

## NEWS SNAPS

## Three Indian girls arrested

**BSS, Panchagarh**  
Police arrested three Indian girls from Atowari upazila for intruding into Bangladesh territory on Tuesday.

The arrested were identified as Lucky, 14, and Akhi, 13, daughter of Hamidul Islam and Shikha, 13, daughter of Hasan Ali of village Joynagar Motilalpara in Joypur thana on Kolkata, West Bengal, India. According to police sources, on suspicion police arrested them from College intersection in Atowari upazila. They have no valid paper to entre Bangladesh. A case was filed with Atowari upazila in this connection.

## Two awarded 25-year RI in arms case

**BSS, Faridpur**  
Joint District and Special Tribunal Judge Sirajul Islam Roni in Faridpur on Thursday sentenced two persons including an accomplice of infamous Ershad Sikder to suffer 25 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) in an arms case.

Police in drive arrested Abul Kalam Azad an accomplice of notorious Ershad Shikdar of Khulna and Anwar Hossain Sadhu on August 11 in 2002 with two LG and six bullets from the suburb of the district town. Police Super (SP) Qazi Murtaz Ahmed led the police drive. Assistant Public Prosecutor (APP) Iktedar Hossain Bablu conducted the case on behalf of government.

## Work on UP complex goes on

**BSS, Laxmipur**  
Construction work on Kusa Khali union parishad complex building at sadar upazila of Laxmipur district is going on in full swing at a cost of 40.67,000 lakh taka.

Local member of parliament (MP) Shahid Uddin Choudhury Ane opened the construction work on Thursday. Upazila Engineer Gias Uddin, local BNP leader Moazem Hossain, Sharif Uddin Choudhury, and Mainuddin Choudhury Reaz were present. Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is providing funds for construction of the building.

## Human trafficker arrested

**BSS, Satkhira**  
A human trafficker was caught red-handed with two little boys from village Labsha by the villagers here on Saturday.

According to police sources, public caught red-handed a human trafficker Aysha Khatun, 30, wife of Osman Goni of Gopalganj district while she was trafficking the two boys Shihab, 3, son of Mozahid and his nephew Shamim, 2, of village Labsha in Sadar upazila. After given mass beating before being handed over to Sadar Thana Police.

A case was filed with Sadar Police Station.

## Loan for youths

**BSS, Khulna**  
The Kamosangsthan Bank disbursed 2,16,37,000 taka as loan among young persons in five years.

The bank realised 1,67,79,000 taka during this period. The percentage of loan recovery is 78 per cent, official sources said. In the last six months, the bank disbursed 47,05,000 among 143 youths and realised 43,57,000 taka from its borrowers. The loan has been given among 1051 young persons to make them self-employed. Of them, 371 persons were given loan for fisheries firms, 11 cattle rearing, 272 poultry firms, 43 to purchase of computers, 90 photocopy and sewings machines, 10 cottage industries and 210 different small business.

## Comilla BNP leader dead

**BSS, Comilla**

Chairman of Comilla municipality and BNP district unit (south) vice-president Kamaluddin Chowdhury died of cardiac arrest at Comilla Medical Centre early Thursday morning. He was 62.

He was elected chairman of Comilla municipality for three successive terms.

Late Kamaluddin left behind wife, one son, one daughter and hundreds of friends, relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain condoled the death of Kamaluddin. In a message, he expressed deep shock at the death and extended sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

He also prayed to Almighty Allah for the eternal peace of the departed soul.



PHOTO: A K M MOHSIN

Vehicles ply through dusty Mawa-Dhaka road. Dust poses a threat to smooth plying of transport vehicles on this route.

## Novel way to catch guest birds

**HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura**

Professional hunters and a section of unscrupulous people are hunting guest birds in Magura in a novel way.

They are mixing sedative tablets in food to hunt birds.

Some others are using different types of traps to catch winter birds defying government ban on it. Some unscrupulous people use net to catch guest birds.

As most of the licensed arms were deposited to the local adminis-

tration following government order, guest birds are safe in some parts of the district.

Experts said, every winter at least 230 varieties of guest birds such as Lanja, Digher, Banahar, Madantak, Shamukh Bhanga, Katchkata, Chakha, Dhaleswar, Manikjore, Kalkecho, Kayeem, Sarail, Chega, Pankauri, including different kinds of ducks come to our country from Siberia, Australia, North China and from the Himalayan region to save themselves from severe cold wave.

In Magura, these birds take shelter in different beels and haors (water bodies) like Naghoshar beel, Naliar beel, Haburedoa, Padma beel, beel Jhalmal, Mohammadpur boar, Ichamatir beel, Gayeshpur char, Kalisankarpur, Char Narandia, Babukhali, Gulir Char and Kasundir Char.

Bird lovers in the area informed, guest birds decrease every year because of the lust for birds among professional hunters.

They have demanded a safe haven for guest birds and urged the administration to be active.

## Largest Eid jamaat in Kishoreganj

**BSS, Kishoreganj**

The largest Eid jamaat of the country was held on the holy Eid-ul-Azha at historic Sholakia Eidgah here on Wednesday.

Hundreds of thousands of Muslims from across the country attended the largest Eid jamaat of the district. They also offered munajat seeking divine blessings for peace, progress and prosperity of the country as well as welfare of the Muslim Ummah. It was the 175th Eid-ul-Azha prayer at Sholakia Eidgah donated by Haibatnagar jamidar family. The first Eid Jamaat was held here in 1827.

A village fair has also been organised at the adjacent area of the Eidgah.

## Eid celebrated in districts

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The holy Eid-ul-Azha was celebrated in all the districts of the country with due religious fervour and enthusiasm on Wednesday.

**BSS reports:** In Rajshahi streams of people – young, old and children – rushed to nearest Eidgahs, mosques and open places in the morning to offer their Eid prayers. After the prayers special Munajat was offered seeking divine blessings for the peace, progress and prosperity of the country as well as greater welfare of the Muslim Ummah.

The main Eid jamaat was held at Shah Mukhdum (R) Eidgah Maidan at 9.00 in the morning. Mayor of

## Unilateral fare-hike by owners

## Bus passengers in Gaibandha suffer

**K M REZAUL HAQUE, Gaibandha**

Owners have enhanced bus fare in Gaibandha district, according to their sweet will.

They have done this ignoring a recent government decision. This results in frequent untoward incidents among bus passengers and conductors along the Gaibandha – Bogra and Gaibandha – Rangpur routes.

Soon after the government declaration to enhance bus fare by 16 per cent, bus owners in

Gaibandha have increased fare on the local routes abnormally creating a gap between old and new fare.

Earlier, the bus fare on Gaibandha Rangpur and Bogra was fixed at 30 taka. The fare has increased by 16 per cent. The present government rate is 35 taka. Now the bus owners charge 50 taka as one way fare on this route.

Earlier, Gaibandha Dhaka fare was 170 taka. Following the new government decision coach owners have been charging 230 taka in stead of 197.20 taka.

Zillur Rahman, president, Gaibandha District Bus Owners Association told The Daily Star that the distance between Gaibandha Rangpur or Gaibandha-Bogra is 75 kilometres. The government decided to increase bus fare by 0.75 taka per kilometre. One way fare of Gaibandha Rangpur stands at 56 taka. Dhaka- Gaibandha bus fare was fixed by Bangladesh Bus and Truck Owners' Association. 'So, we have nothing to say', Zillur said to The Daily Star.

## Obituary

**BSS, Barisal**

Abdus Sattar Khan, a valiant freedom fighter of village Char Hogla in Mehendigonj upazila of Barisal district, died of liver complications at his village home on Thursday last.

He was buried at his family graveyard with state honour. Upazila Muktijoddha Command has expressed deep shock at the death of the freedom fighter.

## Unfair!

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar**

The Telegraph and Telephone (T&T) Department, Moulvibazar has introduced a new system to know the exact time by dialling 14.

It is unfortunate that the caller gets confused and surprised when the computer tells the time 20 or 25 minutes ahead of the actual time. He has to pay a single local call charge for this reason which is unfair.

## 'Govt aware about rights of Hindus'

**BSS, Narsingdi**

Secretary General of BNP and Local Government, Rural Development (LGRD) and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan here on Thursday said the present government remained very much aware about protecting rights and interest of all communities including Hindus.

"The government remained very much careful so that rights of the members of the Hindu community were not frustrated," he said while addressing the inaugural function of a week-long annual religious function at the Sri Sri Gopinath Geo Akhra (Shrine) at Joshar union.

He said for the first time in 50 years, members of the Hindu community celebrated their greatest religious festival Durga Puja this year in a free and peaceful atmosphere. This is due to strict measures taken by the present government.

## RKUB disburses loan among farmers

**BSS, Pabna**

Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RKUB) has disbursed an amount of Tk 20,48,00,000 as loan among 9,482 farmers in Pabna district during the first five months of the current financial year.

According to official sources, the loan has been disbursed for Iri-boro paddy, wheat, sugarcane, betel leaf and potato cultivation, purchasing of bulls and agricultural machinery and cattle rearing. The bank has fixed up a target to disburse an amount of Tk 35 cr as agricultural loans and other loans here in the current financial year. The bank has also realised an amount of Tk 27,23,00,000 lakh outstanding loan from 9,656 farmers here in the same period.