



PHOTO: STAR

Twelve farmers, who achieved national awards for their outstanding success in the field of agriculture, display their produces at a farmers' gathering at Ma-Moni Krishi Khamar in Salimpur village under Ishwardi upazila of Pabna district on Saturday. The Department of Agriculture Extension organised the two-day special programme where the 12 awardees shared their success stories to encourage farmers in better production.

33 fishermen abducted from Sundarbans in two days

Law enforcers rescue 7 after gunfight with robbers

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Seven of the 33 fishermen, abducted from the Sundarbans on Friday and Saturday, were rescued after a gunfight between law enforcers and robbers yesterday.

However, there was no report of casualty in the gunfight, which lasted one and a half hours.

M Saidur Rahman, commander of Coastguards (Mongla West Zone), told UNB that a joint team of Rab and coastguards raided different points of the Sundarbans yesterday to rescue kidnapped fishermen.

Sensing the presence of Rab and coastguard members at Chandershar at noon, the robbers opened fire on them, prompting the law enforcers to retaliate. At one stage, the robbers fled the scene.

Later, the elite force and coastguards rescued the fishermen from the den of infamous 'Jihad Bahini'. They also detected five dens of the gang in the mangrove forest and destroyed them.

The rescued fishermen, whose names could not be known, hail from different areas of Bagerhat and Barguna.

On Friday, Shohag 'Bahini' of the Sundarbans picked up eight fishermen at gunpoint from Hermal Canal in the eastern part of the mangrove forest under Sharankhola upazila of Bagerhat district, reports our staff correspondent.

The gang looted valuables, including fishing nets, fish and crabs worth about Tk 50,000, from the fishermen and demanded a ransom of Tk 50,000 for each of the fishermen, he added.

The deputy ranger further said the kidnappers threatened to kill all the eight fishermen in case of their failure to pay ransom by Wednesday.

On Saturday, robbers belonging to infamous 'Jihad Bahini' kidnapped 25 fishermen from Gangrain area near the Bay of Bengal.

They also took away fishing nets, fish and money from fishermen of 50 trawlers during the attack.

Mihir Kumar, divisional forest officer (DFO east) of the Sundarban Forest Division, said 'Jihad Bahini' have demanded a ransom of Tk one lakh for each of the 25 fishermen who all hail from Rayenda and Mohipur under Sharankhola upazila of Bagerhat district.

Contacted, Md Hasanuzzaman, Operation Officer of Coastguards Mongla West Zone, said drives to rescue the kidnapped fisherman and arrest the members of the two gangs are going on.

Meanwhile, a forest officer was injured in an attack by a gang of robbers in Kalirchar area of the Sundarbans on Saturday night.

The injured officer, Abdur Rashid of Dobeki forest outpost, was admitted to Khulna 250-bed hospital in a critical condition.

Forest department sources said Abdur Rashid and two forest guards--BM Zaman and Md Asadwere patrolling the forest area in an engine boat at around 7:30 pm.

As they reached Kalirchar area at around 8:00pm, the robbers attacked the boat. Sensing the presence of the robbers, BM Zaman and Md Asad left the scene, leaving Abdur Rashid there.

The pirates dragged Rashid into the forest, hit him with sharp weapons and left the scene.

Being informed, forest officers and guards of Kadamtala and Dobeki forest stations rushed to Kalirchar area and rescued Rashid in a critical condition.

3 commit suicide in 2 districts

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Three people, including a teenage boy, allegedly committed suicide in Dinajpur and Lalmonirhat yesterday and the day before.

The deceased were identified as Shahana Begum 30, wife of Ashiqur Rahman of Parojpur village in Sadar upazila of Dinajpur, Sahidul Islam, 18, son of Jahidul Islam of Uttar Gangachara under Sadar upazila in Rangpur and Abdur Hossain, 35, son of Azizur Islam of Char Khatamari village in Sadar upazila of Lalmonirhat.

Our Dinajpur correspondent reported that Shahana Begum hanged herself from the ceiling of her room early yesterday following a family dispute.

On information, police recovered the body from the spot at about 11:30am and sent it to Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The body of Sahidul, a domestic help of one Salam Mia of Kornai village under Dinajpur Sadar upazila, was found hanging from a ceiling fan at the house of his employer, said police.

According to our Lalmonirhat correspondent, Abdur Hossain committed suicide by taking pesticide at his room over family feud on Friday night.

Human chain demanding ban on coaching business

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chnawabganj

Students of different educational institutions, their guardians, social and cultural activists and members of various professional groups yesterday formed a human chain in the district town demanding ban on coaching business.

They also held a rally in front of Chapainawabganj Government College under the banner of Chapainawabganj Zila Shikhar Man Unnoyan Andolan Committee, a body to build a movement for improvement of the standard of education in the educational institutions of the district.

Later, they submitted a memorandum to the education minister through the deputy commissioner (DC) of Chapainawabganj, KMAli Azam, demanding stoppage of commercial coaching centres and ensuring quality education in all educational institutions of the district.

Speakers at the rally alleged that most of the teachers of the educational institutions in the district, especially of government schools and colleges, are engaged in coaching business.

They said the teachers skip their classroom duties and tactfully force the students to go to coaching

centres for private tuition.

The speakers also said the unethical practice of the teachers is also degrading the quality of education in classroom.

They underscored the role of media in creating mass awareness, especially among the guardians of students, against

private coaching centres.

Poor guardians have no scope to send their children to the coaching centres, they said.

They alleged that the talent of the students is being spoiled in coaching centres as they are being habituated to suggestion-based lessons.

Rivals set 7 houses afire in Natore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Criminals set fire to seven houses on a disputed land at Palohara village in Lalpur upazila under Natore on Saturday night.

At around 11:pm, a group of people led by Abdul Alim of the village and his 10 to 12 accomplices, set fire to the houses and beat up the members, leaving at least 12 people injured, witnesses said, adding that at one stage people from nearby areas chased the gang away.

Three of the injured were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital while the rest were admitted to different local clinics and hospitals.

Locals said, there was a

previous enmity between Abu Bakkar and Abdul Alim as Alim demanded Tk 1.5 lakh as illegal toll from Bakkar.

Additional Superintendent of Police in Natore Saifuzzaman Faruki said members of both the groups are accused in several arms cases.

Asked about the incident, Abdul Alim said, "I never demanded any illegal toll from Abu Bakkar. Bakkar and his men made an attack on Friday night and injured me and my bother Moslem Uddin. After hearing the incident my supporters became agitated and attacked Abu Bakkar but they did not set fire to their houses."

Robbers kill ex-PTI superintendent

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Robbers strangled former superintendent of Thakurgaon Primary Training Institute (PTI) while committing robbery at her Asrampara house in the district town yesterday, police said.

The deceased, Umme Kulsum, 60, was wife of former president of Thakurgaon Bar Association advocate Bodiuzzaman Badal.

Thakurgaon Police Station officer in-charge (OC) Gopal Chakraborty, quoting Kulsum's husband, said advocate Badal left the house at about 10:00am keeping his wife alone. At about 11:00 am he repeatedly made phone calls to her wife through his cellphone, but she did not respond. He

hurriedly rushed to the house and found his wife lying on the floor.

Badal along with his neighbours rushed to Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital where the on-duty doctor declared her dead.

Robbers looted valuables including gold ornaments and Tk12,000 from the house.

Contacted, additional superintendent of police (ASP) Nahidul Islam said police are trying to arrest the culprits.

Meanwhile, a panic has been created among the townspeople over the incident of killing.

Thakurgaon deputy commissioner (DC) M u h a m m a d Shahiduzzaman, ASP Nahidul Islam, lawyers, teachers and journalists visited the house.

COLLEGE TEACHER MIZANUR MURDER CASE

Two more PWs give deposition in court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Speedy Trial Tribunal, Rajshahi, yesterday recorded statements of two more prosecution witnesses (PWs) in Natore college teacher Mizanur Rashid murder case.

According to their statements, two accused--Abdul Awal Rajon and Mamunur Rashid Asiframmed their motorbike into Mizanur Rashid, a chemistry teacher of Lokmanpur College in Bagatipara upazila under Natore district, and beat him up with iron rods on October 12 in 2010.

The PWs are Prodig Biswas, a lecturer of DMCH, and Sub-Inspector (SI)

Abdur Rahim of Bagatipara Police Station.

Mizanur succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) on October 24 the same year.

The attack was a sequel to protest by Mizanur for stalking two female students of the college Bobita and Lip--by the accused, the PWs said in their statements.

The tribunal has so far recorded statements of 20 out of a total 30 prosecution witnesses in the case.

The tribunal Judge Ekramul Haque Chowdhury fixed January 15 for hearing statements of the two accused in the case.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Easy bike driver murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail

Police recovered the body of an easy bike driver from a roadside ditch beside Jessore-Narail highway yesterday, two days after he went missing. Kidnappers might have strangled Sumon Karmakar, 16, son of Sonaton Karmakar of Mohishkhol village in Narail municipality area, as his hands and legs were tied, said police. Family members said Sumon came out with the easy bike on Friday and did not return home. Locals found the body floating on the ditch at about 4:00pm and informed the police. Later, the law enforcers recovered the body and sent it to Narail Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Ataur Rahman, sub-inspector of Narail Sadar Police Station, suspected that the gang killed the victim to take away his vehicle.

3 Jatra artistes jailed

UNB, Chapainawabganj

A mobile court sentenced three female Jatra artistes to three months' imprisonment for performing obscene dance at a fair at Ranihati in Shibganj upazila early Saturday. The convicts are Miniara, 23, Ruma, 20, and Mukta, 21, of Jatra group, Challenger. On secret information, the court led by Executive Magistrate Subrata Paul raided the fair at about 12:10am, arrested the trio while performing obscene dance in the name of Jatra (open air drama) and penalised them.

Convicted prisoner dies

UNB, Khulna

A convicted prisoner of the district jail died of cardiac arrest at Khulna Medical College Hospital yesterday morning. The deceased was identified as Abdul Aziz, 55, son of late Azhar Howlader of Bharaiya in Rajapur upazila of Jhalakati district, says a press release signed by the jail authority. Aziz was admitted to the hospital on Saturday evening after he complained of chest pain. He was awarded life imprisonment in a murder case on August 29, 1996. Aziz was shifted to the district jail from Barisal Central Jail in 2009. The body was handed over to his family members after autopsy.



PHOTO: STAR

Junior School Certificate (JSC) examinees of Amena-Baki Residential Model School in Chirirbandar upazila of Dinajpur district pose for the camera to share their joy with the teachers as the institution secured first position in the district and third in Dinajpur education board in this year's JSC examinations.

Woman found dead

UNB, Gaibandha

Police recovered the body of a woman, Momena, 55, from her house at Falia Dighar village in Saghata upazila yesterday morning. District Police Superintendent Basu Deb Banik said victim's grand-daughter saw her body at the house and called neighbours. Later, local people informed the police. The law enforcers recovered the body and sent it to Gaibandha Adhunik Hospital morgue for autopsy. Police said that criminals might have stabbed her dead following a previous enmity.

Man held with fake notes

UNB, Thakurgaon

Police arrested a man along with some fake Bangladeshi and Indian currency notes from Kathaldangi Bazar in Horipur upazila early yesterday. The arrestee is Dobir Uddin, 52, son of Abdul Gafur of Kathaldangi village. Abdus Salam Mia, officer in-charge of Horipur Police Station, said Dobir after purchasing some goods from a grocery shop gave a note of Tk 1,000 to the shop owner. Finding the note fake the shop owner informed the police who rushed to the spot and arrested Dobir. After searching his body, the law enforcers recovered 12 Indian fake notes and 16 Bangladeshi notes of Tk 1000.

Drug peddler jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A mobile court here yesterday sentenced a drug peddler to one month imprisonment for possessing a huge quantity of hems. The convict is Md Shariful Hasan, 25, son of Azgar Ali of Ghasipara in Dinajpur municipality area. Police said the court led by Executive Magistrate Md Abdur Rahman raided the area, arrested Shariful along with the hemp and handed down the verdict. Meanwhile, members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two people along with 98 pieces of Yaba tablets from a residential hotel in Hilly port area under Hakimpur upazila of the district yesterday. The arrestees are Atwar Hossain and Ahad Ali of Sadar upazila. Police said acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-5 in Rangpur raided the hotel and arrested the duo along with the tablets.

17 injured in clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

At least 17 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Dhopadanga village in Sunderganj upazila yesterday. Of the injured, Joshna Begum, Morsheda Begum, Shahida Begum, Fazlur Rahman, Shafiul Islam, Chabizol, Mozaffer, and Amena Begum, were admitted to Sunderganj Health Complex in a critical condition while the rest were given first aid. Locals said there had been a longstanding dispute between two families of one Abdul Hye and Fazlur Rahman of the village over the ownership of a land. Supporters of Hye and Fazlur equipped with lethal weapons attacked each other, leaving at least 17 from both sides injured yesterday morning.



PHOTO: STAR

A group of people engage in gambling at the bijoy mela (victory fair) at Sukhanpukur in Gabtali upazila under Bogra district. Such fairs, arranged in the name of weeks-long Victory Day celebrations, often see antisocial activities including obscene dances and gambling while the organisers allegedly belonging to the ruling party prevent the law enforcers from taking any action.