

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Two AL leaders shot dead in Jessore, Pabna

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two Awami League leaders were shot dead by unidentified gangs in Jessore town and Pabna Sadar upazila on Wednesday night.

The dead are Khairul Kazi, 32, joint secretary of the AL unit, comprising Ward Nos 7, 8 and 9 under Dogasi union of Pabna Sadar upazila, and Mahfuzur Rahman Khokan, 39, office secretary of AL ward No-1 unit under Fatepur union of Jessore Sadar upazila.

Our Pabna correspondent reported that Khairul Kazi came under attack by a gang near Char Koshakhali School while he was coming to Pabna town from his house at Char Koshakhali village at around 9:30pm.

He succumbed to bullet injuries on the way to Pabna Medical College Hospital. Police recovered the body and sent it to the hospital morgue yesterday morning for autopsy.

"Khairul might have been killed by a local gang as a sequel to previous enmity over establishing supremacy in the area," said Ahsanul Haque, officer-in-charge of Pabna Sadar Police Station.

No one was arrested in connection with the murder as of 5:00pm yesterday.

Our Benapole

Correspondent adds: Mahfuzur Rahman Khokan was shot dead by an unknown gang in Sheikh Hadi area of Jessore district town at around 9:00pm on Wednesday.

Enamul Haque, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station said criminals opened fire on Khokan while he was returning to his house at Sultanpur village in Sadar upazila from the town along with his friend Jahangir Hossain, riding a motorbike.

Locals took bullet-hit Khokan to Jessore Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

In Mymensingh, Police arrested three accused in Nandail AL activist Mansur killing case on Wednesday night, reports our correspondent.

The accused--Syed Ashrafuzzaman Khokon, chairman of Gangail Union Parishad; Moazzem Hossain Bhuiyan, chairman of Sherpur Union Parishad; and Anwarul Haque--were arrested from the Dhaka, police said.

AL activist Abul Mansur Bhuiyan, 60, was killed during a clash between two AL factions at Nandail upazila headquarters on November 20.

Police yesterday produced them in court that sent them to jail.

OC sued for assaulting lawyer

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

A case was filed yesterday against the officer in-charge (OC) of Sadar Model Police Station, Jasimuddin, on charge of physically assaulting a lawyer at the police station on Wednesday.

Chapainawabganj Bar Association General Secretary Advocate Ali Awal Baul filed the case with the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court in the afternoon.

After the hearing, Bulbul Hossain, Judge of the court ordered a judicial inquiry into the complaint and fixed 28 January, 2015 for the next hearing.

Earlier in the morning, members of the bar association formed a human chain and brought out a procession on the court premises, demanding withdrawal of the OC.

In his complaint, the plaintiff alleged that OC Jasimuddin misbehaved with Advocate Raisuddin, also an executive member of the bar association, when he went to the police station along with one Ashrafur for filing a case around 10:30am on Wednesday.

When the lawyer protest against his misbehaviour, the OC slapped him and kept him in the lockup room for quite sometime.

Later, Jasimuddin freed the lawyer after taking his signature on a white paper.

Contacted, OC Jasimuddin refuted the harassment allegation brought against him and said it was an incident of misunderstanding.



Although the local land grabbers felled around 250 trees of Hyder Ali, they failed to deter him from planting fresh trees on the embankment.

Nothing can stop Hyder's tree planting 'mission'

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Miscreants at dead of night on November 16 felled 250 trees voluntarily planted by an elderly man on the embankment of an unused irrigation canal at Bakdokra village in Saidpur upazila.

The elderly local had previously planted 2,000 trees on the embankment at his own cost and was shocked at the act, which allegedly aimed at encroaching on the canal.

Hyder Ali, aged about 60, filed a complaint with police mentioning names of alleged influential land grabbers living near the canal. He has also started planting saplings of different trees again to bring back greenery and save the canal land.

Locals say Hyder earns his livelihood and leads his family by working as a day labourer on others' farmland.

Villagers have appointed him as a muezzin (who calls for prayers) at a local mosque for his honesty and integrity and he has been carrying out this additional duty sincerely.

They say Hyder with a portion of his small everyday income has been buying saplings of fruit bearing and herbal trees and planting those on both sides of the canal, which falls under the Teesta irrigation project, beside his house for three years.

He has planted around

2,000 trees in three years so far, they said.

With permission from the local Union Parishad chairman, he has been voluntarily trying to keep the environment green and make a safe abode for birds. His family members have to remain half-fed sometimes, as he has to spend from his minimum income, locals told this correspondent.

Hyder takes care of the trees for one hour after Fazr prayers everyday by weeding, watering and putting bend trees in upright position with sticks before going out for his day-to-day work.

When he was going to take care of the trees in the morning of November 17, he was shocked to see that miscreants had felled 250 trees overnight.

During a visit to the embankment recently, this correspondent found Hyder Ali busy planting new saplings to replace the felled trees.

In a choked voice, Hyder said it would be better if the local criminals had broken his hands and legs instead of felling the trees. He, however, expressed his determination to continue with his work and never be afraid of complaining to police against the offenders.

"Mozammel Huq, Moyezuddin and Ratan Mia, who have cultivable land beside the canal, threatened me the previous day not to plant trees on the embankment saying it was not my father's property," he said.

They had a desire to occupy the embankment to extend their land and considered the trees as an obstacle to execute their intention, he alleged.

Caretaker of the canal Joynal said they had never prevented Hyder from planting trees as his selfless services protected the embankment from land grabbers, who already occupied a portion of the embankment before he had started plantation.

The Bangladesh Water Development Board appointed Joynal to oversee the canal and its other infrastructure.

Refuting allegation of felling trees and occupying the canal land, Mozammel said Hyder had been creating shades of trees on their land to "ruin" standing crops.

Ziko Ahmed, chairman of Kamarpukur Union Parishad, said he was shocked at hearing the news of felling trees as services of such a selfless man like Hyder Ali were rare in the society.

Ismail Hossain, officer in-charge of Saidpur police, said they had raided the houses of the accused but failed to arrest them as they were on the run.

Earlier, Hyder Ali filed a case with the police accusing the three day after the incident.



Lawyers in Chapainawabganj yesterday formed a human chain on the court premises, demanding withdrawal of Sadar police station OC Jasimuddin for assaulting a colleague on Wednesday.

CHEATING IN ADMISSION TEST Hajee Danesh university expels 3 BCL leaders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The authorities of Hajee Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) have permanently expelled three BCL leaders from the university for cheating in the admission

test, using a hi-tech device on November 4.

The disciplinary committee took the decision yesterday on the basis of the report submitted by the probe committee on Tuesday.

The expellees are Arun

Kanti Roy, a PhD student and general secretary of the HSTU unit of BCL, SM Zahid Hasan, a fourth year student of business studies and organising secretary of the BCL unit, and Anindya Dutta, a second year student of telecommunication and electric engineering and executive committee member of the unit.

During the admission test on November 4, teachers of the university caught a student named Md Abul Hossain with the device and handed him over to the police. Based on his statement, the HSTU authorities temporarily expelled Arun Kanti Roy and SM Zahid Hasan.

The authorities formed a three-member probe committee headed by Prof Mizanur Rahman of soil science department on the day. Two other members of the committee are Dr Shahadad Hossain Khan of soil science department and Dr Anis Khan of agronomy department.

The academic activities of the university have remained suspended since November 17 as BCL enforced an indefinite strike, demanding withdrawal of the expulsion orders issued on November 4 against the BCL leaders and demanding removal of the vice chancellor.

Over 100 fishermen kidnapped

UNB, Khulna

Robbers have kidnapped more than 100 fishermen and looted 10 trawlers with fish and other valuables worth about Tk 3 crore from Fairway buoy in the Bay adjacent to Dublar Char in the Sundarbans. Local fishermen and general secretary of Dubla Fishermen Group Abul Hossain yesterday said, gang members of 'Raja Bahini', 'Farhad Bahini' and 'Al-Amin Bahini' committed robberies in the Bay from Tuesday evening to early Wednesday. They looted fish and other valuables from 10 trawlers and kidnapped more than 100 fishermen. Fishermen who escaped the kidnapping said, the gangs demanded Tk one crore as ransom for release of the fishermen. Commander of West Zone of Coast Guard Captain Kazi Masud said they were taking preparation to conduct a drive to rescue the kidnapped fishermen.

LSD godown sealed off

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Dhubaura upazila administration yesterday sealed Purakandulia LSD godown as rice and wheat were found 'missing'. Md Anisuzzaman, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Dhubaura, said on information he visited the godown around 11:00am and found the office staff absent. Later, the UNO with the help of the godown labourers and gatekeeper entered into it and found 118 metric tones of rice and 31 metric tones of wheat 'missing'. Being informed, officer in-charge of Purakandulia LSD godown Md Rezaul Kabir Samrat went to the spot and statement of LSD official was recorded. In his statement, the official said, he with the help of Ruhul Amin, a local rice trader took away the said rice and wheat from the godown two months ago.

Driver, helper found dead

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Police recovered the bodies of the driver and the helper of a covered van in Feni bypass area on Dhaka-Chittagong highway yesterday morning. The deceased were identified as Md Mofij, 50, and his helper Abdul Kader, 28. Police seized the covered van laden with plastic raw materials. Feni Sadar Model Police Station Inspector (Investigation) Shaniuzzaman said, following an information from locals, they found the body of a man lying beside road in Jer Kasara area near Mohammad Ali Bazar in the morning. Later they recovered another body from the van standing a few yards off the spot. The bodies were sent to Feni Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Housewife gang-raped, one held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

A housewife was gang raped allegedly after taking her 4-year-old son hostage at knife's point in Khashmohal Baluchar village in Sirajdikhan upazila on November 13. Following filing of a case by the victim's husband, police arrested one of the alleged rapists--Jamal Hossain, 26, son of Akhter Hossain, a distant relative of the victim, on Tuesday. Police quoting the victim, a mother to two children, said Jamal along with Awlad Hossain and Anis went to her house on November 13 evening when her husband and the other child were not at home. As soon she opened the door, the trio took her son hostage by putting a knife on his throat and raped her, and fled the scene, leaving her in an unconscious state. Yardous Hossain, officer in-charge of Sirajdikhan Police Station, said they nabbed Jamal after filing of the case.

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