

### Faridpur AL man hacked by party men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A local Awami League (AL) leader was hacked by his rival party men near Saltha Model High School in Saltha upazila on Tuesday.

Critically injured Md Niyes Bapari, 42, publicity secretary of upazila unit Swachhshasebak League, is now undergoing treatment at Faridpur Medical College Hospital. He is a supporter of Iman Akbar Chowdhury, son of lawmaker Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury.

Family members said a gang of six to seven men, equipped with sharp weapons, attacked Niyes when he was returning to his house from Saltha Bazar. Locals rushed him to the upazila health complex from where he was shifted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital yesterday. Saltha Swachhshasebak League General Secretary Md Syed Ali Matubar blamed rival AL party men for the attack.

### 4 IU Shibir men arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

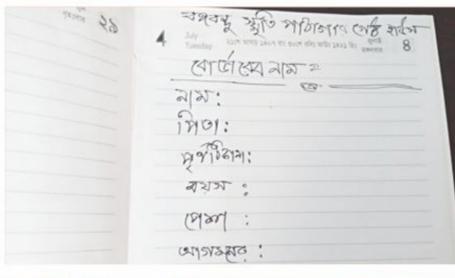
Four Islami Chhatra Shibir cadres were arrested on the Islamic University (IU) campus on Tuesday night and bombs, jihadi books and some illegal mobile SIM cards were recovered from their possession.

The arrestees are Red-un-Islam, 24, a 4th year student of Al Hadith department, Abu Isha, 22, of Fulbaria in Jhenidah, Shamsuddin, 25, of Chandpur, and Abu Sayed, 25, of Chudanga.

Police raided the IU cafeteria area and arrested the four while they were holding a clandestine meeting. The Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court sent the four men to jail yesterday.



LIBRARY BUILDING TURNS BUSINESS CENTRE: The very entrance of Bangabandhu Memorial Library in Bandarban town shows the direction of commercial services there, giving the impression of a business set-up at the four-storey library building. Right, from top: The 'library portion' with only a few books hardly sees any reader, a form for boarders of the hotel set up on the third floor, and rooms meant for renting to visitors.



### Robbers kill one, mob beats gang member dead in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Armed robbers killed a man while an alleged robber was beaten to death by villagers during a clash between a robbers' gang and villagers in Fulchhari upazila of the district early yesterday.

One of the deceased, Dulal Mia, 35, was a resident of Chowmohan Char village in the upazila, while the identity of the dead robber could not be known as of filing of this report around 5:30pm.

Quoting villagers, police said the incident occurred when a gang of 20 to 25 robbers, on an engine-driven boat, came to the village in a bid to loot cattle around 4:00am.

Sensing the presence of the robbers, villagers started shouting and then chased the gang. Finding no way out, the robbers opened fire on the villagers that left two villagers--Dulal and Babul Mia--injured by bullets.

But the gang did not spare injured Dulal and hacked him to death on the spot with sharp weapons.

Meanwhile, the angry mob caught one of the robbers, beat him dead on the spot and later threw the unidentified body in the Jamuna river.

Being informed, police rushed to the spot and caught injured Khoka Mia, one of the gang members, from the spot.

The law enforcers also seized a pistol and bullets from his possession, said Officer-in-Charge Ashrafuzzaman of Fulchhari Police Station, adding that they are yet to recover the body of the dead robber from the river.

Injured Babul is undergoing treatment at Rangpur Medical College Hospital in a critical condition, the OC said.

# Bangabandhu Memorial Library or business centre?

SANJOY KUMAR BARIUA, Bandarban

Bangabandhu Memorial Library in the district town hardly sees any reader as the four-storey building has virtually turned into a business set-up, housing a hotel, a bKash centre, and a conference room.

There are some books kept in three selves on the ground floor but in absence of librarian or any other staff to help readers get access to the books, those remain untouched.

There is not even any photo of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The four-storey library building adjacent to Goroshthan Jame

Masjid area of the district town was inaugurated by Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Affairs State Minister Bir Bahadur Ushwe Sing on October 30, 2015.

From the very beginning, the building gave the impression of a commercial set-up, said several town dwellers.

Mong Owai Ching Marma, assistant engineer of Bandarban Hill District Council (BHDC), said, "BHDC implemented the project of 'Bangabandhu Memorial Library' at a cost of Tk 1.50 crore in the financial years of 2014-2015 and 2015-2016."

"District Awami League's [AL] Organising Secretary Mozammel Haque Bahadur was contractor of

the project. Although the project was meant for highlighting Bangabandhu to the readers, a few local AL leaders planned to make it a commercial building," he added.

Contacted over phone, Mozammel declined to comment in this regard.

"The purpose of establishing Bangabandhu Memorial Library in the tourist town was to highlight the works, historical moments, political life and personality of Bangabandhu but a few leaders of the ruling party have turned it into a commercial centre," said Kazi Mujibur Rahman, former secretary of district unit AL, who was earlier expelled by his local

party leaders. Md Sattar, a local AL man who is using the third floor of the building for hotel business, said, "I don't want to make any comment in this regard. If you have any query you may contact with party leaders."

AKM Jahangir, vice president of AL's district unit and owner of Mother Telecom Bandarban bKash House, said, "I rented the first floor of Bangabandhu Memorial Library building for a bKash centre and pay Tk 15,000 monthly rent for this."

Contacted, CHT Affairs State Minister Bir Bahadur U Shwe Sing said, "I am not interested to answer any question related to

Bangabandhu Memorial Library." Bandarban Deputy Commissioner Dilip Kumar Banik said, "We are not aware of the condition of Bangabandhu Memorial Library."

Kwe Shwe Hla, chairman of Bandarban Hill District Council (BHDC), also president of the district unit AL, said, "District unit AL is now taking care of the library after the implementation of the project."

BHDC sources said there is a provision to hand over a library to the cultural affairs ministry after implementation of the project but it was not followed in case of Bangabandhu Memorial Library in the district town.

## Three-wheelers run with risky LP gas

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Drivers of CNG-run three wheelers in the district are regularly using domestic LP gas as fuel instead of CNG, risking fatal disaster.

Use of domestic LP gas in three-wheelers is increasing day by day because there is no CNG filling station in the district in absence of supply of natural gas to the district.

Drivers said they have to go to Bogra to buy CNG, and face harassment by police and toll collectors at different locations. It is much easier to buy domestic LP gas, which is available everywhere, they added.

Use of LP gas in CNG-run three-wheelers is illegal, said Ruhul Amin, inspector of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) in the district.

"CNG cylinder is specially manufactured for use in vehicles, but LP gas cylinder is not suitable for such use as its regulator is fitted



for domestic purposes only. It is dangerous to use LP cylinder in three-wheelers as the regulator might become loose due to the jerking and gas may leak out, resulting in a fatal incident," the inspector said.

A very large number of three-wheelers using LP gas are running on different routes in the

district. Passengers are travelling at great risk as the cylinder might explode due to jerking on bumpy roads.

Although the district and upazila administrations occasionally launch mobile courts to discourage use of LP gas in three-wheelers, the trend is increasing in remote areas.

## Couple found dead in C'nawabganj

Two bodies recovered in B'baria, Tangail

STAR COUNTRY DESK

A couple was found dead in Chapainawabganj while two unidentified bodies were recovered in Brahmanbaria and Tangail yesterday.

Our Chapainawabganj correspondent reported that a couple was found dead at Hakroil village in Nachole upazila yesterday morning.

The deceased are Moidul Islam Badal, 43, son of Sirajul Islam of the village, and his wife Nasima Khatun, 40.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Nachole Police Station Mahtab Uddin said family members first spotted Moidul's body hanging from a tree beside his house and later found Nasima lying dead on the floor of her room and informed the police.

Police suspect that Moidul might have strangled his wife to death over family feud and then hanged himself from the tree.

In Brahmanbaria, police recovered the body of an unidentified youth from a ditch beside Comilla-Sylhet Highway yesterday noon, reports our correspondent.

Meanwhile, our Tangail correspondent adds: villagers discovered the decomposed body of an unidentified man, aged about 40, in a sealed plastic container in Sakhipur upazila yesterday morning.

## Sexual Harassment, Corruption IU teacher sacked, another punished

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Islamic University (IU) authorities terminated a teacher for sexually harassing a female student of his department and punished another teacher for his involvement in financial corruption.

The Syndicate took the steps at a meeting on Tuesday night at the residence of Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Rashid Askari.

Assistant Professor of the Department of Finance and Banking Asaduzzaman Asad was terminated from his job after the allegation of sexual harassment was proved true.

Assistant Professor Ruhul Amin of the same department was punished for taking money from people seeking jobs in the university.

According to the university public relations office, a female student of the Department of Finance and Banking wrote to the vice chancellor alleging that Asaduzzaman often asked her to have illicit relationship with him, saying that he would ensure a good result for her. The student also submitted some evidence to support her allegation.

Earlier, the university suspended Asaduzzaman and formed a probe body on September 16 in 2016.

The body submitted its report on May 12 this year, with the finding that the allegation was true.

In the case of Ruhul Amin, an audio tape was leaked in which he was heard asking another person to bring candidates for teaching jobs. He was also heard demanding Tk 15 lakh in exchange for giving the job.

An investigation committee submitted its report on June 11 this year. The probe body found the allegation true.

Ruhul Amin will not get promotion and increment during the next three years. He also will not be appointed to any administrative post in the university for the same period.

Asaduzzaman said he did not get justice and will go to the court.

## Support for 132 robbers for returning to normal life

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

One hundred and thirty-two forest robbers, who surrendered to law enforcing agencies last year to return to normal life, yesterday got Tk 1.50 lakh each.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal handed over the money at Sheikh Helal Uddin Stadium in Bagerhat Sadar.

According to Rab, 132 members of 12 robber groups surrendered to the law enforcers last year to return to normal life.

The minister urged the robbers to surrender and get government's legal and financial assistance for leading normal life.

## Bridge without approach roads

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Sylhet

A bridge over a wetland in Beanibazar upazila in Sylhet could not be opened to traffic during the last two years for lack of approach road on either side due to a case over land acquisition.

Construction of the 700-foot approach road on both sides of the bridge has remained stalled due to a case filed by the land owners, said Upazila Relief and Rehabilitation Officer Mohammed Hiron.

He said the disaster management ministry built the bridge at Purushpal village during the 2014-2015 fiscal year under the rural bridge construction programme at a cost of Tk 24 lakh.

Earlier, Tk 3 lakh was allocated for landfill twice that was returned as the owners were reluctant to hand over the land, Hiron said.

The bridge on Shikpur road close to Sylhet-Beanibazar road brings no benefits to the villagers as it does not have connecting roads, locals told this correspondent.

They said they have to wade across the canal or walk two or three kilometres more

to get to their destinations. This makes it difficult for students to go to their institutions, especially during the rainy season.

Several students got injured while using the Shikpur road, said retired government official Abdul Hamid, asking the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to link the bridge with the road. "Why did the authorities construct the bridge before making the approach road?" he asked.

Abdul Alim said about five thousand villagers would be benefited when the approach roads are built.

Trader Md Mohibur Rahman said there are two big markets on both sides of the bridge, which are inaccessible to traders as this bridge cannot be used.

The much-expected bridge was supposed to ease communication for them, but in reality the bridge without road is of no use to them, locals said with a note of frustration.

Hiron said the case has been settled mutually. They will start making an approach on either side of the bridge after the floodwater recedes, he added.



This bridge at Purushpal village in Beanibazar upazila of Sylhet is lying unused since its construction two years ago as work for approach roads on its both sides has remained stalled due to a case filed by the land owners.

PHOTO: STAR