

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Housewife dies from snakebite

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A housewife died from snakebite at Pataitari village in Taraganj upazila on Friday night. The victim was identified as Taskina Khatun, 27, wife of Shahidar Rahman of the village. Family sources said a snake bit Taskina when she was in the kitchen at around 10:00pm. She was immediately taken to the upazila health complex where the doctors declared her dead.

Farmer found dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Police recovered the body of a farmer from a paddy field near Sayestapur Bazar in Pirganj upazila yesterday morning. The dead was identified as Ashu Mia, 35, son of former union parishad member Fazo Mia of Soyekpur village. Hasan Shamim Iqbal, officer in-charge of Pirganj Police Station, said criminals killed Ashu when he was returning home from Dhaperhat area of Gaibandha on Friday night. Locals found Ashu's body in the field and informed the police who recovered the body and sent it to Rangpur Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, the OC added. Victim's father said the gang killed his son as a sequel to a previous enmity.

Man injured in clash dies

UNB, Gopalganj

A man, who was injured in a clash between two rival groups at Dighulia village in Kotalipara upazila on National Mourning Day, died at Gopalganj General Hospital on Friday morning. The dead is Atiar Fakir, 50, of the village. There was a longstanding conflict between Kibria Molla and Atiar Rahman over establishing supremacy at the village. Police said an altercation took place between the supporters of the two over distributing 'tabarak' (milad's food) at a local mosque on the night of August 15. Later, both groups equipped with lethal weapons attacked each other, leaving Atiar critically injured. He was rushed to the upazila health complex and then shifted to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Two shops gutted

UNB, Benapole, Jessore

Two shops were gutted in a fire at Public Library intersection in Monirampur upazila on Friday night. Police said the fire originated at Samrat Khan's shop at about 11:30pm and soon engulfed a stationery stall. On information, firefighters rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze with the help of locals. The affected shop owners claimed that the loss caused by the fire could go up to Tk 5 lakh.

One held with gun

UNB, Benapole, Jessore

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a man along with a gun in Monihar area of the district town yesterday morning. The arrestee is Shamsher Ali Tuku, son of Panjab Ali of Barandi Mollapara area of the town. Major Arif, deputy commander of Rab-6, said on secret information, they raided the area and arrested Tuku along with the gun and a bullet.

Outlaw killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

An alleged outlaw was stabbed to death in Chatmohar upazila early yesterday. The deceased, Nayeb Ali, 40, son of Kashem Ali, of Hadal Pashchimpara village in Faridpur upazila, was a regional leader of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Red Flag) faction. Habibur Islam, officer in-charge of Chatmohar Police Station, said locals found Nayeb's body in Aulipur sluice gate area and informed the police. The law enforcers recovered the body and sent it to Pabna Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. Internal feud might be the reason behind the killing, said the OC.

4 drug peddlers jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A mobile court in Sadullapur upazila town yesterday sentenced four drug peddlers, to different terms of imprisonment. The convicts are Ferdous Mia, 45, his son Ripon Mia, 20, of Idrakpur village, Thanda Sheikh, 50, of the town and Shahan Shah, 40, of Baishatabdas village. Court sources said police arrested the four along with phensidyl and hashish from the area and produced them before the court led by Executive Magistrate Golam Mowla.

Kuet founding anniversary

A CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna Engineering and Technology University (Kuet) yesterday celebrated its 9th founding anniversary with much enthusiasm and festivity. Professor AK Azad Chowdhury, chairman of the University Grant Commission (UGC), inaugurated the programme. To mark the day, students and teachers brought out a colourful procession on the campus. A cricket match and a tree plantation programme were also held on the occasion. Kuet was established on September 1, 2003.



PHOTO: STAR

Teachers and students of Khulna University of Science and Technology bring out a colourful procession on the campus yesterday, marking the 9th founding anniversary of the university.



PHOTO: STAR

A smiling Mohsin holds two gourds produced in his field at Banuria village in Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah district as the farming has brought him solvency.

Gourd cultivation changes his lot

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Mohsin Ali, a poor farmer at Banuria village under Kaliganj upazila, has changed his lot by cultivating gourd.

Inspired by his younger brother Humayun Kabir, an NGO worker in Dhaka, Mohsin undertook a project to cultivate 'Diana', a China high-breed variety in February and till end of July he earned Tk 3.60 lakh. In August, Mohsin made another Tk 1.50 lakh.

From dawn to dusk Mohsin toils in the gourd field with hired labourers, nurturing the creepers and blossoming flowers. Days are over for Mohsin when

he had to struggle to bring a morsel of food for the family.

"As it is my first venture, I had to spend Tk 1.20 lakh to lease the land and prepare the field for gourd cultivation. I hope the costs will drop drastically next year," he said.

The wholesale buyers from different parts of the district come to his field and buy the crop with cash.

"Our indigenous plants would not have so much growth in so little time. I never thought it would be so profitable," Mohsin said.

At Banuria village, a lively atmosphere prevails with traders coming to buy

the vegetable and other curious farmers from neighbouring villages asking Mohsin everything about how he had started and what needs to be done to start a similar project.

Mohsin said he intends to expand the project next year and inspire more farmers to join him.

Deputy Director (DD) Shafiqul Alam of Agricultural Extension Department (AED) in Jhenidah said that this year, 914 hectares have been brought under gourd cultivation in the district.

"This year gourd farmers are getting good price for their produce mainly due to fewer growers," Alam added.

7 hurt as BCL, Jubo League clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least seven people were injured in a clash between the activists of Jubo league and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) in Kalapara upazila town under Patuakhali district on Friday night.

Police quoted locals as saying that a group of BCL men led by Azim swooped on Zakir Hossain Juku, general secretary Kalapara upazila Jubo League, while he was taking tea at a tea stall in the town at around 9:30 pm. The BCL men hit Juku with sharp weapons and left the scene, leaving him seriously injured.

Locals rushed to the spot and took Juku to the health complex. After a few minutes, over 100 activists of both Jubo League and Chhatra League locked in a clash that left at least seven people from both sides injured.

Two journo sued for posting man's anti-liberation role to Facebook

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Liyakot Ali Badal, a Rangpur-based journalist, on August 27 filed a defamation case against two other journalists for posting on their Facebook walls a document that disclosed Badal's alleged role against the Liberation War in 1971.

Badal, Rangpur correspondent of Ekushey Television, bdnews24.com and the daily Sangbad, lodged the case with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court in the district against Parimal Mazumder, former bureau chief of a national daily, and Niranjana Chakroborty, staff reporter of an online news portal of Rangpur.

The court summoned Parimal Mazumder and Niranjana Chakroborty to appear before it on November 27.

In 2011 late Mukul Mostafizur Rahman, a veteran freedom fighter of Rangpur, published a book titled "Muktijuddhe Rangpur" where he said Liyakot Ali Badal (serial number 166 and 'body number' 625) joined the East Pakistan Civil Armed

Forces (EPCAF) on July 16 in 1971.

The members of EPCAF, comprising mostly non-Bangalees, were engaged in killing the Bangalees under the supervision of the Pakistani army during the Liberation War.

Parimal and Niranjana said they just pasted the list, taken from the book, on their Facebook walls.

They termed the case by Badal 'a threat from the anti-liberation forces' when the trial of the war criminals is going on.

It is well known to all of Rangpur that Liyakot Ali Badal is a listed war criminal, they said, adding that when "Muktijuddhe Rangpur" was published, Badal did not take any legal steps against the writer of the book.

Contacted, Liyakot Ali Badal declined to make any comment about the matter.

"I told the court everything," he said.

Earlier on August 18, Rangpur district unit of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal published a list of war criminals, including Liyakot Ali Badal.

HIKE IN TOLL FOR CROSSING BRIDGE

Transport workers block road for 5-hour in C'nawabganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, C'nawabganj

Vehicular movement on Chapainawabganj-Sonamasjid highway remained halted for five hours from 8:45am yesterday as transport workers blocked the road near the town protesting further rise in toll for crossing Bir Shreshtha Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir Bridge.

The Roads and Highways Department has again increased toll for vehicles crossing the bridge over the Mahananda River with effect from midnight on Friday. With this, the department has hiked bridge toll rates thrice since May this year, said transport owners and workers.

Angered by the latest rise in toll rates, drivers and helpers of buses, minibuses and trucks blocked the highway, keeping vehicles haphazardly near the toll plaza at Baroghoria point.

Several hundred buses, trucks and other vehicles got stranded on both sides of the bridge, causing immense sufferings to the passengers and hampering smooth supply of goods.

On information, police and lawmaker Abdul



PHOTO: STAR

Transport workers block the road on both sides of Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir Bridge for five hours yesterday protesting increase of toll for crossing the bridge over the Mahananda River in Chapainawabganj district.

Wadud from Chapainawabganj-3 constituency (sadar) rushed to the spots but failed to restore communication.

Later, the district officials sat with the leaders of Bus Owners' Association and Truck and Motor Workers' Union at the deputy commissioner's office. But the meeting did not yield any fruitful

3 cops injured by snatchers of arrestee

Police sue 70, arrest 6 in Barisal city

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Three policemen were injured as locals attacked a team of plain-clothes policemen to snatch away an arrestee, also wanted in several cases including those for robbery, in New Kashaikhana area of Port Road-Hatkola part of the city on Friday night.

After failure to re-arrest the accused after night-long operation, police lodged a case on Saturday against 30 named and 40 unnamed people and arrested six locals including a female on charge of creating obstructions in performing government duty, and attacking and injuring law enforcers, said Matir Rahman, officer in charge (OC) of Barisal Kotwali police station (PS).

A large number of locals fled the area in fear of arrest and police harassment.

Witnesses said a team plain-clothes policemen of Bakerganj police station (PS) beat up and arrested Mojibor Rahman, a tea stall owner and an alleged member of a dacoit gang, from his house in the city at about 9:30pm Friday.

Suspecting them to be extortionists engaged in abduction using false identity, Mojibor's family members and local people attacked the plain-clothes team with lethal weapons, and snatched the handcuffed Mojibor.

Assistant sub inspectors (ASI) Manirul Islam and Shakhawat Hossain,

and Abdus Salam, a constable of Bakerganj PS, were seriously injured in the incident.

A team of Barisal Metropolitan Police led by Rabiul Islam, assistant superintendent, rushed to the spot, rescued the three injured policemen and sent them to hospital at about 10:30pm, said the OC of Barisal Kotwali PS.

ASI Shakhawat is likely to be referred to Dhaka for better treatment as his condition is critical, said Dr Fakhrul Alam, medical officer of Barisal Sher E Bangla Medical College Hospital.

Bakerganj police conducted the operation under the jurisdiction of Barisal Kotwali PS without any prior information or permission, said the OC of Kotwali PS.

Nurul Islam, OC of Bakerganj PS, said, "Mojibor was wanted in several cases and general diaries. A plain-clothes police team conducted the operation secretly to arrest the accused, also son of dacoit gang leader Abdur Rashid Sardar of Birangal village under Rangoree union of Bakerganj."

Dev Das Bhattacharjee, Barisal district superintendent of police, said, "Perhaps the plain-clothes police team conducted the operation in the area under the jurisdiction of another police station secretly to prevent leakage of information in arresting a notorious criminal gang member who was wanted for long. The authority will investigate the matter."

results. At around 2:00pm, transport owners and workers withdrew the road blockade.

Monwarul Islam, president of Chapainawabganj Bus Owners' Association, and Sarwar Hossain, vice-president of District Truck and Motor workers' Union, told this correspondent that they withdrew the blockade to facilitate the arrival of Brigadier General (ret'd) Enamul Haque, state minister for energy, power and mineral resources, in Chapainawabganj from Shibganj on the day.

"We will soon declare next agitation programme to mount pressure on the authorities concerned to withdraw the new toll rates.