

## Jubo League man jailed in arms case

UNB, Barisal

A court here on Monday sentenced a Jubo League activist to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment in an arms case.

Judge Manzurul Hossain of the Special Tribunal-5 and Joint District and Session Court handed down the verdict in presence of the accused, Sakil Khan Topu, a member of Banaripara Upazila Jubo League convening committee.

According to the case statement, a team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) led by assistant director Hamidul Huq arrested Topu along with a pistol and a few bullets from near Banaripara police station on September 30, 2010.

A case was filed against him the following day.

Sub-inspector Rustam Ali, also investigation officer of the case, submitted charge sheet against the accused on October 31 the same year.

After examining the witnesses and records, the judge pronounced the verdict.

## SSC student murdered in Jessore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

A schoolboy was murdered by unknown assailants at Roghunathpur village in Sarsha upazila early yesterday.

The victim, Masud Hossain, an SSC examinee from Pakshia School, was son of Rafiqul Islam of the village.

Sharsha police said the killers gouged the eyes of Masud and then strangled him.

Sub Inspector Rezaul Islam at Sharsha PS said Masud went missing from Monday night. The assailants killed him at a Roghunathpur field and dumped the body beside Dihni union parishad (UP) office.

The motive behind the murder could not be ascertained immediately, he said.

## 3 held for 'cheating' job seeker

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Detective Branch (DB) of police here on Monday night arrested three members of a fraud team on charge of taking Tk 3 lakh from a person assuring him the job of a police constable.

The arrestees are Azimul Islam alias Nazmul, 30, son of Rafiqul Islam of Madho Pirjabad area in the district town, Abdul Hakim, 35, son of Abdus Samad of Damodarpur village in Sadar upazila, and Md Asaduzzaman, 32, son of Younus Ali of Shathibari union in Mithapukur upazila.

Mostafizur Rahman, sub-inspector of DB, said the trio was involved in the malpractice for long. Some police constable will be recruited for the district on January 25 and the gang took the money from Ashikur Rahman, son of Abdur Rahman of Mithapukur upazil, for giving him the job.

Due to their suspicious attitude, Ashikur informed the DB police.

Acting on a tip-off, the DB men raided Mouban Restaurant in the town at night and arrested the trio, the SI added.



PHOTO: STAR

Law enforcers led by a magistrate launch a drive yesterday to free four canals --Nayoner Khal, Rikabibazar Khal, Feychunnir Khal and Gopepara Khal--under Mirkadim municipality of Munshiganj district from illegal occupation, and workers demolish a three-storey building (inset) erected on Nayoner Khal.

## Electric wire theft threatens Barind boro irrigation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Boro farming on 90 acres of land in Barind multi-purpose irrigation project under Sadullapur upazila came to a halt early Sunday as criminals took away 1200 metres electric wire, connecting the power pump machines.

Locals said over 60 farmers cannot prepare their land and transplant Boro seedlings due to lack of water as power

pump machines have been lying idle for the last two days.

If water supply is not restored immediately, Boro cultivation in the area will face a serious setback, said Mahbubur Rahman, one of the affected farmers of Khorda Ruha village.

The project authorities filed a case with Sadullapur Police Station on Monday, but police could not arrest or recover the stolen electric wire as

of 5:00pm yesterday.

Irrigation of land is a must for transplanting Boro seedlings during this peak season. But we don't know how long it will take to restore power connection, said Mukul Chandra Sarker of Khorda Patanochia village.

The irrigation project is run through co-operative system and the farmers are to replace any missing electric wire or damaged equipment of power pump, said Shamsuzzoha

Ranga, operator of the project.

At present, it will be difficult for the poor farmers to manage Tk 50,000 to buy fresh electric wires to restore power supply to the pump machines, he added.

Contacted, Abdul Jalil Sarker, officer in-charge of Sadullapur Police Station, said they have launched a drive to recover the stolen wires and arrest the culprits.



PHOTO: STAR

Residents of Ghoramara Ashrayan (shelter) Project yesterday block Chandpur -Comilla highway in front of the deputy commissioner's office in Chandpur town demanding stern action against delinquent youths who stalk women and girls of the shelter project in the Sadar upazila.

## Roadblock demanding action against stalkers in Chandpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Residents of Ghoramara Ashrayan (shelter) Project yesterday barricaded the road in front of deputy commissioner's office in Sologhar area demanding stern action against the delinquent youths who used to stalk schoolgirls in the town.

Vehicular movement on Chandpur-Comilla highway came to a halt from 10:30am to 11:30am creating a big traffic jam.

The agitating people removed the barricades after police assured them of taking action against those youths.

The agitating locals also submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner

demanding punishment to the culprits.

According to the locals, a group of youths used to harass the women and schoolgirls at the shelter project.

On January 20, a gang led by Billal, Mamun, Al-Amin, Hossain, Taher, Kadir, Murad, and Touhid beat up a youth at the shelter project as he protested teasing of his sister.

On January 23, another group of youths attacked the people at an arbitration and later broke the hand and legs of one Bimola Rani for seeking justice.

Zaker Hossain, officer in-charge at Chandpur Model police station said he is yet to receive any formal allegation in this regard from any resident of the project.

## Fresh arrest warrant as Munshi Atiq skips court

A CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

A Gopalganj court yesterday issued fresh arrest warrant against retired senior assistant police superintendent of CID (Criminal Investigation Department) Munshi Atiqur Rahman.

District and Sessions Judge's Court gave the order as Atiq did not appear in the court to give his deposition in the sedition case in connection with the attempt to kill Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 2000.

Six of the 15 accused were produced in the court. They are Harkat-ul-Jihad (Huji) chief Mufti Abdul Hannan and activists Mahibullah, Mehedi Hasan, Wasim, Mahmud Azhar and Rashed.

Court sources said as the plaintiff of the case skipped the court for the second time,

fresh arrest warrant was issued against him. The court has so far recorded statement of only one police officer out of the 15 prosecution witnesses, sources added.

The court yesterday fixed February 28 as the next date of hearing of the case. An arrest warrant against Munshi Atiq was issued on January 4 as he did not appear in the court to give his deposition in the case.

Law enforcers recovered two powerful bombs from Kotalipara Sheikh Lutfor Rahman Degree College ground on July 21, 2000, a day ahead of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's public rally at the venue.

Operatives of banned Islamist outfit Harkat-ul-Jihad planted the bombs at the meeting venue to kill the prime minister. Later, a sedition case was filed, accusing 15 Huji men, including its chief Mufti Abdul Hannan.

## MONDAY'S STUDENT-POLICE CLASH IN KAPTAI

# BSPI closed sine die

## 400 sued, dormitories vacated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Bangladesh-Sweden Polytechnic Institute (BSPI) in Kaptai was declared closed for an indefinite period yesterday following a clash between students and law enforcers on Monday that left a student of the institute dead.

The BSPI authorities asked the students to vacate their dormitories by 8:00am today.

Mohammad Raihan, a second year student of BSPI, was shot dead and 24 others including four police officials were injured in the clash at Kaptai Sadar upazila headquarters on Monday, said Yusuf Siddiqui, officer in-charge of Kaptai police station.

The clash erupted around 5:00pm after a mobile court fined Shakil, president of BSPI unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League and a fourth year student of the institute, as he failed to show his licence, the OC said.

The mobile court also sentenced Shakil to seven days imprisonment as he

misbehaved with the court and refused to pay the fine.

As the news of Shakil's imprisonment spread, around 300 armed students of the institute rushed to the scene and attacked the police officials.

Witnesses said police fired around eight gunshots while BSPI students fired several bullets during the clash.

Injured Raihan was rushed to Chandraghona Christian Mission Hospital around 6:00pm. As his condition deteriorated, Raihan was transferred to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

After the clash, the UNO imposed a curfew in the upazila town for five hours from 7:00pm Monday to avert further violence.

Meanwhile, police filed a case against around 400 unknown people Monday night for preventing them from discharging their duties.

## 5 get life in Namita Rani killing case in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Five people were sentenced to life term rigorous imprisonment yesterday in the sensational Namita Rani Sarkar murder case in Tala upazila.

The court also fined them Tk 2000 each, in default, to suffer six months more in jail, court sources said.

The judge delivered the verdict in absence of four convicts as they were at large.

The convicts are Shushanto Chandra Sarkar, his father Dharmo Chandra Sarkar, and mother Dharmo Chandra Sarkar and Golapi Rani Sarkar and Tarak Chandra Sarkar of village Bhatuadanga.

According to the case, Namita Rani Sarkar, wife of Tarak Chandra Sarkar, of village Bhatuadanga was tortured to death by husband and in-laws over a family feud on January 19 in 2002.

Shushanto Chandra Sarkar filed an unnatural death (UD) case with Tala PS on the following morning to conceal the killing.

However, in the post-mortem report, it was found that Namita was murdered.

Sub-inspector (SI) Aminul Islam of Tala PS later filed a case accusing the aforesaid five.

## 100 hurt in clashes in B'baria, Sunamganj

STAR NATIONAL DESK

At least 100 people were injured in three clashes in Brahmanbaria and Sunamganj districts on Monday.

At least 50 people, including women and children, were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers at Dhamrai village in Sarail upazila of Brahmanbaria.

Police and locals said an altercation took place between Siraj member and Tajui Mia over the stealing of gold earring of Joysna Begam, wife of Jahangir Mia, reports UNB.

Following the incident, a group of villagers started blaming another group at about 11am. At one stage, both the groups equipped with lethal weapons swooped on each other, leaving at least 50 people injured from the both sides.

In Sunamganj, at least 50 people were injured in separate clashes in Tahirpur upazila.

Locals said, Shaheen Miah of Dighirpur village locked in an altercation with Rustam Ali of the same village over a piece of disputed land at about 12:10pm.

At one stage, supporters of Shaheen and Rustam attacked each other, leaving 15 people from both sides injured.

Earlier in the morning, over 35 people were injured in a clash between two groups at Pathar Ghata near Charagaon customs station over a trivial matter.

Local people said, Fazlu Sardar, son of Shripur union Awami League general secretary Joydhir Ali had an altercation with Shramik leader Sardar Shahin Akhijji over anchoring a coal-loaded boat at the ghata.

Following the incident, their supporters equipped with lethal weapons attacked each other, leaving over 35 people injured.

## SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

### 11 shops gutted in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

At least 11 shops, one godown and a house were gutted in a devastating fire at Murga Bazar in Akhaura upazila early yesterday. Fire service and local sources said, the fire originating from an electric short circuit at Laboni Traders in the bazar at around 3:00am and soon engulfed the adjoining shops, one warehouse and a house. The affected owners claimed that the loss caused by the fire could go up to Tk 3 crore.

### Polls to 8 Tangail UPs Feb 28

UNB, Tangail

The election schedule for eight union parishads (UP) in Mirzapur and Sakhipur upazilas has been announced. District election officer M Alimuzzaman announced it at a press conference at his office on Sunday evening. The polls to Bhaura, Bahuria, Aggana Latifpur, Tarafkur, Fatehpur, Gazaria and Dariapur UPs will be held on February 28. As per the new schedule, the last date for submitting nomination papers is Feb 7, scrutinising those Feb 9 and the deadline for withdrawing nomination is Feb 13.

### Sad death of a boy

UNB, Gazipur

A schoolboy died at a hospital at Bhobanipur village in Sadar upazila early Monday, hours after he took rat poison mistakenly. The victim, Ripon, 13, son of Monir Hossain of the village, is a class seven student of Bhobanipur High School. Rafiqul Islam, sub-inspector of Joydevpur police station, said Ripon fell unconscious after taking the poison mistakenly on Sunday night. He was rushed to Sadar hospital in a critical condition where he died.



PHOTO: STAR

The Daily Star distributes warm clothes including blankets among the cold-hit poor people at Kurigram Railway Station platform yesterday.

## Rival faction rejects new Pabna dist BNP body

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A faction of Pabna district unit of BNP led by Kamrul Hassan Mintu has rejected the newly formed 172-member district BNP committee.

Acting Secretary General of BNP Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir approved the 172-member Pabna district unit BNP committee with Major (ret'd) KS Mahmud as president and engineer Habibur Rahman Tota as secretary on Sunday.

Termining the new committee as a pocket committee that ignored 'devoted' party men, aggrieved BNP leaders at a press conference on Pabna Press Club premises yesterday blamed Shamsur Rahman Shimul Bishwas, personal assistant to the BNP chairperson, for creating divisions in Pabna BNP politics.

"Misleading the central leaders Shimul Bishwas influenced forming Pabna BNP committee with his fellow men," read the key note paper presented at the press conference.

"Four members of his family including three of his brothers have got position in the newly formed Pabna district unit BNP while many devoted leaders of the party have been deprived."

"Forty-eight of the 101 members of the previous committee have been left out while many people who are not related with BNP politics are in the new committee. Through nepotism 15 members from a village and 10 members from another village have been included in the committee," the paper added.

"The grassroots leaders rejected such pocket committee. A mass protest rally will be held in the district

town on Wednesday. We will continue agitation programmes until this committee is changed," said Md Saiful Islam Badsha, joint secretary of the new committee, who sided with its opponents.

Among others, former joint secretary of Pabna district unit BNP Ahsan Ahmed Sabbir, Abul Hashem, former office secretary, and Sajjad Hossain Swapon, JCD vice president, spoke on the occasion.

Refuting the allegations of intra-party rivals, secretary of the new committee of Pabna district unit BNP Habibur Rahman Tota said, "The full fledged committee has been formed through coordination with and accommodation of opponents. If anybody goes against the party rules, he will face organisational steps."