



PHOTO: STAR

A vast area of Patuakhali district gets flooded as river water level rose under the impact of cyclone Roanu yesterday. The photo was taken from Chhotobaishtia in Rangabali upazila under Patuakhali district.

Pre-polls violence leaves one dead, 11 hurt in 2 districts

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A man was killed and 11 others were injured in pre-election violence in Jamalpur and Faridpur districts yesterday and on Friday night.

Our Faridpur correspondent reported that the supporters of two member candidates clashed in Nurullahganj union under Bhanga upazila on Friday night, leaving a man dead.

The deceased, Moslem Talukder, 55, and son of late Jasim Talukder of Fukurhati village under the union where the UP polling is slated for May 28.

Moslem was a supporter of member candidate Akkas Bepari.

Locals said the clash ensued between the supporters of member candidates Mohiuddin and Akkas Bepari over electioneering in Ward No 4 of Nurullahganj

Union Parishad at around 7:00pm.

Moslem was severely injured during the clash and taken to Bhanga Upazila Health Complex where the doctors declared him dead.

Officer-in-Charge Mizanur Rahman of Bhanga Police Station said Moslem's son Lalchand filed a murder case with the police station yesterday, accusing nine named and 11 unnamed people. Drive is on to arrest the accused, the OC added.

Our Jamalpur Correspondent reports: Eleven people including AL-rebel chairman aspirant of Doail union in Sarishabari upazila under the district were injured in an attack by the supporters of AL nominated candidate near Doail Bazar area in the upazila yesterday noon.

Supporters of AL nominated

chairman aspirant Nasiruddin Ratan, equipped with lethal weapons, suddenly attacked a silent procession of AL-rebel candidate Abul Kalam Azad near Doail Bazar area around 12:00pm, leaving 11 people injured, locals said.

"I was also hurt as several supporters of the AL candidate punched on my stomach," said Abul Kalam Azad.

"I had been president of the union unit of AL for 16 years. Supporters of the AL candidate are doing such misdeeds so that my supporters get demoralised and lose hope for winning the race," he added.

Being informed police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control after firing six blank shots, said Billal Uddin, officer-in-charge of Sarishabari police station.

The injured took first aid

from Sarishabari Upazila Health Complex.

Nasiruddin Ratan, AL nominated chairman aspirant of Doail union refuted the allegations against his supporters brought by AL-rebel candidate Abul Kalam Azad.

Election in the union will be held on May 28.

Our Benapole Correspondent adds: The Criminal Investigation Department of the police arrested a local leader of Awami League on Friday night in connection with the death of Abdus Sattar, 75, hawkler of Kholadanga village under Jessore Sadar upazila, during a UP election related violence on March 31.

The areestee is Imam Hossain Lal, joint general secretary, Jessore town unit Awami League, police said.

GAIBANDHA'S FULCHHARI UPAZILA

Farmers replace chemical fertiliser with vermicompost

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Vermicompost fertilizer is gaining popularity in three unions under Fulchhari upazila of the district as it gives higher yield of crops than chemical fertilizers and also increases fertility of the soil.

Vermicompost fertilizer is produced from natural inputs and farmers need to spend very little money to make it, whereas chemical fertilizers are costly. Over three hundred people in the unions are producing vermicompost fertilizer in their houses and selling it.

According to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) in the district, this fertilizer is environment friendly and economical. Poor and marginal farmers are getting much benefit using vermicompost fertilizer. The fertilizer has eight different qualities for enhancing fertility of the land and reducing production cost.

The number of farmers using

vermicompost fertilizer is increasing in different areas. In Fulchhari upazila, farmers of Kanchipara, Uriya and Fazlupur unions are producing such fertilizer commercially, and many of them have changed their lives by selling it.

On a visit to Madanerpara village in Kanchipara union, this correspondent saw farmer Ashutosh Barman working in his vermicompost unit, where he has set up half-a-dozen concrete rings for producing natural fertilizer.

"Vermicompost is being sold at Tk 10 per kilogram and earthworm at Tk .50 per piece. As such, I could earn some additional income from compost fertilizer after using in my crop fields," Ashutosh said.

Shakina Bewa, another farmer of Kalasona village in Uriya union, said, "I collect cow dung and place it on a polythene sheet in a ditch for 12 days. Then I add earthworms and cover the mixture with gunny bags for 15

days. It is ready for use as compost fertilizer after separation of the earthworms."

Rahmat Ali a chili grower of Nischintapur village in Fazlupur union, said, "I achieved a higher yield of chili last year using vermicompost fertilizer than those who used chemical fertilizer."

"I have said farewell to chemical fertilizers, as fertility of the land increased after using compost fertilizer," he added.

Even women farm labourers have started production of vermicompost fertilizer and changed their livelihood pattern, said Protima Chakkravarti, an NGO worker.

"As vermicompost is gaining popularity among the farmers, the dependence on chemical fertilizer is reducing. The fertilizer is cheaper and increases the fertility of the land, and it is also environment friendly," said AKM Ruhul Amin, deputy director, Gaibandha DAE.



PHOTO: STAR

A farmer processes vermicompost in concrete ring wells at Madanerpara village Fulchhari upazila under Gaibandha district.



PHOTO: STAR

Teachers form a human chain in Gopalpur upazila headquarters under Tangail district yesterday protesting humiliation of Narayanganj teacher Shyamal Kanti Bhokto.

DOWRY, FAMILY FEUD

Two housewives killed in Jessore, Habiganj

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Two housewives were beaten to death allegedly by their husbands over dowry and family feud in Jessore and Habiganj districts on Friday night.

Our Benapole correspondent reported that a housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband for dowry in Puratan Kasba area of Jessore district town on Friday night.

The deceased is Jesmin Khatun, 19, wife of Firojuddin of the area.

Jesmin's father Ayub Hossain of neighbouring Birampur village filed a murder case with Jessore Police Station yesterday morning, accusing Firojuddin, said Ilias Ali, officer-in-charge (OC) of the police station.

Ayub Hossain said Firojuddin often

used to torture Jesmin for dowry since their marriage.

On Friday night, Firojuddin beat up Jesmin as she refused to bring Tk 1 lakh from her father. She died on the spot.

Informed by locals, police went to the spot and recovered the body. They have arrested Firojuddin.

In Habiganj, a housewife was beaten to death by her husband over family feud at Paschimbag village under Ajmeriganj upazila of the district on Friday night, our Moulivibazar correspondent reports.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Habiganj Sadar Hospital morgue for postmortem examination.

The deceased was identified as Asma Akther, 32, wife of Tohidul

Islam, 38.

Tohidul, son of Siraj Ullah of the village, married Asma, daughter of Bachchu Miah of Sekher Moholla in Baniarchang upazila of the district, 15 years ago. Two years after the marriage, Tohidul started beating Asma regularly because she could not bear a child. He got married again two years ago.

On Thursday night, Tohidul beat up Asma severely, leaving her critically injured. Being informed, her family members took her to Baniarchang Upazila Health Complex on Friday afternoon. She died soon after admission.

Amullay Kumar Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Baniarchang Police Station, said Tohidul had gone into hiding.

Four sued over Kushtia bomb blast

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Four people have been sued for the bomb blast that killed an alleged Islami Chhatra Shibir activist in the district on Friday.

Tariqu Islam, sub-inspector of Kushtia Model Police Station, filed the case yesterday.

The dead is Naimul Islam Naim, 14, of Koburhat Sardarpara area in Kushtia Sadar upazila, and also the student of Class IX of Koburhat High School.

Another "Shibir" activist, Hafizul Islam, 14, of the same area, was injured in the blast.

Naimul was killed in the district on Friday morning when a bomb he was carrying exploded, said police and witnesses.

The incident took place around 11:15am on Friday when the two teenagers were going towards Koburhat Bazar on foot.

"Suddenly, there was a loud bang and we saw the two boys at the scene," said Masud Hossain, a street vendor.

Locals rushed to the blast scene but Naimul was already dead, said Zoynal Abedin, additional superintendent of police.

Severely injured Hafizur was taken to Kushtia General Hospital, he said.

Tailor dies of electrocution

ORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A tailor was electrocuted at Bhuapur upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Lutfar Rahman, 50, a resident of Nolschia village in adjacent Ghatail upazila.

Lutfar came in touch with an electric wire when he climbed a mango tree adjacent to his shop near the Bhuapur Police Station in the morning, witnesses said.

Man kills 'girlfriend', then self

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A married microbus driver committed suicide after killing a college girl, also his alleged girlfriend, by slitting her throat at Kalitola near inter-district bus terminal of Nilphamari yesterday.

The victim girl, Liza Akhtar, 20, youngest daughter of Zohurul Islam, a tea stall owner of Sutipara village of Sadar upazila, was a Class XII student of local Moshir Rahman Degree College.

The killer, Rabiul Islam Nayon, 28, son of Zoyed Ali of Haziganj Gogram village of the same upazila, worked as a microbus driver of a Chinese toy factory at Uttara EPZ.

Sabita Rani, 18, eyewitness of the incident, also classmate of the victim girl, said she and Liza were returning home from a private coaching centre at Panchmatha around 9:30am.

"When we reached Kalitola area, driver Nayon coming from the opposite direction

held Liza and cut her throat with a sharp knife.

"Moments afterwards, the killer also cut his own throat with the same knife and with a sharp cry fell down dead a few metres away."

"Nayon developed relation with Liza, hiding the fact that he was married and had a child. At one stage Liza knew the matter and refused to continue the relation. It might have angered Nayon and he committed the heinous crime," said Sabita, visibly shocked to witness the gruesome killings.

Liza's brother Jahangir Alam, 30, said, "Nayon used to disturb my sister for a long time. We strictly told her not to maintain relation with him as we came to know about his bad character."

Shahjahan Pasha, officer in charge of Sadar Police Station, said, "In primary investigation, it seems to be an act of a pervert. We've sent the two bodies to the district hospital for autopsy."



PHOTO: STAR

Remains of a big tree trunk bear testimony to the criminals' heinous attack on a betel plantation at Jhimai Punjee in Kulaura upazila under Moulvibazar district on Monday.