

3 forest robbers held after fierce gunfight

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Coastguards rescued two fishermen, kidnapped for ransom seven days ago, following a gunfight with forest robbers in Kateswar area in the Sundarbans under Koira upazila of the district yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, members of the coastguard surrounded the Kateswar area at 3:00pm on Tuesday and raided a den of the infamous 'Jahangir Bahini' in the area at around 3:50am yesterday.

den while other members of the bahini managed to flee. The arrestees are Amir Ali, 32, son of Mohammad Ali Sheikh of Chadnimukha village and Md Sahajahan Gazi, 26, son of Safayet Gazi of Nayanpashla village in in Shyamnagar upazila of Sathkira, and Md Jobber Gazi, 30, son of Mosharrif Gazi, of Patkuliputa village in Paikgachha upazila of Khulna.

guns, two shooter guns, 107 bullets and four sharp weapons from the den, the press release added. The rescued fishermen are Hazrat Ali, 24, son of Md Yakub and Mustafizur Rahman, 52, son of Karim Mowla of Patkhali village in Shyamnagar upazila of Sathkira.

11 abducted fishermen yet to be rescued

As 13 days already elapsed, several of 50 victims bought freedom

UNB, Bagerhat

Although 13 days have already elapsed, 11 fishermen who were abducted for ransom by forest robbers from the Bay of Bengal near Sharankhola upazila of the district are yet to be rescued. Family members of the abducted fishermen are now passing their days amid fear and anxiety. They are now begging the mohajan (money lenders) to arrange the ransom money demanded by the robbers to set free the abductees.

In the morning of August 15, the robbers swooped on 500 fishermen while fishing onboard trawlers in the Bay of Bengal near Sharankhola and looted fish worth Tk one crore, fishing nets and other valuables from their possession. While leaving, the gang abducted 50 fishermen, who hail from different areas of Bagerhat, Pirojpur, Barguna and Bhola, along with four trawlers. Later, the robbers threatened to kill the kidnapped fishermen unless they were freed within one week through payment of ransom. Meanwhile, members of Coastguard (west zone) continued drive to rescue the fishermen. During a drive on August 23 they rescued 13 of the abducted fishermen from the den of notorious 'Shirsha Bahini' in the Sundarbans. On August 17, four more abducted fishermen were rescued from the Sundarbans under Koira upazila by the coastguard following a gunfight with 'Shirsha Bahini' members.

During a drive on August 23 they rescued 13 of the abducted fishermen from the den of notorious 'Shirsha Bahini' in the Sundarbans. On August 17, four more abducted fishermen were rescued from the Sundarbans under Koira upazila by the coastguard following a gunfight with 'Shirsha Bahini' members. Sources said, a number of kidnapped fishermen have already bought freedom while the 11 from Sharankhola remained untraced till now.



This red-light area in Madaripur town gives a deserted look as a section of locals hung a signboard inscribed with 'free from prostitutes' after forcing out about 500 sex workers from there on Tuesday.

2000 SUED, 16 HELD IN MADARIPUR Sex workers keep away from brothel in panic

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Police on Tuesday night filed a case against over 2000 unidentified people on charge of attacking and looting a brothel in the district town on the day and forcing out about 500 sex workers. They also arrested 16 people in connection with the incident till yesterday. The brothel gave a deserted look yesterday as most of its members died not dare to return fearing fresh attack. Meanwhile, Islahe Qoum Parishad, an Islamist outfit, at a press conference on Tuesday refuted the allegation of their involvement in the attack and eviction. Several hundred activists

of Islahe Qoum Parishad stormed the brothel at Puranbazar around 11:00am. They beat up at least 30 women who did not want to leave what they call home for generations, said Mamata Rani, president of Bandhobi Nari Sangha, an organisation of sex workers. The attackers ransacked the 250-year-old brothel and looted valuables, she alleged. The attack was made despite a July 22 High Court ruling, in which the home ministry and police were asked not to harass residents of the brothel and to allow the sex workers to continue with their occupation for a year. The members of the

Islamist outfit and associations of local traders told newsmen that when a team went to the brothel on Tuesday morning to talk about rehabilitation of the sex workers, a few of them physically assaulted some members of the team. Hearing the news, agitated traders pulled their shutters down and rushed to the spot along with local people. There was none from Islahe Qoum, they said. On the other hand, police said they will proceed as per law. "We will take action against offenders who unleashed terror against the sex workers violating court order," said police superintendent Khonaker Faridul Islam.

For violating dress code

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Principal of Barisal Model School and College in the city on Monday cut hair of some students on charge of violating dress code. Being informed, local journalists rushed to the spot and talked with the students and their guardians, but none of them complained against the action taken by the principal. Some punished students, requesting anonymity, said the principal took the action while the pre-test examinations of HSC students were going on in a hall. He entered the room and cut hair of the students with scissors for violating dress code of the institution. "We felt embarrassed, forced to cover our heads with handkerchiefs and rushed to salons for arranging hair in orderly manner," said a boy.

Acknowledging the fact, Major Md Masud Rana, principal of the institution, said he had also taken the same action earlier to compel the students to follow the dress code and maintain the discipline of the institution. "Many of the male students dress their hair like punk singers and film stars and many female students keep long nails, violating the discipline of the institution," the principal said, adding that he had taken such action after giving warnings to the students and the guardians several times.

Md Nurul Amin, divisional commissioner and also the chairman of the managing committee of the institution, said none of the students and their guardians complained against the action taken by the principal. Head of the institution could take any steps for maintaining image and discipline of the institution, he added.

College boy found dead in Dinajpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A college student was found dead in Sadar upazila yesterday morning. The deceased was identified as Md Rocky, 17, son of Mazedur Rahman of Uttar Gosapur village. He was a student of Dinajpur Technical School and College. Police said family members found the body hanging from the ceiling of his room in the morning. Without informing police, locals and family members tried to bury the Rocky but failed. Later, the law enforcers recovered the body and sent it to Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital morgue for autopsy. The villagers also attacked a few journalists when they went to the area to cover the news.



Lawmaker Tofail Ahmed, also member of the advisory committee of ruling Awami League, flanked by Dr Hossain Mansur, chairman of Petrobangla, and Khondokar Mostafizur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Bhola, at the inauguration ceremony of gas connection on the premises of the Khankah Sharif of Jainpuri Pir Shaheb in Jugir Ghol area of Bhola municipality yesterday.

Bhola townspeople get gas

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

Bhola townspeople have got gas connection for household use. Petrobangla Chairman Dr Hossain Mansur along with Lawmaker Tofail Ahmed, also member of the advisory committee of ruling Awami League, inaugurated the gas connection at Khanka Sharif of Jainpuri Pir Saheb in the town at around 11:00am yesterday. Sundarban Gas Company Limited, a concern of state-run Petrobangla, will utilise gas from the nearby Sahabajpur Gas field in Bhola. The company sources said gas

supply for household use will formally start through 20km main distribution line from September 10. As many as 2018 application forms, each for Tk 100, were sold from August 25 to 3:00pm on August 27, said Md Hannan Khan, manager of Agrani Bank. On the occasion, a meeting was held in front of Kobi Mozzamel Haque Town Hall with Bhola Municipality Mayor M o h a m m a d Moniruzaman Monir in the chair. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina thanked local people through cellphone of

Tofail Ahmed and urged them to elect AL candidates in all four constituencies in the district in the next parliamentary elections. She said the ruling Awami League has fulfilled its electoral pledge through providing gas connection to Bhola. The prime minister said she will visit Bhola soon and set up a 225MW power plant in Borhanuddin. Tofail Ahmed, on behalf of the local people, thanked the prime minister. Addressing the meeting, Tofail Ahmed said political harmony is needed for any development. The govern-

ment will do everything to protect Bhola from the onslaught of the River Meghna. The AL leader hoped that the southern district would turn into an industrially developed area in the near future by utilising the gas. Petrobangla Chairman Dr Hossain Mansur said it will be easy for them to supply gas for household use throughout the district as it needs only 1.5 mcf gas, which is less than one percent of the estimated recoverable gas discovered at Shahbazpur Gas Field.



Local Hindu arranges a drama on Sadar Road in Barisal city as the community celebrates Janmastami, the anniversary of birth of Lord Shree Krishna, amid religious fervour and festivity across the country yesterday.

Shirin finally gives in Tortured by husband, she dies after 8 months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A woman, who had her tendons of two legs severed allegedly by divorced husband last year, finally succumbed to her injuries at her parents' home in Adamdighi upazila on Monday. The hapless housewife was Shirin Akhtar, 25, daughter of Azizur Rahman of Dumuri village. Police and family sources said, Sohel-ibne-Karim, son of Abdul Karim of Tanshun village, often tortured his wife Shirin for dowry since their marriage two years ago. Due to this, Shirin divorced Sohel on August 17 last year and went back to her parents' home.



Shirin Akhtar

where she had to return home a few days later as her father could not bear the treatment cost anymore. He had already spent over Tk 50 lakh collected by selling a piece of land. Following an attempt-to-murder case filed by Shirin's mother, police arrested three people including Sohel, said Motalleb Hossain, officer-in-charge of Adamdighi police station. Although Sohel confessed to his attempt to kill Shirin, he secured bail from court later, said police. The case may now turn into a murder case, said the OC. Shirin's father demanded early justice and exemplary punishment to the culprits.

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Acid throwers still out of dragnet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Helena Begum, 45, and her daughter Sumi Akhter, 15, who came under acid attack at Badarpur village under Patuakhali Sadar upazila on Tuesday night, were sent to Dhaka yesterday evening. The victims will undergo treatment at the Acid Survivors Foundation in the capital under the supervision of Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC). Nityananda Shil, an official of Brac

legal aid section, told this correspondent that they would also provide legal aid to the victims. Helena Begum filed a case with Patuakhali Sadar Police station on Tuesday night against her husband Nesar Uddin and three others, but police could not arrest any of the accused as of filing of this report at 3:00pm yesterday. Contacted, Officer-in-Charge Monirul Islam of Patuakhali Sadar Police Station said they have already

launched a drive to arrest the culprits. According to victim Helena, a gang led by her husband Nesar Uddin threw acid on her and teenage daughter Sumi while they were returning home from a shop at the village at around 7:00pm. Sumi is a class eight student of Badarpur Shaheed Smrity High School. Helena said her husband Nesar Uddin was furious with her, as she had filed a case against him on charge of repression.

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