



21-year-old tied to pole, hacked in C'nawabganj

2 held; mother accuses Jamaat supporters

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

Police have arrested two suspects after a young man was tied to an electric pole and hacked in Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj on Wednesday.

The victim, Abu Sufian Siju, 21, was first taken to a local hospital and later referred to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

As his condition worsened, he was transferred to the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NIOR) in Dhaka on Thursday.

Doctors have said Siju's left arm may need to be amputated after attackers used sharp weapons to hack his left arm, left leg and right hand, his mother Sufia Begum told The Daily Star yesterday.

Blaming local activists of Jamaat-

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Inqilab Moncho activists continue their sit-in at Shahbagh intersection for the second day yesterday, demanding arrest of those responsible for the killing of Sharif Osman Bin Hadi; speedy trial of the perpetrators; and resignation of government officials who failed to prevent the murder or arrest the killers. Story on page 1.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

‘Section of govt allowed attacks on the media’

Nurul Kabir questions inaction despite prior threats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Editors' Council President Nurul Kabir yesterday alleged that a section of the government allowed the attacks on Prothom Alo, The Daily Star and Chhayanaut to take place.

“We clearly know that announcements were made a day or two before to destroy Prothom Alo, The Daily Star and Chhayanaut. Everyone, including the government, knows who made them,” Kabir said.

The New Age editor made the remarks at the 6th Broadcast Conference of the Broadcast Journalist Center at the International Mother Language Institute in the capital.

Kabir questioned why the authorities failed to act despite open threats, noting that such intimidation constitutes a criminal offence.

“The government did not arrest them beforehand to prevent it. That is why we have said that some part of the government allowed this event to happen,” he said, adding that an “organised force” with clear political identities carried out the attacks.

Information Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan, the chief guest at the event, admitted that the government's response was not proactive enough.

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Cold wave, dense fog disrupt flights, ferries

3 killed, dozens injured in road collisions

STAR REPORT

As Bangladesh continues to shiver under the ongoing cold wave, dense fog has blanketed much of the country, disrupting ferry services and flights.

Temperatures fell below 11°C in multiple districts, especially in the northern areas.

“The situation will not improve for another two to three days,” said Bazlur Rashid, senior meteorologist at the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD).

A mild cold wave is sweeping Jashore, Chuadanga, Gopalganj, Rajshahi, Pabna, Sirajganj and Nilphamari, and it may persist in some areas, according to a Met Office bulletin.

Streets and riverbanks wore a misty veil early in the morning yesterday as residents braced against the sudden chill.

Meanwhile, the poor visibility due to dense fog likely caused at least three road collisions yesterday morning, killing three people and injuring 30 others in Faridpur, Tangail, and Munshiganj.

In Faridpur, three people were killed and two others injured in a head-on collision between an ambulance and a truck on the Dhaka-Khulna highway at the Munsurabad bus stand area in Bhanga upazila around 7:30am.

The deceased are Mizanur Rahman, 40, and his sister Beauty Begum, 30, of Keshabpur upazila in Jashore; and Nishan Ullah, 23, son of Rahmat Ullah from Rajganj village in Jashore's Manirampur upazila.

The injured were rescued and taken to Faridpur Medical College Hospital.

Following the collision, the truck driver fled

the scene, said Bhanga Highway Police Officer-in-Charge Helal Uddin.

In Tangail, at least 22 passengers were injured when two buses collided at Haripur in Ghatail upazila around 8:00am. The collision triggered a tailback of hundreds of vehicles, bringing the Tangail-Jamalpur highway to a standstill.



Witnesses said a Dhaka-bound bus of Binimoy Paribahan collided head-on with a bus of Prantik Paribahan.

Of the injured, 11 were admitted to Tangail General Hospital and one to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital; the remaining 10 received first aid and were discharged, according to authorities.

In Munshiganj, at least six passengers were injured when a bus rear-ended a truck on the Dhaka-Mawa Expressway in Srinagar upazila around 12:45am.

Several passengers were trapped inside the bus following the collision. A team from the

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‘Minorities worry over their safety ahead of polls’

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Politics that foments religious or ethnic divisions would ultimately weaken the country, Debapriya Bhattacharya said yesterday.

“Such politics will harm the economy, and, in the future, undermine our international relations and global standing,” the noted economist said at a discussion titled “The Current Reality and Expectations of Human Rights of Minorities”, organised by the Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad at the CIRDAP Auditorium in the capital.

He added that religion-based politics is already creating an increasingly complex situation ahead of the polls. “Bangladesh should not view its religious minority citizens through the same political lens with which it views neighbouring India.”

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, said minorities are not attacked solely because of their religious identity. “There is a force behind these incidents, and its main driving power is political. The objectives are partisanship, land grabbing and establishing dominance.

“Over time, political corruption has transformed the state into a bearer of anti-minority practices, and oppression and repression continue.”

He added that the National Human Rights Commission has failed to

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Bomb-like objects, chemicals seized at madrasa after blast

3 held; hunt on for prime suspect



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered four crude bomb-like objects and 400 litres of chemical substances from a madrasa in South Keraniganj on Dhaka's outskirts, following an explosion there on Friday morning.

Law enforcers are now searching for several suspects, including Al Amin Sheikh, 33, a director of Ummal Qura International Madrasa, who was previously arrested on terror charges.

Yesterday, police detained three women linked to the incident: Al Amin's wife Asiya,

28; Yasmin Akhter, 30, wife of Asiya's elder brother Harun Or Rashid, both from Hasnabad; and Asmani Khatun, 34, from Basabo.

Meanwhile, preparations were on to file a case in connection with the incident as of the filing of this report around 8:30pm.

The explosion occurred at the madrasa in the Hasnabad Housing area around 10:00am on Friday, causing severe damage to the madrasa building and nearby establishments.

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Myanmar goes to the polls amid civil war

REUTERS

Myanmar heads to the polls on Sunday as it battles a civil war that has ravaged parts of the country as well as one of Asia's worst humanitarian crises.

Already one of Southeast Asia's poorest countries, Myanmar has been hammered by a conflict triggered by a 2021 coup in which the military ousted an elected civilian government led by Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi.

Myanmar's humanitarian crisis is one of the most severe in Asia, driven by the intensifying civil war and repeated natural disasters, including a massive earthquake in March.

The ruling junta has previously suppressed information about a severe food crisis gripping the

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As mustard flowers bloom across fields in the Barind region, farmers have placed beehive boxes amid the green and yellow rows to harvest honey. The photo was taken yesterday in the Darusha area of Paba upazila in Rajshahi.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Thailand, Cambodia agree truce

Weeks of border clashes kill at least 101; Asean to monitor ceasefire

REUTERS, Bangkok

Thailand and Cambodia ended weeks of fierce border clashes yesterday with a second ceasefire in recent months in the worst fighting in years between the Southeast Asian nations.

The ceasefire was holding, a Thai Defence Ministry spokesperson, Rear Admiral Surasant Kongsiri, told Reuters about two hours after it went into effect at noon (0500 GMT).

“So far there's been no report of gunfire,” he said.

Cambodia's Ministry of National Defence did not report any clashes after what it said had been a Thai airstrike early yesterday before the ceasefire announcement.

The agreement, signed by Thai Defence Minister Natthaphon Narkphanit and his Cambodian counterpart Tea Seiha, ended 20 days of fighting that killed at least 101 people and displaced more than half

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