.

On condition of anonymity, one engineer of Brahmanbaria municipality said illegal structures constructed on the banks of the canal and demarcation are the main barrier against the completion of the work.

When contacted, Brahmanbaria municipality Mayor Md Hafizur Rahman Mulla Kochi said they could not start the project work in time as several organisations in the town stood against it showing wrong excuses.

"Now the beautification project (second phase) remains stalled because the canal is yet to be demarcated. We hope to start work to complete work of the project after the rainy season," the mayor said.

Tragic!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A nine-year-old boy died of suffocation as his mother's scarf, hanging from a wire at his South Tepakhola residence in Faridpur town, got wrapped around his neck on Wednesday night.

The deceased, Ikramul Hossain Shakib, was son of Salma Begum and Iqbal Hossain, an expatriate of Spain, and a class three student of Tarar Mela Ishan Memorial School in Faridpur town.

At around 7:30pm, Shakib was taking his dinner and watching television sitting on a wooden stool beside his mother who was serving him the food, said relatives and neighbours.

In the room, a pink silken scarf was hanging from a wire used for hanging clothes.

At one stage, Salma went to another room to bring some more rice for Shakib. After returning to the room with rice, she found Shakib fallen on the floor with the scarf wrapped around his neck. Crying for help, the mother fainted.

Shakib was later sent to Faridpur General Hospital where on duty doctor declared him dead.

"Shakib died of suffocation as he got strangled while playing with the scarf," neighbour Alamgir Miah quoted relatives as saying.

Visiting the house on Wednesday night, this correspondent found that hundreds of people from different areas gathered at the place after hearing the sad news. Many shed tears to see the pathetic sight.

He was laid to rest at Alipur graveyard in the town the same night.



Beez Bistar Foundation and Naya Krishi Andolon, two organisations working for agricultural development, form a human chain in front of Chapainawabganj Press Club marking World Food Day yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

CHUADANGA AL LEADER MURDER

Arrested ex-bodyguard found involved

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police have claimed to identify one of the killers of Chuadanga Awami League leader Mizanur Rahman Mizan and seize evidence.

The 'identified killer', Robiul Islam of Hogoldanga in Damurhuda upazila, who once acted as bodyguard of Mizan, named his six accomplices in the killing and also the names of masterminds behind it, police said.

Robiul is now in Chuadanga jail with a few others arrested after the killing on Tuesday.

Police said the killing took place over establishment of supremacy in the area con-

cerning the upcoming union parishad election and opponents arranged the murder by killers hired for Tk 2 lakh.

Robiul acted as 'bodyguard' of Mizan but several months ago Mizan cut relation with Robiul following a conflict over repair work of a road and opponents made Robiul agree to take part in the killing mission in exchange of money, a police official said.

Sources said Mizan, who was twice elected member of Natipota UP, became the acting UP chairman after elected chairman Moniruzzaman Moni was suspended on charge of corruption and landed in jail in 2007.

Several groups are active to win the UP chairmanship,

local sources said, adding that Mizan was a potential candidate in the next election.

Meanwhile, district police authorities have closed to police lines officer-in-charge of Damurhuda Police Station Sikdar Moshir Rahman and Hogoldanga camp in-charge Monsur Ahmed for their alleged negligence of duty during the incident.

"Action will be taken if any policeman's negligence of duty is found," said Chuadanga Superintendent of Police Nazrul Islam.

Mizan's wife Doly said when the offenders reached the spot, Mizan repeatedly phoned Hogoldanga police camp and Damurhuda Police Station for help but received no response.



PHOTO: STAR

Railway tracks on Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj route have remained in an awfully dilapidated condition for long, causing frequent derailments despite very slow movement of trains. The photo was taken from near Rajshahi Court station yesterday.