

4 to die for killing fish trader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A court here yesterday sentenced four people to death for killing a fish trader at Tongi of the district in 2006. The convicts are Rubel, 35, Ashraf Ali, 31, Solaiman, 31, and Babu, 32. Judge Md Fazley Elahi, additional district and sessions judge-1 of Gazipur, also awarded 14 years' rigorous imprisonment to them and fined Tk 10,000 each for trying to extort the trader. According to the prosecution, the convicts demanded illegal toll from fish trader Moksed Ali Sentu on January 27, 2006. The extortionists then hacked the trader to death as he declined to give the money. Later, the victim's father filed a case with Tongi

Model Police Station in this connection. Away in Lalmonirhat, a court on Sunday sentenced a youth to life imprisonment for raping a minor girl at Dhairkhata village in Sadar upazila of the district in 2002. Lifer Rafiqul Islam Rafique, 28, son of Abed Ali of the village, was tried in absentia, reports our correspondent. District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Ali Akbar Azizi also fined him Tk 50,000. In default, he is to suffer another one year in jail. Police said Rafique raped the eight-year-old girl on May 12 in 2002. Later, the victim's father filed a case with Sadar Police Station, accusing Rafique, said Mahfuzur Rahman, officer-in-charge of the PS.



A field with HYV Q-16 sugarcane at Bakchar village in Gobindaganj upazila under Gaibandha district.

PHOTO: STAR

Soft variety sugarcane gains popularity in Gobindaganj

Chewed for juice, the item brings better profit to farmers

KM REZAUL HOQUE, Gaibandha

Cultivation of HYV sugarcane Q-16 sees gradual increase in Gobindaganj upazila under the district as the soft variety, chewed with relative ease, sells for much higher prices than that of local varieties. Its demand has highly increased, especially amid the prolonged heat wave this year. Many farmers in Gobindaganj upazila traditionally cultivate ordinary local varieties of sugarcane for supplying to Rangpur Sugar Mills at Mohimanganj in Gobindaganj upazila but the mill authorities often pay low price, leading to gradual reduction in sugarcane cultivation, said Rajab Ali, a grower. A decade ago, a few people of

Bakchar village in Gobindaganj upazila started cultivation of Q-16, locally called 'chewing sugarcane', and now its cultivation has spread to several other villages in the area, even in some places of Mokamtola in Bogra district. "Ten years ago, I started cultivating chewing sugarcane on two bighas of land and earned Tk 15,000 to 20,000 per bigha after covering the production cost. Now the demand and price have multiplied," said Montaz Ali of Bakchar. Seeing his success, some 20 farmers of the village started cultivation of the high yielding variety sugarcane within next two years. By this time, its cultivation spread to adjoining ten villages including Kamadaha, Kalitola,

Mastha, Nayapara Chawghaia, and Panthapara. Now the farmers are using modern technology for growing Q-16 sugarcane and they earn Tk 65,000 to 70,000 from a bigha of land, spending Tk 20,000 to Tk 25,000 for inputs, said Altaf Hossain, another grower. The HYV cane Q-16 has created an opportunity to earn better from the same area of land, several growers said, adding that wholesalers often procure the crop from fields with their own carrying cost. Agriculture officials are encouraging farmers to cultivate Q-16 sugarcane for better gains, said AKM Ruhul Amin, deputy director, the Department of Agriculture Extension, Gaibandha.

SNIPPETS

BSF kills Bangladeshi youth

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi youth yesterday afternoon near Kanakata Premcharanjouth border in Tentulia upazila of Panchagarh district. The dead was identified as Sujan, 22, son of Sanaullah of Premcharanjouth village under the upazila. Quoting villagers, commanding officer of Panchagarh BGB 18-Battalion Lt Colonel Al Hakim Mohammad Nowshad told this correspondent over cellphone that three people including Sujan had gone to the Gabra River near border pillar No 38/3-S. Members of BSF of Lochugoch Camp opened fire on them around 3:45pm, leaving Sujan critically injured. The two others escaped unhurt. Soon after the incident, villagers brought Sujan to Tentulia Upazila Health Complex where the on-duty doctor declared him dead.

Youth murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A young man was beaten to death at Mirzapur village in Keshabpur upazila of Jessore district early yesterday. The deceased is Sumon Mandol, 34, son of Gopal Mandol of Kusulpur village in the upazila. Police arrested one Tania Khatun, 20, wife of Belal Hossain of the village, in connection with the incident. Criminals beat Sumon, leaving him dead on the spot when he was going to a paddy field around 6:30am. Sumon was killed for illegal relationship with a housewife, said Sahidul Islam, officer-in-charge of Keshabpur Police Station. The body was sent to Jessore Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, said the OC. A case was filed, he said.

Hundi trader arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) arrested an alleged hundi trader with Tk 9.50 lakh in Putkhali border area under Benapole Police station yesterday morning. The arrestee is Amjad Hossain, 53, son of Abdul Barik of the border village. On secret information, the border guards raided the area and arrested Amjad with the money, said Lt Col Arifur Rahman, commanding officer of BGB-21 Battalion. A case was filed in this connection.

70 houses gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

At least 70 houses were gutted in a fire at Garerdanga village in Boda upazila of Panchagarh district on Sunday. Locals said the fire originated from an electric short circuit of one Shafiqul Islam's house around 11:00am and soon engulfed the adjoining houses. On information, firefighters rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control after two and a half hours of efforts. The affected house owners claimed that the loss caused by the fire could go up to Tk 50 lakh.

ASI, writer held on rape charge

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

An assistant sub-inspector (ASI) and a writer of Dagonbhuiyan Police Station, arrested on charge of raping a justice seeker woman and aiding in the heinous act, were sent to jail through the court yesterday. The arrestees are ASI Delwar Hossain, 36, and writer Abdul Mannan, 48, said police. The 35-year-old woman, hailing from Dagonbhuiyan upazila, said she went to the police station on Sunday morning to file a complaint over a family dispute. "Mannan helped me write a complaint and then took me to a room of an adjacent building around 11:00am. Mannan left the place and ASI Delwar raped me there," she alleged. ASI Delwar has been

living in the room on rent. After the incident, the woman informed Officer-in-Charge (OC) Aslam Uddin of the police station about the incident and filed a case under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, accusing Delwar and Mannan. Feni Assistant Superintendent of Police Amirul Islam visited the woman on Sunday evening and heard the allegation from her. "Delwar and Mannan were arrested following the allegation made by the woman. Doctors at Feni Sadar Hospital conducted a forensic test of the woman today [Monday], OC Aslam said. Police yesterday produced the two accused to a local court that sent them to jail.

Missing maize trader traceless for 18 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A maize trader of the district, who went missing 18 days ago, still remains traceless. The victim is Arifuzzaman, 32, son of Md Ashakuzzaman of Pashchim Kharibari village in Dimla upazila. On May 5, Arifuzzaman came to Jaldhaka upazila for business purpose and withdrew Tk 5.5 lakh from Jaldhaka branch of Islami Bank on the day, said his elder brother Hasanur Rahman. He did not return home since then and his abandoned motorbike was seized from Golmunda Bazar in Jaldhaka upazila the following day. The victim's brother Hasanur filed an abduction case with Jaldhaka Police Station on May 12, accusing

his four business partners. The accused are Ferdous Alam, Mozammel Huq, Jahangir Alam and Md Tareque. Arifuzzaman's father alleged that police are reluctant to arrest the accused for some mysterious reasons while they are moving freely in the town. However, police claimed that law enforcers arrested Mozammel Huq, one of the accused, and produced him before the court but he was later freed on bail. Contacted, Delwar Hasan Inam, officer-in-charge of Jaldhaka Police Station, said they are sincerely investigating the incident. "We have gathered much information and made significant development in this case but cannot disclose it for the sake of investigation," said the OC.

Locals besiege health complex as boy dies 'unattended'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

According to residents of Dinajpur's Khansama upazila, the local health complex has been without doctors and nurses since yesterday morning. The unfortunate situation that saw many patients arrive only to find no medical professionals present to offer assistance turned tragic when a child died, allegedly without any treatment. Mizanur Rahman of Bhandardah village brought his two-and-a-half-year-old son Luhn to the complex at around 10 a.m., after Luhn had fallen into a nearby pond. According to Mizanur, a doctor arrived 45 minutes later and declared the boy dead without examining him properly. As news of the tragedy spread, relatives and locals stormed the health complex. "My son's life could have been

saved if doctors had treated him immediately," says Mizanur. "The doctors are responsible for this. Without touching my son they declared him dead and told me to take him home." Angry villagers told reporters the absence of doctors and deaths of patients due to wrong treatment are common phenomena at the health complex. The local upazila nirbahi officer Sajebur Rahman who attended the scene together with police to bring the situation under control said he would look into the allegations. Resident medical officer Md Kamal Hossain, meanwhile, denies that doctors were absent. "The child was already dead when he was brought here. The villagers have staged a demonstration and besieged the health complex following the boy's death due to emotion," he said.



Villagers besiege Khansama Upazila Health Complex in Dinajpur district yesterday protesting absence of doctors and nurses at the treatment centre.

PHOTO: STAR



Members of a family yesterday try to recover whatever they can from the debris of the house ravaged by Sunday's cyclone Roanu at Tajmuddin in Bhola district.

PHOTO: STAR

JOYPURHAT, DINAJPUR

Housewife found dead, two others stabbed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A woman was found dead while two others were stabbed in Joypurhat and Dinajpur districts on Sunday. The deceased is Fatema Khatun, 35, wife of Rafiqul Islam of Khapura village in Akkelpur upazila of Joypurhat. Law enforcers recovered the body from the victim's bedroom on Sunday morning and sent it to Joypurhat Modern Hospital morgue for autopsy, said Sajjadur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Akkelpur Police Station. They found marks around

her throat which meant she either committed suicide or somebody strangled her, said police. In another incident, a group of land grabbers, allegedly led by one Akhter Hossain and his son Budha Mia, beat a woman mercilessly to evict her from her land at Majh village in Akkelpur upazila. The grabbers also stabbed her, leaving her seriously injured. The victim, Murshida Begum, 35, wife of Ataur Rahman of the village in Akkelpur municipality, was rushed to the upazila health complex. A case was filed with

Akkelpur Police Station in this connection. Meanwhile, a housewife was stabbed allegedly by her husband in Birganj upazila of Dinajpur on Sunday night. Seriously injured Bulbuli Khatun, 32, wife of Md Ripon Islam of Shatagram village, was admitted to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital, said OC Jahangir Hossain of Birganj Police Station. The victim's father Nurul Islam alleged that Ripon stabbed his daughter indiscriminately at night and fled the scene soon after the incident.

AL leader shot dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A local leader of the ruling Awami League (AL) was shot dead allegedly by the supporters of a UP member candidate in Pabna Sadar upazila on Sunday. The deceased, Mohammad Abdur Rahim, 40, was general secretary of Ward No 3 of AL Gayeshpur union unit. Quoting locals and witnesses, police said a gang of 3/4 shot Rahim while he was going to local Poyda Bazar kitchen market around 9:00am. Victim's cousin Habibur Rahman said Rahim's campaign for Amjad Hossain, a member candidate in the upcoming Gayeshpur Union Parishad election, annoyed rival candidate Shan Molla. As a sequel to that, Shan's men opened fire on Rahim, leaving him dead on the spot, Habibur added.