



Men of Jamaat-e-Islami dug a large hole at the entrance of this bridge at Bhoirampur village on Pirojpur-Nazirpur road, much to the suffering of commuters, and right, the party activists burn tyres on Dhaka-Chittagong highway on the outskirts of Comilla city yesterday, the second day of the 48-hour countrywide hartal enforced by Jamaat.

Hartal adds to woes of guava growers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Huge quantities of guava are getting damaged in Nesarabad upazila under the district as the popular fruit remains unsold due to transport problem amid the two-day countrywide hartal enforced by Jamaat-e-Islami.

The popular fruit that was Tk 800 a maund a month ago now sells below Tk 60

the wholesalers became reluctant to buy guava before the Eid. We had hoped to recover the loss after the Eid but now we are frustrated due to the hartal as the wholesalers cannot send the fruit to Dhaka and other areas," said

Aurobindo Shikder, a guava grower of Atghar village in Nesarabad upazila. "We are not plucking guavas for the last few days as the labour cost for the purpose is higher than the present market price. And so, guavas are getting damaged in the orchards," said Liton Hawladar, a farmer of Kuriana village. "We are not interested to buy guava as we cannot send them to Dhaka and other places during hartal. Now both the growers and the wholesalers are in serious trouble due to the situation," said Nur Islam, a wholesaler of Nesarabad upazila. The area is famous for producing tasty varieties of guava.



Baskets of guava, brought by a wholesaler for throwaway prices from growers, is kept beside a road at Kuriana Bazar in Nesarabad upazila under Pirojpur district yesterday amid transport problem during the countrywide hartal enforced by Jamaat-e-Islami.

Five children of two families drown

Computer engr meets similar fate

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Five kids drowned in Brahmanbaria and Netrakona districts on Tuesday. Away in Rangpur, a computer engineer met a similar fate the day before. Three children of a family drowned in a pond near their houses at Gopalpur village under Shrirampur union of Nabinagar upazila in Brahmanbaria on Tuesday afternoon. The deceased were identified as Limon Mia's son Ali Noor, 4, and daughter Jesmin, 10, and Sabina, 12, daughter of Mugon's younger brother Safiqul Islam, reports our Correspondent. According to family sources, Mugon Mia came to the village home from his workplace in Chittagong during the Eid vacation. At around 3:00pm on Tuesday, Mugon Mia's son Ali Noor and daughter Jesmin fell into the pond. They were playing on the bank of the pond. Seeing them in trouble, their cousin Sabina instantly jumped into the

pond to rescue them. But she also drowned as she did not know how to swim. Later their relatives took them to Nabinagar upazila health complex where the on duty doctor declared all the three dead. In Netrakona, two siblings drowned in Someshwary River at Mujibnagar of Durgapur upazila headquarters in Netrakona district yesterday noon. The dead were identified as Limon Paul, 12, and Likhon Paul, 8, sons of Liton Paul of Mujibnagar area in the upazila, reports our correspondent. Police and local people said that the two brothers went to the river to take bath but drowned as they could not swim ashore. Hearing the news, local people rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies. In Rangpur, a computer engineer drowned in Chaghot River at Hajirhat in the city on Monday, reports our correspondent. The deceased was identified as Khondker Masud Elahi Chandan, 26, son of

Khondker Maruf Elahi of Rangpur Medical College intersection area. Chandan had been serving as a computer engineer in Tech Valley Company Ltd in Dhaka. He came to his village home recently to celebrate the Eid-ul-Fitr festival with his family members. Maruf Elahi told this correspondent that on Monday morning Chandan went to visit one of his relatives at Hajirhat. At around 2:00pm, he went to the river to take bath but drowned, although he knew how to swim. In Bogra, a fisherman drowned in the Jumana River at Talukdarpara village under Chandanbaisha union in Shariakandi upazila on Tuesday morning, reports our correspondent. Police said Nagar Chandra Das, 50, son of late Prema Chandra Das was catching fish in the river boarding a small boat. All on a sudden he fell into the river and drowned for reason unknown, they said.

Jubo League, Jamaat clash in Bogra, 6 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

At least six people were injured in a clash between the activists of Jubo League and Jamaat-Shibir at Tangamagur in Shajahanpur upazila on Tuesday evening. The injured were identified as Mostak, 28, son of Nazmul Haque, Enamul, 20, son of Islam Mia, Karim, 32, son of Abbas Ali of Tangamagur village, Khokan, 25, son of late Bahar Ali, his mother Amena Begum, 55, of Titkur village and Raju Ahmed, 30, son of Ismail Hossain of Lotagari village under the upazila. Police said that a case was filed on charge of vandalising Jubo League Tangamagur unit office on March 03, 2013 during a violence involving the rumour of sighting the image of Delwar Hossain Sayeedi in the moon. Following filing of the case, a tense situation was prevailing in Tangamagur Bazar area for last five months. Tuesday evening, when pro-Jamaat man Raju came to the bazar area on a three-wheeler, Jubo League activists caught him for vandalism of their party office. Hearing the news, pro-Jamaat Lotagari villagers went to rescue the two with lethal weapons and locked in a clash with Jubo League men. During the clash, rival groups blasted 4/5 cocktails, fired 5/6 rounds of bullets, injuring 6 people from both the sides, police said. Contacted, Officer in-charge (OC) of Shajahanpur police station Mahamudul Alam said, police rushed to the spot to bring the situation under control.

Rapist gets life

UNB, Narsingdi

A court here yesterday convicted a man for violating a minor girl in Palash upazila back in 2010 and sentenced him to life imprisonment. The court also fined the convict, Jewel Mia of Sultanpur village, Tk 1 lakh, in default, to suffer one year more in jail. According to the prosecution, Jewel picked up and violated the girl, then 10, on the night of February 27, 2010 while she was returning home from a feast organised at a local school ground on the occasion of Eid-e-Miladunnabi.

PROMPT POLICE ACTION IN BHOLA 19 of 21 abducted fishermen rescued within hours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

Police early yesterday rescued 19 of 21 fishermen who were abducted from the Meghna river adjacent to Char Nizam in Monpura upazila of the district on Tuesday midnight. According to Char Nizam police camp sources, a group of armed robbers attacked and opened fire on four fishing trawlers of Nurnabi Majhi, Nirob Majhi, Andur Rahim Majhi and Bagon Ali Majhi in the area on Tuesday at around 11pm. Bagon Ali Majhi, 40, was hit by bullets and admitted to Charfession upazila health complex. Later the gang abducted all the 21 fishermen and looted everything in the four trawlers. Fisherman Jalil who jumped from a trawler, still remained missing. Being informed, police

raided the spot at around 3:00am on Wednesday and freed 10 fishermen, identified as, Nirob, 35, Kabir, 25, Sharif, 27, Bachchu, 25, Jafor, 25, Rafiqal, 49, Anis, 60, Mofiz, 28, Rubel, 23, and Eusuf, 28, from Baluar Char area of Nijhum Dwip under Hatiya upazila of Noakhali district. Police also rescued nine other fishermen from there yesterday noon. They are Nurnabi Majhi, 35, Hanif Bepari, 38, Salauddin Khan, 40, Yunus, 25, Siraj Patwari, 40, Khalil, 30, Siraj Sardar, 40, Khorshed, 25, and Alamgir, 25. All the fishermen hailed from different unions of Charfession and Monpura upazilas. Gulzar Ahmed, ASI and in charge of Char Nizam police camp, said he along with constable Jahid, Jalil, Forkan and Nurnobi conducted the rescue operation.

2 killed, 45 hurt as rival villagers clash

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two people were killed and at least 45 others injured as rival villagers clashed in Netrakona and Sirajganj districts yesterday and the day before. A man was killed and 30 others were injured in a clash at Bishompur village under Kalmakanda upazila in Netrakona district yesterday. The dead was identified as Kaikobad Mia, 40, of the village, reports our correspondent. Officer in-charge (OC) of Kalmakanda P S M o h a m m a d B a z l u r Rahaman said, there had been a long-standing feud between Kaikobad group and Abul Kashem group at Bishompur village over a disputed land. Yesterday morning, when Kaikobad and his men went to the disputed land for cultivation, Abul Kashem and his supporters attacked them with sharp and lethal weapons, triggering a fierce clash. Kaikobad died on the

spot while seriously injured Ekdil Mia, Kachum Ali, Abul Kashem and Abu Taher were taken to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in critical condition. In Sirajganj, a young man was killed and 15 others were injured in a clash that broke out at an arbitration in Ranigram Project area of the town on Tuesday night. The deceased was identified as Abu Hanif, 18, son of Abul Kalam of Kobdaspura of the town, reports UNB. Police and locals said, some unruly youths of Ranigram attacked the people of Kobdaspura during the arbitration in Ranigram Project area at night. The meeting was called to settle a previous dispute over a local marriage. The clash between the two groups erupted when the residents of Kobdaspura tried to resist the attack by their rivals. Seriously injured Hanif succumbed on the way to hospital. Nine others were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital.

SNIPPETS

Lightning kills two

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Two people were killed and five others injured as a lightning struck them at Dighirhat village in Sapahar upazila of Naogaon yesterday. The deceased were identified as Anwar Hossain, 32, son of Nazir Hossain of Nirapara village and Bodhuli Orao, 35, wife of Shukulal Orao of Dighirhat village under Sapahar upazila. Police and locals said, a lightning struck them at around 3:15pm when they were working at a paddy field at the village. Anwar and Bodhuli Orao died on the spot while five others were seriously injured.

Youth kills mother

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A youth hacked his mother to death at Biribari village in Shibpur union of Gobindaganj upazila on Tuesday night. Police said, Abdul Halim, 25, repeatedly stabbed his mother Halima Begum, 45, following a feud over a trivial matter and fled the scene. Halima was rushed to Gobindaganj health complex where doctor pronounced her dead. Locals said Halim was demanding money from his family to buy a rickshaw. On Saturday last, another youth of the same union stabbed his father to death as he refused to give his son a CNG run autorickshaw.

Man gets life in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Additional District and Session Judge Mohammad Abdul Hamid sentenced a man to life term imprisonment and fined him Tk 20 thousand, in default, to suffer two years more in jail for rape of a housewife. The convict is Khokan Mia, son of Rustom Ali of village Sunaikanda under Purbadhola upazila in the district. According to the case, on January 18 midnight in 2004, Khokan entered the house of one Shahid Mia of same village and raped his wife.

Outlaw killed in Khulna

UNB, Khulna

A member of an outlawed party was found dead at Alka village in Phultala upazila yesterday morning. The deceased was identified as Shahin Sheikh, 25, son of Salu alias Shilu Sheikh of Gopinathpur village in Abhaynagar upazila of Jessore. Police said, locals spotted the body of Shahin at a fish enclosure at the village in the morning and informed them. Later, the law enforcers recovered the body. Officer in charge of Phultala police station M Emdad Hossain said, party rivals might have strangled Shahin elsewhere and dumped the body at the fish enclosure. He said Shahin was accused in cases filed for various criminal activities.

Youth beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A youth was beaten to death by criminals in Pouli area of Kalihati upazila on Monday. The victim was identified as Joy Chandra Das, 22, son of Babul Chandra Das of Baganbari in the district town. Quoting the victim's family members, police said Joy went out of his house in the evening to meet his friends at Deola. Later a gang took him to a house at Pouli where they beat him up mercilessly. Joy died at Tangail general hospital at night.

NSU student

FROM PAGE 16 connection on March 5, Sadman was the mastermind of the murder.

DB Additional Deputy Commissioner Moshir Rahman said, "Sadman was studying BBA at NSU, but left the university after the murder. He was on the run and only recently came back to stay with his parents in north Dhanmondi. He was planning to escape to Malaysia to continue with his studies."

Moshir said acting on a tip-off, DB arrested Sadman at his home between 4:30pm and 5:00pm. "Seven people, in two groups, were involved in the murder. The 'intelligence' group provided information on the victim and the 'execution' group carried out the killing. Sadman belonged to the 'intelligence' group," said Moshir. The students arrested previously, Maksudul Hassan Anik, 23, Ehsan Reza Rumman, 23, Faisal bin Nayeem, 22, Nafis Imtiaz, 22, and Naim Sikder Irad,

19, had told DB that Sadman was an activist of Islami Chhatra Shibir, a pro-Jamaat-e-Islami student body. The members of the group behind Rajib's murder belonged to the Ansarullah Bangla Team militant group. Saikhul Hadith Mufti Muhammad Jasimuddin Rahmani was the group's spiritual leader. Jasimuddin was arrested at Barguna yesterday. A list with names and photographs of some prominent writers, bloggers and politicians including Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir, former home minister Shahara Khatun, minister without portfolio Suranjit Sengupta and war crimes trial activist Shahrir Kabir was found amongst the books and papers recovered from Jasim's madrasa at Mohammadpur in Dhaka, said police sources. Police could not say what the purpose of the list was. A DB source said they were still looking for others involved in Rajib's murder.

Govt to bring GB

FROM PAGE 1

Aspart of formulating the new law, the banking division yesterday held an inter-ministerial meeting in the finance ministry to discuss the draft Grameen Bank Act 2013. The Act will replace the Grameen Bank Ordinance 1983. Muhith told reporters at his secretariat office that the government would retain its 25 percent share in the bank despite recommendations from the Grameen Bank Commission to raise the stake. "The government had 25 percent share in the bank and we are just retaining it. This is the final decision," he said. Muhith added that the government would have to make a decision to bring Grameen Bank under a regu-

latory framework, as neither the central bank nor the Microcredit Regulatory Authority (MRA) now controls the microfinance bank. "We will have to put it either under the Bangladesh Bank or the Microcredit Regulatory Authority. A provision must be kept in the new Grameen Bank Act in this regard," he said. The inter-ministerial meeting was attended by the managing director of Grameen Bank, top officials of NGO Affairs Bureau, MRA, the registrar of the Joint Stock Companies and Firms, and representatives of the National Board of Revenue and nine ministries. Everyone in the meeting was asked to give their opinion on the draft Act by August 25, Banking Division

Secretary M Aslam Alam, who chaired the meeting, told reporters after the meeting. The government is now working to transform the Grameen Bank Ordinance into a law along with other ordinances promulgated between 1982 and 1986 by the then military government. At the meeting, the Grameen Bank Ordinance was placed as the draft Grameen Bank Act 2013. No changes have been made in the draft yet but it has been translated into Bangla by the Grameen Bank, officials said. Under the new law, the authorised capital of Grameen Bank will be Tk 350 crore, divided into 3.5 crore shares of Tk 100 each. The bank's paid-up capital

will be Tk 300 crore, up from Tk 74 crore now. In 2007-08, the caretaker government had increased the authorised and paid-up capital through an executive order, but the rise did not take effect as the Awami League-led government did not turn the changes into a law after assuming office in January 2009. "These changes will now be incorporated in the new law. Muhith, however, did not say whether the government would take any steps upon receiving the Grameen Bank Commission report expected next week. "The government will have to decide on it," he added. The minister said the government did not need a majority share in Grameen Bank, as the bank was a statutory body created by the government. "Prof Muhammad Yunus would not be able to grab it no matter how loud he shouts." Muhith said the government also would not change the bank's current structure. "It will function in the way it is functioning now... But Prof Muhammad Yunus has continued campaigning against it [the commission]. What is the purpose?" The minister also said there were no rules for electing the directors of the bank. "We will formulate rules." The minister said the government was looking for a new chairman after Mozammel Haq, the present chairman of the bank, submitted his resignation letter on August 5 citing poor health.