

Four killed by lightning

STAR REPORT

At least four persons were killed by lightning strikes across three districts in the last two days.

In Brahmanbaria, Rafi Uddin, 36, imam of a local mosque, was killed around 10:30am yesterday, reports our correspondent.

He was son of late Shahnewaz Mia of Datmondol village in Nasirnagar upazila, locals said.

The incident took place when Rafi was returning from his field. He died on the spot as lightning struck him, said Md Kabir Hossain, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Nasirnagar Police Station.

In Habiganj, two persons died in separate incidents of lightning yesterday, reports our correspondent.

The deceased were identified as Shima Urang, 18, son of Prodip Urang of Amu Tea Garden in Chunarughat upazila, and fisherman Shijil Mia, 45, son of late Abdul Zail in Khujakhair village of Nabiganj upazila.

Iqbal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Nabiganj Police Station, said Shijil died on the spot after being hit by lightning near the haor area.

Moin Uddin, upazila nirbahi officer of Chunarughat, said Shima was killed by a thunderbolt while cutting paddy in a field with her father.

Earlier on Thursday in Madaripur, farmer Sukur Ali, 48, died after a lightning struck him in Sormongal area of Rajor upazila, reports our Faridpur correspondent.

Sukur was the son of late Sultan Bapari of the same area, locals said.

He was struck by thunderbolt around 5pm, while working on a field beside his home, said Md Shajahan Mia, officer-in-charge of Rajor Police Station.

He was declared dead at Rajor Upazila Health Complex.

Govt to procure 55 dredgers

UNB, Dhaka

INCREASING RIVER NAVIGABILITY

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) is going to procure 55 dredgers, aiming to increase navigability of the country's rivers and ensure smooth waterway communication.

According to an official document obtained by the news agency, these dredgers will be procured under two BIWTA projects -- "Procurement of 20 dredgers and Ancillary Machineries" and "Procurement of 35 dredgers and Ancillary Equipment and Accessories".

Ten dredgers under the first project will be added to the BIWTA fleet within a short time.

The government undertook the project in 2015 to procure 20 dredgers and necessary equipment at a cost of Tk 2,048 crore. It will enable BIWTA to dredge 232.5 lakh cubic metres annually to ensure smooth waterway communication.

The decision came in response to the "Feasibility Study of Capital Dredging and Sustainable River Management in Bangladesh (FSCD & SRMB)". The study suggested collection of 216 cutter suction dredgers for dredging some 23 big and medium rivers.

BIWTA under the shipping ministry is implementing the project, to be completed in December this year. Currently, BIWTA has 35 types of dredgers including four amphibian ones.

Under the "Procurement of 35 dredgers

and Ancillary Equipment and Accessories" project, some 161 vessels will also be added to the BIWTA fleet.

The project area will cover Dhaka, Narayanganj, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Madaripur, Barishal, Bagerhat, Gaibandha, Cox's Bazar, Chandpur, Kishoreganj, Jamalpur and Sylhet districts.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) in October last year approved the project to procure 35 dredgers at a cost of Tk 4,489.03 crore to maintain navigability of 100 major rivers.

BIWTA will implement the project by June 2023. The government is funding the project with its own fund.

According to the shipping ministry, at least 1,655.10 lakh cubic metres of river routes are required to be dredged annually, while the country's overall dredging capacity is 846.50 lakh cubic metres.

Once the project is implemented, it will be possible to meet around 70.81 percent of the annual dredging requirement. It would keep ferries, launches, cargo and other river vessels functional on domestic river routes round the year.

The dredging capacity of BIWTA after procuring these dredgers and other water vessels will be increased by 325.60 lakh cubic metres per annum.

Besides, BIWTA is establishing seven dredging unit offices to make the process more dynamic. These places are -- Shimulia, Barishal, Madaripur, Rampal (Khulna), Aricha, Jamalpur and Chandpur.



Amra Krishak Santan formed a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday, demanding that the government purchase rice from farmers at fair price. PHOTO: STAR

'Mugger' wounded in 'gunfight' with police in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An alleged mugger was wounded in a "gunfight" with police in port city's Khulshi area early yesterday.

The injured, Md Mamun Uddin, 26, was admitted to Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH), said police.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Khulshi Police Station Pranab Chowdhury said Mamun was a member of an active mugging gang in the city.

The gunfight took place in Bhangar Pol area of Khulshi at midnight, he added.

Police sources said a group of muggers had snatched Tk 3 lakh from a bus passenger introducing themselves as DB police in the city's Jhawtala area on May 21. Later, police started investigations and

arrested one Abu Jahed, 23, and Ariful Islam, 25, in connection to the incident and learned about Mamun.

OC Pranab said on information, police came to know about Mamun's location and a team went to the spot to arrest him. Sensing presence of police, Mamun and his associates started firing, forcing police personnel to retaliate.

Mamun was bullet-hit at one point while his cohorts fled the scene. Later, police arrested him and seized a makeshift gun and two rounds of bullets, he added.

Police recovered Tk 32,000 of the robbed money and seized a motorbike from Mamun's possession. Mamun stands accused in two cases filed with Kotwali and Fatikchhari police stations, he added.

Infant, student

FROM PAGE 5

Piya, 23, a student of Pabna Government Edward College, died instantly, said M Bahauddin Faruki, officer-in-charge of Ishwardi Police Station.

Her father Ashraful Islam from Azaltala village in the upazila was admitted to Ishwardi Upazila Health Complex.

Police seized the truck but the driver managed to flee.

In Dinajpur, a truck driver was killed on the spot as his vehicle hit a tree beside Dinajpur-Rangpur highway in Baro Mile area of Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased -- Md Sawan, 24 -- was from the upazila.

At least 7,221 people were killed and 15,466 others injured in 5,514 road crashes across the country last year, according to Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity's Annual Road Accident Report-2018.

On an average, almost 20 people got killed every day last year.



Garment Sramik Trade Union Kendra demonstrated on the capital's Topkhana Road yesterday, demanding that arrears and festival bonuses of RMG workers be paid by tomorrow. PHOTO: STAR

Three-day celebration

FROM PAGE 5

According to the book "Nazrul Jiboner Trishal Oddhay" by researcher Rashedul Anam, also assistant director of Institute of Nazrul Studies at Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, the poet stayed at Kazir Shimla and Darirampur in Trishal for a year in his boyhood and studied at Darirampur High School (now Nazrul Academy).

Kazi Rafizullah, a sub-inspector of police then working in Bardhaman, brought Nazrul to his village home in Kazir Shimla in 1913 and enrolled him in class VI at the school, said Anam.

Bipin Chandra Chakraborty was the then headmaster of the school. English teacher Mohim Chandra Khasnabish is quoted: "Nazrul remained silent and absent-minded in class." Nazrul was good at poetry recitation, Mohim Chandra had apparently said.

Nazrul later shifted to Bechutia Bepari's

house in Trishal Namapara to shorten his six-mile commute from Kazir Shimla. According to several accounts, young Nazrul was often found playing flute under a banyan tree on the way to school.

Nazrul left Trishal for West Bengal the same year, leaving a heartfelt letter for his headmaster that apparently moved the teacher. Before leaving, Nazrul only informed Bepari's daughter-in-law Saforjaan Banu.

Initiated by PA Nazir, the then deputy commissioner of Mymensingh who also hailed from Bardhaman, Nazrul's birth anniversary celebrations started in Trishal in 1965, Anam said.

To keep the poet's memory alive, Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University was established in Trishal in 2005. Marking the occasion, the university authorities have also planned a daylong programme on campus today.

Scalper arrested with 50 inter-city train tickets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Members of the Detective Branch (DB) of Chattogram Metropolitan Police (CMP) during a drive on Thursday night arrested a person with 50 inter-city train tickets from Tin Poler Matha area in the port city.

The arrestee was identified as Rustam Ali, 47, hailing from Mirsarai upazila in Chattogram, says a press release from DB.

On information, a team of DB conducted a drive in the area and arrested Rustam with 50 tickets for 61 seats of inter-city trains scheduled for May 24-26 around 9:30pm, the press release adds.

During primary interrogation, Rustam admitted that he secured those tickets in connivance with a section of Bangladesh Railway staff in Chattogram to resell those at a higher price.

Govt trying to kill

FROM PAGE 3

treatment as per her choice.

Otherwise, he warned, the government will be held responsible if anything untoward happens to the BNP chief, for lack of treatment.

Khaleda Zia has been receiving treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) since April 1.

Fakhrul alleged that her health has deteriorated at BSMMU.

"Her left shoulder froze earlier, now her right shoulder also froze. She's suffering from acute pain," he claimed.

The BNP leader also said that Khaleda is unable to move both her hands and get up from bed without help.

He said the party chairperson is suffering from high blood sugar as her diabetes remains uncontrollable even after using insulin.

Under the circumstances, the chairperson needs proper treatment at any other specialised hospital rather than BSMMU, Fakhrul said.

He alleged that government is showing an extremely vindictive attitude towards her by not allowing her to meet relatives even for once in a week.

Replying to a question, Fakhrul said, "We joined the parliament in the interest of democracy and our party."

"Khaleda Zia's release is not conditional since she legitimately deserves to be freed on bail," added the BNP senior leader.

Hizb ut-Tahrir

FROM PAGE 3

The team arrested Jahid based on information from one Riaz Uddin Sipai, an alleged IT operative of Hizb ut-Tahrir. Riaz was arrested from Keraniganj on May 9, the Anti-Terrorism Unit official said.

Jahid joined Hizb ut-Tahrir in 2005. For the last 14 years, he was involved in inviting people to join the militant outfit, the ATU official said.

"The arrestee was involved in conspiracy against the government. He used to hold secret meetings with Hizb ut-Tahrir members with an aim to remove the incumbent government," said Mahiduzzaman.

The Anti-Terrorism Unit team is trying to trace other members of the outfit, he added.

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3 Bangladeshis

FROM PAGE 5

"Eighteen-year-old Lina Khatun is from Narail, while the other girl, aged 17, is from Jessore," the OC said.

The boy, also aged 17, is from Sirajganj, he added.

They were arrested in Gujarat one and half years ago for entering the country illegally, the OC said, quoting the trio.

Following the arrest, they were produced before a court and sent to a juvenile correction centre for a year, he added.

After completing their imprisonment, the trio were kept in a shelter home until they were sent back to Bangladesh.

A gang of human traffickers smuggled the trio to India through Jessore border, promising lucrative jobs for them, the police official said.

Request for Proposal (RFP) ADVERTISEMENT RFP-BD-2019-021

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh is inviting Request for Proposal from interested Organizations for Establishment of Long-Term Agreement (LTA) for Recruitment, Contracting and Payroll Management of Community Organizer position of UNDP Project. This procurement process will be conducted through online e-tendering system of UNDP. Interested firms who wish to submit the RFP document must register in the system to access the Bidding document (RFP). To register please visit the link: <https://etendering.partneragencies.org> and use the user name and password provided below to start the registration:

Username: event.guest
Password: why2change [Event ID: RFP-19-021]

The complete user guide and Bidding document (RFP) can also be downloaded from the UNDP Bangladesh website in the link below: <http://www.bd.undp.org/content/bangladesh/en/home/operations/procurement/>

The date of the Pre-Proposal meeting is Thursday, 30 May 2019, 11.00 am (LOCAL BD TIME)
Venue: UNDP Office, IDB Bhaban, (19th floor), Sher-e-Bangla Dhaka

The deadline for submission of RFP Document is Wednesday, June 12, 2019, 4:30 PM (LOCAL BD TIME)/(NY TIME)

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