

# Two killed over family feud in Thakurgaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Two men died in separate incidents in Haripur upazila and the sadar upazila yesterday and Thursday.

Haripur police said a man was strangled to death allegedly by his in-laws at Jamun Nayabasti village in Haripur Thursday night.

The deceased is Rezaul Karim, 35, of Bhaddraswari village in Ranishankoil upazila.

Locals said Rezaul was having disagreement with his wife over the last couple of days.

The victim's father Malimuddin filed a case with Haripur Police Station accusing seven persons yesterday.

Police arrested Nur Islam, brother-in-law of Rezaul; Abdul Faes, a nephew of Nur; and Alefa Begum, mother of Nur; and sent them to Thakurgaon jail.

Meanwhile, a man succumbed to his injuries in Thakurgaon sadar hospital yesterday after he was beaten up severely by his younger brother at Balapara village on Tuesday.

The deceased is Mestullah, 55.

Gopal Chakraborti, officer-in-charge, Thakurgaon Police Station, said the victim's younger brother Alimuddin beat him up as he protested Alimuddin's cutting down of several bamboo trees from his bamboo-bush.

Mestullah's son Akbar Ali filed a case with Thakurgaon Police Station yesterday accusing Alimuddin, 50, and his wife Kikina Begum. Police arrested the couple.



Traders extract huge quantity of sand from Lembur Char everyday, causing coastal erosion in Nizampur Karampur, Kuakata, a panoramic sea beach in Patuakhali. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

# Amini can 'oust' govt by hartal in a week!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Oikya Jote Chairman Fazlul Haque Amini yesterday threatened to "oust" the government within a week by hartal if he is arrested.

Swearing upon God, he also said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would land in jail for five years if they are voted to power.

Amini was addressing a press conference at Islami Ain Bastobayan Committee office auditorium in the city's Lalbagh.

"I swear upon Allah! If I am arrested today, Hasina (Awami League government) will fall within a week.

"Arresting me would not be as easy as the others. Thousands of Alem (religious thinkers) and bold activists will come out on the streets. They will give such a hartal that it would overthrow the government in the end."

He said he was shown absconding even though he was under house arrest and could not move freely from his residence without the permission of Lalbagh Police Station. "This is all because of Sheikh Hasina.

"But I swear upon Allah! If Sheikh Hasina keeps me on house arrest for five months, she will be in jail for five years," he said.

# Farmer slaughtered in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

A farmer was killed by unidentified miscreants at Durgapur village in Sreepur upazila early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Abdus Salam, 50, son of late Hashem Ali of the village.

Some miscreants slaughtered Salam at around 3:00am while he was asleep at the veranda in his house, said Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Sreepur Police Station Kazi Abdus Salek.

The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately, the OC added.

The police sent the body to Magura Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

# Recognise physiotherapy Urge hundreds of physiotherapists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred physiotherapists at a congress yesterday demanded recognition of physiotherapy as an independent and autonomous profession to ensure comprehensive health service to people.

The 4th National Physiotherapy Congress was organised by Bangladesh Physiotherapy Association (BPA) at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban in Dhaka University where 300 physiotherapists, out of around 1,500 in the country, were present.

Assuring government consideration to their proposal, Finance Minister AMA Muhit, addressing the congress as the chief guest, suggested leaders of the physiotherapists to submit a written proposal in this regard to the health ministry.

"I believe the government would go ahead with the proposal of appointing a physiotherapist in every government health centre and hospital," said Muhit.

He urged physiotherapists to continue

research and upgrade their academic curriculum to MBBS and BDS standard to realise their demand.

"Physiotherapy is critical in providing road accident victims the services they need to bring them back to an active and normal life," said Prof Dr Khondhaker Shefayetullah, director general of Directorate General of Health Services.

Speakers at the programme also demanded formation of a licensing and registering authority, enabling physiotherapists to legally and independently diagnose and treat people after graduation.

Earlier, former BPA general secretary Prof Dr Sohrab Hossain and Gono Bishwabidyalaya Assistant Prof Dr Mohan Nallathambi presented two keynote papers focusing on the profession's growth and its contemporary practice in Bangladesh and abroad.

BPA Secretary General Dr Bakhtiar, BPA Chief Adviser Prof Altaf Hossain Sarker and Popular Group Managing Director Dr Mostafizur Rahman addressed the congress, chaired by BPA President Dr Shahadat Hossain.

# Army man murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Unknown miscreants hacked an army man to death at his rented house in Akua Khalpar area in the town early yesterday, police said.

Mahub Alam, 35, the victim, hailed from village Kaitail in Madan upazila, Netrakona. He was stationed as a Lance Corporal in Moynamoti Cantonment in Comilla.

No clue was yet discovered to his killing.

Police quoted Mahub's wife Shilpi Begum as saying that three unknown persons entered their house around 2:00am and killed him, brandishing pistols at her and the children.

Borhan Uddin, SI of Kotwali Police Station, said they recovered the body from the bedroom and sent it to Mymensingh Medical College for autopsy.

The SI said the body bore injury marks in the head inflicted by sharp weapons, and he was not shot.

# Miscreants set fire to madrasa girl in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A girl student of a madrasa in city's Mirpur received burn injuries when miscreants threw flammable liquid and fire stick on it through a window of a room of the institution last night.

Shanta Islam, 15, a student of class seven of Talimul Islam Madrasa was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital's burn unit immediately. Doctors said she received 8 percent burn injuries but her condition is stable.

Madrasa staff and classmates of Shanta told police that she was taking care of a child of a female teacher at the ground floor of the six-story institution when some miscreants threw the liquid about 8:00pm.

Officer-in-charge of Mirpur Police Station Kazi Wazed Ali told The Daily Star that incident might be a sequel to throwing water and bottles by the madrasa students into nearby slum a few days ago.

# VoIP tools of Tk 40 lakh seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) equipment worth about Tk 40 lakh from a flat at Purba Madarbari in the port city on Thursday night.

Rab also arrested Ayub Ali, 35, the tenant of the flat.

Acting on a tip-off, they raided the flat and seized two channel boxes, three quantum machines, one output volt, one IPS, 16 converters, two batteries and wires.



People visit four-day BD-Red Housing Fair in the Institute of Engineers auditorium in Chittagong city yesterday. The fair ends today.

PHOTO: STAR

# Housing fair ends today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The four-day long 9th Bd-Red Housing Fair ends today with 50 companies providing special offers for prominent buyers.

The companies -- including Divine Group, Green Castle Properties Ltd, Moulana Development Company, Build Home Properties, Effect Builders and Housing Ltd and Secure Property Management -- set up 77 stalls in the fair.

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# Eco-village raises hope for Aila victims

UNB, Dhaka

When limited government initiatives have failed to fully ensure their safety, the cyclone Aila-hit people of Dacope upazila in Khulna are trying to survive in balance with the nature, building eco-villages, high above the flood level.

The residents of Suatrkhali union built the largest-ever eco-village in the upazila accommodating 72 families. Two more small eco-villages are there in the upazila.

The eco-villages have been built above 10-12 feet from the land level and above 4 feet from the highest flood level with financial support from the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Society (ECHO).

"At least water won't hit us or wash away. Our cattle are safe. I still remember the terrible days when Aila had hit our region," Anisur Raham, a resident of the village, told this correspondent

while visiting the area.

He went on: "I think it's a wonderful idea. Hopefully, people will begin to see the advantages."

The total population of Dacope upazila is 1,75,000 (Census-2001) of which 40,000 live in two unions-- Sutarkhali and Kamarkhola, the worst-affected areas of the upazila.

In the eco-village, they have a saline water-free pond, space for vegetable farming, cattle shed and safe shelter. The pond water is the main source of drinking water for them. They also harvest rainwater on a limited-scale.

The villagers, mostly farmers, were directly involved in building the eco-village to live a safe life.

Though they have got safe shelters, they do not have access to healthcare and education, safe drinking water and works.

Ramzan Ali, in his early 60s, said, "This eco-village has given us courage. Now we

need work. We can fight back if we're given works. We want to see a green village. We want to grow vegetables."

Talking to the news agency, Dr Atiq Rahman, executive director of Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) and Chair of Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSAs) said, "Problems are still there. We're also working there. Access to safe drinking water, health services and education will have to be ensured."

About eco-village, he said it needs proper planning and maintenance since involvement of money is huge.

Dacope Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) M Doulutuzzaman Khan said, "It can't be denied that the overall condition of Dacope upazila is bad. Problems are there."

About the government initiatives, he said the government receives foreign fund and disburses those among NGOs. So, the government's involvement is there.

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