

SNAPS

Highwaymen kill bus passenger

UNB, Keraniganj Highwaymen killed a passenger and looted cash and valuables worth Tk 50,000 from a night coach at Rajendapur on Saturday.

Police said the muggers intercepted the Mawa-bound bus at 9 pm and looted the valuables from the passengers at gunpoint. They also stabbed Mohammad Ali, 50, to death and injured four others when they tried to resist them.

Training for jobless youths

UNB, Madaripur Youth Development Department is imparting training to 180 unemployed youths of Madaripur under its poverty alleviation programme.

Officials said the youths are being imparted training on shorthand, typewriting, computer programming and sewing. The training is likely to be completed by June. After completion of the training the department will provide them with loan for self-employment.

6 of 11 sea trucks in coastal routes out of order

AKTER FARUK, Barisal

Six of the 11 BIWTC sea trucks plying different routes in the coastal areas are out of order for long, causing great inconvenience to people.

As a result, sea truck service in five important routes are suspended. The routes are Shashiganj-Manpura, Kaaia-Nazirpur, Char Alekzander-Char Daulatkhan, TeknafSt Martin and Mongla-Hiron Point.

People of the coastal areas and off-shore islands are using small mechanised boats, which is very

much risky in the season of storms and nor'westers now.

Four of the six sea trucks are under repair at different dockyards at Narayanganj and engines of two others have to be replaced, BIWTA Manager Habibur Rahman said when contacted.

He could not say when repair of the four will be completed. There has not been any initiative by BIWTA authorities to replace engines of the two others, he said.

Sea truck service in the coastal areas was introduced after independence with four vessels - Gitali, Mitali, Shefali and Rupali which

were gifts from foreign countries.

Four more -- Khijir 1, Khijir 2, Khijir 3, and Khijir 4 -- built in Bangladesh at a cost of Tk 5 crore were added to the BIWTA fleet in 2000.

Another four -- Khijir-5, Khijir-6, Khijir-7 and Khijir 8 -- bought from China at a cost of Tk 21 crore were pressed into service in 2001.

Rupali sank four years ago. The vessels under repair include Khilji-7, brought from China, sources said.

Eight pushed in by BSF in Meherpur

UNB, Meherpur

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) pushed eight people into Bangladesh through Buripota border in the Sadar upazila in the early hours of Sunday, sources said.

Local people said those pushed in are Bengali-speaking Indian citizens.

Of the eight, Arati Biswas, Punai Mondol and Shikder said they had been living in Kolkata for the last 30 years. They were arrested by police and handed over to the BSF.

When contacted, BDR Commander at Mirpur Col. Badrul Islam said he is investigating the matter.

PCP protests attack on Ctg UPDF office

A RU CORRESPONDENT

The Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) unit at Rajshahi University (RU) staged a demonstration on the Rajshahi University campus on Sunday protesting the May 13 attack on United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF) office in Chittagong by activists of Jana Sanghati Samity (JSS).

The JSS activists also kidnapped three villagers including RU student Kakon Dewan, PCP sources said. Kakon, a third year student of Bangla department had gone to visit home.

The PCP activists demanded immediate rescue of the kidnapped persons and arrest of the culprits.

Ulipur OC under fire for hand in gambling, porno racket

UNB, Kurigram

The district law and order committee at its meeting on Saturday asked the police superintendent to immediately withdraw the officer-in-charge (OC) of Ulipur thana and to take disciplinary steps against him for promoting immoral activities and harassing innocent people.

Minister-in-charge of the district LK Siddiqui presided over the meeting that heard allegations against OC Mahbubul Kuddus Siddiqui, posted at Ulipur only 45 days ago.

It was alleged at the meeting that Kuddus patronised gambling and blue film shows and realised money from innocent people by implicating them in false cases.

District BNP President Idris Ali cited instances to substantiate the allegations, meeting sources said.

But the sources said the OC has strong backing in the administration.

UP member killed by nephew

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A newly elected Union Parishad (UP) member was stabbed to death by his nephew at Choto Moheskhal union in Moheskhal upazila.

According to police sources, there was a dispute over a personal matter between one Nazir Hossain and his uncle Kamal Uddin for sometime. Nazir requested his maternal uncle and UP member Ibrahim Khalil to solve the dispute. But Ibrahim avoided the matter. At one stage angry nephew Nazir Hossain stabbed his 45-year-old uncle on Saturday night when he was returning home. Ibrahim died on the spot.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Sadar hospital morgue. A case has been filed with Moheskhal Police station. The killer was absconding after murder.

Another report says: Cox's Bazar Sadar thana police recovered a body from a residential hotel on Saturday midnight. The victim was identified as Md Umor Farook, 30.

Wife burnt to death at Savar for dowry

UNB, Savar

A woman was burnt to death allegedly by her husband for dowry in Sobujbag area of the Pourashava on Saturday.

Police and locals said Azad Hossain poured kerosene on his wife Sakhina Begum, 26, mother of two children, and set fire to her body as she failed to bring dowry from her parents.

She was rushed to nearby Enam Medical College Hospital where doctors declared her dead.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy. Azad has gone into hiding. A case has been filed.



Minister for Land M Shamsul Islam, 2nd from left, among others, appreciating a photo at an exhibition at Narayanganj. A three-day photo show of photojournalist Shamim Noor concluded on Saturday at Ali Ahmed Chunka auditorium at the port town.

Tidal surge in Cox's Bazar 200 homeless people still in cyclone shelters

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

At least 200 people are still in cyclone shelters at Dhalghata union of Moheskhal upazila following Friday's tidal surge.

Vast areas in Cox's Bazar Sadar, Moheskhal, Kutubdia, Ukhia and Chokoria upazilas were inundated in the surge that caused extensive damage to crops, shrimp farms and salt beds. About 1,000 houses in coastal areas in the district were destroyed.

A three-kilometre stretch of the under-construction Cox's Bazar-Teknaf road has been partially damaged, causing a loss

of about Tk 3 crore. The road had gone under three feet water.

Trafficker held

UNB, Jhenidah

A female trafficker was caught red-handed at village Kullapara in Kaliganj upazila on Saturday.

Police said local people caught Lucky when she and two of her accomplices were taking away five children - Masum, 5, Priya, 3, Marzan, 5, Kaniz, 4, and Tahera, 3, - from the village making them unconscious.

Freshers' reception at RU

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Islamic History and Cultural department at Rajshahi University (RU) held a freshers' reception and farewell to outgoing students at Kazi Nazrul Islam auditorium on the campus on Sunday.

RU Vice-chancellor Prof Faisal Islam Faruki was the chief guest. Pro Vice-chancellor KHM Shahadat Hossain Mondol was the special guest at the function presided over ABM Shahajan, chairman of the department.

The function was followed by a cultural show presented by students of the department.

72 families evicted from govt allocated land in Noakhali

UNB, Noakhali

At least 72 families were evicted from government lands on the outskirts of the town on Saturday without any prior notice.

Those evicted include freedom fighters, journalists and government employees. They had built houses on five acres of government khas land after completion of

preliminary process of allocation from the district administration in 1987.

Most of them were paying land tax to the concerned department.

The allocations were made on the basis of clearance from the chief engineer of Public Works Department that there would be no government project on the land.

The district administration evicted the families without examining the papers and prior notice, the settlers alleged.

When contacted, Deputy Commissioner Mostafa Kamal Haider Chowdhury said the eviction drive was part of the ongoing countrywide programme.



Jessore Community Hospital, first of its kind in the district town in the private sector, was inaugurated through a simple function on Thursday. Information Minister Tariqul Islam (sitting 3rd from right) inaugurated the modern hospital.