

Six houses vandalised in Faridpur AL clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Six houses were vandalised over establishing supremacy between two factions of local Awami League (AL) in Shaltha upazila of the district on Friday.

Locals said there was a longstanding conflict between local AL leaders Sadam Matbor and Aminul Matbor. Some supporters of Sadam scolded a supporter of Aminul on Friday. In retaliation, Aminul and his supporters attacked the houses of Sadam's supporters Shahid Matbor, Babul Matbor, Arshad Matbor, and Usob Matbor on that day. Police of Shaltha Police Station brought the situation under control.

Office-in-Charge of the police station AKM Aminul Haque said, "We rushed to the spot and controlled the situation. We asked Sadam and Aminul to reach an understanding by Saturday."

Police action makes Swapon's HSC exams uncertain

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

A Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinee in Patgram upazila is facing uncertainty about attending the examinations starting today as he has been sent to jail, after being shown arrested in a cow stealing case filed over three months ago.

Police arrested Swapon Kumar Roy, 19, an HSC examinee from Patgram Technical and Business Management College, from near their home at Bhandardah village of Jagother union of Patgram upazila, claiming his involvement in a cow stealing incident at the village on Thursday.

But they produced him before a judicial magistrate's court on Friday morning, showing him arrested in a pending case filed on December 27 last year.

"We don't know why police arrested my son. He was never involved with any criminal activities, let alone cow stealing," said Swapon's father Subhas Chandra Roy, a farmer of the village.

"After arresting him on Thursday, police made him accused in a cattle stealing case lodged with Patgram Police Station on December 27 last year. The case was filed in connection with an incident that occurred at



Swapon Kumar Roy

a village about 15 kilometres from our village," he said.

Swapon's HSC examinations have now become uncertain, he said, adding, "We are already facing a problem over casting our vote during the union parishad polls last year."

Nuruzzaman Ahmed, sub-inspector (SI) of Patgram Police Station, said, "College student Swapon was caught red-handed

while stealing a cow at Bhandardah village on Thursday noon, and villagers handed him over to police."

Asked why he was produced before the court in a pending case that was filed earlier on December 27, the SI said, "It was done as no case was lodged regarding Thursday's incident. Swapon was not a named accused in the pending case but his name came up in police probe later."

Oboni Shankar Kar, officer in charge of Patgram Police Station, claimed that the arrested college boy is a professional cattle lifter and police were searching him.

Assistant Superintendent of Police (Circle) Shaheed Sohrwardy said he will arrange a free and fair investigation in this regard.

Several locals including Sirajul Islam, 48, of Bhandardah village said no cattle theft incident occurred there on Thursday noon and so, there is no question of handing him over to police.

Kishore Kumar Nag, jailer of Lalmonirhat District Jail, said, according to the law he prepared documents that were sent to the district magistrate and the examination hall superintendent so that Swapon can attend his examinations starting today.

Laxmipur AL man hacked to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Miscreants hacked to death a leader of the union Awami League (AL) in Laxmipur Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The victim, Omar Faruque, 38, son of late Shamsul Haque of Mondalthali village under Uttar Hamsadi union, was joint secretary of the union AL and also a member of the union parishad.

Chairman of Uttar Hamsadi Union Parishad, also union AL president, Md Emran Hossain Nannu said five to six miscreants hacked Omar Faruque while he was returning home from Patwarihat Bazar in Shyamganj village at around 11:00pm on Friday.

Hearing Faruque's screams, locals went to help him. The criminals fled the spot, leaving him injured critically.

They took Faruque to Laxmipur Sadar Hospital. As his condition deteriorated, he was shifted to Noakhali General Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries early yesterday.

Victim's elder sister Rahima Begum and relatives said Faruque told them before his death that five to six criminals led by Maqbul, Faruque's competitor in the last UP election, attacked him.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Laxmipur Sadar Police Station Abdullah Al Mamun said there were marks of stab injuries on one side of Faruque's chest, adding that the body was sent to Laxmipur Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Police are trying to arrest the culprits, the OC said. No case was filed in this regard as of writing of this report.



An injured deer at Lawacherra Wildlife Rescue Centre in Moulvibazar's Kamalganj upazila, inset, an assistant conservator of Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division in Moulvibazar feeds another wounded deer during his visit to the centre.

PHOTO: STAR

Lawacherra wildlife centre without surgeon, staff

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

Despite being the only wildlife treatment centre in the region, Lawacherra Wildlife Rescue Centre in Moulvibazar's Kamalganj upazila, is running without any veterinary surgeon, nurses and adequate equipment.

Although it has a building, there is no equipment and manpower to perform critical surgeries or even giving primary treatment to the injured animals.

The centre, where injured and sick animals are admitted for treatment, has been facing the crisis since its establishment in March 2015.

The situation turned worse when its only veterinary surgeon Mohammad Asaduzzaman resigned from his post in

September last year.

Sreemangal Upazila Veterinary Surgeon Ariful Haq, who is providing his service voluntarily at the wildlife rescue centre, said, "As it is not my additional duty, the centre needs to appoint a veterinary surgeon immediately to keep its service functional."

The treatment centre does not even have any chair, table and other necessary furniture to run its official activities, said Tabibur Rahman, assistant conservator of Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division in Moulvibazar.

Besides, a number of injured and sick animals died at the centre in different times as it has no staff to look after the animals since the beginning of its journey, Tabibur said.

"We are running the centre with

the help of the veterinary surgeon in Sreemangal," he added.

During a recent visit to the rescue centre, this correspondent saw an injured barking deer groaning in pain due to lack of treatment.

Earlier, a binturong, captured in Tahirpur upazila of Sunamganj in January this year, died on way to Gazipur Safari Park after a week-long treatment at Bangladesh Wildlife Service Foundation in Sreemangal.

Mihir Kumar Doe, divisional forest officer of Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Department, said he has written to the higher authorities to appoint required manpower at the rescue centre immediately.

Australia floods still rising with 2 dead, 4 missing

AFP, Beenleigh

Flooded rivers were still rising yesterday in two Australian states with two women dead and four people missing after torrential rains in the wake of a powerful tropical cyclone.

Queensland police warned that the Logan River, which runs through

Beenleigh south of Brisbane, would only hit peak flood levels during the afternoon while further north the city of Rockhampton was also facing a serious threat.

Commissioner Ian Stewart warned there was "still a major risk to the community around Logan and further south caused by

that flooding situation."

Rockhampton, with a population of over 80,000 on the Fitzroy River, was expected to suffer flood levels not seen for a century and Stewart urged residents in low-lying areas to leave.

"By Wednesday, we will be at peak flooding in Rockhampton," he said.

Investigation Unit will collect evidence from the spot.

"There might be explosives in the buildings and also in the adjacent high school. It would take time to give permission to use the buildings and to reopen the school. But we have already

asked locals to start normal life," he added.

Police cordoned off "Atia Mahal" around 1:30am on March 24.

The following day, the army team started the anti-militant operation after the utility supplies to the suspected militant den were cut.

Atia Mahal

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Zedan Al Musa, additional deputy commissioner (South) of Sylhet Metropolitan Police, said the bomb disposal unit was likely to conduct a sweep of the three buildings soon. Later, the Police Bureau of Investigation and Crime

Council (Health) Atin Ghosh, raided various city markets and seized similar samples of artificial eggs on Friday. According to Ghosh, the eggs sold by Ansari were procured from a wholesaler in the city's Muchipara area.

"We have seized a crate of eggs from the wholesaler who sold the eggs to Ansari. We will also collect at least three more crates of similar samples from other shops in the market and send

them to the concerned department for analysis," Ghosh said.

The accused, Ansari, bought eggs worth Rs 1.15 lakh from the wholesaler.

"According to the Food Safety and Standards Act, food adulteration is a punishable offence. If these eggs are found to be life-threatening then offenders may face major punishments like life imprisonment and a huge fine," Ghosh added.

the department," he told The Daily Star.

Contacted, VC Prof Kamrul told this correspondent that the process to set up the emergency department was underway. "We are trying to buy [medical] equipment."

Currently, the BSMMU has emergency services at orthopedics, neurosurgery, paediatrics, gynaecology and cardiology departments.

Prof Kamrul said they have a plan to set up a 20-

bed emergency department for both male and female patients with operating theatre facility.

Primarily, patients would be admitted to the emergency department. They would be then shifted to departments concerned, depending on patients' condition, he added.

On an average, around 5,000 people go to the BSMMU outdoor for treatment every day, said BSMMU sources.

No series win

FROM PAGE 1

the fifth ball of the innings off as the left-hander tried to check an on drive. Kulasekara spilled the ball as he was about to throw it up in celebration, much like the famous reprieve of Australia's Steve Waugh by South Africa's Herschelle Gibbs, but this time the umpires on the field and behind the television decided that the catch was completed.

Number three Sabbir Rahman played a rash shot off Kulasekara's next over, chasing a wide ball to be caught behind. Mushfiqure Rahim's bad series continued as he fell for a first-ball duck when Lakmal trapped him in front in the fourth over of the chase.

Earlier, Sri Lanka opens Upul Tharanga and Danushka Gunathilaka went after Bangladesh's opening pair of Mashrafe and Mustafizur Rahman. A poor series in terms of control seemed to continue for Mustafizur, with a wide and three boundaries in his third over prompting Mashrafe to replace him with Taskin Ahmed. Off-spinner Miraz, who replaced Mashrafe, conceded three boundaries and a six before floating one up and enticing Dunathilaka to hit uppishly to cover fielder Riyad in the 11th over to walk back 34.

Taskin, the pick of the bowlers, then produced a moment of inspiration. He produced a perfect pacer's wicket, hitting Upul Tharanga's middle stump with one that came in off the pitch and defeated the left-hander with pace. The Sri Lanka skipper departed for a 34-ball 35, with his team on 87 for two in 13.4 overs.

Bangladesh pulled things back substantially after that. Through a combination of good bowling, consistently good fielding and proactive captaincy, only 116 runs were conceded in the following 16.2 overs for three wickets.

Two of those fell to run-

outs -- an unlucky one for Dinesh Chandimal when he failed to keep his bat and feet grounded at the exact moment that Mushfiqure Rahim whipped off the bails, and a brilliant gather on the run by Mushfiqure that got rid of Milinda Siriwardene in the 31st over. Kusal Mendis, meanwhile, motored his way to his second 50-plus score in the series, having hit a century in the abandoned match. But in the 37th over, he fell for 54, edging Mustafizur to the keeper trying to glide down to third man.

From 203 for five after 40, Thisara Perera's 40-ball 52 propelled Sri Lanka to 280 for nine in 50 overs. Mashrafe picked up Asela Gunaratne, Thisara and Dilruwan Perera off slogs, while Mustafizur Rahman picked up Prasanna off a skied edge to Riyad at point.

154 killed

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bridges had been destroyed.

Photos posted on Twitter by the air force showed neighborhood streets filled with mud and damaged houses, while videos on social media showed residents searching for survivors in the debris and struggling to move through waist-high water during the night.

2 arrested

FROM PAGE 1

would match with those of the exams "100%", he told a press briefing at the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) media centre.

Mobile phones and SIMs were seized from their possession.

A case has been filed with Ramna Model Police Station and drives were on to apprehend the other gang members, he said.

Anyone found purchasing "leaked questions" will be prosecuted, he added.

Law enforcers have arrested 23 people since February on charge of leaking question papers, as per this newspaper's reports.

Woman among 3 found dead

FROM PAGE 1

The male "militants" were between 25 and 30 while the woman looked around 25, he said.

CTTC Additional Deputy Commissioner Saiful Islam said they recovered some burnt documents and money from the bedroom of the duplex building.

Some powerful explosives, including improvised explosive devices (IEDs), were also recovered and then defused inside the building.

Police originally cordoned off the building around 1:30 am on Wednesday and a SWAT team launched an assault codenamed "Operation Maximus" the next morning. Maximus is a Latin term for "greatest".

However, whenever the special force tried to close in on the hideout on Friday, the "militants" pushed them back by exploding bombs, forcing police to eventually suspend their operation as soon as dark fell.

The offensive led by the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) resumed at the building on Abu Shah Madrasa Road in Kusumbag around 8:43am yesterday.

A number of gunshots were heard between 9:30am and 10:00am. There was also a huge explosion. Around 11:00am, SWAT members entered the building and found the three bodies lying scattered.

Later, the bodies were taken to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

On Thursday, police ended their operation at Moulvibazar's Nasirpur, some 20km from Borohat. They found body parts of seven to eight people, including those of four children. Police claimed they included "Neo JMB" militants who blew themselves up to avoid arrest.

One of the children was just two to three months old. The other three were below 12, said doctors who performed autopsies on the bodies.

Earlier, four militants

were killed in an army-led operation, codenamed "Operation Twilight", on the hideout in Shibbari's Atia Mahal. The two powerful bombs exploded at two separate places within 400 metres of the den while the operation was still underway.

Hours after the operation ended on March 27, police cordoned off the two suspected dens in Nasirpur and Borohat of Moulvibazar.

Both the houses are owned by a Bangladeshi expatriate in England.

CTTC CHIEF BRIEFING

While briefing reporters in Moulvibazar's Kusumbag after yesterday's operation, CTTC unit chief Monirul Islam said, "With the use of technology, we came to know that one of them [who exploded the bombs in Shibbari area] might have been hiding in the Borohat den."

The militant returned to the building after carrying out the attack, he said, adding they had assessed that one bomb-making expert and another militant might be inside the building with some powerful explosives.

"Later, we learnt that three militants -- two men and one woman -- were holing up there," he said.

On the first day of the operation, a woman, sensing police presence, went to the rooftop of the building and hurled two grenades at the law enforcers. One of them exploded but the other laid in a nearby crop field unexploded, Monirul said.

However, police on Thursday had said after they cordoned off the building, a woman opened a window and threw a grenade at the law enforcers. The grenade did not explode.

"We had a plan to capture them alive. We had repeatedly asked them to surrender but they refused," Monirul said, adding the "militants" carried out a huge explosion after the SWAT tried to approach them.

SITUATION BECOMING NORMAL IN BOROHAT
Locals in Borohat area were

relieved to see the operation end. They had been living in panic since the operation began.

"We were wondering when it would end," said Mir Sabbir, a local, adding that the bangs of bombs and sounds of gunshots were traumatizing the children.

Most of the shops and the educational institutions in the area were kept closed, said several locals.

Infant stolen

FROM PAGE 14

Rehana wanted more clothes for the baby and needed to go downstairs for those. The woman offered to hold the baby during that time.

When Rehana returned with the clothes about five minutes later, there was no woman there.

The father, Rubel Uddin, of Jhoggari filed a general diary with Bogra Police Station. He said it was their first child.

The hospital authority hung a notice to raise awareness about theft of babies.

The department in-charge, Shanjida Akhter, said they had been advising parents to refrain from letting strangers hold their newborns.

Iran rejects US terror claim by Mattis

REUTERS, Dubai

Iran rejected an allegation by US Defense Secretary James Mattis that it was "the primary exporter of terrorism" and said yesterday that the main source was US ally Saudi Arabia.

"Some countries led by America are determined to ignore the main source of Takfiri-Wahhabi terrorism and extremism," foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi was quoted by Iran's state news agency IRNA as saying.

He was referring to hard-line Sunni Muslim groups and Saudi Arabia's official Wahhabi school of Islam.