

NON-PAYMENT OF ALLOWANCE

Interns at Rangpur medical on strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

The interns at Rangpur Medical College Hospital began an indefinite strike yesterday demanding payment of their outstanding allowance for May and June.

They brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus in the morning and later submitted a memorandum to the director of the hospital.

Addressing the rally, Dr Forhad Hossain, president

of the college chapter of Intern Doctors' Association (IDA), said they receive monthly allowance for Tk 10, 000, but the hospital authorities stopped payment in May without showing any reason.

He said the interns will continue their strike until the demand is met. Dr. Shamiul Fahad Rifat, general secretary of the association, said they had earlier brought the matter to the notice of the hospital director, but he did not take any step to resolve the

problem.

Contacted, Dr Golam Mostafa, director of the medical college, said he had earlier assured the interns of payment of their outstanding allowance for May and June next month and urged them not to enforce strike, but the request went in vain.

The patients at both emergency and ordinary wards suffered a lot yesterday, the first day of nonstop strike, as the interns stopped providing services for them (patients).

5 BCL men held on mugging charge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Five activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were arrested on mugging charge in Sunamganj town Tuesday evening.

The arrestees are Farhad, Toufique, Sumon, Babu and Opu. Police yesterday produced them in the Judicial Magistrate's Court that sent them to jail.

Police and witnesses said a group of eight BCL men waylaid a rickshaw in Iqbal Nagar area of the town at around 7:00pm and snatched two cellphone, gold orna-

ments and Tk 15,000 from rickshaw passengers one Saad Ahmed and his wife.

As the couple cried for help, locals and police chased the muggers and caught five of them.

The rest three managed to flee.

Officer-in-Charge Md Enamul Haque of Sunamganj Police Station said the arrestees are local BCL men. "We have launched a drive to arrest the remaining three of the gang," the OC said. Saad Ahmed filed a case with the police station.

Lightning kills 2 siblings

UNB, Sylhet

Two siblings have been killed by lightning at Pachim Korer Mati village in Kanaighat upazila.

The deceased were identified as Tareq Rahman, 14, and his younger brother Babul Ahmed, 12, sons of late Alimuddin of the village.

Locals said a thunderbolt struck the thatched house of Alimuddin on Monday night, leaving the two brothers dead on the spot.

Their mother, Hosne Ara Begum, and youngest brother, Sohul Ahmed, also suffered injuries in the incident.

The injured were being treated in the upazila health complex.



Fishermen of minority Hindu community bring out a procession in Srinagar upazila under Munshiganj district yesterday demanding measures to save a 70-year-old pond beside Kukutia Bazar from land grabbers allegedly belonging to the ruling party.

Jamalganj Hospital in Sunamganj suffers for want of doctors, staff

UNB, Sunamganj

Health services at Jamalganj Model Hospital in the district are being hampered due to shortage of doctors and other staff, causing sufferings to about 2 lakh people of the upazila.

Seven posts of doctors including the posts of health and family planning officer, medicine specialist, medical officer, anaesthetist and dental surgeon have been lying vacant in the hospital in Jamalganj upazila since 2003.

No dentist was appointed at the hospital since its establishment. The

lone X-ray machine after remains inoperative due to lack of film.

After a long wait, the government allotted an ambulance for the hospital but it could not be used for emergency service as no driver was appointed for the vehicle.

Twenty other posts including the posts of nursing supervisor, eight staff nurses, two medical technicians (lab), two medical technicians (pharmacist), one medical technician (radio), have been lying vacant for long.

Besides, nine posts of class four employees includ-

ing that of one ward boy, one cook, four sweepers, and one night guard, remained vacant.

In Sadar union, posts of one medical officer, one pharmacist and one MLA are also lying vacant at Sonarbangla Health Complex.

Upazila acting health and family planning officer Manisor Chowdhury said they have sent letters to the authorities concerned several times to appoint at least five doctors, five nurses and an ambulance driver for minimum functioning of the hospital but yet to get any response.

KILLING OF MAMUN, TIPU IN PABNA

Police reluctant to arrest the accused

Allege family members

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Family members of a local Swchhasebak League leader and a Jubo League activist, who were killed three weeks ago, yesterday blamed police for not arresting the killers.

They made the allegation at a press conference in the town.

On July 1, criminals opened fire on Mamunur Rashid Mamun, a member of the district Swchhasebak League, and Tipu Chowdhury, an activist of district Jubo League, at a club in Kacharpipara area of the town over previous enmity, leaving Mamun dead on the spot.

Tipu was admitted to the hospital in critical condition where he succumbed to his injuries on July 10.

Two cases were filed with Pabna police station accusing Hassan Sarkar, Emon, Sumon, Sazal, Tushar, Ranga, Moni, Sagar, Badal and a few unidentified criminals.

Police are reluctant to arrest the BNP-backed criminals as the tenure of Awami League government is nearing end, said Marzina Khatun, mother of Tipu at the press conference.

Fatema Khatun, wife of Mamun, said the killers continued threatening the family.

The officer in-charge of the PS said police already arrested two people in connection with the cases.

The law enforcers are raiding different areas to arrest the main culprits, said the OC.

SNIPPETS

15 shops gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

At least 15 shops were gutted in a devastating fire at Kamarkhali Bazar in Modhukhali upazila early yesterday. Locals said the fire originated at a shop and soon engulfed the adjoining shops. The affected shop owners claimed that the loss caused by the fire could go up to Tk 2 crore.

Clash at Bhasani Univ

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

At least 10 people were injured in a clash between the staffs and students at Mawlana Bhasani Science and Technology University yesterday. University sources said, a student slapped Moteleb Miah, a boy of the dining hall, over a trivial matter on Tuesday night, triggering protest by fourth class employees. The protesters padlocked the administrative building on the campus at 11:00am. At this, a group of students beat up a protester, prompting the staffs to retaliate.

Body recovered

UNB, Khagrachhari

Police recovered body of an unidentified youth at Bailachhari in Matiranga upazila on Tuesday. Locals spotted the decomposed body in dense forest around 4pm and informed police. Later, Guimara police recovered the body and sent it to Sadar hospital. Police suspected that the youth, wearing black jeans and black shirt, might have been killed days ago.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Civil Aviation Authority (CAAB) recruitment. Includes logo, address (www.caab.gov.bd), and a list of 16 job positions with details like salary and qualifications.



Some Awami League men of Galachipa upazila in Patuakhali district distribute sweetmeats as an expression of joy after hearing the news of the arrest of local lawmaker Golam Maula Rony in connection with Saturday's incident of beating two journalists in the capital.

Biggest-ever gold haul

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Following a tip-off, customs officials searched at BG-702 about half an hour after it landed at the airport. The flight came from Dubai via Kathmandu.

"We searched the luggage chamber around 2:30pm and found 1,064 gold bars wrapped in black cloths," said Kamrul Hassan, assistant commissioner (preventive) of the airport customs.

The market value of the bars was around Tk 54 crore, he said.

The customs officials, however, could not conclude from where the consignment of gold bars was smuggled in.

Kevin J Steele, managing director (MD) of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, said he was aware of the incident and they were currently investigating the matter in both Dhaka and Dubai.

Asked who might have sent the consignment, an official of Airport Armed Police Battalion said in such cases the smugglers never mention the names and addresses of the sender and receiver anywhere in the consignment.

The official suspected that a gang of smugglers with the help of some unscrupulous Biman officials might have been smuggling the gold bars.

The Biman MD said "We must wait for the report of the investigation. But it appears that the gold might have been put inside the aircraft in Dubai."

"In Dubai, Biman does not have its own staff who can

work on the ramp, it has a handling agent, DNATA, there," he added.

Kevin also said he had asked for a list of all DNATA staff, who worked on the ramp of this flight in Dubai.

The seized gold bars will be deposited to the government treasury, said customs officials.

Wazed Ali said as far as he could recall, the seizure of 56kg of gold was the second largest haul at the airport in the late 80s.

On Tuesday, a man was arrested with 146 gold bars weighing 17 kilograms at Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong.

On July 6, customs officials recovered 25.3 kg gold bars from a Biman flight. These gold bars were found unattended and unclaimed.

Forest robber arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police arrested a forest robber in front of Sunderban College on Khanjahan Ali road in the city yesterday.

The arrestee was identified as Nazrul Islam, son of Keyamuddin Sarder of Garaikhali village under Paikgacha upazila.

On information, a mobile team of police arrested him around 5:00am while he was going to Sunderbans along with some ammunition.

Police also seized 500 pistol bullets from his possession.

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Advertisement for UNDP Vacancy Notice. Details a position for Finance Associate (ICS-6) in Bangladesh, including application instructions and contact information.