

UP poll-related violence kills 2, injures 40

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Union parishad poll-related violence in Khagrachhari, Sirajganj, Narail and Comilla left two people dead and at least 40 others injured yesterday and the day before.

Our Khagrachhari correspondent reported that a man was killed and at least 11 others were injured in a pre-poll clash in Tabalchhari Union under Matiranga upazila on Friday evening.

The deceased was identified as Abul Kalam, 38, vice-president of Tabalchhari union Jubo League.

Police quoted locals as saying that the supporters of BNP backed chairman candidate Abul Kasham Bhuiyan locked in a clash with Awami League supported candidate Abdul Kader's men in Suknachhari area of Tabalchhari Union at around 6:30pm on Friday, leaving 11 people from both sides injured.

Critically injured Kalam was admitted

to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital and later referred to Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH) where he died early yesterday.

Eight unions in the upazila will go to polls on July 2.

In Sirajganj, a defeated member candidate was killed by unidentified criminals at Kamarkhand upazila of Sirajganj district on Friday, reports our correspondent.

On information, police recovered the body of Badiuzzaman Bodi, 50, from Moynakandi village in Jhaol Union yesterday morning.

Momtaz Uddin Ahmed, a sub-inspector of Kamarkhand Police Station, said Badiuzzaman went missing after he had gone out of his residence on Friday night.

Our Narail correspondent adds: At least 10 people were injured in a clash between the he supporters of two chairman candidates in Kashipur Union of Lohagara upazila on Friday.

Four of the injured were admitted to Lohagara Upazila Health Complex and one of them named Uttam Somaddar, 40, was later shifted to Khulna Medical College and Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

Locals said the clash ensued following an altercation between the supporters of chairman aspirants Azizur Rahman and Md Motiar Rahman during electioneering at Bosupoti village.

In Comilla, polling at a centre in Homna upazila was yesterday postponed as the unruly supporters of a chairman candidate snatched three ballot boxes from there, according to UNB.

Locals said the supporters of Awami League backed chairman candidate Abul Bashar Molla of Chander Char Union Parishad clashed with police and snatched three ballot boxes from Ramkrishnapur Kamal Smrity Girls' High School centre at around 12:30pm.

At least 10 people, including three policemen, were injured in the clash.



PHOTO: STAR

People of Dahogram-Angorpota enclave under Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat district are allowed to cross the gate of Tinbigha corridor to enter the mainland of Bangladesh only during the daytime.

'DAHOGRAM-ANGORPOTA FREE DAY' TODAY

'Keep Tinbigha corridor gate always open'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

People of Dahogram-Angorpota enclave under Patgram upazila in Lalmonirhat district will observe 'free day' today in conformity with their yearly programme since June 26 in 1992.

In observance of 'Dahogram-Angorpota free day', they will bring out a procession and submit a memorandum seeking realisation of 10-point demand to the prime minister through Patgram upazila nirbahi officer.

The demand includes keeping the iron gate at Tinbigha corridor open for 24 hours and turning the hospital at the enclave a full pledged one, locals said.

"We will bring out a procession from Dahogram High School ground. After parading through different roads it will end near the iron gate made by Indian authorities. Then we will submit a memorandum seeking realisation of our 10-point demand," said Reza Islam, secretary of the Dahogram-Angorpota enclave free day observation committee.

"Our main demand is to keep open the Indian gate at Tinbigha corridor for 24 hours. Now the gate is kept open for 12 hours at

daytime, but we the enclave people remain confined during the night," he said.

"If our government can arrange keeping the gate open for 24 hours through talking with the Indian government, it will be of great help for the enclave people as we will be able to go to the mainland whenever necessary," said Afsar Ali, 70, a resident at Angorpota village.

Mozidul Islam Mollah, 65, of the same village also echoed the same.

Following a long parley, the Indian authorities in June 1996 agreed to keep the corridor gate open for 12 hours from 6:30am to 6:30pm. Since then, provision has been made to keep the gate open during daytime and shut at night.

Patgram upazila parishad Chairman Ruhul Amin Babul, also the secretary of Patgram upazila unit of Awami League, said the present government is trying to persuade the Indian government to keep open the gate at Tinbigha corridor, the doorway to Dahogram-Angorpota, for 24 hours.

The enclave people will hoist the national flag today and arrange *milad mahfil* and sports marking the 'free day'.

Housewife killed for dowry

UNB, Narayanganj

A newly married housewife was murdered allegedly by her husband for dowry at Baruna Rataidia village in Rugganj upazila early Friday.

The deceased was identified as Sonia Akhter, 18, wife of Ismail Hossain of the village.

Neighbours said Ismail married Sonia, daughter of Sanaullah on April 14, this year and since then he started to torture her for dowry.

On Thursday late night, Ismail locked in an altercation with Sonia over the issue and at one stage he strangled her. Later, he hung the body from the ceiling fan in a bid to prove that she had committed suicide.

Police on information recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy. Ismail went into hiding, police said.

Body recovered

UNB, Sirajganj

Police recovered the body of a middle aged man from beside a graveyard at Moynakandi village in Kamarkhand upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Bodiuzzaman, 52, son of late Rafat Ali of the village.

Police quoting family sources said criminals called Bodiuzzaman out of his house on Friday night and since then he remained missing.



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Fisheryghat in Chittagong went under water after yesterday's moderate rain, bearing testimony to the serious waterlogging problem affecting many areas of the port city.

WARI-BATESHWAR HERITAGE SITE

Govt support for excavation to continue, says Muhith

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said that the government would continue to extend all support for excavation and maintenance of Wari-Bateshwar archeological site.

While visiting the site at Belabo upazila of the district the minister said that its historic importance can be compared with Harappa in India.

The minister yesterday went round Wari-Bateshwar including the excavation sites at Jannartak and Dopirtak.

The relics of 2500-year-old copper age were found during the excavation at the site by a team of researchers led by archeology department head of Jahangirnagar University Professor Sufi Mostafizur Rahman a few years ago.

The minister later addressed a meeting near the site chaired by Nuh-e-Alam Lenin, member of the Oitija Onneshan Trustee

Board and publicity secretary of Bangladesh Awami League, reports BSS.

The minister said Wari-Bateshwar speaks for a civilisation that existed on the Brahmaputra 2500 years ago. He said the cultural ministry has been providing financial assistance for excavation work at Wari-Bateshwar archeological site for last three years.

Calling for protection of heritage sites he urged the local people to come forward to assist the excavation work.

Among others, local MP Nurul Mojib Mahmud Humayun, JU archeology Professor Sufi Mostafizur Rahman and discoverer of Wari-Bateshwar Habib Ullah Pathan spoke.

Habib Ullah Pathan said though the digging at Wari-Bateshwar formally began in 2000, the 3.6 lakh square meter site was actually discovered in 1930 by his father Hanif Pathan.



PHOTO: STAR

Archaeological site at Jankhartek in Shibpur upazila of Narsingdi district. Finance Minister Abul Mal Abdul Muhith visited the excavation work there yesterday.

Patient's death sparks protest

UNB, Panchagarh

Death of a pregnant woman due to alleged negligence of doctors at Sadar hospital sparked protest on Friday noon.

The relatives of the patient and villagers got furious and cordoned off the hospital. They manhandled Amjad Hossain, a staff of the hospital and demonstrated in the hospital compound.

Hasina, 18, wife of Mojahar Hossain of Jatanpukuri village in Sadar upazila was admitted to the hospital early Friday with severe abdominal pain.

The relatives of the patient alleged that no doctor came to visit her in 7/8 hours since her admission, leading to deterioration of her condition.

Later, Residential Medical Officer (RMO) Dr Baharam Ali visited her at 11:00 am and referred her to district general hospital seeing her critical condition and she died there after sometime.

Drug peddler jailed

UNB, Kushtia

A mobile court here on Friday convicted a woman drug peddler and sentenced her to six months jail for possessing hemp.

The convict was identified as Morzina Begum, wife of Abdul Khalek, hailed from Jamalpur village in Doulatpur upazila.

Police said they arrested Morzina with 500 grams of hemp from Mothrapur area.

Robbers kill expat, injure wife, son

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Robbers killed a septuagenarian expatriate early yesterday at Biswanath upazila headquarters of the district.

Victim Sheikh Tahir Ali, aged about 75, was a British expatriate.

Sources said, at about 3:00 am, about 10 to 15 armed robbers entered the house of Sheikh Tahir Ali at Notunbazar by breaking open collapsible gate.

As Tahir woke up and tried to resist the gang, they swooped on him and hacked him with a sharp weapon severely.

Later, they tied up Tahir's wife Meherunnesa and son Sheikh Azad with ropes and beat them up severely.

The robbers took away 30 tolas of gold ornament, two British passports and other valuables from the house.

Tahir was rushed to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College and Hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Sheikh Azad and his mother was admitted to the hospital.

Tahir Ali had been staying

at his village home for about a year. His son came home a month ago to see his parents.

Officer-in-charge of Biswanath police station inspector Asheque Suja Mamun said Tahir's wife contacted police after the incident. Filing of a case in this regard is under process, he said.

In Gaibandha, Gobindganj police arrested six robbers at Ural bridge point on Gobindganj-Kamdia road early yesterday, reports our correspondent.

Police said at about 3:00 am, the gang felled roadside trees to put up barricade on Gobindganj-Kamdia road. They were taking preparation for committing robbery with deadly weapons, they said.

Being informed by locals, police arrested all six red-handed from the spot. The arrestees are Mojidul Islam, 22, Sada Mia, 25, Azadul Mia, 28, Al-Amin, 22, Shahin Mia, 21, and Sadequul Islam, 26.

The arrestees are notorious criminals and inhabitants of Palashbari upazila, said S I Golam Rabbani of Gobindganj police station.

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