

2 schoolgirls abducted

Youth held in Jessore, ransom demanded in Bogra

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Police arrested a youth from Ashram Road in Jessore town on Monday night, on charge of kidnapping a schoolgirl.

The arrestee was identified as Bani, 25, son of Atiur Rahman of the area, reports UNB.

Police said the girl, a class-X student at Jessore Islamia Girls' High School, was kidnapped by a gang on Jan 18 on her way back home from the school.

The victim's father filed a case with Jessore Kotwali PS accusing Bani.

In the case statement, the plaintiff alleged that Bani used to tease his daughter on her way to school and even had threatened to kidnap her.

Police arrested the accused following the filing of the case.

Away in Bogra, a gang abducted a schoolgirl from

Dhunat-Bogra road at Khokshahata village under Dunat upazila on Saturday, reports our correspondent.

The 13-year-old girl is a daughter of MA Tarek Helal, chairman of Alangi union in the upazila.

She was a class nine student at Cambridge Pre-Cadet School and College in Bogra town.

Her father lodged a case on Monday, accusing Md Sharif Rahman, 23, son of Azibur Rahman of Charkadaha village under Kazipur upazila of Sirajganj district and nine others.

According to the case statement, the girl was going to school on a CNG three-wheeler in the morning.

The gang intercepted and abducted her. They took her on a microbus forcibly and fled the scene.

Victim's father also claimed that the abductors demanded Tk 5 lakh as ransom for release of the girl.

SUNDAY'S 'RUDE' BEHAVIOR

BSRI DG replaced

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Director General (DG) of Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute (BSRI) in the district has been withdrawn from charge.

The 'stand release order' on Md Khairul Bashar, signed by Minakhhi Bormon, senior assistant secretary of Agriculture Ministry, came to the DG office on Monday.

BSRI director Kamal Humayun replaced Bashar yesterday, said office assistant Eunus Ali.

On Sunday afternoon, scientists and workers of

institute went on an indefinite strike, demanding removal of the DG Bashar for his alleged autocratic attitude.

They went to the room of Bashar to discuss their long-stalled demand of promotion for the staffs in the morning.

At this, the DG asked the on duty ansar to open fire on them, said SAK Eusuf Zai, an official at BSRI.

Earlier, we started demonstration in July last year, demanding promotion for over 40 scientists and workers but the DG turned a deaf ear, said the official.

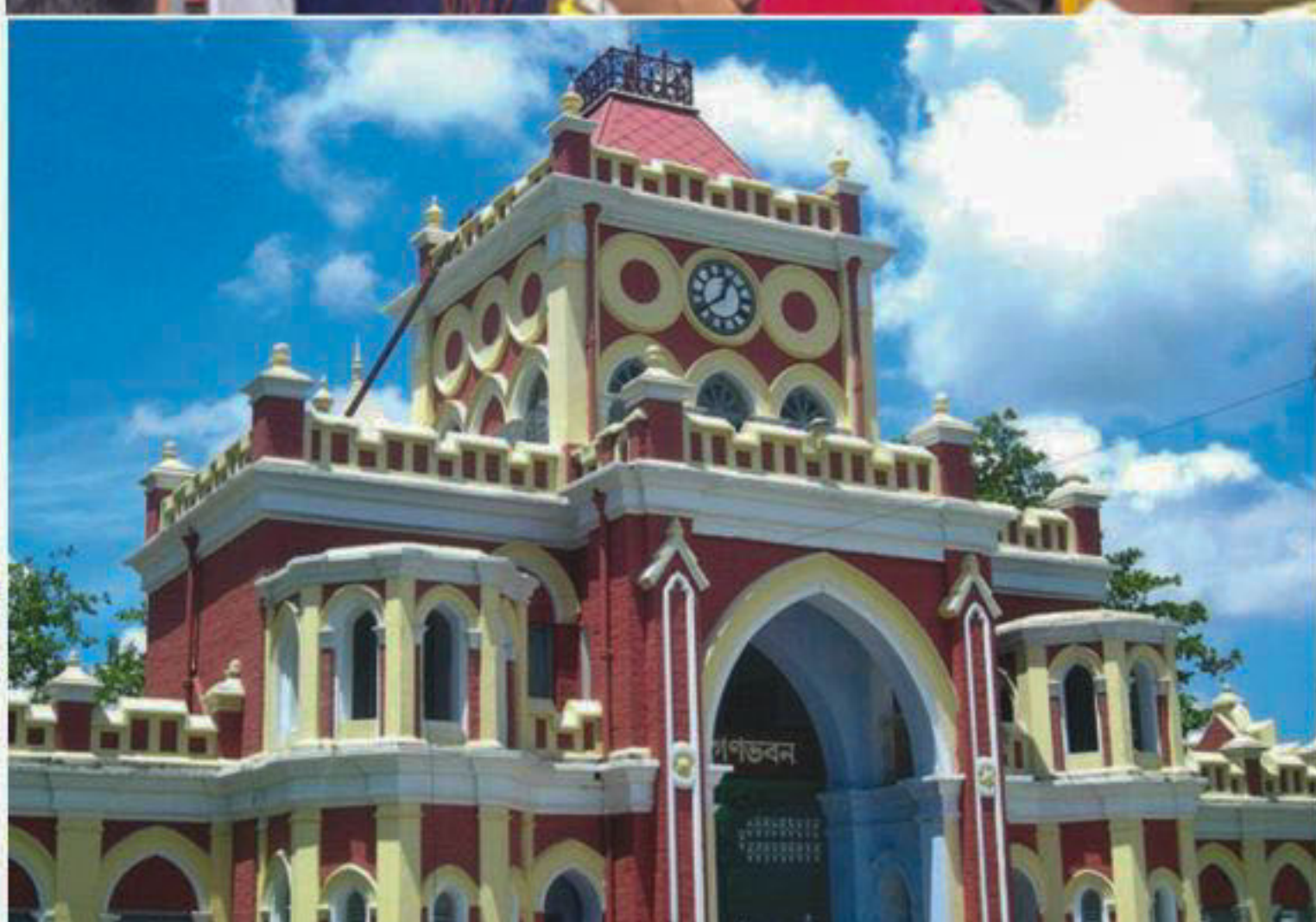


PHOTO: STAR
The district administration removes illegal set ups in front of the Uttara Gonobhaban in Natore Sadar upazila on Sunday afternoon, recovering 2.68 acres of land belonging to the historic palace now used as the provisional official residence of the head of the government, in the northern region. Inset, main gate of the impressive building.

UTTARA GONOBHABAN IN NATORE

Occupied land freed, 100 shops near it demolished

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A mobile court demolished about 100 illegal shops in front of Uttara Gonobhaban at Dighapatia in Natore Sadar upazila and recovered 2.68 acres of land of the traditional palace complex on Sunday afternoon.

"The drive was conducted as per a High Court directive, said Executive Magistrate Saniul Haq who conducted the drive.

The High Court on

January 17 asked the district administration to remove the illegal structures within seven days, following a case submitted by advocate Aminul Haque.

The district administration received the copy of the order on Saturday.

Uttara Gonobhaban, earlier known as Dighapatia Rajbari, was the palace of the maharajas (zamindars) of Dighapatia during the British period.

On July 24 in 1967, the authorities in erstwhile East Pakistan made it 'Governor

House'.

After the country's independence, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared the palace as Uttara Gonobhaban on February 9 in 1972, making it official residence of the head of the government of Bangladesh, in northern region.

The building with historical and archaeological importance is situated beside Natore-Bogra highway, some 2.4 kilometres from Natore town.

On October 25 last year,

Uttara Gonobhaban was opened for the public, facilitating visitors to see the impressive palace for a Tk 10 ticket.

It remains open from 11:00am to 4:00pm everyday, the district administration sources said.

Raja Dayaram Roy constructed the main structure of the palace.

Later Raja Pramada Nath Roy rebuilt the whole palace complex after the catastrophic earthquake in 1897.



PHOTO: STAR

This is the peak season of popular winter vegetable cauliflower. The photo shows a trader arranging the item prior to its packing at Kotchandpur Upazila Bazar in Jhenidah district, for sending to other markets outside the district.

PM to visit Pabna next month

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to make her first visit to the district on February 2. During the visit, she is expected to inaugurate 13 development projects.

Prime Minister's Office (PMO) confirmed this through a letter on Sunday to the district administration, said sources.

The PM is also expected to address a public meeting, organised by district unit Awami League on the day of her visit.

According to the deputy commissioner's office, the PM will arrive in Bera upazila at about 12:00pm and then inaugurate Bera 70 megawatt power plant and

the new building of the municipality.

Organising secretary of district unit AL Golam Faruk Khandaker Prince told reporters that all preparations were going on to hold the rally during the PM's maiden visit to the district.

The development projects include newly built Pabna Medical College Building, new building of Pabna Textile Engineering College, newly built Pabna Open University, newly built Pabna Bonomali Institute, newly built residential hotel and faculty of Pabna University of Science and Technology, Ishwardi-Dhalarchar rail line project, Chief judicial magistrate's court building, Bhangura-Naogaon road and regional passport office.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Two youths shot dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Two youths were shot dead in Manikganj yesterday afternoon. Police recovered their bullet-hit bodies from Bakchar area under Singair upazila of the district at around 4:00pm. Police also recovered a revolver bullet and three blank cartridges from the spot. The identity of the youths, aged between 30 and 35, could not be known immediately. Quoting local people, assistant police superintendent of Manikganj Sadar Circle Kamrul Islam said, six youths went to Dhaleswari riverside area at around 2:00pm riding two motorbikes. Of them, four returned on the two bikes, leaving the two behind, he said, adding that the locals could not identify any of them. The two youths received bullet in their chest and head, the ASP said. "We asked the criminal investigation department (CID) to take up the case," he said.

Farmer killed after kidnap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A farmer was found dead at Srotidhar village in Kaliganj upazila on Monday, three days after his abduction. The deceased was identified as Golam Mostafa, 60, son of Moktar Ali of the village. Police said locals found his body lying near his house at noon. The victim's family alleged that there had been a longstanding dispute between Mostafa and a neighbour over the ownership of a 30 decimal land at the village. The neighbour kidnapped Mostafa from Bhullar Haat on Friday in a sequel to the dispute and murdered him early Monday, said the family.

Three stalkers jailed

UNB, Laxmipur

A mobile court here on Sunday sentenced three youths to one year imprisonment each on charge of sexually harassing a madrasa girl. The convicts are Jalal Hossain, son of Abdul Matin, Abdullah Al Mamun, son of Sirajuddin, and Jewel of Charruhita village of Sadar upazila. Police said the three had been harassing the girl, a class VIII student of Nabiganj Islamia Dakhil Madrash, on her way to the madrasah since long. On information, a team of police arrested them from Charruhita on Sunday afternoon. Later, a mobile court, led by UNO SM Nazrul Islam, handed down the verdict.

'Criminal' killed in Jessore

UNB, Benapole, Jessore

An alleged criminal was hacked to death by a gang at Haridaskathi in Monirampur upazila of the district on Sunday night. The deceased was identified as Brojen Biswas, 40, son of Ranjan Biswas of Kuchlia village of the upazila. Police said, the gang chopped Brojen to death sometime on Sunday night and left the body on the bank of Boyra canal in the area. They said Brojen was detained in jail in an arms case filed with Phultala PS in Khulna and was released on bail two months ago.



PHOTO: STAR

Members of Naogaon 43 Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Battalion on Monday night raided Samantohar village in Khetlal upazila of Joypurhat and seized a 39-kg statue made of precious stone. They also arrested a man in this connection.

Smuggled clothes seized

UNB, Bagerhat

Members of Coast Guard in a drive seized contraband Indian clothes worth Tk 12 lakh at Nawapar in Fakirhat upazila on Sunday. On a secret information, a team of Coast Guard searched a Dhaka-bound passenger bus on Khulna-Mawa highway in the area in the morning and seized four sacks of smuggled clothes, said Staff Officer (Operation) of Mongla West Zone Coast Guard Lt M Mostafizur Rahman. However, no one could be arrested in this connection as the smugglers fled the scene sensing the presence of the Coast Guards, he said.

Man jailed for torturing wife

Another held on murder charge

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A court in Jessore on Monday sentenced a man to two years' rigorous imprisonment in absentia for torturing his wife for dowry.

The convict, Pradip Das, son of Anandadas of Islamkathi Ghuna village of Tala upazila of Satkhira district, was also fined Tk 2,000, in default, to suffer two months more RI, reports UNB.

According to the prosecution, Pradip married Golapi, daughter of Babu Lal Das of Altapole village of Keshobpur upazila of Jessore district in 2004.

Pradip was given Tk 20,000, gold ornaments and furniture worth Tk 60,000 as dowry during the marriage. But, he demanded more Tk 10,000 from

the father of Golapi.

Pradip used to torture his wife as his demand was ignored.

In 2006, he forced Golapi, mother of two children, out of his home for her failure to bring the money.

In 2009, Golapi filed a case against her husband with a Jessore court.

After examining records and witnesses, Chief Judicial Magistrate Sheikh Mofizur Rahman handed down the verdict.

Meanwhile, a housewife has been burnt to death in the district allegedly for dowry.

The victim was identified as Bilkis Begum, 25, wife of Akter Hossain of Sotighata-Kamalpur village under Sadar upazila, reports a correspondent.

Police arrested the husband following the death of Bilkis.

Police said, Bilkis was admitted to Jessore Medical College Hospital on Sunday. Seriously burnt on Saturday night, she died early Monday.

SI Mannan, duty officer at Jessore Kotwali police station said, Bilkis' brother Monirul Islam filed a case alleging that Akter Hossain killed her sister for Tk 1.5 lakh dowry.

According to the case statement, Bilkis married Akter about 5/6 years ago. After their marriage, Akter used to torture her for Tk 2 lakh dowry. Her father gave him Tk 50 thousand but failed to pay the rest amount.

On Saturday night, Akter along with his father and mother, poured kerosene on Bilkis and set her on fire.

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