



PHOTO: STAR

More than 50 big trees were illegally felled allegedly by the order of Gaibandha municipality mayor on Monday.

## Mayor himself did it!

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Gaibandha

Over 50 trees were felled at the graveyard of Gaibandha municipality illegally on Monday.

The decades-old trees were chopped down following the order of municipality mayor Shamsul Alam, alleged locals.

Earlier, the mayor felled several trees also from the

municipality park without the permission of authorities concerned.

Recently a decision to trim unwanted branches of trees in the graveyard was taken at a meeting of the municipality, but the mayor ordered to cut off the trees, said panel mayor GM Chowdhury Mithu.

As random tree felling adversely affects the envi-

ronment, the mayor should have taken approval from the authorities concerned, said Wasiur Rahman Rafel, convener of Gaibandha Paribesh Andolan.

Refuting the allegation, the mayor said 'a few useless trees' were felled and some branches trimmed just to set the graveyard environment in order.

## GAS CRISIS ACUTE IN MANIKGANJ TOWN

# Dwellers opt for earthen ovens

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Manikganj

Acute gas crisis has forced many dwellers of the town to use earthen ovens to prepare their meals.

Though they have been facing the problem of smooth gas supply for the last one year, the supply situation is worsening day by day.

On January 19, townspeople gave a seven-day deadline to ensure smooth gas supply to households, but the deadline ended yesterday without any positive result.

Yesterday, they took out a procession and then held a rally in the town to mount pressure again on the authorities concerned to meet the demand. Hundreds of people joined the procession and paraded the main street.

Later, they held a rally where Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) Manikganj district unit President Iqbal Hossain Khan, Awami League (AL) Manikganj unit General

Secretary Gazi Kamrul Huda Selim and Organising Secretary Dipak Kumar Ghosh spoke.

The speakers blamed a section of corrupt officials and employees at the gas office in the town for creating the gas crisis by selling gas to the industries and CNG stations.

To mitigate the woes of the townspeople, they urged the authorities concerned to ensure gas supply to the households at least three times a day.

They urged the authorities to ensure gas supply during daytime immediately. Otherwise, they threatened to go for a tougher agitation programme and stop payment of gas bill.

Contacted, Sirajul Islam, manager of Manikganj office of Titas Gas and Distributing Company Limited, said there are 13,932 domestic, 100 business and 60 industrial lines and 20 CNG stations under the office.

"I have already informed



PHOTO: STAR

A housewife in Manikganj town cooks meal on the earthen oven as gas supply in the town remains stopped during daytime.

the authorities concerned of their immediate intervention in this regard", he added.

The protesters also met Manikganj Deputy Commissioner (DC) Md Masood Karim and requested him to help

mitigate the suffering of the townspeople. The DC assured them of taking initiatives to solve the problem.

## SNIPPETS

### Fishes killed by poisoning

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Criminals killed a huge quantity of fishes by pouring poison in a pond at village Angardah in Magura Sadar upazila on Sunday night. Locals found the dead fishes floating in the water body on Monday morning and informed the owners. Narendranath Shikder who owns the pond, said he had been cultivating fish since long in the water body covering two acres of land. "But unknown criminals this year have poured poison in the water body late at night killing most of the fishes worth about Tk 20 lakh," he alleged.

### 14 cocktails recovered

UNB, Brahmanbaria

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered 14 cocktails here yesterday. On information, a team of Rab-9 Bhairab camp went to the spot and recovered the live cocktails from behind the Shaheed Minar at Brahmanbaria Government College early in the morning. The cocktails were later handed over to Sadar police station.

### Tangail Bar poll results

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

BNP-Jamaat supported Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikya Panel (JAOP) captured 10 posts including that of president while Awami League-Jatiya Party backed Sammilito Ainjibi Samonnoy Parishad (SASP) won seven posts including general secretary in Tangail Bar Association election. The election was held on Monday and results were declared yesterday morning. The JAOP winners are Mohammad Abu Berek Abdullah (president), MA Sattar and Abdur Rashid Miah (vice-presidents), AKM Rafiqul Islam (joint secretary), Ainuddin Biplob (cultural secretary), Tariqul Islam Yousuf, Mukul Akter, Mostaq Ahmed, Shamim-al-Mamun and Syed Sirajul Islam (executive members). The winners of SASP are Mohammad Azizur Rahman (general secretary), Sekandar Ali (library secretary), Abdul Latif Pramanik (sports secretary), Anita Sarkar, Masudul Haque, Shamima Akter and Muhammad Hossain Holud (executive members).

### Boy stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A two-year-old boy was stabbed to death while his parents sustained severe injuries as they tried to save the child at Joradha village under Harinakundu upazila of the district. The deceased was identified as Afridi. His father Yunus Ali said, they were sleeping at the veranda of their house. At dead of the night, a going of criminals stabbed them severely. Locals sent them to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital immediately where Afridi died yesterday morning.

### 15 held while being trafficked

UNB, Benapole, Jessore

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) held 15 people, including women and children, from Daulatpur border yesterday morning while they were being trafficked to India. Rafiqul Islam, Company Commander of 26 BGB, said a team of BGB raided the area and caught four women, six men and five children. However, the traffickers managed to flee sensing the presence of the BGB members. The victims hailed from different areas of Jessore, Narail and Barisal districts, said the commander.

### Case filed for bomb attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A case was filed with Bheramara police station in connection with the bomb attack on upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) Rajibul Islam on Monday. Nazrul Islam, an employee of the UNO office, who was only witness to the incident, filed the case in the afternoon. Besides, police arrested a man on suspicion. Identified as Saiful Islam, 37, the arrestee allegedly had a conflict with the UNO over an arbitration last year. Saiful allegedly had threatened the UNO that time, police said. Unidentified criminals hurled two bombs at Rajibul when he was returning to his quarter at about 10:00pm inside the upazila complex.

## Govt urged not to shelter anti-Islamic forces

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Brahmanbaria

Kawmi madrasa teachers and students at a rally here yesterday demanded capital punishment to those who allegedly made slanderous remarks against Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM) through blog write-ups.

They urged the government not to give shelter to anti-Islamic groups, including the organisers of Shahbagh movement.

A resolution containing 12 demands was passed at the rally held at Abdul Kuddus Makhon Mukto Mancha in the town with Maulana Maniruzzaman Siraji, district convener of Islami Ain Bastobayon Committee, in the chair.

Maulana Ashek-e-Elahi, principal of Brahmanbaria Jamyea Yunusia Madrasa, Maulana Noor Hossain Olipuri, Maulana Mubarak Ullah, Maulana Ahmad Ullah, Maulana Jubayer Ansari, Maulana Jubayer Al Habibi, Saikul Hadith Belayet Ullah Noori, Maulana Abdul Mukit, Hafez Maulana Idris, Muwlan Kefayet Ullah, Maulana Burhan Uddin Astagrami, and Maulana Emdad Ullah spoke.

The speakers said if the demands were not met immediately they would hold a long march from Brahmanbaria to Dhaka to capture Shahbagh Projonmo Mancha.

"We are holding this rally to protest anti-Islam activities, not to favour Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami. We hate Jamaat," the speakers said.

Police, BGB and Rab personnel were on duty at the meeting venue.

## 35 hurt in Rangpur, Sunamganj clashes

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Ten people, including seven policemen, were injured in a clash over arresting an accused in Taraganj upazila of Rangpur on Monday, reports our correspondent.

Police and locals said, on February 14, one Nurjahan Begum, wife of Sayem Uddin of Nadirpar village, filed a case with Taraganj police station accusing 12 people, including one Robbani, 45, son of late Khakhar Uddin of Rahimapur village, following a dispute over a piece of land.

A team of police, led by Alfaz Uddin, sub-inspector of the PS, raided the village and arrested Robbani on Monday afternoon.

As the news spread, the agitating villagers confined the law enforcers to the area, hurled brick chips at them and snatched away Robbani from them. Police fired 12 rubber bullets to disperse the unruly mob.

Police also arrested seven people from the spot while

Robbani managed to flee, said Mostafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of the PS.

A case was filed against 300 villagers, including Robbani, on charge of obstructing the law enforcers from performing their duties, said the OC.

Meanwhile, at least 25 people were injured in a clash over fishing in a disputed ditch at Somdhol village in Jogonathpour upazila of Sunamganj district yesterday, reports our Sylhet correspondent.

Of them, bullet-hit Ansar Mia, 35, Ekraj Mia, 40, Mujibur Rahman, 43, Mokrom Uddin, 65, Monu Mia, 37, and Abdul Hashim, 60, were admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College and Hospital while therest.

Police and locals said, when a group of villagers led by former UP member Lalu Mia went to the ditch for fishing, they were resisted by the supporters of Mujibur Rahman, triggering a clash.

## Magura dist Jamaat ameer arrested

UNB, Magura

Police arrested the district ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami from Hospital Para in the town yesterday in connection with a case filed for vandalism in local bus terminal on February 12.

Police raided the residence of M Liakat Ali and arrested him at about 11:00am.

Police said, activists of the party and its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir brought out a procession in the town on Feb 12, demanding the release of their central leaders who were arrested on war crimes charges.

At one stage, they created a reign of terror by vandalising the bus terminal and exploding a few crude bombs.

Later, police filed a case with the PS against 150 activists, including the district Jamaat ameer.

Meanwhile, 11 Jamaat-Shibir activists, arrested in connection with the case, were placed on a two-day police remand by a court here on Monday.

Fakhar Uddin Mizan, ameer of Jamaat Sripur upazila unit, and Mizanur Rahman, secretary of the same unit, were among those put on remand.

## PROTEST CONTINUES



PHOTO: STAR

From Top: 1) Dinajpur Press Club and Dinajpur Union of Journalists form a human chain in front of the club, 2) protesters take out a procession in Munshiganj town, 3) newsmen join a human chain in front of Chapainawabganj Press Club, 4) Kalapara Press Club in Patuakhali holds a protest rally on the club premises, and 5) Awami League Lalmonirhat unit brings out a procession in the town yesterday protesting attack on journalists and desecration of the national flag and Shaheed Minars by religious fanatics at different places of the country on Friday.



PHOTO: STAR

A colourful procession paraded the main road of Chandpur town yesterday to create awareness about the ill effects of catching hilsa fry.