

NARSINGDI, JESSORE

UP member, Jubo League activist shot dead

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A union parishad (UP) member and a Jubo League activist were shot dead by unknown assailants in Narsingdi and Jessore districts yesterday and on Sunday night.

The deceased are Arif Pathan, 45, a member of Putia Union Parishad (UP) in Shibpur upazila of Narsingdi, and Monowar Hossain, 30, an activist of Jubo League Bagdanga union unit in Monirampur upazila of Jessore.

Our Narsingdi correspondent reported that a gang of six appeared at Boroitala in the upazila in two motorbikes at around 12:30pm, sprayed bullets on UP member Arif and left the scene.

Critically injured Arif was rushed to Narsingdi General Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Protesting the killing, locals put up barricades on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Boroitala area, halting traffic for two hours from 1:00pm. The also vandalised at least ten vehicles on the road.

Arif's younger brother Roman Pathan said his brother might have been killed by the supporters of Milton, who was defeated twice in the UP election in Ward No 7 of Putia Union Parishad.

The additional deputy commissioner and the police superintendent visited the spot and assured



A large number of vehicles get stuck in a long tailback on Dhaka-Sylhet highway as locals block the road at Boroitala in Shibpur upazila under Narsingdi district protesting the brutal murder of Arif Pathan, a member of Putia union parishad in Shibpur upazila, yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

the local people of bringing the killers to book. Following the assurance, the agitated people withdrew the barricades at around 3:00pm.

No one was arrested in connection with the killing as of 5:00pm yesterday. Police said they are trying to unearth clue to the

murder and arrest the killers.

In Jessore, Jubo League activist Monowar Hossain, son of Bulbul Hossain of Bagdanga village, was shot dead by an unidentified gang at Bagdanga Bazar on Sunday night.

Mollah Khabir Ahmed, officer-in-charge of

Monirampur Police station, quoted locals as saying that the gang shot Monowar while he was taking tea at a tea stall at the bazaar at around 9:00pm.

He was taken to Jessore Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Lightning kills five

STAR COUNTRY DESK

At least five people were killed by lightning in Chapainawabganj and Lalmonirhat districts yesterday.

Our Chapainawabganj correspondent reported that four people, including a woman and her daughter, were killed by lightning in Sadar and Shibganj upazilas.

The victims were identified as Fulera Begum, 35, her daughter Babita, 9, of Suriya Narayanpur village, and Rebina Begum, 50, wife of Enamul Haque of Chhabania village in Sadar upazila; and Saidur Rahman, 25, son of Mofazzal Biswas of Bahalabari village in Shibganj upazila.

Alamgir Kabir, chairman of Narayanpur Union Parishad under Sadar upazila, said thunderbolt struck Fulera Begum and her daughter Babita at their house during a storm at around 5:30pm, killing them on the spot.

Rebina Begum was struck by lightning at around 6:00pm and died on way to Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital, said Abdul Khalek, member of ward No 3 of Sundarpur Union Parishad.

Thunderbolt struck Saidur Rahman at Bahalabari village in Shibganj upazila while she was working at his house at around 5:00pm. Locals rushed him to Sadar Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

In Lalmonirhat, a man was killed by lightning at Islampur village in Patgram upazila yesterday night, reports our correspondent.

The dead was identified as Aminur Islam, 38, son of late Aklas Ali of the village.

DEMAND FOR VC'S RESIGNATION

BAU teachers to go on fresh agitation as ultimatum ends

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The leaders of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Teachers Association will organise an agitation programme on the campus today as their ultimatum for the resignation of the vice-chancellor expired at 5:00pm yesterday.

A faction of pro-Awami League teachers under the banner of Ganotantrik Shikkhak Forum started agitation on March 19, demanding resignation of BAU Vice Chancellor Prof Md Rafiqul Hoque for his alleged irregularities and corruption in recent job recruitment and 'immoral acts'.

Meanwhile, 59 teachers of BAU resigned from the administrative posts to press their one-point demand for

resignation of the vice-chancellor.

On March 24, 53 teachers of the university resigned from the administrative posts that include assistant proctors, hall provosts, house tutors and directors of different institutions.

Six more teachers including BAU proctor Prof Harun-or-Rashid and his students' affairs adviser Prof Johirul Haque Khandaker resigned from administrative posts of BAU on Sunday, said Additional Registrar Md Sarwar Jahan.

At an emergency meeting of BAU Teachers Association held on the campus on Sunday, the teachers issued an ultimatum demanding resignation of the vice-chancellor by 5:00pm yesterday.

"As our ultimatum went unheeded, we will form a human chain on the campus and hold a meeting tomorrow [Tuesday] to finalise our next steps. We may go for tougher actions including resignation of deans and heads of different faculties and departments of the university," said association president Prof Khandaker Shariful Islam.

The association leaders also sought immediate intervention by the authorities concerned to resolve the issue.

Terming the allegations brought against him as 'false and fabricated', the BAU vice-chancellor said the movement by a section of 'motivated' teachers is very unfortunate for a renowned university.

Betel on 22 bighas of land set ablaze in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Criminals set ablaze betel leaves on 22 bighas of land at Raigram village in Kaliganj upazila of the district yesterday afternoon.

The affected growers are Narayan Samaddar, Nishid Das, Nitai Das, Madai Das, Baloram Das, Uttam Das, and Sadhan Das.

They claimed that unidentified criminals set fire to their gardens at around 4:30pm, causing damage to betel leaves

worth about Tk 12 lakh.

On information, fire fighters from Kaliganj, Jhenidah Sadar and Kotchandpur upazilas rushed to the spot and doused the flames with the help locals after an hour of frantic effort.

Shamsul Islam, an official of Kaliganj Fire Station, said criminals set fire to a betel garden in the afternoon and it soon engulfed five other adjacent gardens.

Narayan Samaddar, one of the affected farmers, said

he took Tk 80,000 in loan from a non-governmental organisation (NGO) and cultivated betel on 35 decimals of land.

"Fire completely destroyed my garden. I don't know how I will repay the loan and maintain my family," he said.

Being informed, Kaliganj Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Monowar Hossain Mollah and Officer-in-Charge (OC) Anwar Hossain visited the spot.



PHOTO: STAR

Betel at a plantation at Raigram village in Kaliganj upazila under Jhenidah district goes in flame as criminals set fire there yesterday afternoon.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

2 fish traders jailed, 1 fined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A mobile court yesterday sentenced two fishermen to one-month imprisonment and fined another for selling jatka (hilsa less than 10 inches long) in Gournadi upazila defying the ongoing two-months' ban on catching, selling and transportation of hilsa from March 1. Waheduzzaman, district fisheries officer, said acting on a tip-off, a joint team of the Coastguards and fisheries department intercepted a Dhaka-bound truck in Batajore area and detained three traders along with six tonnes of jatka. The arrestees are Mohammad Sultan, Mohammad Sabuj and Sultan Mia. They were later produced before the Court of Executive Magistrate Sitesh Chandra Halder that sentenced Sultan and Sabuj to one-month imprisonment and fined Sultan Mia Tk five thousand. The seized fish were later distributed among the orphanages and madrasas in the upazila.

3 held with bombs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Police in a drive detained three people and seized two petrol bombs from a shop at Sirajkandi Bazar in Bhuapur upazila of the district early yesterday. Being tipped-off, a police team raided a shop at the bazar around 3:00am and recovered two petrol bombs and arrested three people from the spot, said Md Akheruzzaman, officer-in-charge of Bangabandhu Bridge East Police Station. The arrestees were identified as Al-Amin, owner of the shop, and his two employees-Abdul Kuddus and Abdul Alim.

Smuggled tea seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) seized smuggled Indian tea from Boroachra border under Benapole Port Police Station yesterday. Acting on a tip-off, a team of the border guards raided the area around 6:00am and recovered 1.5 tonnes of Indian tea worth around Tk 9 lakh, foiling a smuggling bid through the border by a gang, said Lt Col Jahangir Hossain, commanding officer of BGB 26 Battalion. The smugglers, however, managed to flee the spot, sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the CO added. The seized tea was later deposited to Benapole Customs House.



PHOTO: STAR

Indigenous people join a human chain organised by Adivasi Chhatra Parishad in front of Dinajpur Press Club yesterday demanding arrest and punishment of the criminals who killed day labourer Gupen Soren in Birganj upazila under Dinajpur district on March 25.

Filicide in Bogra, matricide in Tangail

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A poverty-stricken woman killed her eight-month-old daughter in Dhunat upazila under Bogra district while a mentally disturbed teenage boy killed his mother in Gopalpur upazila under Tangail district yesterday.

Our Bogra correspondent reports: Fahima Akhtar, 25, arrested on charge of killing her eight-month-old daughter Sultana Khatun, confessed that she committed the heinous crime due to negligence of her husband and family poverty, said Panchananda Sarkar, inspector (Investigation) of Dhunat Police Station.

Fahima, daughter of Janab Ali of Dhulipara of Nimgachhi union, was married to rickshaw puller Anwar Hossain, 30, of Gugrapara village of Kalerpara union in the same upazila two and a half years ago and a girl child was born to them eight months ago, said police and locals.

The couple often quarrelled over their poverty and at one stage, Fahima went to her father's house and started staying there.

On Sunday afternoon, she with her baby went to the house of her relative rickshaw-puller Polash Mia at Nimgachhi village and

after strangulating the child at night, she left the house.

At around 5:00am, Polash found the child's body on the bed and informed locals and police who sent it to Shaheed Zairur Rahman Medical College Hospital in Bogra for autopsy.

Police later arrested Fahima on the bridge over the Bangalee River in the area, said Inspector Panchananda Sarkar, adding that preparation was on to file a murder case with the police station.

Fahima's relatives said she was mentally distressed due to poverty and conjugal feud.

Our Tangail correspondent adds: Jomila Khatun, 50, of Jotbagol village in Nogda Shimla union of Gopalpur upazila under the district was hacked to death by her son Mohammad Ashraf, 16, locally known as a 'mad boy', yesterday.

After the incident, locals handed him over him to police.

"Ashraf hacked his mother with a cleaver at noon, leaving her seriously injured. She died on the way to the Gopalpur Upazila Health Complex," Johirul Islam, officer-in-charge of Gopalpur Police Station, quoted locals as saying.

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