

DRIVES IN COX'S BAZAR, BANDARBAN

Illegal arms factory unearthed, 4 guns recovered: 2 held

A CORRESPONDENT,
Cox's Bazar

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) Chittagong-7 in separate drives in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban have unearthed an illegal arms factory, recovered four firearms, arms manufacturing materials and arrested two people.

The arrestees are Md Ilyas, 30, son of Abdul Majid

of Dakkhin Khanaghona under Napitkhali and Md Kayes Miah, 22, son of late Md Yunus of Kodaliakata village under Ramu upazila.

The recovered arms included three LG guns and one single barrel gun—all locally made. Besides, different types of spare parts used in gun making were seized.

Rab-7 assistant director S

M Nurul Huda said, members of Rab at Chakoria Camp, at around 10:30 pm Thursday, raided Battoli Bazaar under Napitkhali village and recovered the arms. They also arrested two people on charge of possessing the arms. During interrogation the arrestees confessed to their involvement with gun-running and manufacturing.

They disclosed to Rab that they have an arms factory in remote jungle of Lal Mati hills near Fakirakula village of Lama in the hill district of Bandarban.

As per the information by the arrestees, the elite force members raided the Lal Mati den in Lama and unearthed an arms factory at around 5:00am.

Deputy Commanding Officer Major Abdus Samad of Rab-7 told our staff correspondent in Chittagong that they recovered six drill machines, 10 drill-machine pins, six equipment used in making light gun, two .303 rifle bullets, two ambush machines, two hammers, two pipes of light gun, two screw drivers, 13 springs, 250 gram chemical used in melting iron and other materials.

Captain Himadri Shekhor, who led the drives said they would continue to conduct more drives on the basis of information given by the arrestees during interrogation.

The arrestees were handed over to the police at Lama police station while a case was filed in this connection, said Capt Shekhor.



PHOTO: STAR

Rapid Action Battalion seizes several arms and arms manufacturing materials from Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts yesterday.

Mystery shrouds death of trainee at Sunamganj PTI

UNB, Sunamganj

Mystery has shrouded the death of a female trainee at a Sunamganj primary training institute (PTI).

Anamika Das, 22, assistant teacher of Bausha Government Primary School and daughter of Subol Das of Chhatak Paper Mill area of Chhatak upazila allegedly committed suicide by hanging from the ceiling of her room at Shah Paran Hall of the institute early yesterday.

Shah Paran Hall Superintendent Abul Kashem said Anamika was barred from leaving the dormitory when she along with others were found gossiping in the hall at 9pm. Co-trainees and colleagues of the deceased said Anamika's sister Lipika Das, who also lives in Room No. 402 on the third floor went on leave on Friday.

In the morning, residents of other rooms found Anamika hanging from the ceiling and informed the hall

superintendent.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Sunamganj Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, the trainee teachers brought out a procession in the town yesterday demanding an inquiry into the 'mysterious' death. The procession paraded different streets of the town. At least five trainee teachers were injured as police charged baton to disperse the procession.

Villagers save girl from early marriage

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Sakhira

A 13-year-old girl was saved from under-age marriage in face of protest by villagers on Friday.

Agitated people of Jadabpur submitted an allegation to Shyamnagar upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) requesting him to intervene and save Mousumi Khatun, daughter of Md Abdul Hannan from being married to a 25-year-old youth of the same upazila.

UNO Sabbir Ahmed responded to the allegation and sent a police team to stop the early marriage which consequently saved Mausumi.

Mousumi Khatun, a class eight student of Jadabpur Jobeda-Sohrab Model Academy did not agree to the proposal when her parents arranged her marriage with Aminur Rahman Sardar, 25 son of Hossain Ali Sardar of Khubdipur village in Shyamnagar upazila.

The marriage was fixed on Friday and her parents had bought a motorbike and freeze for the bridegroom. She started crying as she did not dare to protest. Being informed, villagers came to her rescue and submitted an allegation to the UNO seeking his help to stop the illegal marriage.

Farmer killed in Khulna

UNB, Khulna

Police recovered the body of a farmer from Kabadak River in Daspara area of Koira upazila Friday morning.

The deceased was identified as Ahad Ali Sana, 65, son of late Mandar Ali Sana of Daspara village.

Police said Sana went out of his house on Wednesday and since then he remained missing. Local people found the body packed in a sack in the river at around 8am and informed the police.



PHOTO: STAR

Nilphamari-bound intercity train Nilsagar Express derailed at the entrance to Parbatipur junction on Friday afternoon, causing damage to 300-metre-long track. The accident also left eight passengers injured.

Housewife killed for dowry

UNB, Rangpur

A housewife, who was tortured for dowry allegedly by her husband on Thursday at Khetkipara village in Badarganj upazila, died at Rangpur Medical College and Hospital (RMCH) on Friday.

The deceased was identified as Suborna, wife of Motahar Ali of the village.

Family sources said Suborna, daughter of Abdus Salam of Chhoto Hazipur Baniapara village, was married off with Motahar six years ago.

Since the marriage, Motahar and his family members used to torture her for dowry.

Sources said, Motahar picked up a quarrel with his

wife over the issue on Thursday night and at one stage beat her mercilessly and poured poison into her mouth, leaving her critically injured.

She was rushed to the upazila health complex. As her condition deteriorated she was admitted to RMCH where she died on Friday morning.



PHOTO: STAR

Children are engaged in setting posters in favour of the candidates for the upcoming union parishad election in Harirampur upazila of Manikganj district where a section of candidates have continued defying election code of conduct.

One jailed, 5 fined for poll code violation

8 hurt in clash, armed criminals active

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A mobile court in Ghoraghat upazila of Dinajpur yesterday jailed a man of a union parishad chairman candidate for bribing voters.

Mizanur Rahman, 26, working in favour of Kazi Maksudur Rahman Labu, a chairman candidate in Palshapara union parishad will suffer 15 days jail for the offence, reports our correspondent.

The court led by Maksuda Khanam, UNO of Ghoraghat upazila, also fined him Tk 15,000.

Mizanur Rahman is son of Ansar Ali of Ilsha Gopalpur village under the upazila.

Acting on a tip-off, a mobile team led by the UNO raided Ruposhipara village of Palashpur union of the upazila and caught Mizanur red-handed while giving money to the voters.

In Gaibandha, a mobile court in separate verdicts fined five candidates for breaching election code of conduct in Sundarganj upazila yesterday, reports our correspondent.

The mobile court led by Shamsul Azam, UNO Sundarganj upazila, fined Kanchipara union parishad candidate Shamsuzzaman Mizan Tk1,000, women reserve seat candidate for Chandipur union Rahima Khatun Tk300, member candidates Khaibor Hossain, Mostafizur Rahman and Jainul Abedin each Tk300 for holding rally and other offences.

Opposition candidates meanwhile has filed an allegation with the UNO against member candidate Mozaffar

Basunia for holding procession. They also submitted a documentary evidence to the UNO in this regard.

Measures against the candidate will be taken after investigation, said the UNO of Sundarganj upazila.

Meanwhile, at least eight people were injured in a clash between supporters of two union parishad member candidates at Kazi Kashba village in Sadar upazila of Munshiganj on Friday.

Police said, member candidate Kazi Fulon was holding a meeting with his supporters at the house of one Sohag of the village in the afternoon, reports UNB.

The clash took place after the supporters of another candidate Ripon Bhuiyan attacked the supporters of Fulon.

Of the injured, Sohag and Shaon were admitted to Munshiganj General Hospital.

Our Manikganj correspondent reported that armed criminals have become active in the char areas of Harirampur upazila ahead of the June 2 union parishad election.

Soures said, the gangs are moving freely with arms. The situation is turning worse with the nearing of election, leaving the voters amid worry and anxiety.

Locals recently sought intervention from the higher authorities for necessary steps to ensure a peaceful atmosphere.

Five unions out of the 13 in the upazila are in char areas and Azimnagar is one of the char unions.

During a visit to Azimpur a few days

ago, this correspondent found that supporters of two rival chairman candidates of the union locked in fierce altercation.

The number of voters in Azimpur is around 4500 while around 500 other voters live outside the union.

Incumbent chairman Abdul Hannan Mridha and Bellal Hossain are rival candidates for the chairman post.

Abdul Hannan Mridha alleged that his rival recently hired some armed goons from neighbouring Faridpur district who are giving death threats to his supporters.

The armed men are creating pressure on my supporters to join election campaign. They are also tearing up my posters, he alleged.

Refuting the charges Bellal Hossain made similar allegations against his rival candidate.

Elderly voter Hamid Ali of Hatighata area said, "Armed men are being used in the election campaign".

"Some unidentified youths frequently roam around on motorbike", he added.

Another voter on condition of anonymity, said "these armed criminals flee to the other side of the river whenever they sense presence of law enforcers".

They urged the authorities to deploy sufficient number of policemen in the areas to ensure a peaceful atmosphere ahead of and during election.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Harirampur police station Shawkat Ali said "police are keeping an eye on the situation. The authorities are thinking of deploying more police two days ahead the election."

Jasim seems maimed for life, accused at large

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Manikganj

Victim of violence centring a cricket match two months ago, a youth of Ghona village in Manikganj Sadar upazila is yet to get back normal life while all the accused in the case filed for the brutal torture have remained at large.

Poor family of the victim, Mohammad Jasim, 20, finds it hard to continue the expensive treatment.

Jasim was mercilessly beaten with wooden sticks, cricket bats and stamps as people of Ghona and Ramonpur villages engaged in a clash following a trivial matter at the end of a friendly cricket match held at Ramonpur playground on March 25.

Jasim, who fell unconscious with serious injuries to his head, was immediately taken to Manikganj Sadar Hospital from where he was referred to Dhaka Medical College.

Jasim's father Abdur

Rashid, a poor day labourer, borrowed Tk 1 lakh for his son's treatment. After long treatment at DMCH, Jasim regained his sense but not normal life. He cannot speak and gives only blank look. Earlier he worked at a workshop at Joyra in Manikganj to contribute to the family.

"We have to spend Tk 200 daily to buy medicine for our son. It is too much for us. Our two other sons read in classes seven and two," Jasim's mother Josna Begum said.

"I filed a case with Manikganj Sadar police station on March 30 against Habul of Patrail village, Ramzan, Joni and Sohan of Ramonpur village, Selim and Jasim of Muljan village and three or four other unidentified people for mercilessly beating up my nephew Jasim but the accused are still at large," said the victim's uncle Mohammad Habib.

The officer-in-charge of Manikganj Sadar police station said they are trying to arrest the accused people.



PHOTO: STAR

Mother Josna Begum gives a loving touch to Mohammad Jasim, left speechless and mentally imbalanced due to merciless beating by several villagers on March 25.