

ATTACK ON HINDUS FOR TOLL IN LALMONIRHAT

None of 18 accused held, BNP expels 5 party men

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Lalmonirhat

None of the 18 accused in the case for attacking Satpatki Majhipara village under Mohendranagar union of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila was arrested as of yesterday.

Villager Nikhil Chandra Roy lodged the case with the local police station on Monday night, accusing six named and 12 unnamed people.

Meanwhile, Mohendranagar union unit of BNP expelled five party activists for their involvement

Follow-up

in the attack on the Hindu village the same night.

The expelled BNP men are Shaon Islam, Alamgir Hossain, Sujon Miah, Sajun Islam and Nayan Islam of the village.

At least 15 people, including six women, were injured as some BNP men stormed the Hindu village and vandalised and looted the houses on Monday.

Villagers complained that they came under attack as they refused to pay illegal

toll to the BNP men.

Armed with sharp local weapons, a gang of about 18 BNP men, led by local Chhatra Dal activist Shaon Islam, attacked the village at around 12:30pm. They entered 40 houses but vandalised and looted four of them, said witnesses.

Sensing the presence of police, the attackers left the scene at around 1:30pm.

On Sunday night, Shaon and his cohorts demanded Tk 5,000 from each of the 15 local

fish traders for hartal expenses, which the traders could not entertain, said villager Narayan Chandra Das.

Villagers that night complained about the matter to local BNP leader Abdul Mazid Mandal, he added.

Infuriated over the complaint against him, Shaon swooped on the village to take revenge on the Hindus, Narayan further said.

Officer-in-Charge Jamiruddin of Lalmonirhat Sadar Police Station said



PHOTO: STAR

A Hindu woman, flanked by community people sheltered at a local Muslim family's house, wails while narrating their woes due to Monday's violent attack by extortionists, allegedly belonging to BNP, at Satpakhi Majhipara village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila during the countrywide 60-hour hartal enforced by the party.

2 housewives murdered

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two housewives were killed in Jamalpur and Magura districts yesterday and the day before.

A woman was strangled allegedly by her husband for dowry at Nandina Purbobazar village in Sadar upazila of Jamalpur on Monday night, reports our correspondent.

The deceased is Khursheda Begum, 22, wife of Mizanur Rahman Mizan, 25, son of Mufazzal Hossain of the village. She was mother of a two-year-old girl.

Police said Khursheda, daughter of Md Boyez Uddin of Sadar upazila in Sherpur district, married Mizan three and a half years ago.

After the marriage, Mizan and his parents often tortured Khursheda for Tk one lakh dowry.

On the fateful night, Mizan and his family members strangled Khursheda following an altercation over the issue.

Away in Magura, a housewife was found murdered over family feud at Noldanga village in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The dead is Firoza Begum, 40, wife of Masud Sheikh of the village, reports our Narail correspondent.

Freedom fighter Sohor Ali, father of the deceased, said there was a conflict between the couple over Masud's wish to remarry for the last several days.

Masud killed his daughter following an altercation over the issue and hung the body with the ceiling of her room early yesterday, alleged Sohor Ali.



PHOTO: STAR

Smuggling of goods from India is a common sight on the riverbank of Mogholhat border in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila, thanks to the negligence of law enforcers.

MOGHOLHAT BORDER IN LALMONIRHAT

Market of smuggled goods runs 'undisturbed'

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

A market of smuggled Indian goods on Mogholhat border in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila sees thronging of a large number of customers from different places as huge quantities of Indian betel nuts and spices are openly sold there.

The items are brought on boats from the Indian villages of Jaridharla, Daribash and Nagartari of Dinhat police station of Cooch Behar district in Pashchim Banga, locals said.

Taking the advantage of poor vigilance by local BGB camp, an organised gang of smugglers bring drugs include phensidyl, hemp, wine, and heroin, and even arms and ammunition inside the sacks carrying Indian betel nuts through

this route, alleged several residents of the bordering area.

But the men of BGB company camp at Mogholhat under 15 BGB Battalion mostly remain indifferent to the matter for mysterious reasons, they said.

A special team of BGB from the 15 BGB Battalion's headquarters in Lalmonirhat raided the spot and seized 76 sacks of Indian betel nuts worth about Tk 6 lakh a few weeks ago.

But the illegal trade resumed in full swing after the incident as such special drives are casual ones, sources said, adding that around 2,000 sacks of Indian betel nuts are sold there daily.

"Law enforcers employed two men as 'linemen' for collecting Tk 50 against each sack of Indian betel nut in the name of managing their bosses," said a smuggler on condition of anonymity.

Local betel nut farmers said they are deprived of fair prices of their produce as smuggled Indian low quality betel nuts have flooded the market.

Abdul Hamid, BGB company commander at Mogholhat, refuted the allegation of BGB inaction against the smugglers.

"It is true that BGB's vigilance on smuggled Indian food items is a bit relaxed for certain reasons. But we will definitely take action if we get any information of drug smuggling in the sacks of Indian betel

SNIPPETS

Woman, daughter electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A woman and her daughter died from electrocution at Mohishbandi village in Sadullapur upazila on Monday night. The dead are Putul Rani Das, 22, and her six-month-old daughter Nupur Rani Das. Golam Rabbani, SI of Sadullapur police station, said Putul Rani with her daughter Nupur in the lap was connecting charger of her mobile set to an electric point. Suddenly she came in contact with live electric wire and was electrocuted on the spot. Her six-month old daughter Nupur also died with the mother.

Jihadi books, arms seized

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members in separate drives recovered some jihadi (religious uprising) books and weapons in Moulvibazar and Jessore districts on Monday. In Moulvibazar, police seized seven jihadi books and four sharp weapons from a nursery of Shibir activist Noman Miah in Sherpur area of Sadar upazila at 1:00pm, reports our correspondent. In Jessore, a Rab team of a drive seized a few weapons from Barandi Molla Para area in the town at noon. Rab sources said being tipped off, they raided the area and seized an 9mm pistol, two guns, 11 bullets and one kg gunpowder. None could be arrested as the criminals fled the scene sensing the presence of the elite force.

Skeletons stolen from graves

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Criminals looted three human skeletons from a graveyard at village Kharkharia in Ranagachha union under Sadar upazila of the district yesterday. A gang dug six graves adjacent to Gulap market at the village and lifted the skeletons some time early in the morning, UP chairman Lutful Kabir Akand said. The criminals sell the skeletons to a gang involved in skeleton business, he said.

2 get life in arms case

UNB, Chandpur

A court here on Monday sentenced two young men to life term imprisonment for possessing arms. The convicts were identified as M Mintu, 27, son of late Zillur Rahman of Chandpur sadar upazila, and Abu Bakar, 25, son of Joyal Abedin of Narayanganj Sadar upazila. M Shafiqul Karim, district and sessions judge of Chandpur, pronounced the verdict in presence of the convicts awarding them more 10 years' jail under another section. According to the prosecution, Mintu and Bakar snatched motorbike of one Badrul Patwari in Chandkhar Dukan area in Chandpur Sadar upazila on December 4, 2012 by firing shots on his foot. Later, police attested the duo along with arms and the motorbikes. In the incident, a case was filed under the Arms Act in which both were handed down the verdict.

Lawyer's assistant found dead

UNB, Natore

Police recovered the body of an assistant (muhuri) of a lawyer from a pond adjacent to the district circuit house yesterday morning. The deceased, identified as Aminul Islam Julhas, 40, son of Hazi Abul Kashem of Sadar upazila, was a muhuri of former Natore Bar Association general secretary Advocate Lokman Hossain Badal. Police sources, quoting family, said Julhas went to his workplace on Sunday and remained missing since then. Locals found the floating body of Julhas and informed police. Julhas had been suffering from mental problem for a few days, added the police sources.

'Forest robber' beaten to death by villagers

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A ringleader of 'forest robbers' was killed and his two cohorts were injured in a mob beating at Harinagar in Shyamnagar upazila of Satkhira yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Siddiqui Rahman, head of 'Siddique Bahini'. He hailed from Mongla in the district.

Munshiganj UP chairman in the upazila Md. Abdul Kashem said, a few fishermen and villagers chased off a gang of robbers when they entered the Harinagar Bazar area near Sundarbans at about 8:00am.

Three robbers -- Siddique and his two accomplices Abdur Razzak and Ferdous Gazi -- were caught and beaten up mercilessly by the villagers, leaving Siddique dead on the spot.

Later, locals handed over the injured two to the police.

In Sylhet, police arrested four 'robbers' near the Badhaghat Bridge in Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The arrestees are Shafique Miah, 45, son of Khurshid Ali of Paikraj area, Foyzul Hoque, 38, son of Hasan Ali of Nandirgaon village, Nizam Uddin, 25, of the village and Renu Miah, 25, son of Ala Uddin of Companiganj upazila, reports UNB.

Being tipped off, a team of police arrested the gang from the area in the dead of night while they were taking preparation to commit a robbery, said Gausal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Jalalabad police station.

Police also seized machetes and some weapon used in robbery from their possession.

The arrestees were accused in several cases, filed with different police stations, the OC added.



PHOTO: STAR

Traditional dhakir lorai, a contest of drummers playing and dancing in harmony with melody of flutes, enthralled audience on the premises of Sheetal Bari temple in Shibchar municipality under Madaripur district. Upazila Puja Udjapon Parishad and Hindu-Bouddha-Christian Oikya Parishad arranged the hours long function on Monday night.

Abducted AL leader yet to be rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Rangamati

Police are yet to rescue a local Awami League leader, who was abducted from Kutukchhari area in the town on Saturday.

Victim Tridiv Kanti Das was president of Naniachar upazila unit AL, said additional police superintendent Md Habibur Rahman.

Members of anti-peace treaty United People's

Democratic Front (UPDF) kidnapped Tridiv as he refused to pay extortion money, alleged the ASP.

Police and army jointly raided different areas to rescue Tridiv, he said.

Contacted, Sona Moni Chakma, press secretary of UPDF, refuted the allegation.

The AL leader was kidnapped by a gang at gun-point while he was going to district town from Naniachar on November 2.

Loom workers on strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Thakurgaon

Workabstention by the loom workers at Jem Jute Mills Limited at Muslimbagh in Boda upazila of Panchagarh continued for the fourth day yesterday.

The workers have been agitating in front of the largest jute mill in the northern part of the country since Saturday to realise several demands.

The demands include weekly holiday on Friday, eight-hour work period with reasonable wages and refraining from random sacking of worker.

The workers alleged that the mill authorities forced the loom-workers to work on Friday from last month cancelling their holiday. They also forced them to work additional times for covering job of three shifts with two shifts workers.

Previously, the mill authorities paid workers' wages on Thursday but now they fixed the payment day on Friday.

Mill sources said, about 26 metric tonnes of hessian (coarse cloth of jute) is produced each day in the loom section of the mill.

Loom workers get Tk. 52 for making 110-yard hessian. On an average, each of them gets Tk. 1,200 to Tk. 14,000 in a week.

Contacted, Deputy Manager (HRD) Sajjad Kadir said, the mill follows laws. Work goes on peacefully and there is no unrest here. About 3,000 workers of different section are

Man to die for killing 2 minor daughters

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Bagerhat

A court here yesterday sentenced a man to death for killing his two minor daughters in Chitalmari upazila of the district.

Judge SM Solaiman of District and Session Judges' Court delivered two separate verdicts against convict Shah Alam Kazi.

According to the case statement, Shah Alam often took money as dowry after his marriage with Jerin Akther Lopa.

As a practice, he asked

Jerin to bring Tk 3 lakh from her parents for going abroad and sent his wife and two daughters Nisha Moni, 4, and Tisha Moni, 3, to the in-law's house.

On August 26 of 2012, Shah Alam went to his in-law's house and asked his wife for the money.

As she declined to abide by his order, he threatened to kill the two daughters and implicate his father in law.

The following morning he started for home. On the way, he dunked the two daughters to death at a shrimp enclosure.

Two get life for killing AL man in Kishoreganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Kishoreganj

Two men were sentenced to life term imprisonment yesterday in a case filed for killing a Swetchhasebok League leader in Katiadi upazila of the district in 2011.

Nazrul Islam was the president of Chandpur union unit of the ruling AL backed workers' front in the upazila.

The convicts are Mamun, 22, son of Runu Mia of Debalor Kanda village and Jilan, 26, son of Nurul Islam of Baghata village under the upazila. Both were present at the court at the time of verdict.

A M Md. Sayeed,

Kishoreganj District and Session Judge, pronounced the verdict and fined them TK 10,000 each, in default, to suffer another one year in jail.

According to the prosecution, the two called Nazrul over mobile phone to a place near a rice mill at Manik Khali Bazar and suffocated him to death and also cut tendons around at 10:00pm on 4 October, 2011.

Nazrul's elder brother Abdus Samad lodged a case with Katiadi police station the next day.

Md. Matur Rahman, Sub Inspector Katiadi police station, submitted a charge sheet against the accused on 19 October, 2012.

Request for Proposal Hiring Consultancy Firm

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh seeks Proposals from interested Companies for **Hiring Consultancy Firm to conduct the below services for Access to Information (A2I II) project:**

- Development of Agent Banking Solutions for Financial Inclusion; Ref: RFP-BD-2013-072**
- Production of 26-episode first season of HDTV flagship programme "KoinchenDehi" to create awareness and sensitisation on development issues in Bangladesh; Ref: RFP-BD-2013-073**

The deadline for submission of proposals for both RFP is **Thursday, November 21, 2013, 12:30 p.m.** local time.

All interested companies may download the Bidding documents (RFP) from <http://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/operations/procurement/>

Submission of Proposal: The envelope should state the tender subject mentioned above and the Proposals must be submitted as per the instructions specified in the RFP document by the deadline mentioned above to the **Registry Unit, UNDP Bangladesh, IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.**

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