

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Three electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Three young men were electrocuted at Soto Kabilpur village in Chougacha upazila of Jessore district early yesterday. The victims are Tofazzal Hossain, 25, Ayub Hossain, 21, sons of Abdul Kader and Raju Ahmed, 22, son of Abdur Rob of the village. Police quoting locals said the three came in contact with a live electric wire when they were repairing a generator.

Nine shops gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Nine readymade garments shops were gutted in a fire at Hawkers Market in Brahmanbaria municipality area on Friday night. Police said the fire originating from an electric short circuit at a shop at around 10:00pm and soon engulfed the adjacent nine shops. On information, two units from Brahmanbaria fire service rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze after an hour.

Youth held with gun

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a youth along with a shutter gun from Chadva area at Chandva village in Atghoria upazila on Friday night. The arrestee is Johurul Islam, 28, son of Rahman Pramanik of Kumareshwar village in the upazila. KM Tanvir Anwar, commander of Rab-12, said they raided the area at around 9:00pm and arrested Johurul along with the firearm.

Human chain for upazila

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A human chain was formed in front of Barisal Ashwani Kumar Hall yesterday to press home the demand for an upazila, comprising eight unions on the eastern bank of the Kirtankhola River. Barisal Purbancholio Unnayan Parishad organised the programme. At the human chain, the speakers said due to river erosion, the residents of eight out of 10 unions under Barisal Sadar upazila face serious problems to perform their activities at the upazila headquarters. They urged the government to meet their demand immediately. Otherwise, they threatened to continue their agitation.

6 arrested with sharp weapons

UNB, Bogra

Police arrested six criminals along with 13 sharp weapons from Dharampur area in Sadar upazila on Friday morning. The arrestees are Zakir Hossain, Abu Sayem, Uzzal Sarker, Al Amin, Rony and Sohrab. Police said they arrested the six with sharp weapons as they went to the area take control of a disputed land at around 11:00am.

Robbers loot house

UNB, Benapole, Jessore

Robbers looted money and other valuables from a house after stabbing the house owner at Krishnapur village in Jhikargachha upazila early Friday. Police said a gang of 8-10 robbers stormed into the house of Shamsur Rahman, son of Ahmad Khan, at around 1:00am and stabbed him indiscriminately. Later, the gang took away money, gold ornaments and other valuables worth Tk 3.60 lakh. The victim was admitted to a local hospital.

Reception to GPA-5 achievers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Iqbalur Rahim, lawmaker of Dinajpur-3 constituency, yesterday accorded reception to 504 students for achieving GPA-5 in this year's SSC examinations under Dinajpur Education Board. The programme was organised on the premises of Dinajpur Zila School complex. Deputy Commissioner Md Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Md Alauddin Mia Chairman of Dinajpur Education Board, Rafiqul Islam, deputy director of Department Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (Rangpur Region) and District Education Officer Enayet Hossain, were present.



PHOTO: STAR
Patuakhali Press Club organises a human chain in front of the club in the town yesterday demanding punishment of attackers on journalists in different places of the country.

College teachers' token hunger strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Teachers of non government college observed a token hunger strike in front of Shah Neyamotullah College in the district town yesterday to press home their seven-point demand including increasing house rent.

Bangladesh College Shikhhak Samity,

Chapaianawabganj unit organised the programme that continued for two hours.

At the programme, the speakers strongly denounced the government for giving them Tk 100 as house rent and Tk 150 as medical allowance.

They also demanded the prime minister's intervention in ending discrimination in education system.



PHOTO: STAR
PICTURE TELLS THE TALE: Naodanga Bridge over Baromashiya River in Phulbari upazila of Kurigram district has remained in a highly vulnerable position since subsidence of its two pillars over a year ago.

Bridge turns risky as 2 pillars subside thru' sand lifting

ABDUL WAHED, Kurigram

Naodanga Bridge over the Baromashiya River in Naodanga union under Phulbari upazila of the district poses risk of serious accident for users as two pillars in the middle of the 82-metre-long bridge subsided one year ago following indiscriminate sand-lifting by some local influential people.

Over 5,000 people of Gorokmondal, Bhatiapara, Kamtapara, Anandapara and Namatari villages of Naodanga union have been suffering much as they cannot use the bridge for transporting their goods, said Rafiqul Islam, a local resident.

Passers-by and small rickshaw-vans and bikes still use the bridge amid high risk, said Mizanur Rahman, another local.

Chairman of Naodanga union Md Moshabber Ali said, "Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) constructed the bridge around 18 years ago. Two

pillars of the bridge subsided over a year ago as some unscrupulous traders lifted sand from the Baromashiya River near the bridge."

"Several times we lodged complaints to the local LGED office to repair the bridge. I also informed the Phulbari UNO about the matter. But no step has been taken yet. Helpless people are now using the bridge amid high risk as they have to go to different places including cattle market 'Abashan Haat' at Gorakmondal village near India-Bangladesh border," he said.

When contacted, Phulbari Upazila Engineer of LGED Md Entajur Rahman said, "Local lawmaker Md Jafor Ali along with officials has visited the bridge recently. He advised me to place a project proposal with his recommendation for sending to the higher authority. Then experts will take decision on whether to repair or reconstruct the bridge. I am preparing the project proposal for the bridge."

One killed over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishitia

A youth was killed allegedly by his relatives following an altercation over a piece of disputed land at Baniapara village in Kumarkhali upazila on Friday.

The victim, Tuhin Hossain, 22, son of Sahid Mollah, was a B.com second year student of Kushtia Government College.

Kazi Jalal Uddin, officer in-charge of Kushtia Model Police Station, said there was a longstanding conflict between Sahid and his brother-in-law Mejbah over the land.

Tuhin went to his maternal uncle's home at night to resolve the matter. At one stage, Mejbah and his son attacked him with sharp weapons, leaving him critically injured.

Lightning kills three

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Three people were killed by lightning in Thakurgaon, Panchagarh and Lalmonirhat districts yesterday.

Our Thakurgaon correspondent reported that a man was killed and two others were injured by lightning in Pirganj upazila of the district.

The dead, Azizur Rahaman, 42, headmaster of Kazipara High School in Birol upazila of Dinajpur, was struck by lightning while he was asleep at his in-laws' house at Jaganathpur village in the upazila at around 5:00am. He died instantly.

The injured are Toiyaba Begum, 35, wife of Abdul Jalil of Jaganathpur village, and Swapna Rani, 28, wife of Monoranjan Roy of Nawardanga village. The injured were admitted to a local hospital.

In Panchagarh, one Ainal Haque, 24, son of Azizal Haque of Balapara village under Debiganj upazila, was struck by lightning while he was asleep at his house at around 5:00am. Four other members of the family also sustained injuries.

In Lalmonirhat, a farmer was killed by lighting at Sebokdas village in Kaliganj upazila yesterday. The dead was identified as Javed Ali, reports our correspondent.

Police quoted family members as saying that Javed was struck by a thunderbolt while harvesting paddy from his land at the village at around 8:00am. He died on the spot.



PHOTO: STAR
Thatched houses at Senuabasti in Thakurgaon municipality area get razed to the ground during the nor'wester that caused extensive damage to houses, and trees, especially in mango and litchi orchards, in different places of Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts yesterday morning.

Missing schoolgirl found dead in Noakhali

Stalkers hurt madrasa girl's father in Patuakhali

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Police recovered the body of a missing schoolgirl at a Noakhali village yesterday while stalkers of a madrasa girl injured her father in Patuakhali on Friday.

The day after her missing, body of Bristi Akter, daughter of Abdur Rahim of Naharkhil village of Khilpara union under Chatkhil upazila in Noakhali, was found at the village yesterday morning, reports our Noakhali correspondent.

Bristi Akter, a class five student of Fatema Pre-Cadet Kindergarten School in the area, went out from the house to attend her private tuition at the school around 9:00am on Friday morning, said her father Abdur Rahim.

"As she did not return home after long hours, we searched for her in all probable places and informed Chatkhil police station. Village chowkidar (guard) Md Sumon found Bristi's body at an abandoned house of the village today [Saturday] morning," he said.

Informed, police rushed to the spot and sent the body to Noakhali Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

A case has been filed in this connection, said Nazmul Ahmed, officer in charge of Chatkhil police station.

Our Patuakhali Correspondent reports: Injured by stalkers of his madrasa going daughter on Friday, Kalim Matubbar, 40, of Itbaria village in Sadar upazila is undergoing treatment at Patuakhali General Hospital.

"Some youths often stalked my daughter, a class nine student of a madrasa at the village, on the way to the institution. As she protested their evil act, the gang threatened her and demanded Tk one lakh as toll from me," said Kalim Matubbar.

"I informed Patuakhali police station of the matter that angered the gang. Led by Sarwar Hossain, they attacked me and started beating me with sticks on Friday morning," he said.

Hearing his cry, locals rescued Kalim and sent him to Patuakhali General Hospital.

Benapole port workers on strike for pay rise

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Loading and unloading of goods at Benapole land port came to a halt as workers began an indefinite strike yesterday demanding implementation of the government-declared minimum wages for them.

Benapole Port-handling Workers' Union President Jahangir Hossain Lal said they had earlier demanded implementation of the government-declared minimum wage before the appointment of four new contractors, but the port authorities did not pay heed to the demand.

Tenure of the old contractors ended on May 31.

The labour union chief said the strike will continue until the demand is met by the port authorities.

The four contractors engaged by the port authorities for appointing workers are Logistical Systems, Hosne Ara, Khalid & Brothers and Drob Communications.

Abul Kalam Azad, director of Benapole port termed the strike illegal. He said, "The port authorities and contractor have signed an agreement for handling goods. As per the agreement, the contractors get their payment regularly to clear the workers' monthly wages."

But the workers enforced the strike without any negotiation with the contractors, bringing one-sided allegation against the port authorities," he added.

ATTACK ON BNP OFFICE 3 Magura Jubo Dal activists held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Activists and supporters of the newly formed district Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal convening committee yesterday brought out a procession from the party office on Shahid Mintu Road in Magura town in protest against attack on their leaders by their intra-rival rivals the previous day.

Three leaders of Jubo Dal and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were injured as the intra-party rivals, aggrieved over formation of the new convening committee of Jubo Dal district unit, attacked local BNP office on Shahid Mintu Road at around 12:30pm on Friday, police said.

The attackers exploded at least eight bombs, vandalised the office and hacked Abu Sayeed al Mamun, joint convener of the new convening committee, Mahbulul Alam Tipu, a member of the committee, and Kutubuddin Rana, joint secretary of district unit of JCD.

They were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital from where Mamun and Tipu were later shifted to Dhaka for better treatment, hospital sources said.

Armed supporters of the new convening committee also attacked the residence of former joint secretary of the previous committee Khan Aminur Rahman Pikul and their rival party men's office on Mokhesur Rahman Road and exploded several bombs at the places at around 9:00pm.

Police on Friday night arrested Jubo Dal activists Sagar Zaman, Sohel Rana and Iran Azmi from different spots of the town.

2 arrested for killing four indigenous labourers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Police arrested two accused in four indigenous people killing case at Chalk Gopal village in Manda upazila of Naogaon district on Friday.

The arrestees are Anwar Hossain, 34, son of Mohammad Ali and Delwar Hossain, 38, son of Akkas Sardar of the village, said Abdullahel Baki, officer in-charge of Manda Police Station.

On secret information, a team of Manda police with the help of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) raided Tejaon area in the capital at noon and arrested the duo.

They were brought to the police station yesterday, the OC added.

On May 4, Ilias Mardi, Madan Mardi, Moharam Marang and Krishna Marandi were killed in a clash between the supporters of two rival land owners at the village.

The incident occurred when the victims, who were hired by Abdul Alim, one of the owners, went there for harvesting paddy.

Abdul Alim had been in feud with one Anwar Hossain over eight bighas of land.

Later, a case was filed against 46 people in connection with the incident, the OC said.

10 hurt as rival AL men clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least 10 people were injured as two rival groups of Debottar union unit of AL under Atghoria upazila clashed at the annual council of the unit yesterday.

The trouble began at around 2:00pm when the supporters of Nikhil Chandra Shah, a candidate for the post of president of the union AL committee, chanted slogans in favour of their leader.

The supporters of their rival candidate protested and also chanted slogans in favour of their candidate. At one stage, the two groups swooped on each other, leaving at least 10 activists from both sides injured.

Both groups used sticks and iron rods and made chase and counter chase during the clash that continued for half an hour, police said.

On information, the upazila unit leaders rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Of the injured, Masud Rana, 30, Rafikul Islam, 32, Joyanal Abedin, 40, Motiur Rahman, 38, and Rajab Ali, 35, were admitted to the upazila health complex while the rest given first aid.

Contacted, Secretary of Upazila unit AL Shahidul Islam Ratan said the council was held peacefully.