

One killed, 15 injured in Rangpur post-poll clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Post-election clash between the supporters of two defeated councillor candidates in Rangpur city yesterday left a man dead and 15 others injured.

The dead was identified as Dalim Hossain, 40, of Kishamat-Bishu area in the city.

Police and local people said the supporters of Belal Hossain and Shamsul Alam, two councillor candidates from Ward No 31, blamed each other for their defeat in Rangpur city corporation election soon after the results were announced on Thursday night.

Yesterday, Shamsul's men equipped with lethal weapons attacked the house of Belal at Kishamat-Bishu area in the city, prompting his supporters to retaliate.

At least 16 people from both sides were injured during the clash that continued for half an hour from 11:00am.

Being informed, police rushed to the spot and dispersed the clashing groups. They also arrested Shamsul, Mokshed, Hamidul, Selim and Apple from there.

Of the injured--Dalim Hossain, 40, Alamgir, 25, Saddam, 22, Rabeya, 42, Moklesh, 48, Sifat, 18, and Osman, 48--were admitted to Rangpur Medical College

Hospital (RMCH) where Dalim succumbed to his injuries at around 5:00pm.The rest of the injured were given first aid at the hospital.

Altaf Hossain, officer-in-charge of Rangpur Sadar Police Station, said law enforcers arrested five people, including councillor candidate Shamsul Alam, from the area on charge of their involvement in the post-election clash.

Zakir Hossain, Assistant Superintendent of Police, also visited Kishamat-Bishu area soon after the incident. Police have been deployed in the area to avert any further incident

Tendons of Bogra Jubo League leader severed

A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Criminals severed tendons of a Jubo League leader in Naruli area of the town early yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Abdus Salam, 38, son of late Abdus Sattar Futu of Partitporol village in Sariakandi upazila of the district and former upazila vice president of Jubo League.

Upazila Awami League office secretary Motiur Rahman Moti said when Salam was returning from Dhaka, a gang of 10/12 attacked him near post office staff quarters in Naruli area. They assaulted him and later severed tendons of legs and hands, leaving him seriously injured at about 5:00 am.

Local people rescued him and took to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital (SZMCH). He was later shifted to Dhaka as his condition deteriorated at noon.

Family members alleged that the opponents in the Polli Biddyt Samity election attempted on his life.

In Sariakandi town, the

Jubo League upazila unit brought out a protest procession and demanded exemplary punishment of the criminals yesterday.

Meanwhile, a 'notorious' criminal of Shahahanpur upazila in the district was arrested by police from Domur Pukur area of the upazila on Thursday night.

The arrestee was Sajedur-Rahman Munna, 40, son of late Mojibur Rahman of the same area.

Police said that the arrestee and his cohorts forcibly tried to cut bamboo on 21 decimal land of Azizar Rahman, son of late Yakub Ali of the same area on Wednesday noon.

When the owner of the land protested it, the gang attacked and physically tortured him.

Azizar's wife Rashida filed a case in this connection in the evening.

Officer in-charge (OC) of the police station Mahmudul Alam along with his force arrested Munna from his residence.

The arrestee was involved in different crimes in the area, said the OC.

Tiger kills man in Sundarbans

UNB, Khulna

A *Golpata* (a kind of leaf) collector was killed in a tiger attack at Sachianangla under west zone of Sundarbans on Friday evening.

The deceased was identified Abu Siddique, 33, son of Hamid Gazi of Koira village.

Forest Department sources said Abu went to the forest to collect *golpata* taking permission from Nolian forest station.

A tiger swooped on Abu and dragged him into the deep forest when he was collecting *golpata*.

Later, forest guards recovered the decomposed body and handed it over to his family members.

In Benapole, Jessore, forest officials rescued a tiger from a house at Shrifala village in Keshabpur upazila on Friday night.

Locals said the tiger, measuring five feet in length and two feet in height, entered a garden of the village in the afternoon.

Locals encircled the garden and caught the tiger and gave it a good beating.

On information, upazila nirbahi officer Abu Sayed Manzur Alam and forest officials rushed to the spot and rescued the injured tiger. It was later taken to the upazila forest office.



PHOTO: STAR

BROUGHT UP AT ORPHANAGE, THEY NOW START NEW LIFE: Seventeen girls residing at Lions Shishu Niketan, a charitable home meant for sheltering and educating orphan girls, at Nimnagar Balubari in Dinajpur town, pose for photograph with their grooms as Dinajpur Lions Club, founder of the home, organised the 'mass wedding' on Friday.

A different day for 17 girls

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

It was a happy occasion for 17 orphan girls and their bridegrooms who tied nuptial knots at a festive mass wedding at Lions Shishu Niketan, an organisation meant for rehabilitation of female orphans, in the district town on Friday afternoon.

Founder of the charitable home, Dinajpur Lions Club provided the where-withal for the function including printing of invitation cards, decoration, feast, and cultural programme.

Each couple also received a bicycle, a sewing machine, furniture and other things to decorate a new home.

Local lawmaker Iqbalur Rahim joined as chief guest at the function attended by over hundred guests including the grooms' relatives.

Dressed in attractive wedding attire, the couples got wedded amid necessary rituals.

Seeking blessings from all, Masuda Tara

Moni, who was wedded to Mostafa Kamal, said, "I passed my HSC and learnt skills in sewing clothes here. We have been deprived of parental affection since childhood, but the authorities of Lions Shishu Niketan never let us feel the vacuum."

The orphan girls who are brought to the home receive schooling as well as trainings to earn livelihood, said Lion advocate MA Mazid, president of Dinajpur Lions Club.

"Every year we organise such mass wedding for the matured girls living here," said Md Mozaffar Ali, a member of the club.

"Of course we could not give them what parents can, but we tried to meet their other requirements," said Md Nakibul Haque Khan, president of Lions Shishu Niketan in Dinajpur.

The guests blessed the couples and encouraged the organisers to continue their philanthropic efforts.



Three people of a family try to get warmth under a single piece of blanket at Boirati village in Kaliganj upazila of Lalmonirhat district on Friday as char (landmass emerged from riverbed) areas beside the Teesta River bear the brunt of the ongoing cold wave. Right, traders of second hand warm clothes set their makeshift shops just beside the rail tracks in Saidpur municipality under Nilphamari district, oblivious of risk of accident anytime.

PHOTO: STAR

Northern dists shiver with cold

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The northern districts are bearing the brunt of the cold spell that has been sweeping the country for the last two days.

People are experiencing a severe cold weather coupled with foggy atmosphere.

The cold spell is hampering normal life in Rangpur, Nilphamari, Dinajpur, Panchagarh and Thakurgaon districts.

Severity of the cold becomes bone chilling when freezing wind starts blowing at night in the districts, report our correspondents.

The poor section of people is worst hit due to the inclement weather.

Most day-labourers, workers and rickshaw-pullers of the districts do not dare to go out for work as they do not have warm clothes.

Traffic moving along the streets of the district towns becomes unusually thin because of poor visibility caused by dense fog.

Met office sources in

Saidpur told our Nilphamari correspondent that temperature in the district fell drastically in mid December, audit often fluctuates between 8 and 10 degrees Celsius, paralysing normal life.

People of low and middle-income groups are crowding second hand cloth markets to buy warm clothes at cheaper price.

Taking advantage of the adverse weather, a section of second hand warm clothes traders has set up a makeshift market beside railway tracks within 200 metres of Saidpur railway station.

Everyday thousands of people from about 15 upazilas of adjoining districts crowd the market to purchase old clothes.

Railway sources informed that everyday inter-city and local passenger trains use the rail tracks 10-12 times to go to different destinations. A number of goods trains also arrive and depart from Saidpur rail station.

"The situation has

become a cause of great concern as fatal train accidents may occur anytime as hawkers crowded the rail tracks from morning, till mid night," said Aktar Hossain Khan, president of small garments owners association in Saidpur.

Officer in-charge of Saidpur rail PS Md. Jasimuddin said that recently he received a letter from Saidpur station master urging to evict the illegal traders from the sides of rail tracks for smooth movement of trains.

"A mobile court will soon drive away the illegal traders," he said.

Our Lalmonirhat correspondent said, the poor people, especially of char areas along Teesta and Dharla rivers, have become worst sufferers as there is no job for them due to severe cold and dense fog.

Local people said that the bone chilling weather disrupted normal life in five upazilas of the district for the last twelve days.

Day-labourer Mobarok

Hossain, 45, of Char Boirati village in Teesta river basin in Kaliganj upazila said, "I can't go to work in the field for the last several days due to heavy cold and dense fog".

"As we have no warm clothes, I and my wife Jahanara and son Mintu are undergoing sufferings", he added.

Monowara Bewa, 68, of Char Kalmati village in Sadar upazila said that she is yet to get any warm clothes from any government or non-government organisation. "I am suffering much as I am unable to purchase any warm clothes," she said.

The extreme cold weather has also caused outbreak of diarrhoea, pneumonia and other diseases in the districts.

People, especially children and the elderly, are mostly attacked with the cold-related diseases.

Sources in Lalmonirhat claimed that at least two people were killed in the last couple of days due to cold and in Gaibandha, 9 were

killed in the last two weeks.

According to Rangpur Met office, the temperature in Gaibandha was 11.2 degrees yesterday.

Residential physician at Panchagarh Sadar Hospital Abul Kashem and medical officer Dr Mohammad Monwarul Islam told UNB that the number of people attacked with the cold-related diseases is increasing day by day.

At least 21 children inflicted with diarrhoea and pneumonia were being treated at the hospital.

In Tentualia upazila, three people died of cold-related diseases in the last two days, sources said.

President of Panchagarh Paribesh Parishad and head of the geography and environmental sciences department at Panchagarh Government Women College Touhidul Bari Babu said, impact of climate change is the reason behind the adverse weather.

He feared that this year the duration of winter would belonger.

Boro seedbeds getting damaged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Boro seedbeds in many areas of Lalmonirhat district are getting damaged under the impact of the ongoing cold wave and dense fog.

Farmers said they have to sow seeds again to cultivate boro as seedlings on many seedbeds have turned yellowish due to cold and dense fog.

They (farmers) are now worried about recovery of the production cost, especially against the backdrop of low market price of paddy.

Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila Agriculture Officer Mohammad Nuruzzaman said boro seedbeds in some areas of the district are affected due to severe cold and fog but seedlings won't be damaged if the weather improves shortly.

He advised the farmers to water seedbeds at night, cover them with polythene and use proper fertiliser to save seedlings from harmful effects of cold and fog.

Azizar Rahman, a farmer at Tajpur village in Sadar upazila said, "I have to incur heavy loss as 21 days old seedlings on my 20 decimals of land got damaged."

Saber Ali, another farmer of the village, said boro



PHOTO: STAR

Persistent chilling cold coupled with dense fog damages boro saplings, turning them yellowish, at many places in Lalmonirhat district. The photo was taken from Mogholhat village in Lalmonirhar Sadar upazila.

seedlings on many seedbeds at the village have already turned yellowish for lack of sunlight. "It will not be possible on my part to cultivate boro this year if seedlings on my 15 decimals of land are completely damaged," Saber added.

Mofazzal Hossain Mofa, chairman of Rajpur Union Parishad under Lalmobnirhat Sadar upazila, said the boro farmers in his union are worried as severe cold coupled with dense fog are damaging their seedbeds.

The Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in Lalmonirhat has set a target of cultivating boro on 69,000 hectares of land, including high yielding varieties on 44,000 hectares, in five upazilas of the district.

Two prisoners die in jails

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two prisoners died in Khulna and Jessore jails yesterday and the day before.

An elderly prisoner died at Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) yesterday morning, reports a correspondent.

The dead, Ibrahim Khalil, 85, son of late Joynal Abedin, hailed from Paschim Khontakata village in Shoronkhola upazila of Bagerhat district.

Jailer Md. Rafiqul Islam said, Ibrahim Khalil was shifted to Khulna

jail from Jessore jail on Friday afternoon as he was suffering from old age complications since long. He was immediately rushed to KMCH.

Ibrahim was convicted in a murder case and awarded life term rigorous imprisonment and was sent to Bagerhat jail on December 13 in 2011. He was later shifted to Jessore jail, he said.

His body was handed over to the family members on completion of autopsy at the KMCH morgue.

In Jessore, a convicted prisoner of the district jail died of cardiac arrest at Jessore Medical College Hospital on

Friday night, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Tulusi Biswas Montu, 58, son in Kumud Biswas of Ranaghat Bangkinnagar of Nadia district in India.

He was a resident of Shibrapur in Magura district.

Jailer Kamrul Huda said Montu was admitted to Jessore Medical College Hospital as he felt seriously ill in the early morning and he died there at night on the same day.

Montu had been serving 30 years' jail in robbery, snatching and arms cases since 1995, said the jail sources.