

Man hacked by nephew

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Patuakhali

A man was hacked allegedly by his nephew over a disputed land at Amalbaria village in Rangabali upazila of the district on Friday night.

Injured Mahbub Pyada, 50, of the village, was admitted to the upazila health complex.

Police and locals said there was a longstanding conflict between Mahbub and his brother Mosharrif Pyada over the land.

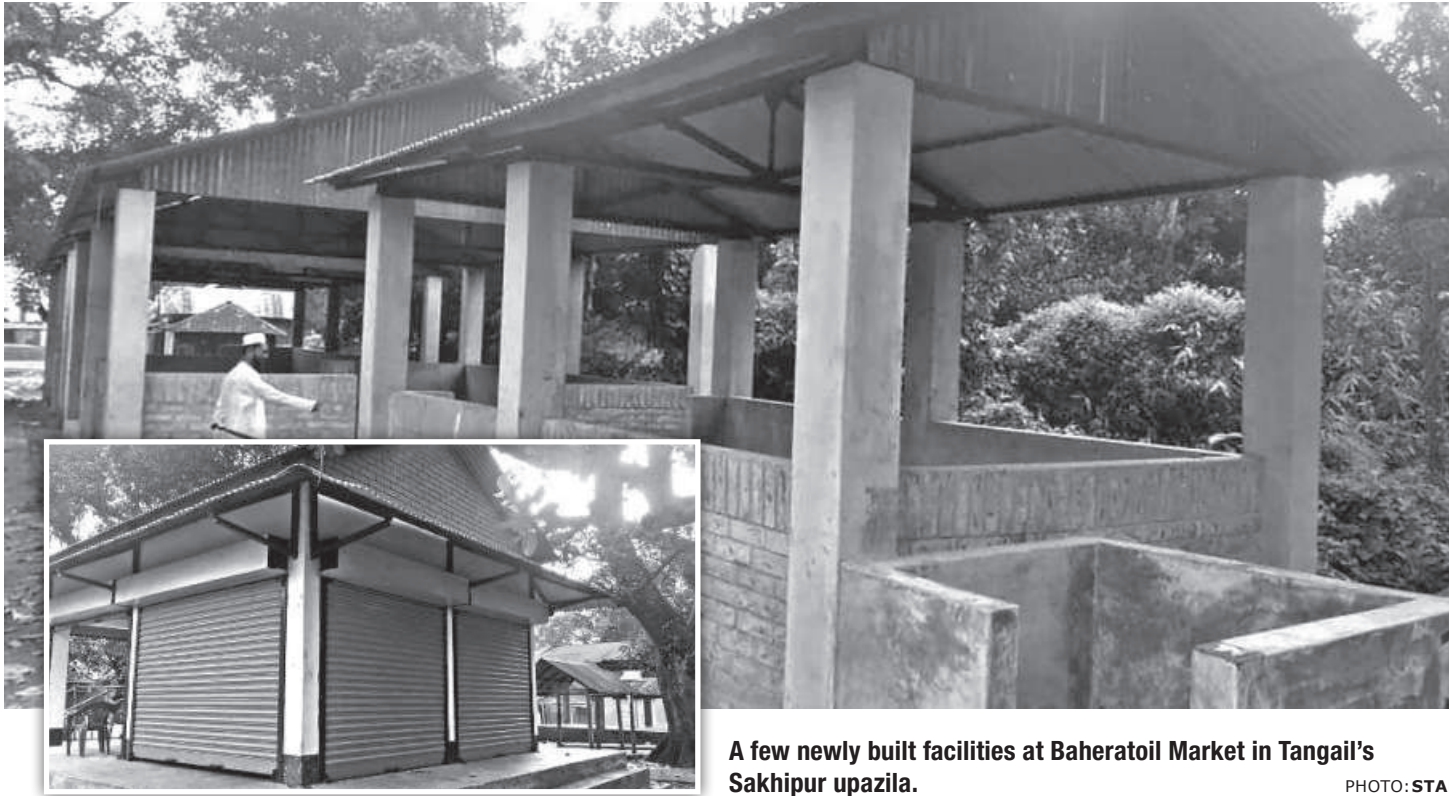
Mosharrif recently built a house on the disputed land. Mahbub then filed a case with Rangabali Police Station in this regard that angered Mosharrif and his sons—Hasan and Erap.

On Friday, Hasan Pyada attacked Mahbub with a sharp weapon and fled the scene when the latter came out of a local mosque after offering Magrib prayers.

Ali Ahmed, officer-in-charge (OC) of the police station, said they were trying their best to arrest the attacker.

They were investigating the matter, said the OC.

Village market gets 'growth centre' with multiple facilities



A few newly built facilities at Baheratoil Market in Tangail's Sakhipur upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A 'growth centre' with multiple facilities has been constructed at Baheratoil Market in Tangail's Sakhipur upazila, much to the happiness for the buyers and sellers in the traditional market in the remote rural area.

The arrangements include a shed with four corners for the female sellers, separate corners for selling meat, fish, and vegetables, a slaughterhouse, tube-well, electric motor and water tank, an office room for the market management committee, concrete pavements inside the market, and separate toilets for men and women.

Joaherul Islam, lawmaker of Tangail-8 (Sakhipur-Basail) constituency, inaugurated the growth centre on Friday afternoon.

Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) built the centre at a cost of Tk 73.65 lakh under Northern Bangladesh Integrated Development Project, officials said.

Japan International Cooperation Agency provided the fund.

The growth centre has been constructed at the ancient market for providing various facilities for sellers and buyers in the remote area famous for producing different vegetables and fruits, said Md Golam Azam, executive engineer of LGED in Tangail.

The infrastructure will help to increase trade and market turnover, alongside minimising losses by protecting the agriculture commodities from the sun and rain, he added.

Mamud Ali, president of Traders' Association of Baheratoil Market, thanked the government for constructing the growth centre as it will facilitate easy marketing of local produce including vegetables and fruits and provide protection to the buyers and sellers during rain and storm.

Commuters' suffering mounts as bus strike enters 5th day



Buses lie idle at Dinajpur bus terminal yesterday, the fifth day of the strike enforced by bus owners and workers in the district. Right, three-wheelers remain the lone alternative for many commuters due to the situation.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Operation of private owned passenger buses on different routes remained suspended for the last five days, much to the suffering of passengers in Dinajpur.

Initially, the transport workers on Tuesday started a strike, opposing the newly enacted Transport Act.

They resumed plying of buses on different routes on Wednesday morning but, at around 11:30am, bus owners and workers stopped running their buses protesting the operation of six double-decker buses of Bangladesh Road

Transport Authority (BRTC) on Dinajpur-Ghoraghat, Dinajpur-Rangpur and Dinajpur-Panchagarh routes.

Due to the situation, many people are taking risky rides on battery and shallow engine run three-wheelers to travel to their destinations.

These three-wheelers are carrying passengers to Phulbari, Parbatipur and Birganj upazilas of Dinajpur and Saidpur of Nilphamari district, from Phulbari Bus Stand, Dinajpur Government College intersection and Dosh Mile area of Kaharol upazila of Dinajpur.



PHOTO: KONGKONKARMAKER

"Due to the strike, I am travelling on battery-run three-wheeler instead of bus to attend my office in Parbatipur upazila," said Azmal Hossain of Balubari area in Dinajpur town.

Passengers at Hili immigration port are also facing to reach their destination due to the suspension of bus transport.

However, buses of Dinajpur-Dhaka route are plying.

Contacted, Bhabani Sankar Agarwala, president of Dinajpur Bus Owners Group, said, "Double-decker buses of BRTC started plying different routes on Wednesday

although there is no permit to run the buses on inter-district routes. Those can be operated in city areas only."

"Bus owners and workers will not operate the vehicles until the dispute is settled. The deputy commissioner [DC] of Dinajpur can settle the issue through discussion with the authorities of BRTC, bus owners and transport workers," he said.

This correspondent tried to reach Dinajpur DC Mahmudul Alam through his mobile yesterday afternoon but it was found off.

No committee formed in Galachipa AL council

Thakurgaon municipality council today
STAR COUNTRY DESK

The council of Galachipa upazila unit of Awami League ended in the upazila town on Friday without announcement of any committee for the unit.

AL's Patuakhali unit General Secretary Kazi Alamgir Hossain said the council meeting was held in a peaceful manner.

However, after the local lawmaker's name was proposed for the post of Galachipa unit president, contradicting directives from the party's central command, they adjourned the meeting without announcing the committee, he added.

A section of supporters of the local lawmaker, SM Shahjada of Patuakhali-3 (Galachipa-Dashmina), proposed his name in the evening session of the meeting.

A total of five names were also proposed for the general secretary post during the same session, reports our correspondent in Patuakhali.

On November 15 in Dhaka, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader during a press briefing at the AL president's Dhanmondi political office urged members of parliament not to contest the party's upazila councils for president and general secretary posts.

AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has already given an instruction in this regard so the MPs do not contest in the AL upazila councils, Quader said, adding that the MPs will be able to compete for posts in the AL district councils.

On Friday, the council of AL Galachipa upazila unit was inaugurated around 10:30am by Advocate Afzal Hossain, information and research secretary of AL.

Santosh Dey, president of AL's Galachipa unit, presided over the programme while Advocate Shahjahan Mia, Patuakhali-1 lawmaker and also president of AL's Patuakhali district unit, was the chief guest.

This correspondent was unable to reach lawmaker SM Shahjada for his comments as several calls made on his cell phone went unanswered.

THAKURGAON MUNICIPALITY AL COUNCIL TODAY
AL's Thakurgaon municipality unit is scheduled to hold its council today. The last council of the unit was held seven years ago.

The programme will be held at Zila Parishad Auditorium in the town, our Thakurgaon correspondent reports.

Thakurgaon-1 lawmaker Ramesh Chandra Sen, also a presidium member of AL, is likely to attend the council as the chief guest.

Nazrul Islam, the incumbent president of the unit, said 288 councillors will take part in the council.

Free health service through 'Panacea Health App'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Tiger IT Bangladesh Ltd, an Information Technology (IT) based organisation, launched its second camp in order to provide free health services to people through a software app at Jhawla Gopalpur Bazar in Jamalpur Sadar upazila on Friday.

The app developed by the organisation has been named 'Panacea Health App' which is, on trial basis, applied to provide services on different health issues including mental health, said software engineer Sajjadul Hakim, vice president of Tiger IT Bangladesh.

Health service-seeking people will have access to health services by having their registration with face recognition, data entry of personal information and video conferencing with doctors or psychologists through the app.

The patients, who will seek services on health and mental issues through the app, will be given



counseling and even be prescribed by the doctors or specialists concerned, said Sajjadul.

The app is expected to be released early next year. After it is released, Tiger IT Foundation, sister concern of the organisation, will promote the app in order to provide health services to the people across the country free of cost, he added.

A nine-member team, led by Sajjadul Hakim, provided health services to 110 people of Jamalpur through Panacea Health App as a part of trial attempt which brought success.

The team included health technology researchers, physicians and psychologist. The organisation launched its first camp in Jamalpur on November 1.

Schoolboy among 4 'rapists' arrested

STAR COUNTRY DESK

Three youths and a schoolboy were held on charge of raping a young woman and two minor girls in three districts yesterday and the day before.

Police yesterday arrested two youths on charge of raping a 23-year-old girl in Pirojpur Sadar upazila, reports our correspondent.

The arrestees are Shuvo Sheikh, 22, of Gajalia village and Bellal Khan, 32, of Daudpur village in the upazila.

Quoting the victim, police said the girl is known to Shuvo. On Friday night, Shuvo took the girl to Koibortokhali village. Later, he along with four other youths raped the girl in an orchard there overnight.

The victim was sent to the civil surgeon's office for medical test.

A case was filed, accusing four known and some unknown people.

They were trying their best to arrest the accused, said Sadar police.

In Dinajpur, an alleged rapist was held in Dinajpur Sadar upazila on Friday, reports our correspondent.

The arrestee is Sona Mia, 23, son of Nur Islam of Nishchintapur village.

Police said Sona Mia was arrested on charge of raping a six-year-old girl on Friday noon, said Mozaffar Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Sadar Police Station.

The arrestee was produced before a court that sent him to jail yesterday, said the OC.

According to our Mymensingh correspondent, police on Friday night arrested a schoolboy on charge of raping his four-year-old cousin in Netrakona's Khaliyajury upazila.

The victim's brother lodged a case with Khaliyajury Police Station, accusing the 14-year-old boy, a Class VIII student of a local school.

OC ATM Mahmudul Haque said the boy allegedly entered the girl's house when she was alone there and raped her on November 18.



Workers cut tree trunks into pieces at Sheotgari Mahmudia Senior Madrasa in Domar upazila of Nilphamari recently. Upon receiving written complaint from a member of the madrasa managing committee, Domar upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) asked the upazila forest department to investigate into the allegation of felling the trees for personal gains. In its report submitted to the UNO yesterday, the department said they found madrasa Principal Abdus Sattar responsible for felling eight trees of the institution without following due procedures. UNO Umme Fatima said necessary action will be taken soon.

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