

Criminals fell 3000 trees on leased garden

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Criminals cut down more than three thousand acacia and jackfruit trees at a garden raised by one Sultan Uddin at Fulanirchhit village in Sreepur upazila under the district yesterday.

The miscreants also beat up Sultan and his relative Mozammel Haque when they tried to prevent the act.

Sultan submitted a written complaint in this connection with Sreepur Model Police Station against Ataur Rahman, Liton Miah, Ator Ali, Shah Jamal, Somun Miah, Uzzal and Shakil of the area.

"I leased about seven bighas of forest land at Fulanirchhit village in Sreepur upazila from the local forest department in 2003 and made a garden of fruits and forest trees there. Some local criminals often damaged the planted saplings of my garden. They threatened to kill me when I protested," Sultan Uddin said.

"At 5:00am today [June 30], miscreants armed with country-made weapons



PHOTO: STAR

Remains of trees bear testimony to felling of a large number of trees at the garden of Sultan Uddin at Fulanirchhit village in Sreepur upazila under Gazipur district yesterday.

entered my garden and cut down more than three thousand acacia trees and 40 jackfruit trees and took away the logs on carts," he said.

Sultan alleged that the police did not take any

steps against the miscreants even after filing of the complaint.

Instead, they brought him to the police station Sultan's relative Mozammel Haque, who tried to prevent the miscreants during the

incident.

The officer in charge of Sreepur police station said they will take action after inquiry.

Sreepur forest range officer Abu Jafor visited the area.

159TH ANNIVERSARY OF SANTAL HUL OBSERVED

Call to ensure rights of indigenous people

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Indigenous people yesterday observed different programmes marking the 159th anniversary of the anti-British Santal Hul (revolution), with urge to give them constitutional recognition and ensure their fundamental rights including that on ancestral lands.

On the occasion, a colourful procession brought out from Thakurgaon Press Club premises marched to the statue titled 'Mukhtiro Mondiro Sopano Tole' at Gobindanagar village in the municipality area, reports our Thakurgaon correspondent.

A discussion was held on the premises of the statue built in memory of the martyred indigenous people during the 1855-57 Santal Hul, an uprising against a virtual martial law imposed by the then British government.

About 10,000 indigenous people were martyred in the revolution led by Sindhu, Kanhu, Chand and Bhairab.

The speakers at the discussion urged establishment of constitutional rights of the indige-

nous people and formation of a separate land commission to protect their land rights.

They demanded mother tongue-based primary education for the children of indigenous people, and the community's quota in higher education and government service.

Jatiya Adivashi Parishad and ESDO Premdip Project jointly organised the

programme.

The discussion followed a cultural programme.

Our staff correspondent adds from Rajshahi: Hundreds of indigenous people from Santal, Urao, Paharia, Rajoar, and Rai communities joined a colourful rally, dance, traditional archery show and a discussion held at the Central Shaheed Minar premises at Godagari

upazila headquarters in the district, marking the 159th anniversary of Santal Hul.

Centre for Capacity Building of Voluntary Organisation organised the programme to observe the day.

The day's programme began with offerings to 'Sidhu and Kanhu', two brothers who spearheaded the anti-British Santal revolution during 1855-57.



PHOTO: STAR

Indigenous people belonging to Santal community perform archery during their traditional cultural programme in Godagari upazila headquarters under Rajshahi district yesterday, marking 159th anniversary of the Santal Hul, an anti-British uprising by the community.

Transport strike in Rangpur called off

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Transport workers withdrew their strike 14 hours after its enforcement in all routes to and from Rangpur district following assurance of the authorities concerned to meet their demand yesterday.

The strike disrupted traffic movement in all the routes of the district from midnight on Sunday to 2:00pm yesterday.

The district unit of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation enforced a 72 strike, protesting police attack on their leaders and fellow workers in Amtali area of the town on Sunday night. The transport workers also demanded punishment of the cops responsible for the attack.

Missing youth's body found after 19 days

A CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Police recovered the decomposed body of a motorcyclist, who went missing on June 10, from Shibchar upazila of Madaripur on Sunday.

The deceased is Adel Hawlader, 38, son of Abul Kashem of Dewra village in Shibchar upazila.

Hafizur, brother of the victim, said Adel went missing on June 10 along with his motorcycle which he used to carry passengers on a

rental basis.

One June 12, Laily Begum, wife of Adel, filed a general diary (GD) with Shibchar Police Station.

Tracking call lists of the victim, police detained one Akram Shikdar from Alfadanga upazila of Faridpur on June 27, said Nuton Kumar Dutta, assistant sub-inspector of Shibchar Police Station.

According to Akram's confession, police detained Ershad Matbor and Zafar Sheikh on June 29. One the

basis of their statements, police recovered the decomposed body of Adel from a garden at Sadhupara village.

Police quoted the detainees as saying that Akram had hired Adel's motorbike and took him to Saltha where the trio killed him and took away his bike.

Later, they sold the motorcycle in Kushtia in exchange for Tk 40 thousand, added the ASI. Police produced the three detainees before a court yesterday that sent them to jail.

Woman dies in wall collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A woman was killed and two others were injured when a mud-wall collapsed on them during downpour in Brindabannara area of Bogra town early on Sunday.

The deceased is Swapna Begum, 40, wife of Abdul Matin of the area. Injured Matin, 42, and his mother Shahera Begum, 65, were given first aid at a local clinic.

Police and family

sources said, a wall of their mud house collapsed on the three while they were asleep around 5:00am, leaving Swapna dead on the spot and injuring her husband and mother-in-law.

Youth held for giving death threat to law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members arrested a youth from Badambagicha area in the city yesterday, on charge of giving death threat to the law minister through an SMS over his mobile phone.

The arrestee is Faizur Rahman, 28, son of Wazed Ali of Noakot village in Chhatak upazila of Sunamganj.

Rab sources said Faizur sent an SMS to Law Minister Anisul Huq on June 27 with a death threat if the verdict against the Jamaat Ameer Nizami is delivered.

The SMS also reads that the minister and the judge of the court will be killed soon after the verdict is pronounced, added the source.

Tracking the mobile phone number, a team of Rab-9 conducted a drive in the area around 8:30am and arrested Faizur.

Later, he was handed over to Airport Police Station.

5 Shibir men arrested in Meherpur

UNB, Meherpur

Police arrested five activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, from Baro Bazar area in the district town yesterday morning.

The arrestees are Sayeed Hossain, 22, Halim Mia, 24, Ashraf, 20, Sohail Rana, 19, and Abdullah, 21.

Sheikh Atiar Rahman, officer in-charge of Sadar Police Station, said police arrested them while they were pasting anti-government posters on walls in the area.

Police also seized some such posters from their possession, added the OC.

Two AL men hacked to death in Pabna, Kushtia

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A union level leader and an activist of Awami League were hacked to death by unidentified criminals in Pabna and Kushtia districts on Sunday night and early yesterday.

Our Pabna correspondent reported that Md Mosaddek Ali Mukul, 45, general secretary of Haturia-Nakalia union unit of AL and also headmaster of Anwara Quader Girls High School in Bera upazila, came under attack by an unknown gang while he was returning home from Haturia-Nakalia Market along with AL activist Hazrat Ali at around 11:30pm.

The gang waylaid their motorbike in Haturia-Purbopara area, hacked them with sharp weapons and left the scene. Mosaddek died on the spot while Hazrat Ali, who sustained serious injuries, was admitted to Enayetpur Medical College Hospital in Sirajganj.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Pabna Medical

College Hospital morgue for autopsy yesterday morning. Mosaddek's brother filed a case with Bera Police Station, accusing nine people yesterday.

Soon after filing of the case, police arrested two of the accused in the case from Haturia-Purbopara village. The arrestees are Mazem Mollah, 55, and Manik Hossain, 30.

Officer-in-charge (OC) Md Tofazzal Hossain of Bera Police Station said previous enmity over land dispute might be the reason behind the murder. "We are trying to unearth clue to the killing of the AL leader," he said.

Contacted, Md Abdul Quader, general secretary of AL Bera upazila unit, said Mosaddek might have been killed by BNP-Jamaat men.

In Kushtia, unknown criminals hacked an Awami League (AL) activist to death at Gopalpur village in Mirpur upazila of the district early yesterday.

The victim was identified as Mamun Gazi, 35, son of late Amzad Ali Gazi of the village.

Kamarul Arefin, general secretary of Mirpur upazila unit of AL and also chairman of Mirpur upazila Parishad, claimed that Mamun was an activist of the unit.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Sahidul Islam of Mirpur Police Station quoted family members as saying that criminals stormed into Mamun's room at around 2:30am and hacked him with sharp weapons while he was asleep.

As family members came to the room, hearing scream, the gang fled the scene.

Mamun was taken to Mirpur Upazila Health Complex where the doctors declared him dead. Sources said he was involved with outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddho) faction. He was an accused in two bomb blast cases filed with Mirpur police station in 2006, the OC added.

Police yesterday arrested one Jihad Ali, member of Chitholia Union Parishad, for his alleged involvement in the killing.

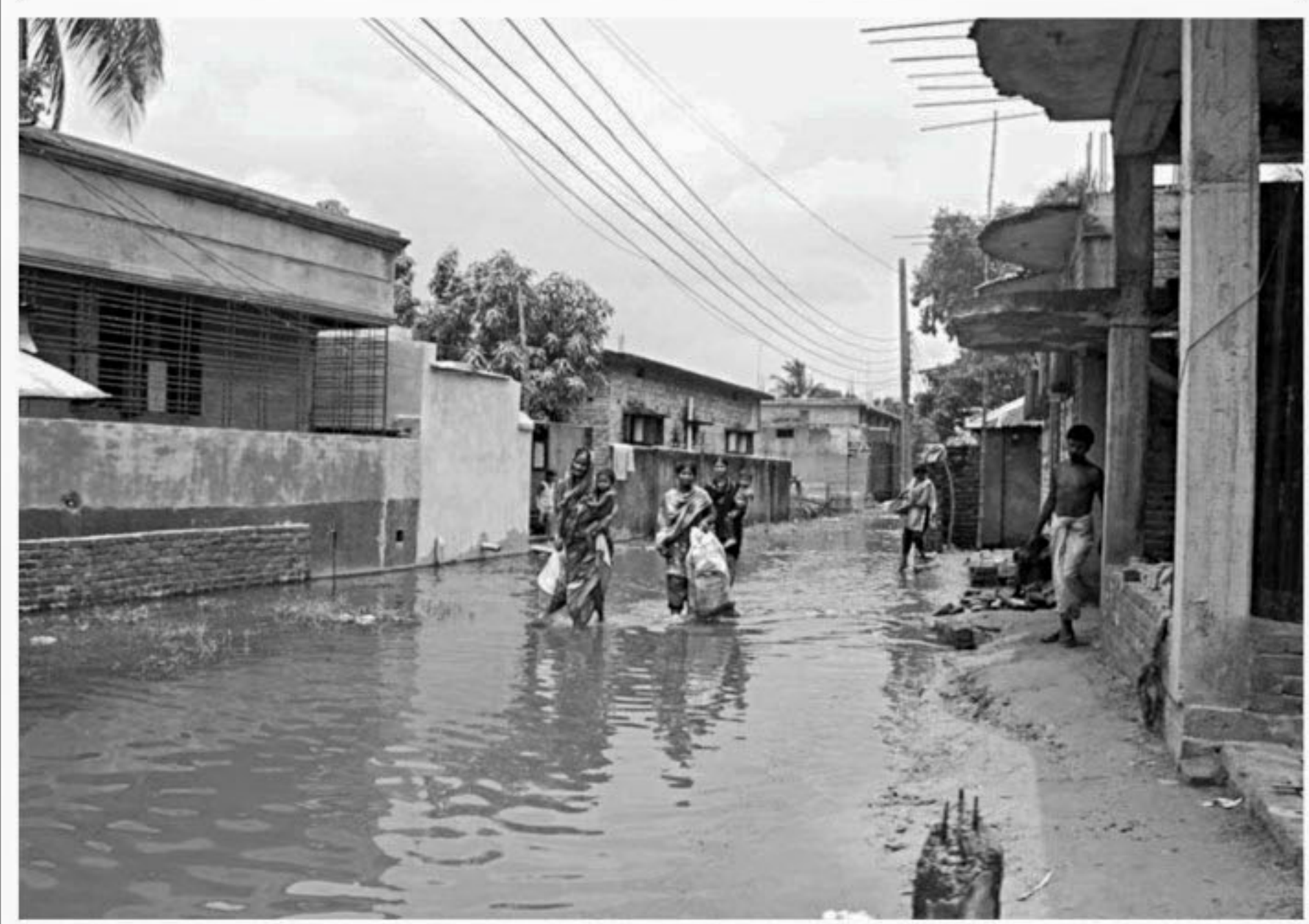


PHOTO: STAR

People wade through the road in a residential area of Pabna municipality yesterday, as the town lacking proper drainage system sees massive waterlogging for the last two weeks, amid usual rainfall during the ongoing monsoon.

Two burnt alive in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A woman and her niece were killed in a fire that broke out at their house in Moratila area under Panchhari upazila of the district on Sunday night.

The deceased were identified as Shanti Rani Tripura, 48, wife of Ranjan Tripura, and Uttari Tripura, 8, daughter of Babu Ram Tripura.

Police quoted locals as saying that the fire originated from a kerosene lamp at the house at around 11:00pm when the members of the family were asleep.

Among the five members of the family, three managed to get out of the house, while Shanti Rani and Uttari were burned to

death, said Abdus Samad Morol, officer-in-charge of Panchhari Police Station.

Our staff correspondent from Sylhet reported that valuables worth about Tk 20 lakh were gutted in a fire that took place at Baliaghat Bazaar under Tahirpur upazila headquarters in Sunamganj district early yesterday.

The cause of the fire could not be ascertained as there was load shedding in the area during the incident that took place at around 1:00am.

Locals extinguished the fire at around 2:00am, Uttar Sripur Union Parishad Chairman Abul Hossain Khan said, adding that the fire originated from a candle.

Lightning kills four in two districts

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Four people were killed by lightning in Thakurgaon and Bhola districts yesterday and the day before.

According to our Thakurgaon correspondent, three people were struck by lightning and killed at Bhabanipur and Vamda villages in Pirganj upazila and Vaturia village in Haripur upazila on Sunday.

Local people and police said lightning killed Dabir Ali, 45, son of late Bali Mohammad of Bhabanipur village while he was fishing in a pond during rain at around 11:30pm. He died instantly.

At the same time, one Jewel, 25, son of Md Darab Ullah of Vamda

village under Pirganj upazila, was struck by lightning while he was working in a field. He died on the spot.

Lightning killed Fazlur Rahman, 38, son of Abdur Rahman of Vaturia village in Haripur upazila while he was going to a filed to collect grass for his cattle at around 9:00am.

In Bhola, Mosharrif Hawlader, 60, was killed by lightning while working on a cropland near Guthia High School under Uzirpur upazila at 4:00pm yesterday.

Mosharaf sustained serious injuries. He died soon after admission to Sher-e Bangla Medical College Hospital.

SNIPPETS

Man hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A man was killed allegedly by his cousin at Kapjhar village in Rajnagar upazila of the district yesterday. The dead was identified as Rabindra Gosh, 62, of the village. Nazim Uddin, officer in-charge of Rajnagar Police Station, said around 7:00am, Rabindra's two cousins--Pintu Gosh and Ayman Gosh swooped on him and hacked him with sharp weapons as a sequel to a previous enmity, leaving him dead on the spot. Being informed, police recovered the body and sent it to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Family members of the victim, filed a case with the police station, the OC said, adding that Pintu and Ayman had gone into hiding.

Schoolboy electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A schoolboy was electrocuted in Banbaria village in Sadar upazila in Sirajganj district yesterday. The deceased, Md Niamul Haque, 15, son of Fazlul Sheikh of the village, was a class IX student of Paikpara Model High School. Police quoted locals as saying that Niamul came in contact with a live electric-wire while he was cutting the branch of a tree adjacent to his residence around 12:30pm and died on the spot.

Ex-UP chairman hurt in attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Unidentified criminals hacked a former union parishad (UP) chairman at Juri upazila headquarters yesterday. The victim, Emdadul Islam Chowdhury, 43, former chairman of Sagarnal Union Parishad, came under attack by a gang of seven masked men around 12:30pm when he was waiting to hire an auto rickshaw to return home, said Mahububur Rahman, officer in-charge of Borolekha Police Station. Hearing his scream, locals rescued him and rushed him to Juri Upazila Health Complex.

Youth killed over family feud

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A young man was killed and two others were injured in a clash between the family members of two siblings at Nawabad village in Chunarughat upazila of Habiganj on Sunday night. The clash ensued following an altercation over a family feud between Sona Mia and his younger brother Sobuj Mia around 11:00pm. Later, the family members of the two locked in a clash, leaving three people from both sides injured. Critically injured Sobuj was rushed to Habiganj Sadar Hospital. Doctors of the hospital referred him to Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital, but he died on way to the hospital, said Amulya Kumar, officer in-charge of Chunarughat Police Station.