

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

UP member shot dead

UNB, Khulna

A gang of criminals shot dead a union parishad (UP) member in Khan Jahan Ali area of the city on Sunday night. The deceased is Manzur Shikdar, 40, a member of Giratola Union Parishad in Sadar upazila. Son of Haris Shikdar of Matamdanga village in the union, Manzur came under attack near Srinath School while he was returning home in the area at around 10:30pm. He was rushed to Khulna Medical College and Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Man gets life for killing wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

A court here yesterday sentenced a man to life imprisonment for killing his wife. The convict is Zafar Ullah, 40, son of Abu Taher of Dubba village in Sonagazi upazila. The court also fined him Tk 50,000, in default he is to suffer another three months in prison. According to the prosecution, Zafar strangled Jaheda Akhtar, mother of two children, for dowry on May 11, 2008. Later, victim's brother filed a case accusing Zafar. After examining the witnesses and records, Additional District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Harunur Rashid pronounced the verdict.

Boy drowns

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

A boy drowned in a pond in Dharmotola area under in Jessore town yesterday. The victim was identified as Aminur Rahman, 13, son of Saidur Rahman. Saidur said his son drowned while bathing in the pond near their house in the morning. Later, locals found body floating and recovered it from the pond.

Fake revenue stamps seized

UNB, Khulna

Detective Branch (DB) of police seized 54,400 fake revenue stamps worth Tk 2.72 lakh from Mohammadpur area in Batiaghata upazila on Sunday morning and arrested a man in this connection. The arrestee, Habibur Rahman Habi, 42, son of Insan Ali of Shovona village in Dumuria upazila, is a former Islam member. Acting on a tip-off, detectives raided the area at around 10:00am and arrested Habi along with the fake stamps.

7 rescued from traffickers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) yesterday rescued seven people, including a woman and three children, while they were being trafficked to India through Putkhali Border. BGB-26 Camp Commander Samsur Rahman said on secret information, they raided the area in the morning and rescued the victims. Sensing the presence of the BGB men, the traffickers fled the scene. Later, the seven were handed over to Benapole police.



PHOTO: CHEVRON

Recipients of plants at a programme pose with officials of Chevron Bangladesh that distributed 6,600 plants of fruit bearing, timber and medicinal trees among 1000 families around Jalalabad, Moulvibazar and Bibyana gas plants during its annual tree plantation programme 2012.

Fazil (hons) exams from May 17

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Fazil honours examinations under Islamic University will begin on May 17. Around 86,319 students will take part in the examinations to be held at 265 centres across the country. The university authorities have taken all necessary steps to hold the examinations peacefully. The exams will continue until July 8.

One held for vandalising temple

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Police arrested a man on charge of vandalising a Kali Temple of Paulpara village under Sadar upazila early yesterday. The arrestee was identified as Montaj Howlader, 45, of the village. Kailash, a community leader, said they came to the temple in the morning and found it ransacked. Monirul Islam, officer in-charge of Patuakhali Police Station, said a gang of criminals ransacked the temple at midnight. Following the incident, police arrested Montaj, the OC added.

Elderly man found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Police recovered the body of an elderly man from a maize field at Kapsail village in Daulatpur upazila on Sunday. The victim is Chan Mia, 60, son of Bonde Ali Mia of the village. Family members said Chan went out of the house on Saturday afternoon and did not return home. Being informed by locals, police recovered his body from the field at around 1:00pm and sent it to Manikganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Shahidul Islam, sub-inspector of Daulatpur Police Station. His legs were tied while several injury marks found in his head, the SI added. Victim's son alleged that his uncle killed him to capture a disputed land.



PHOTO: STAR

Members of a hapless family wail in front of their house that turned into debris after yesterday's arson attack at Chinguri village in Chitalmari upazila under Bagerhat district.

12 houses burnt down in Bagerhat arson attack

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Twelve set-ups including eight dwelling houses were destroyed in an arson attack at Chinguri village in Kalatala union of Chitolmari upazila under the district early yesterday.

Locals said a group of 50 to 60 people, allegedly supporters of Mohsin Mir, set fire to the houses owned by Sayeed Biswas, Mitul Biswas, Panna Biswas, Tutul Biswas, Wadud Biswas, Rustam Biswas, Tanu Biswas and Mosta Biswas after driving out the inmates and snatching away their mobile phones at around 2:30am yesterday.

On information, a unit

of Bagerhat fire brigade rushed to the spot and doused the flame after two and a half hours of hectic efforts, said Bagerhat Fire Station officer Joynal Abedin.

The affected people claimed that the arson caused them loss of at least Tk 40 lakh.

However, there was no report of casualty.

Didarul Alam, inspector (investigation) of Chitolmari police station, said they could not trace the culprits behind the incident and no case was filed as of yesterday afternoon.

He added that Mohsin Mir and Ruhul Amin

Sharif had been at loggerheads over occupying of a large area of char land in the Madhumati River basin for long.

As a sequel to the enmity, Shamsul Alam of Chinguri village, known as a supporter of Mohsin Mir, was hacked to death on April 18.

Owners of the eight houses burnt down in yesterday's arson attack are charge-sheeted accused in Shamsul Alam murder case and all of them are absconding, Didarul Alam said.

Mohsin Mir could not be contacted for his version about the incident.

UNB reports from

Pabna: Ten shops were gutted in a fierce fire at Sharatnagar Bazar in Bhangura upazila under the district Saturday night.

Local people said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at a shoe shop of the bazaar at about 11:00pm and soon engulfed the adjacent nine shops.

On information, fire fighters from the district headquarters rushed in and doused the fire after one and a half hours of hectic efforts with the help of local people.

Affected shop owners, in preliminary estimate, put the loss from the fire at about Tk 1.5 crore.

2 Hizb-ut men held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Police arrested two activists of Hizb-ut Towhid from Charjuble Union Parishad office in Subarnachar upazila yesterday.

The arrestees are Nur Nabi, son of Samsul Alam of Mongolkandi village under Sonagazi upazila of Feni, and Sayedur Rahman, son of Sahensah of Hajipur village under Begumganj upazila of Noakhali.

Emdadur Rahman, sub-inspector of Charjabbar Police Station, said on receiving information, they arrested the duo while they were distributing CDs, leaflets and books on jihad.

Later, they were produced in a court that sent them to jail, the SI added.

Clash over harvest of paddy leaves 24 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

At least 24 people were injured during a clash between two rival groups over harvest of paddy from a disputed land at Protap village in Sadullapur upazila yesterday.

Police said there has been a long-standing dispute between Nuruzzaman of Protap village and Binoy Chandra Mohonta of Dashaia village over the ownership of a land at Protap village.

Nuruzzaman cultivated boro on the land, claiming its ownership.

The trouble began at

around 9:00am yesterday when Nuruzzaman and his men equipped with lethal weapons went to the land to harvest boro paddy.

On receiving the news, Mukul Chandra Mohonta and his supporters rushed to the spot and locked in a fierce clash with their rivals. At least 21 people from both sides were injured during the clash.

Being informed, police went to the village, dispersed the clashing group and brought the situation under control. They also picked up three people, including Mukul Chandra Mohonta, from the spot.

The supporters of Mohonta blocked the road and intercepted the police vehicle demanding release of the arrestees.

As police charged batons on the agitating men, they hurled brick chips on the cops, leaving four of them injured. They are sub-inspectors Mosharrif Hossain and Mofizuddin, and constables Mokhles and Gonesh Chandra.

Police have been deployed at the village to avert further incident.

No one was arrested in connection with the attack on police as of filing of this report at 6:00pm yesterday.

Jessore polytec closed sine die as BCL goes on rampage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

The authorities closed Jessore Polytechnic Institute for an indefinite period as activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) went on widespread rampage on the campus yesterday noon.

The BCL men got agitated as the authorities declined to meet their illegal demand for admission of five students to the institute.

"Some unruly students ransacked the principal's room, laboratory, workshops and the academic building as we did not meet their illegal demand for five

students' admission," Prof Shamsul Alam, principal of Jessore Polytechnic Institute, said.

"We closed the institution for an indefinite period considering the safety of our students. A case will be filed in this connection," he said.

Eyewitness students and locals also gave evidence to BCL activists' widespread vandalism on the institute campus.

Asked about the matter, Anwar Hossain Bipul, general secretary of the BCL district unit, claimed that the offenders are not activists of Chhatra League.

FREQUENT LOAD SHEDDING

Angry people confine PDB engineers to office in Noakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Angry people yesterday confined two engineers of the Power Development Board (PDB) at their office rooms at majdee Court protesting frequent load shedding in the area.

Several hundred people led by former lawmaker Fazle Elahi and Muktijodha Commander Fazul Haque Badal came to the local PDB office in a procession and confined Superintendent Engineer Anup Kumar Das Gupta and Executive Engineers Md Fakrul Alam in their rooms for an hour from 11:00am.

The protester said they get electricity for 3 to 4 hours a day and face load shedding after every 15 minutes. "We confined the engineers to mount pressure on the authorities concerned to resolve the problems," they said.

The engineers said the frequency relay equipment, set up at Sonaimuri, Chatkhil and Datterhat, is one of the reasons for disruption in power supply in the town.

The power-hungry people withdrew the programme after the engineers assured them of removing the equipment as early as possible.

Four to die, one gets life for murder in Madaripur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

The District and Sessions Judge's Court here yesterday awarded death sentence to four people and life term imprisonment to another on charge of killing a man in 2000.

Judge Bimol Chandra Shikdar passed the verdict, giving death sentence to Liakat Beldar, Ferdaus Khondokar, Alam and Sona Mia and life term imprisonment to Sima Aktar.

According to the case statement, Hafez Chokdar, son of Halan Chokdar of Chhilarchar village in Madaripur Sadar upazila, went to his in-laws' house at Dakkhin Crockchar village in Shibchar upazila on September 14 in 2000.

Hafez's wife Sima Aktar along with her lover Liakat Beldar and three

other accomplices Ferdaus Khondokar, Alam and Sona Mia took Hafez for a boat ride in adjacent Arial Kha River on the night. Later, the gang strangled Hafez Chokdar to death, tied a sand bag with the body and dumped it into the river.

Four to five days after the incident, Ferdaus confessed to their crime when locals caught him and gave him a sound beating.

Consequently, police recovered the body from the river according to Ferdaus' confession.

The victim's father Halan Chokdar filed a murder case with Shibchar police station on September 21 in 2000.

Three of the convicts, other than Sima and Ferdaus, have been absconding, court sources said.

4 commit 'suicide'

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Four people allegedly committed suicide in Satkhira and Sylhet districts yesterday and the day before.

In Satkhira, three people committed suicide in Kaliganj and Sadar upazilas following a family feud, reports our correspondent.

They are Patu Mondal, 14, son of Gobinda Mondal of Berakhali village in Kaliganj, Sufal Mondal, 35, son of Jagadish Mondal of Kashinathpur and Aminur Rahman Khokon, 35, of Bharukhali villages in Sadar upazila.

Police said Patu killed himself by taking poison at their house on Sunday afternoon.

Sufal took poison at around 11:00pm and died on way to Satkhira Sadar Hospital at night, said locals.

Aminur hanged himself from the ceiling of his room yesterday morning.

Police recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy, said family members.

In Sylhet, a female bank official allegedly committed suicide in Kajalshah area of the city on Sunday, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Kalpana Rani Das, 30, an officer of Shibganj branch of Agrani Bank Ltd and wife of Scholars Home teacher Jyoti Prakas Talukder of Noyagaon village under Dirai upazila of Sunamganj district.

Police said as Jyoti failed to reach Kalpana over mobile phone after repeated attempts in the afternoon, he rushed to their residence and found Kalpana hanging from the ceiling.



PHOTO: STAR

Dinajpur Sadar upazila unit of Bangladesh Teachers Association brings out a procession in Dinajpur town yesterday demanding nationalisation of the job of non-government teachers in the country. Similar programmes were also held in districts across the country.