



PHOTO: STAR  
**Chhatatipara Sheikh Kabel Adarsha High School in Tongibari upazila under Munshiganj district attend classes under the open sky yesterday as the schoolhouse got badly damaged by a nor'wester that lashed the area on Thursday night. Inset, the now unusable schoolhouse.**



# Classes under open sky as storm damages school

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Students of Chhatatipara Sheikh Kabel Adarsha High School in Tongibari upazila under the district have to attend classes under the open sky as Thursday night's nor'wester that lashed the area badly damaged the wood and tin structure of the schoolhouse.

During a visit yesterday morning, this correspondent saw two teachers imparting lessons to the students who were sitting on benches at the ground beside the damaged school.

The students and teachers repeatedly looked over the head as clouds started covering the sky. Around 300 students are currently enrolled with the school.

The school has been doing well in the SSC examinations for the last several years. "The schoolhouse, built with wood and tin in 1995, turned dilapidated a few years ago, and so, water dripped through the roof whenever it rained. Now that it has become unusable due to the damage

# Babuganj Shishu Academy employee abducted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Microbus riders abducted an office assistant of Shishu Academy in Babuganj upazila under the district from a road in broad daylight on Friday.

The victim, Abul Kalam Azad, 38, is son of Liakat Ali of Chataker Char in the upazila. Azad reached Fire Service Station crossing on Babuganj-Mohanganj road in Babuganj upazila, about one kilometre from his home, on the way to Khanpura around 10:30am on Friday, when some tall unidentified men, wearing denim and pant, from a white microbus waylaid and forcibly took him onto the vehicle, said Mozammel Hossain, one of the witnesses.

commanding officer of Babuganj Police Station. Police visited the spot, started investigation and trying their best to rescue the victim, he said. "Azad is a gentleman and to the best of my knowledge, he was never involved in any crime," said Abdul Matin Hawladar, chairman of local Chandpasha union parishad.



PHOTO: STAR  
**Family members break into tears as Abul Kalam Azad, an office assistant of Shishu Academy in Babuganj upazila under Barisal district, has remained missing since a few microbus riders abducted him from a road in the area on Friday morning.**

# Four held with Yaba

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Police arrested four drug peddlers with 300 Yaba tablets at Chandipur village in Sherpur upazila early yesterday.

# Two get life for killing 7-yr-old boy in Manikganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A court on Thursday sentenced two youths to life imprisonment for killing a seven-year-old boy in Singair upazila in the district in 2003. The convicts are Rubel, 24, son of Kashem Ali of Dudhghata village under Nababganj upazila of Dhaka and Atoar, 25, son of Dulal Bepari of Dakkhin Jamsha village under Singair upazila of Manikganj district. According to the prosecu-

tion, Rubel and Atoar took Jewel, son of Hossain Mondol of Dakkhin Jamsha village of Singair upazila, to the bank of the Kaliganga River saying they would give him a dove. They strangled Jewel and took away a gold chain and ring from him. Later, the duo were arrested and gave confessional statement to the court. After examining 26 witnesses during the trial of the case, Additional District and Sessions Judge Al Mahmud Fajlul Kabir gave the verdict.

# Housewife murdered for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

A housewife was murdered by her husband allegedly for dowry in Sadar upazila of Laxmipur district on Friday.

The victim was identified as Bilkis Akhter, 18, wife of Abu Taher of Shamsrabad village in the upazila.

Jahangir Alam, father of Bilkis, said Taher married his daughter in December last year. After their marriage, Taher often tortured Bilkis for Tk 50,000 as dowry, he alleged.

They locked in an altercation over the issue on Friday night. At one stage, Taher strangled Bilkis and later dumped the body in the Rahamatkhali Canal in the area.

Locals said they found the body floating on the canal the following morning and informed the police.

The law enforcers recovered the body from the canal and sent it to Laxmipur Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Taher went into hiding soon after the incident, said Aziz, sub-inspector of Sadar Police Station.

# Firearm seized in Thakurgaon, youth held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Police arrested a young man with a revolver at Bangoan village in Ranishankoil upazila on Thursday.

The arrestee is Robiul Islam, 32, son of Khademul Islam of Ruhea Kujishahar village in Sadar upazila.

Acting on a tip-off, the law enforcers raided a house in the area and arrested Robiul with the firearm.

A case was filed in this connection.

# Nine held for propagating against Rabindra Univ

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police detained nine people on charge of propagating against the government's initiative to set up Rabindra University, named after Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, in Shahzadpur upazila under Sirajganj district, on Friday afternoon.

"Acting on a tip, police detained eight people in Shahzadpur Bazar area when they were distributing leaflets protesting the government initiative to set up Rabindra University in Shahzadpur. The leaflets also carried the words, 'Be alert, before God's revenge fall in Sirajganj,'" said Shihab Uddin Khalifa, officer in charge of Shahzadpur Police Station.

Ullapara, Matiur Rahman, 25, of Par Gurudaspur village in Natore, Harunur Rashid, 23, and Khandaker, 25, of Koigari village, Md Mostakin, 28, of Khandar village, Omar Faruk Rintu, 20, of Thanthania village, Sharif Hossain Dolar, 30, of Shudipara village, and Mozahed Kazi, 26, of Rahman Nagar village in Bogra district.

"They have told police that they are activists of Islamist group Al-Baiyanat. A case has been filed against them on charge of moving against the government initiative to set up the university," he added.

The arrestees are Mahfuzur Rahman Shamim, 45, of Dewan Taratia village in Shahzadpur, Md Shahin Alam, 26, of Char Satbaria village, and Shakil Ahmed, 16, of Jhikra village in

Prime Minister Sheikh is likely to inaugurate Rabindra University in Shahzadpur on Baishakh 25 (May 8), the birthday of poet Rabindranath Tagore.



PHOTO: STAR  
**Devotees prepare to pour water at the foot of the Bodhi tree on the premises of Khyang Wa Kyaung temple in Bandarban town during the Buddha Purnima, the greatest religious occasion of the Buddhist community, marking the birthday of Gautama Buddha yesterday.**

# Lightning kills 12 in seven districts

STAR COUNTRY DESK

At least 12 people were killed by lightning in Sunamganj, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Gaibandha, Bagerhat, Dinajpur and Mymensingh districts yesterday and the day before.

derbolt struck Abdul Jalil, 50, of Shippasha village in Dharampasha upazila while he was harvesting paddy from a haor at the village, leaving him critically injured.

to take Arabic lesson around 7:00am.

Our Moulvibazar correspondent reported that four people were killed and three others injured by lightning in Dirai, Tahirpur and Dharampasha upazilas of Sunamganj district yesterday.

Locals rushed him to the upazila health complex where on duty doctors declared him dead.

In Gaibandha, a couple were struck by a thunderbolt in Kuthipara area of the town while they were preparing breakfast around 9:00am.

A thunderbolt struck Abdul Kader, 18, and Haribhakta Das, 45, while they were harvesting paddy at Kalihuta haor (water body) in Dirai upazila around 8:00am, leaving them dead on the spot.

In Jamalpur, three people were killed in separate incidents of lightning in Dewanganj upazila of the district yesterday, reports our correspondent.

Locals rescued Narayan Chandra and his wife Kamala Rani and took them to Gaibandha Adhunik Hospital where the doctors declared Narayan dead, reports UNB.

Three others were also injured in the incident, said Bays Alam, officer-in-charge of Dirai Police Station.

The deceased are Rubel Hossain, 16, son of Abdul Majid of Charhatibhanga village, Fulu Mia, 45, son of late Abdur Rahman of Rampura village, and Masud Mia, 20, son of Solyaman of Nalkarchar village in the upazila.

In Bagerhat, Chejlin Mallik, 40, son of Idris Mallik of Aruabarni village in Chitalmari upazila, was killed by lightning while he was harvesting paddy during a storm on Friday.

In another incident, Rasheda Begum, 31, wife of Abdul Bashed of Kunakucha village in Tahirpur upazila was killed by lightning when she went to bring her cattle from near a water body in the village around 8:00am. She died instantly.

Quoting the victim's family members, Aslam Hossain, officer-in-charge of Dewanganj Police Station, said the three were killed on the spot while they were working at their farmlands in respective villages around 9:30am.

Our Dinajpur correspondent adds, Ferdous Ali, 45, son of Yaad Ali of Chandpur village in Birampur upazila was killed by lightning yesterday.

Hasanuzaman, officer-in-charge of Dharampasha Police Station, said a thun-

In Sherpur, Mariam Khatun, 13, a Class VII student of Sameshchura High School, daughter of Nur Hossain of Sameshchura village, was killed by lightning while she was going to a Madrasa

Police said a thunderbolt hit Ferdous while he was working at a paddy field around 7:40am. He died on the spot.

Two day labourers were electrocuted in Kulirkanda area under Phulpur upazila of the district on Friday afternoon. The deceased are Musa Ali, 30, son of Mohammad Ali, and Romiz Uddin, 26, son of late Moyez Uddin of the area. Police said the two came in contact with a live electric wire while working in a paddy field. They died on the spot.

Way in Mymensingh, a farmer was killed by lightning at Char Neyamat village in Phulpur upazila yesterday.

A thunderbolt hit Sharafat Ali, 55, while he was taking cattle to a nearby field around 2:00pm.

## SNIPPETS

### 2 kids drown in pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Two kids drowned in a pond at Pachua village in Gafargaoan upazila yesterday noon. The deceased are Mustakin Rahman Rahat, 7, son of Azizul Haque, and Akash, 7, son of Rafiqueul Islam of the village. Both were students of Pachua Government Primary School. Police and locals said the two drowned in the pond when they tried to pick mangoes floating on the water on their way to home from the school.

### Fish farmer murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A man was killed by criminals at Parbatipur-Kadarpara village in Pirganj upazila yesterday. The deceased is fish farmer Iqbal Hossain, 40, son of late Mozammel Haque of the village. Police and family sources said Iqbal went to his fish farm in the area on Friday night and remained missing since then. In the morning, locals found his body besides the pond and informed the police who recovered the body and sent it to Rangpur Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. Criminals might have strangled Iqbal over previous enmity, said Moksed Ali, officer-in-charge of Pirganj Police Station.

### Two labourers electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Two day labourers were electrocuted in Kulirkanda area under Phulpur upazila of the district on Friday afternoon. The deceased are Musa Ali, 30, son of Mohammad Ali, and Romiz Uddin, 26, son of late Moyez Uddin of the area. Police said the two came in contact with a live electric wire while working in a paddy field. They died on the spot.

### Boy commits 'suicide'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A teenage boy allegedly committed suicide at his home in Babupara area of the city yesterday. The dead is Hridoy, 14, son of Abdul Matin of the area. Police and family sources said Hridoy took his life by hanging himself from the ceiling of his room at around 3:00pm. The reason behind the suicide could not be known immediately, said Md Abdul Qader Jilani, officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station.

### 10 houses gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

At least 10 houses were gutted in a fire at Pashchim Hajipara in Sadar upazila of Sunamganj district on Friday night. Witnesses said the fire originated from a stove at the kitchen of a house in the area at around 8:00pm and soon engulfed the adjoining houses. On information, two fire fighting units rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze after an hour of frantic effort. The affected house owners claimed that the loss caused by the fire could go up to Tk 5 lakh.

# 15 Jamaat men arrested with gunpowder, bombs in C'nawabganj

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Sixteen leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami were arrested in Chapainawabganj and Rangpur districts on Friday and the day before.

Shibganj upazila unit of Jamaat, its two nayebe-ameers Monirul Islam and Sadiqul Islam and secretary Sefaul Mulk.

The arrestee is Md Motiar Rahman, 55, ameer of Imadpur union unit of Jamaat, and son of late Mohir Uddin of Imadpur village.

In Chapainawabganj, police in a drive arrested 15 Jamaat leaders in Islami Academy area of Shibganj upazila town on Friday afternoon, reports our correspondent.

Moinul Islam, officer-in-charge of Shibganj Police Station, said the Jamaat men were holding a 'secret meeting' inside the academy to carry out subversive activities in the town.

OC Md Humayun Kabir of Mithapukur Police Station said on secret information, a police team conducted a drive on the school premises at around 6:00pm and arrested the Jamaat leader.

The law enforcers also seized 10 crude bombs, eight petrol bombs and half kilogram of gunpowder from their possession. The arrestees include Younus Ali, ameer of

Way in Rangpur, police arrested a local leader of the party at Imadpur Government Primary School in Mithapukur upazila of the district on Thursday, reports our correspondent.

Motiar, an assistant teacher of the school, is accused in several cases, including one for carrying out subversive activities in the area, said the OC.