

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Youth jailed for stalking

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A mobile court in Sujanagar upazila on Sunday night sentenced a young man to six months' imprisonment for stalking a college girl. The stalker is identified as Imran Hossain Mithu, 18, son of Mojibur Rahman of Raghunathpur village in the upazila. Md Ahasanul Haque, officer in-charge of Sujanagar Police Station, said Imran used to tease the girl on her way to college on Sunday noon. On information, police arrested the stalker from in front of the college and produced him before the court led by Executive Magistrate Md Ashraf Hossain who panalised the youth, the OC added.

Sugar mill workers agitate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

The workers of Natore Sugar Mill staged a protest rally in front of the mill gate yesterday noon demanding declaration of a separate wage board for them. Md Firoz Ali, president of the workers union, said they have been demanding the wage board for the mill workers after the government declared a new pay scale for its workers and employees. wazed Ali, secretary of the union, said they will continue the agitation until the demand is met. ABM Asad Ali, managing director of the mill, said he has already informed the higher authorities about the demand.

Contraband goods seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in separate drives seized contraband goods worth about Tk 10 lakh in the district on Sunday night. However, no one was arrested, said Lt Col Abu Basir, commanding officer of 38 battalion of BGB. The BGB men of Baikari camp seized huge quantity of Indian sarees and three pieces worth about Tk 9 lakh from Baladghata area in Sadar upazila at about 6:30pm. In another drive, Bhatshala camp BGB members seized 72 sacks of garlic worth about Tk one lakh from Bhatshala area in Debhata upazila at around 5:30am.



PHOTO: STAR

Rakhains form a human chain in front of Patuakhali deputy commissioner's office yesterday demanding withdrawal of 'false' land related cases against nine people of the ethnic community.

BAU orientation programme

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The orientation programme for the freshers under six faculties of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) will be held at the university Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin auditorium on Wednesday. BAU Students' Affairs Division has organised the programme. Chairman of University Grants Commission Prof AK Azad Chowdhury is expected to attend the programme as chief guest. Syndicate Member Principal Motiur Rahman, MP, will be the special guest while Vice Chancellor Prof Md Rafiqul Hoque will address the function as chief patron.

15 shanties gutted

UNB, Khulna

At least 15 shanties were gutted in a fire broke out at Crescent Jute Mill Colony in Khalishpur area of the city on Sunday night. Fire service sources said the fire originated from the kitchen of one Babul Mollah's house of the colony at around 10:00pm and soon engulfed the adjoining shanties. On information, fire fighters from Khalishpur and Doulatpur stations rushed to the spot and doused the blaze at around 11:30 pm. The affected people claimed that the extent of loss caused by the fire could go up to Tk 10 lakh.

Two held with arms

UNB, Magura

Police arrested two suspected criminals along with arms at Idur Baria village in Sreepur upazila on Saturday night. The arrestees are Alif, 30, son of Akkas Mondol of Alamdanga village, and Durlav, 25, son of Ilahi sheikh of Bashtepur village in Pangsha upazila of Rajbari district. Police Superintendent Sajjadur Rahman said on secret information, a patrol team of police arrested the duo while a gang of criminals with illegal arms were going to Pangsha upazila crossing the Gorai River at around 11 pm. Later, the law enforcers recovered two shutter guns from their possession.

Drug peddler jailed

UNB, Khulna

A mobile court in Khalishpur area of the city Sunday sentenced a young man to six months' imprisonment for possessing drugs. The convict, Akther Hossain, 22, is son of Mozammel Hossain of the area. Ranjan Biswas, sub-inspector of Khalishpur Police Station, said they arrested Akter along with 30 grams of hemp from the area on Sunday evening. Later, the drug peddler was produced before the court led by Executive Magistrate Alimul Rajib who panalised the youth.

Robbers loot school

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Robbers looted a motorbike and one computer from AZ Girls' High School in Alfadanga upazila early Sunday. Jahangir Hossain, headmaster of the school, said a gang of 6/7 swooped on the institution at about 3:00am, tied the night guard Humayan Sheikh and took away the valuables. They also damaged three showcases of the school, the headmaster added.

BID TO OCCUPY GOVT EMPLOYEES' LAND

30 hurt as locals clash with cops in Rangpur town

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

At least 30 people were injured as locals clashed with police in Parjatan area of the district town yesterday afternoon.

Witnesses said about 300 people in the area have been using around one acre of land belonging to a housing society of class iii and class iv government employees as playground and eidgah for six years.

Locals locked in an altercation with police and members of the housing society as they went to Parjatan area to take control of the land. At one stage, they swooped on police and the government employees.

Police clubbed the agita-

tors, fired 15 rounds of tear gas shells and eight rounds of rubber bullets, leaving at least 30 people injured.

"We went to take possession of our land on several occasions, but locals created obstacles in our way and drove us out from there, said Mostafa Kamal, a member of the housing society.

Class iii and class iv employees purchased the land from the government for a housing project six years ago, but locals have been using the land illegally, he added.

Of the injured, Joyanal Hossain, 25, Abdus Sattar, 28, Sabuj Miah, 25, Firoj Ahmed, 30, and Akbar Ali, 29, were admitted to private clinics and hospitals while the rest given first aid.

LOKMAN MURDER CASE

AL leader Montaz on fresh remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

A Narsingdi court yesterday placed district town Awami League President Montaz Uddin Bhuiyan on a one-day fresh remand in connection with the murder of Narsingdi municipality mayor Lokman Hossain.

Chief Judicial Magistrate Nitai Chandra Saha passed the order after police produced the AL leader before the court, seeking a five-day remand.

On December 29, the court placed Montaz on a one-day remand after he surrendered to the district

court.

Montaz is one of the 10 accused who plotted the murder, according to the first information report (FIR).

Masked criminals shot dead Lokman, also the general secretary of Narsingdi town Awami League, on the night of November 1 in 2011 in the district AL office on Sadar Road.

Later, victim's brother filed a case against 14 people, including Posts and Telecommunications Minister Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju's brother Salauddin Ahmed, as prime accused.

Poacher held with deer skin in Sharonkhola

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Forest Department in a drive arrested a suspected poacher along with a deer skin from Sonatola village in Sharonkhola upazila yesterday.

The arrestee is identified as Haque Mallik, 45, son of Rashek Mallik of the village.

Assistant Conservator of Forest (ACF) Kashwapee

Bikash Chandra said acting on a tip-off, a team of forest officials raided the village and arrested Mallik along with the deer skin yesterday morning.

Later, he was handed over to police.

Abul Hashem, officer in-charge of Bhola police camp in east zone of Sharonkhola range filed a case against Mallik under the Forest Act.

BARISAL GOVT GIRLS' SCHOOL ADMISSION TEST

Scrutiny turns results upside down

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Frustrated children accompanied by their guardians surrounded the Barisal deputy commissioner's office yesterday after revised admission test results of class-III (morning shift) of Barisal Government Girls' School showed 35 earlier allowed children as failed and 35 earlier failed ones as allowed.

The district administration declared the fresh admission test results yesterday, after scrutiny following serious complaints of irregularities regarding the admission test results announced on December 27.

After the revised result sheets were put up at Barisal Government Zila School campus at 11:00am under police and Rab protection, the 35 'frustrated' children



PHOTO: STAR

Victims of land subsidence in 10 villages around Barapukuria coal mine in Dinajpur district start a three-day hunger strike in front of the mine complex entrance yesterday demanding quick disbursement of the compensation money earlier granted by the authorities concerned.

LAND SUBSIDENCE AROUND BARAPUKURIA COAL MINE

Affected people start 72-hr fast demanding full compensation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The land subsidence victims of 10 villages around Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Ltd (BCMCL) started a three-day fast yesterday demanding quick disbursement of the full amount of money granted under the authorities' compensation package.

"If our demands are not met within the three days, we will start a fast unto death on Thursday in front of the coal mine entrance," said Ibrahim Khalil, convener of Jibon O Shampad Rakkha Committee, an organisation of the affected people who enforced the programme.

Hundreds of land subsidence victims including a good number of women gathered in front of the BCMCL entrance and started their fasting programme at around 1:00am yesterday to realise their 10-point demand including early disbursement of the compensation money.

The victims said Dinajpur deputy commissioner's office received Tk 190 crore in April last year and started disbursement of cheques among the land subsidence victims on September 22 the same year.

But cheques worth only 40 percent of the money have been given to them so far while most of the people who received the cheques as compensation failed to collect the money from the respective banks as the cheques were returned, they victims alleged.

Other demands of the victims include preparation of a correct list of landless people of the affected area and giving every landless people their due money granted by the government. According to the compensation plan, each of the landless people is to get Tk2 lakh as compensation.

The previous figure shows 318 landless people in the area but the affected villagers alleged harassment and commitment of faults by the surveyors while preparing the list.

They demanded completion of correct processing of papers in the affected area and administrative action against the surveyors who prepared 'faulty' survey list.

The villagers also warned that the deputy commissioner's office will be responsible if any unwanted accident occurs at the surrounding villages as due to non-payment of the compensation money the people have been living at their ancestral homes and working at the arable lands in the area that developed cracks due to land subsidence.

The land subsidence was first detected in May 2006.

The affected people also demanded the nine months' bank interest estimated Tk 15 crore as Tk 190 crore compensation has not been fully paid although the amount was sent to the DC office in April last year.

Md Belal Hossain, general secretary of Jibon O Shampad Rakkha Committee, demanded immediate

disbursement of their remaining 60 percent money and early payment of all compensations for damaged infrastructure including mosques, temple, graveyard, schools, colleges and madrasas.

The deputy commissioner's office and BCMCL authority assured jobs for the affected people but they are yet to get any jobs with the coal mine, the victims alleged.

The BCMCL authority pledged Tk 1.25 crore as crop compensation but the promise has not been met, they said.

BCMCL authority said that they handed over the crop compensation money to Dinajpur Deputy Commissioner's office.

December 5 last year, they gave an ultimatum to meet their demands within December 25, but they are yet to get their compensation, said the affected people who have been agitating since 2009.

When this correspondent contacted with Dinajpur Deputy Commissioner (DC) Md Jamal Uddin Ahmed at his office on November 16 last year, he said that the money would be disbursed within December 31. But the villagers have so far got cheques for only 40 percent of the money.

DC Md Jamal Uddin Ahmed could not be contacted as he did not receive this correspondent's phone calls despite several attempts.

Woman murdered for dowry

Husband arrested

A CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

A woman was allegedly stabbed to death by her husband for dowry at Dhanua Kamalpur village under Bakshiganj upazila on Sunday night.

The deceased, Khuku Moni, 28, was wife of Noor-e- Alam at the village.

According to victim's sister Lovely Begum, Alam was a drug addict and he used to torture Khuku off and on for dowry. Although her parents gave Alam Tk 5 lakh as dowry by selling 4 bighas of land about a year ago, he put pressure on her for more money.

Being disgusted, Khuku along with three daughters, came to her parents' house at Uttar Bhatkhawa village under Dewanganj upazila about a week ago,

Lovely said.

On Saturday, Alam somehow managed his wife and took back her to his house.

On the fateful night, the couple locked in an altercation over dowry. At one stage, Alam stabbed Khuku with a sharp knife, neighbours said, adding that they took Khuku to the upazila health complex where doctors declared her dead.

Neighbours caught Alam and handed him over to police.

Contacted, Bakshiganj police station officer in-charge (OC) Fazlul Karim said they recovered the body and sent it to Jamalpur General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Victim's elder brother Mozammel Haque filed a murder case with Bakshiganj Police Station accusing Noor-e-Alam.



PHOTO: STAR

Frustrated over revised results in the class-III (morning shift) admission test of Barisal Government Girls' School, children accompanied by their guardians demonstrate in front of the deputy commissioner's office in Barisal yesterday demanding reinstatement of the previous results.