



3 Jubo League men found shot dead

Family of one alleges they were picked up by Rab; crime busters deny the allegation

STAR REPORT

A leader and two activists of Jubo League in Natore were found shot dead in Dinajpur yesterday, about two days after they were picked up allegedly by Rab members.

The mother of one of the dead has filed a general diary saying a Rab team had taken them away from Tokia Bazar of Natore on Saturday.

The elite force denies the allegation.

The dead are Redwan Sabbir and Abu

Abdullah from Natore Sadar upazila's Kanaikhali and Sohel Rana from Rothbari.

On information from locals, police recovered the bodies in Ghoraghat upazila of Dinajpur around noon. According to police, the Jubo League men were shot point-blank in the head.

Sabbir was in the 31-member convening committee of Natore municipality unit of Jubo League, youth front of the ruling Awami League.

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COMMENTARY

DEMOCRACY RESTORATION DAY, 26 YEARS ON Democracy is what the winner says it is

MAHFUZ ANAM

Twenty-six years ago the autocratic rule of Gen. Ershad came to an end in the face of years of mass agitation leading to the restoration of democracy and reinstatement of the representative government in 1991. Since then 6th December has been celebrated as Democracy Restoration Day.

The irony is that the autocrat we toppled is now a special envoy to the present prime minister with the rank of a minister and his party, the one that people shunted out of power, is the formal opposition in the parliament led by the autocrat's wife with three of its members occupying ministerial slots. This makes us the only parliamentary system in the world where the so-called opposition party is also a part of the government.

Meanwhile the second largest political party in the country that formed the government and was the biggest opposition party twice respectively

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Police clueless about the four missing youths They disappeared Thursday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are yet to trace the four youths who went missing from the capital's Banani area on Thursday, say the law enforcers.

Of the four, Zain Hossain Khan Pavel and Shafayat Hossain are students of North South University and childhood friends, while Mahedi Hasan is a student of BM College in Barisal, and Md Sujan is an employee at an advertising firm in the capital, according to their families and friends.

Their sudden disappearance has caused serious concern to their families, given that the Holey Artisan Bakery attackers and many other militant suspects

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The smile of rice farmer Mostofa says it all. There has been a bumper production of Aman rice in Sylhet region this season although hundreds of hectares of Aman was damaged by flood earlier this year. The photo was taken at Mogol Gaon in Sylhet Sadar upazila four days ago.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Double delight for Aman growers

Good yield, good price backed by high demand, tariff on imports

REAZ AHMAD

Thanks to a favourable monsoon and buoyant prices that Aman growers across the country get a reason to rejoice after a rather unhappy ending of Boro season.

With over 80 percent paddy already harvested, the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation

have projected a bumper Aman output -- 13.6 million tonnes -- marginally surpassing last year's record high of 13.5 million tonnes.

The prices are also good, which market sources attribute to the government intervention through imposing tariff on cheap rice imports from India and to the high demand for both coarse and fine varieties with old stocks exhausting fast.

Last time growers reduced the acreage of Boro rice in fear of low prices in the market.

Highly input-intensive irrigated winter rice -- Boro -- accounts for 55 percent of Bangladesh's annual staple output while Aman, mostly fed by monsoon rains, accounts for 38 percent of yearly rice output. The rest comes from Aus, a season still

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