



PHOTO: STAR

Journalists observe a sit-in on a road in Barisal city yesterday demanding punishment to the driver of the bus that killed Shahiduzzaman Titu, photojournalist of local daily Matabad, in a road accident in the capital on Friday.

Slow wheat procurement drive worries growers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

The district saw bumper yield of wheat this year but slow pace in the government's procurement drive has come as a matter of worry for the farmers.

Of the 12 LSD godowns in the district, the wheat procurement centres at Ranishankoil, Hariapur and Jadurani LSDs suspended receiving the crop due to lack of space.

The procurement drive was inaugurated on April 1 but practically it began quite a few days later and that too continued at a slow pace,

sources said.

The Department of Agriculture Extension had set a target to produce 1,52,477 tonnes of wheat this year at the rate of 2.6 tonnes per hectare. However, the target exceeded much as the average production went up to 3.40 tonnes per hectare with a total output of 1,94,140 tonnes.

The government has set a target to procure 16,221 tonnes of wheat in the district this year with Tk 24 per kg.

On the other hand, each maund (37.32 kg) of wheat sells at Tk 700-Tk 750 in the local markets.

Of the total target only 7,008 tonnes of wheat has been procured till yesterday while the three centres of Ranishankoil, Hariapur and Jadurani LSDs stopped procurement due to lack of space, sources said.

Thakurgaon Sadar Upazila Controller of Food Hafizur Rahman said the district has 12 LSD godowns with a capacity to preserve 3900 tonnes of food grains but 4800 tonnes of food have already been preserved there.

Admitting suspension of procurement drive at Ranishankoil, Hariapur and Jadurani centres, he said,

"The process is on to transfer aman rice to godowns at Santahar in Naogaon district. The procurement at the three centres will restart soon."

The wheat growers of the district are being deprived of its fair price allegedly due to activities of a syndicate of businessmen and slow pace of procurement drive by the government, farmers said.

If the situation continues, the hoarders and traders will be the ultimate beneficiaries of the government's procurement drive as the genuine farmers cannot wait for supplying wheat to the procurement centres, they

Angry people set power office afire in Feni

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Angry people set fire to the Rural Electrification Board (REB) office in Sonagazi upazila.

Official papers, computers and other furniture were gutted in the fire, REB sources said.

On information, fire fighters from the district headquarters and police rushed to the spot and brought the flame under control.

Locals and REB office sources said several hundred people gathered in front of the office at around

7:15pm and chanted slogan demanding uninterrupted power supply.

At one stage, the protesters damaged doors and windows of the office and set it on fire. Police dispersed the agitating people and brought the situation under control.

Locals alleged that Palli Bidyut Samity supply electricity only for 4-5 hours a day.

Mamunur Rashid, assistant general manager (commerce) of Sonagazi Palli Bidyut Samity, said they supply only 2MW electricity against the

Youth jailed for stalking

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A mobile court sentenced a young man to two months' imprisonment for stalking a schoolgirl in Fakirpara area under Thakurgaon municipality on Wednesday afternoon.

The stalker, Foizul Haque, 32, is a son of late Asiruddin of Kuranuganj village under Tetulia upazila of Panchagrah district.

Foizul, of the area, often used to tease the girl on her way to school for long, said locals.

He intercepted the victim at knife-point at around 5:00pm. As the girl cried for help, locals caught the youth and handed him over to the police.

Later, he was produced before the court led by Executive Magistrate Wasimul Bari who handed down the punishment.

In Lalmonirhat, police arrested a youth on charge of violating a four-year-old baby girl at Doikhowa village in Hatibandha upazila yesterday morning, reports our correspondent.

The arrestee is Rayhan Ali Mandol, 24, son of Asanur Rahman Mandol of the village.

Tapos Kumar, officer in-charge of Hatibandha Police Station, said Rayhan lured the girl to a maize field on Thursday noon and raped her.

Hearing screams, locals rescued the victim from the sport and sent her to upazila health complex in a critical condition. However, the youth managed to flee the scene.

Following a case filed by the victim's father, police arrested Rayhan from his relative's house, the OC added.

BNP leader murdered in Mymensingh

180 party men in Habiganj get bail in five cases

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A BNP leader was murdered at Gandrapa Bazar in Sadar upazila of Mymensingh district yesterday morning.

The victim, Abdul Khaleque, 45, son of Joban Ali of Gandrapa

Boro bari, was the vice-president of Akua Ward No-2 unit, reports our correspondent.

Police quoted locals as saying that a gang of eight to ten criminals equipped with sharp weapons swooped on Khaleque at Gandrapa Bazar at around 10:30am, killing him on the spot.

The criminals might have

killed the BNP leader as a sequel to previous enmity with them, said Golam Sarwar, officer-in-charge (OC) of Kotwali Police Station.

Being informed, police rushed to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) morgue for autopsy.

None was arrested in connection with the murder as of 5:00pm yesterday.

Our staff correspondent from Sylhet reported that 180 leaders and activists of Habiganj district BNP and its associate bodies were granted bail from the High

Court on Thursday in five cases for attack on police and vandalising public property during agitation on April 21.

Of them, 71 were granted bail for a week in three cases filed under the Speedy Trial Act while the rest for four weeks in two police assault cases.

The accused include Joint General Secretary of BNP district unit Kamal Uddin Selim, district Juba Dal President Azizur Rahman Kajol, General Secretary Mia Mohammad Ilias and district JCD Convener Tajul Islam Chowdhury.

Declare Rangpur city corporation by May 31

Human chain gives deadline, threatens agitation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Rangpur Unnayan Samonnoy Parishad yesterday demanded that the government declare Rangpur a city corporation by May 31.

They also threatened to launch a tougher agitation programme if the gazette notification, announcing Rangpur city corporation (RCC) is not published within the date.

The demand came from a human chain formed in front of Rangpur Press Club in the morning. Local leaders of Awami League and Jatiya Party, businessmen, lawyers, journalists, social and cultural activists joined the programme that continued for an hour from 10:00am.

A rally was also held at the venue with Chowdhury

Khalekuzzaman, a member of the advisory committee of Bangladesh Awami League, in the chair. The speakers urged the prime minister to declare Rangpur a city corporation (RCC).

The speakers also threatened to go for a tougher agitation like hartal if the demand was not met by May 31.

Chowdhury Khalekuzzaman said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a meeting here on January 8 last year made a commitment to upgrade Rangpur town to a city corporation, but the pledge is yet to be fulfilled.

Dr Mohammad Rezaul Haque, AL leader Sharifuddin Ahmed Zontu, and advocate Abdul Gani addressed the rally, among others.



PHOTO: STAR

Rangpur Unnayan Samonnoy Parishad forms a human chain in front of Rangpur Press Club yesterday demanding announcement of the municipality as city corporation within May 31 and early completion of the extension work of the four-lane road in the town.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Housewife commits 'suicide'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail

A housewife allegedly committed suicide at her house at Begpara in Jessore Sadar upazila on Friday. Victim Basonti Saha, 25, wife of Gowrago Adhikary of the upazila, is an accountant of Jessore Family Planning Office. Adhikary said his wife set fire on her body following a family feud at night. She was rushed to Jessore Medical College and Hospital in a critical condition where doctors declared her dead, said Abdul Jalil, officer in-charge of Kotwali Police Station.

2 held with firearm

UNB, Faridpur

Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested two alleged criminals along with a foreign made pistol from Station Road in the district town on Friday afternoon. The arrestees are Manik Mollah alias Kala Manik, 24, of Habeli Gopalpur area and Nazmul, 23, of Charkamlapur area of the town. DB Officer In-Charge Abu Bakar said on secret information they raided the area at around 2:00pm and arrested the duo along with the firearm. They also seized a motorbike from their possession.

Lightning kills two girls

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two girls were killed by lightning in Pirojpur and Sirajganj districts yesterday and the day before. In Pirojpur, a schoolgirl was struck by lightning when she was sitting at the veranda of their house at Charani Pratyasha village in Zianagar upazila at around 4:00pm, reports UNB. The deceased was identified as Poly Roy, 14, a student of class VIII of local Fakirbari Secondary School, reports UNB. Poly, daughter of Bidhan Roy, died on the spot. In Sirajganj, a girl was killed by lightning at Bhengri village under Salanga Police Station Friday evening. The deceased was identified as Tithi, 8, daughter of Bazlar Rahman of the village. Local said Tithi and her cousin Masuda Khatun, 10, were struck by lightning while collecting mangoes that fell off a tree at their home during yesterday's storm. Tithi died instantly.



PHOTO: STAR

The four-day Digital Innovation Fair organised by the district administration at the auditorium of Pabna Edward College attracts a good number of visitors yesterday, the second day of the programme.

DEATH OF PATIENT

Two Barisal docs sued for alleged negligence of duty

UNB, Barisal

A case was filed yesterday against two doctors of Barisal General Hospital for their alleged negligence of duty which led to the death of a minor patient on Tuesday.

The accused are Dr GM Nazimul Huq, consultant surgeon of Barisal General Hospital and Dr Mahbubur Rahman, an anesthetist.

Mohammad Ali of Gagan Gali of the city filed the case with Kotwali Police Station alleging that negligence of duty by the accused led to the death of his daughter Anarkali, 13, who was admitted to the hospital with

appendicitis on May 1.

In his case, he stated that Anarkali was rushed to female surgical ward of the hospital with severe appendicitis pain and was taken to operation theatre (OT) by the two physicians at around 11:30am on Tuesday.

Half an hour later, she was brought out of the OT by them before her operation was completed and was referred to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College and Hospital (SBMCH) where duty doctor declared her dead on arrival at around 1:00pm.

An investigation into the allegation will begin soon,

Said officer in-charge of the PS.

Meanwhile, SBMCH assistant director Anil Chandra Pal said that authorities on Thursday formed a four-member inquiry committee to detect the cause of the minor's death and ascertain whether the two physicians are responsible for it.

Assistant Professor of surgery Dr. Zahirul Huq Manik, will head of the probe body with Dr. Bhaskar Saha of medicine, he said adding that the committee was asked to submit its report within next three working days.