



PHOTO: STAR

The ground of Sarwarjan Pilot High School in Bamna upazila of Barguna district is used as a vegetable market on two workdays in a week, thanks to the organisers' utter callousness about schooling of the young learners.

Kids study amid chaos of vegetable market

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Academic activities of Sarwarjan Pilot High School in Bamna upazila town under Barguna district is badly disturbed as the school playground is used as a vegetable haat (makeshift village market) every Monday and Thursday.

"We cannot pay attention to our lessons due to the noise created by sellers and buyers on the haat days. The vegetable selling centre should be shifted from the playground for the sake of our schooling," said Abu Saleh, a student of class ten.

Harun-Or-Rashid, acting headmaster of the school, said, "It is really difficult to continue classes during haat days as the atmosphere becomes very noisy. A bazaar should never sit on a school playground."

Jasim Uddin Pintu, secretary of bazaar traders association, said, "We are looking for a new place to set up a permanent

vegetables market but we are yet to find any land for it."

"The matter was discussed on several occasions at the upazila coordination meeting and the upazila administration assured us to shift the bazaar to another place," said Bamna upazila sports association secretary Goutam Roy, also physical education teacher of the school.

"There are reserved places for selling fish, meat, rice, cows and goats in the area but we have been using the school playground for long in absence of any fixed place for vegetable sale. We also suffer a lot during the rainy season as the makeshift bazaar sits on the open place," said Abdus Salam, a green vegetable trader.

Bamna Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Alamgir Hossain said, "I joined here recently. Considering the interest of students, I will take step to shift the bazaar from the playground as soon as possible."

Two women killed as villagers clash in Natore, Habiganj

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two women were killed and 22 others injured in clashes in Natore and Habiganj districts yesterday.

Our Natore correspondent reported that a woman was killed and two others were injured in a clash over a trivial matter at Tikri Halsha village in Sadar upazila yesterday afternoon.

The victim was identified as Shahor Banu, 30, wife of Omar Chand of the village.

Quoting locals, Munshi Sahabuddin, assistant superintendent of police, said Banu's cow entered one Abdul Alim's crop field and ate wheat at around 5:30pm on Friday.

As a sequel to the incident, Abdul Alim beat up Banu's son Nur Islam and grandson Babu. At one stage, the woman was assaulted allegedly by Alim while she was trying to save the duo from the attack.

Critically injured Banu was admitted to Natore Sadar Hospital where she succumbed to her injuries at about 1:30pm, the ASP added.

In Habiganj, 50-year-old Rezia Khatun was killed and another 20 others were injured as supporters of two rivals clashed at Chhonkhola in Chunarughat upazila yesterday morning, reports our Sylhet correspondent.

Police arrested seven people in this connection,

said Sayed Mahbubur Rahman, officer in-charge of Chunarughat police station.

Locals said there had been a longstanding dispute between the victim's husband Nazim Uddin and one Sabu Mia over a piece of land.

An altercation erupted between the men of Nazim and Sabu over a trifling issue at a local bazar at about 9:30am. At one stage, they locked in a clash and Rezia was killed on the spot.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. The injured were rushed to upazila health complex.

The OC, however, said Rezia might have died of heart attack.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Section 144 in Bogra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Local administration yesterday imposed Section 144 on Pilot High School ground in Gabtoli upazila as two factions of Awami League have announced separate programmes at the same venue. The two factions--one led by upazila unit AL president Azam Khan and the other by acting general secretary of the same unit Aminul Islam - declared separate meetings at the school ground at 11:00am. The ban was imposed from 11:00am to 6:00pm in a bid to avert any untoward incident during the programmes of the rival factions. Additional police were deployed in and around the school to avert any possible clash, said OC Abdur Rashid of Gabtoli PS.

Man held with pistol, bullets

UNB, Laxmipur

Police arrested a man along with a US made pistol and five bullets from Ayesha Shopping Complex in Ramganj upazila on Friday afternoon. The arrestee was identified as Sumon, 34, son of Shamsur Nur Patwari of Changiragon village of the upazila. Police said, on secret information, they conducted a drive at about 3:30pm and arrested Sumon along with the pistol and bullets from upazila unit Jubo League general secretary Liakot Hossain Iran's office. Iran, however, managed to flee the scene. Officer-in-charge of Ramganj PS Rezaul Karim Bhuiyan said Sumon was wanted in a number of cases for robbery, murder and other crimes.

School guard killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A night guard of a high school was murdered by criminals in Ghatail upazila headquarters early yesterday. Police recovered the body of Abdul Mazid, 45, from his workplace Ghatail Gano Uchha Bidaloya in the morning. Police said there were several injury marks on the body of Mazid who had been serving the educational institution as a night guard for about 30 years. He might have been killed by drug users or gamblers when he tried to prevent them from entering the school premises, police added. Victims' eldest son Farhad Hossain filed a case with the PS.

Man electrocuted

UNB, Bogra

A man died and three others received injuries from electrocution at Kanupur village in Sonatala upazila on Friday afternoon. The deceased was identified as Jahangir Alam, 33, son of Ketu Bapari of the village. Locals said while repairing a dish antenna in the area they received electric shock as they came in contact with a live electric wire at about 3:15pm. Jahangir died on way to a local hospital. Injured Ruhul Amin, 25, Nayan, 18, and Ratan, 22, of the village were admitted to a nearby clinic.

2 murder case accused held

UNB, Benapole, Jessore

Police arrested two murder accused from a room of Europension Hotel at Jessore town early yesterday. The arrestees were identified as Nurjahan, daughter of Nur Islam of Jagighata village of Rupsa upazila in Khulna district and Rajib, son of Imdadul Haque of Senhati village of Dighalia upazila of the same district. On secret information, a joint team of Detective Branch (DB) police and Sonadanga police of Khulna conducted a drive at the hotel and arrested them. Police said they were wanted in connection with the killing of a housewife in Sonadanga area.



STAR: PHOTO

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seize 20 Indian air guns from Daulatpur border in Benapole yesterday. The seized guns were later handed over to local police station.

20 air guns recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) yesterday recovered 20 Indian air guns from Daulatpur border. BGB sources said, a team of boarder guards chased a gang of smugglers in the morning when they were entering into the country with the air guns from India. At one stage, the gang fled the scene leaving behind the arms. The seized arms, worth Tk. 7 lakh, were handed over to local police station. In another drive, the BGB men yesterday morning arrested a drug peddler, Jasim Uddin, along with 42 bottles of banned Indian phensidyl syrup and a motorbike from Putkhali Balurmath area.

BAU election held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Prof. Md. Abdur Rahman Sarker and Prof. Mohammad Shamsuddin have been elected president and general secretary of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Teachers Association. The election was held on Wednesday. Ganotantrik Shikkhak Forum, a progressive teachers association bagged seven posts out of 11 including the posts of president and general secretary in the executive body. The election, held at BAU club, was conducted by Prof. Nazrul Islam. The other office-bearers are: vice-president Prof. Morshed Alam; treasurer Prof. Kazi Shahanara Ahmed; joint-secretary Dr. Abdul Alim; and members Prof. Md. Manjurul Alam, Prof. Zohirul Haque Khandaker, Prof. Md. Abul Kashem, Prof. Md. Amirul Islam, Prof. AK Fazlul Haque Bhuiyan and Prof. Hammadur Rahman.



PHOTO: STAR

Stick wielding BCL activists parade a street in Khulna city following a clash with JCD at Government Azam Khan Commerce College yesterday.

Extortionists kill shop owner in Narsingdi

UNB, Narsingdi

A shop owner was shot dead by extortionists in Brahmanpara area of the district town yesterday.

The victim, Apple Mahmud, 48, was the owner of a grocery shop.

Locals said a local gang had earlier demanded Tk 1 lakh from Apple, but he refused to pay them illegal toll.

The gang led by one Islam stormed into his shop at noon, shot him point blank and left the scene.

Locals rushed Apple to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital which referred him to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Bus driver murdered

UNB, Jessore

Police recovered the body of a microbus driver from in front of Khajura Degree College gate in Bagharpara upazila on Thursday morning.

The victim was identified as Nazmul Islam, 28, son of late Moinuddin Sheikh of Agrail village in Sadar upazila.

Local people found the body in the area at about 9am and informed the police who recovered the body that bore stab injury marks.

The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately.

9 hurt as BCL, JCD clash in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

At least nine people were injured as the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) clashed at Government Azam Khan Commerce College in the city yesterday.

Seven of the injured belonged to JCD.

Sources said that Principal Prof Abul Bashar Mollah called a meeting at 11:30am to discuss the celebration of Eid-e-Miladunnabi, the day of birth and demise of Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (SM), today.

But the BCL activists wanted to organise the occasion by raising fund under its own management

while the JCD men opposed it, they said.

The two sides locked in an altercation over the issue and at a stage, the activists of the student wings of ruling Awami League and main opposition BNP engaged in a clash at noon.

The BCL activists swooped on the JCD men allegedly as their rivals went to the principal for his backing.

The BCL activists also vandalised two roadside shops at Ahsan Ahmed Road.

On information, police rushed in and brought the situation under control. Both BCL and JCD blamed each other for the clash.

Additional police have been deployed on the campus.

Two housewives murdered

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two housewives were murdered in Madaripur and Narail districts yesterday.

One of them was found dead in a water body at Kharakandi Madhabberchar in Shibchar upazila of Madaripur.

The victim was identified as Tuja Begum, 25, wife of Mustakim of Khankandi village in the upazila, reports UNB.

Abdur Razzag, officer in-charge of Shibchar police station, said Tuja was missing since she went outside her house on Friday evening.

Villagers found her body in the water body and informed police in the morning.

Later, police recovered the body that bore several injury marks and sent it to hospital morgue at about 11:00am for autopsy.

In Narail, a housewife was killed allegedly by her husband and co-wife at Poddobila village in

Kashipur union under Lohagara upazila, reports our correspondent.

The victim was Momtaj Begum, 50, wife of Hedayet Hossain of the village.

Police quoting local people said, after his second marriage Hedayet, aided by co-wife Anjuman, on and often beat up Momtaj Begum over trivial issues.

Neighbours said, on the fateful day they rushed to their house early in the morning hearing the screaming of Momtaj and they found her brutally killed by a sharp weapon.

Hedayet and rival wife Anjumanara went into hiding immediately after the murder, police said.

Md Abdur Rakib Khan, officer in-charge of Lohagara police station said they are raiding places to arrest the culprits.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Narail Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Thakurgaon Hindus again protest Iscon activities

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Local Hindus barricaded Thakurgaon-Panchagarh highway at Kochubari Board Office area in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila on Friday demanding steps to free Rashik Roy Jew Temple at Madarganj village in the upazila from the followers of International Society for Krishna Consciousness (Iscon).

Tension between the two groups over control of the temple has become a matter of concern in the area, especially against the backdrop of an earlier bloody clash.

A good number of vehicles got stranded on both sides as the demonstrators during Friday's programme put wooden logs on the road and kept lying there for two hours.

At a protest rally held under the banner of 'Auliapurbashi' on the same spot, the community leaders said the executive committee of the temple had been supervising the temple premises since 1996 when local Hindus recovered 32 acres of land belonging to the temple from grabbers.

"The Iscon followers first came to the temple on August 2 in 2009 and started staying there. Ignoring the temple committee's notice to leave the place, they announced a darmasabha (religious gathering) at the temple on September 4 and tried to establish a branch of the organisation there," Arunagshu Datta, district unit president of Puja Udjapan

Parishad, told this correspondent.

"On September 18 in 2009 a group of Iscon men stormed the house of Prafulla Chandra, president of Rashik Roy Jew temple, and injured 15 people staying there.

"One of the victims, Fulbabu, 27, brother of Prafulla Chandra, died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital the same day.

"Then the upazila administration took control of the temple and handed over its key to the chairman of Auliapur union parishad," he said.

On January 31 this year, the Iscon followers broke the locks of the temple and occupied it, said temple committee men and locals.

Local administration officials led by Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Touhidul Islam went to the spot and asked the Iscon men to leave the temple but they continued staying there in the name of observing dharmasava.

When contacted, UNO Touhidul Islam said, "We are trying to resolve the matter peacefully through discussion with both sides."

Forces have been deployed to avert any untoward situation, said Gopal Chakraborti, officer in charge of Thakurgaon police station.

Contacted, the chief of Gorea Iscon Temple Pushposhila in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila said over cell phone, "The allegation of occupying the temple is baseless. Discussion is on with the administration and we are setting up a makeshift stage to observe puja."



PHOTO: STAR

Local Hindus block Thakurgaon-Panchagarh highway on Friday demanding steps to free Rashik Roy Jew Temple at Madarganj village in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila from 'illegal occupation' of Iscon followers.

30 abducted fishermen buy freedom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Twenty Bangladeshi and 10 Indian fishermen bought freedom early Friday paying ransom from the gangsters belonging to Gama Bahini of the Sundarbans.

The 10 Indian fishermen freed from captivity are now in the custody of DFO (east zone) Mihir Kumar Do. They were dropped at Shelar Char under Sharankhola Range of Sundarbans

Forest Division.

These freed fishermen are among the 105 fishermen who were abducted by Gama Bahini and Jihad Bahini for ransom.

According to the DFO, armed members of Gama and Jihad Bahinis abducted 105 fishermen on January 27 and 28 while they were fishing in the deep sea.

The 20 Bangladeshi fishermen freed early Friday are now in Sharankhola upazila of Bagerhat district.

DFO Mihir Kumar further said that the abductors dropped those Bangladeshi fishermen from a trawler at Chaprakhali Char under Sharankhola Range of Sundarbans Forest Division. They are now at the custody of Shelar Char outpost of the forest department.

The freed Indian fishermen are residents of Kakkip area under 24 Parganas district in the state of Paschim Banga.