

SNAPS

Youth killed**UNB, Keraniganj**

A youth was crushed under the wheels of a minibus at the southern part of Buriganga bridge on Saturday.

Police recovered the body of Mahbul Alam, 25, and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed.

Girl 'commits**Suicide'****UNB, Pirojpur**

A minor girl allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at Andharmanik village in Mathbaria upazila on Saturday.

Police said Rozina Akter, 10, daughter of Abdul Barrek took her own life following an altercation with her elder sister.

Eye camp held**UNB, Noakhali**

A daylong eye camp was held here on the premises of Habibullahat High School in Charjubi union of Charjabbar upazila on Saturday.

Rural Integrated Development Organisation (RIDO) organised the camp with the assistance of Comilla Blind Welfare Association. A total of 350 patients received treatment from the camp conducted by four ophthalmologists.

Spurious drug**seized****UNB, Comilla**

Police, in separate drives, seized spurious drug and smuggled goods worth over Tk 94 lakh from different areas of the district in last 15 months till April this year.

Police sources said they also recovered eight firearms, 10 rounds of bullet and 2,016 chocolate bombs during the period.

Seminar on**women's****self-reliance****UNB, Pirojpur**

A daylong seminar on 'Removing the social barriers for making women self-reliant' was held at the Zila Parishad auditorium on Saturday.

Deputy Commissioner M Azma Hossain, Acting Deputy Director of Youth Development Department Khan Mahbubuzzaman, Alamgir Hossain and Aslam Baten attended as discussants in the workshop. A total of 80 women took part in the workshop organised by district Youth Development Department.

Goats for poor**families****UNB, Khagrachhari**

A total of 2,113 goats were distributed among the 843 poor families in eight upazilas of the district at a cost of Tk 22 lakh.

The goats were distributed under the Prime Minister's Poverty Alleviation Programme Through Goat Rearing.

Smuggled**medicine****seized****UNB, Chandpur**

Police seized three cartons of smuggled Indian medicine from a train at Court station here on Saturday.

Police said they raided the Chandpur-bound Meghna Express and seized the medicine worth Tk 3 lakh from the engine room.

Two minor girls**rescued from****brothel****UNB, Rajbari**

Police rescued two minor girls from Doulatdia brothel and arrested two women traffickers and a pimp on Friday.

The arrested are pimp Safia Begum and women traffickers Sahela Begum, 40 and Kohinur Begum, 35.

6 bandits with**pipe guns nabbed****from Sundarbans****BSS, Mongla**

Fishermen and forest guards nabbed six armed robbers along with three pipeguns from Indukhali canal in the Sundarbans on Thursday midnight.

Police sources said, the bandits were rounded up by local fishermen and forest guards following a gunfight between two rival groups of dacoits.

The arrested were identified as Nasir Talukder, Babul Howlader, Lalan Sheikh, Lukman Fakir, Shamsu Sheikh and Rahim Sheikh. Four of them hailed from Bagerhat Sadar and two from Rupsha and Moralganj upazilas of the district.

Separate case was filed with the concerned police stations.

Sher-e-Bangla Medical College in sorry state

Posts of principal, vice-principal, 60 others vacant

AKTER FARUK, Barisal

Academic activities at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College (SBMC) is being greatly hampered as posts of about sixty teachers and technicians including those of principal and vice-principal are vacant for long.

Against 150 posts there are now 92 teachers including professors, associated professors, assistant professors, lecturers and technicians.

The post of principal is vacant since January and that of vice-principal for about a year now, sources at the college said.

There are only 24 associate professors against 35 posts and 37 assistant professors against 41 posts.

Most of them are working on 'current duty' basis.

There is no professor in the Anatomy, Physiology, Bio-Chemistry, Pathology, Surgery, Medicine, Radiology and Radiotherapy departments.

Plastic Surgery and Nephrology

departments have no teacher. The only post of professor at the Plastic Surgery department is vacant since July 2000. The only associate professor at the Plastic Surgery department went to Japan for higher training in February this year.

In the Community Medicine department, one associate professor is on 'current duty' of a professor and one assistant professor is on 'current duty' of an associate professor.

Both of the posts of professor in the Medicine department are vacant after retirement of a professor in January. One associated professor is in charge of professor and two others are on 'current duty' in this department.

In Pediatric department, one associate professor is on duty of a professor. Two of the three assistant professors are also on 'current duty'.

The posts of a professor, an associate professor and two assistant professors are filled up on 'current duty' basis in Microbiology Department.

Probe body on Bhomra land port incident submits report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The high level three-member body formed to probe Bhomra land port incident submitted its report yesterday, recommending necessary action against the real culprits involved in smuggling 104 tonnes of jute seeds from India.

The probe body included high officials of the ministries of law, home and the National Board Revenue.

Meanwhile, leaders of Customs Executive Officers' Association said they will announce the next course of their movement after seeing what action is taken against the accused.

BDR seized 104 tonnes of Indian jute seeds and arrested 19 men from the land port on May 5. The

arrested included four customs officials and 15 Indian truck workers.

A case was lodged with Satkhira thana.

Later, an indefinite strike was called both at Bhomra and Benapole land ports in protest against arrest of customs officials and for their unconditional release.

The customs Executive officer's Association also demanded withdrawal of case against customs personnel and apology by BDR.

The strike was, however, called off with the intervention of state minister for finance. Arrested customs personnel were released on bail.

Meanwhile the government decided to close Bhomra land port from June 6.

No adequate treatment facilities for TB patients in Tangail

BSS, Tangail

Tuberculosis (TB) patients in Tangail district have been facing immense sufferings due to lack of adequate treatment facilities at Sontosh TB Clinic in Tangail Sadar upazila.

Local people said the number of TB patients has been increasing day by day in the district posing a threat to public health.

Elite of the town and affected people urged the authorities concerned to arrange easy treatment facilities in the clinic for poor and

labourers in the district.

Most of the labourers, working in tobacco factories, fall prey to the disease and usually they do not go to clinics for treatment due to poverty.

More than 12 tobacco factories are situated in Tangail town and rural areas of the district. There is no health facilities for the workers in the factories.

Poor people suffering from malnutrition become sick and TB patients within a few years, they added.

Noble act thwarted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A function to award scholarships to meritorious sons and daughters of poor freedom fighters at Kalaroa was foiled by BNP activists allegedly for not inviting the local BNP lawmaker as chief guest.

M R Foundation, a local philanthropic organisation, arranged a function on Tuesday last on Kalaroa Shaheed Minar premises to distribute the scholarships. The foundation has been distributing such scholarships for some years.

Skeikh Amanullah, president of

Bangladesh Teachers Federation, local journalists and the elite came to attend the function, scheduled for 4pm.

A group of BNP-JCD activists under the leadership of Rafiqul Islam, president of Kalaroa thana BNP, who is also the elder brother of BNP MP Habidul Islam Habib, asked them to leave the place. He ordered the party men to stop the mike and they did.

After repeated appeals by the organisers, they allowed handover of cheques for the scholarships to 21 recipients without any ceremony, the organisers said.

Medical camp concludes

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A three-day medical camp concluded at the Kabi Shaikh Fazlal Karim Girls High School ground here on Friday.

Ten specialist doctors coming from different areas of the country including Dhaka treated patients at the camp, organised by Lalmonirhat Diabetic Samity.

The doctors were Dr Khaza Nazimuddin, Prof. AK Azad Khan, Dr Mahabubul Alam, Dr Faruk Pathan, Prof Sirazul Haque, Dr Azizul Bari, Dr. Mir Nazrul Islam, Dr Abu Hasan Mohammad Abdullah, Dr Zahir Al-Amin, Major Dr. Layla Arzumando Banu (Rtd), Prof. AH Saidur Rahman.

5 cops hurt in Sirajganj road mishap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Five policemen were injured, three of them critically, when a Dhaka-bound coach collided with a police van near Shahjadpur BSIC crossing on the Bogra-Nagorbari highway on Saturday night

The three critically injured policemen were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital. They are Protab, 40, Enamul Haque, 39 and Mizanur Rahman, 35. The two others were given first aid.

Police seized the coach belonging to Raja-Badsha Paribahan and arrested its driver Aslam Khan.

Eight murderers get life term in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A court here on Saturday sentenced eight people to life term imprisonment in a murder case.

Another accused, Gulam, was awarded one year rigorous imprisonment (RI).

Additional District Judge GMS Farid found the nine guilty and pronounced the judgement. He acquitted eight others as charges brought against them were not proved.

The convicts are Mofizul, Shamsur Rahman, Sohrab, Kamrul, Lablu Sarder, Ruhul Amin, Alim Uddin and Fazlul Huq.

All the nine are inhabitants of village Kudakati in Assassuni upazila.

According to the prosecution, the convicts swooped on Zobaiful Haq, son of Mokbul Hossain of village Khanihati in the same upazila on March 4, 1995 and stabbed him. The victim was admitted to Satkhira hospital and later shifted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he died on March 21.

The victim's father filed a murder case with Assassuni police station accusing 17 people.

Police, after investigation, pressed charges against 17 people.

Kaliakoir killings

Main accused held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj.

The main accused in the four-murder incident at Kaliakoir was arrested from Pach Ganguli village in Faridpur upazila in Pabna district on Saturday night.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team led by DB Inspector Nurul Alam raided the village and arrested Rafizuddin, 45. He is a leader of an outlawed party, wanted for long, police said.

On the night of May 14, a gang of outlaws raided Kaliakoir village in Ullapara and stormed into the house of Mahila Khatun for not giving toll demanded by them and beat the inmates.

When villagers resisted the gang, they murdered four persons. The victims were Norjahan Begum, 55, Ataf Hossain Fakir, 70, Manik, 32, and Nurul Islam, 40 and fled away.

Road accidents: Three killed, 26 hurt in Bogra, Faridpur

BSS, Faridpur

Three persons were killed and 20 others injured when a Faridpur-bound bus coming from Magura collided head-on with a Chuadanga-bound truck near Kamarkhali bus stand on Friday.

According to Madhukhali police, the dead were identified as Haque Ali, 40, Sushanta, 25, and Obaidur, 35. Identity of the injured could not be known. They were admitted to Madhukhali Upazila Health Complex and Magura Sadar Hospital.

According to police, the drivers of both the vehicles fled the scene.

A case was registered with Madhukhali police station.

In Bogra, six people were injured in a road accident in

Sherpur upazila area on Bogra-Dhaka highway on Friday.

According to Bogra Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital sources, a Dhaka bound Pajero jeep and a truck collided head-on at Chandaikona of Sherpur upazila at 7:30 am leaving six passengers of the jeep seriously injured. They were rushed to Bogra Medical College Hospital.

The injured are Managing Director of Agrani Bank SM Emdadul Huq, Deputy General Manager, Dhaka, Akikuzzaman, Senior Principal Officers Tofazal Hossain and Abdul Mannan, car driver Mostafizar Rahman and a bank staff Bacchu Miah.

Four of them were shifted to Dhaka by helicopter.

Cheers turn into grief

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Cheers and clapping by enthusiastic fans suddenly turned into grief when a football kick took the life of a player.

Polu, 22, fell on the ground unconscious as the ball hit him on the chest during a match at Shahebulah High School ground in the Sadar Upazila on Friday.

Playmates and friends took him to Sadar hospital but doctors declared him dead.

A pall of gloom soon befell the small town. Polo was the son of late Chand Mia.

3 raped in Satkhira in a week

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Three girls including two minor ones were raped by miscreants in the first week of this month.

A 14-year old school girl of Agardari village in Assassuni upazila was abducted and raped by one Idris Ali, son of Suleman Mollah, while she was going to school on May 6, Assassuni police said.

On May 5, an eight-year old girl was raped by one Kakon, son of Mirza Abdul Khaleq of village Rajarbagan in the Sadar upazila.

Police said, the girl was playing near her house when the rapist forcibly took her to a mango orchard and violated her. Local people recovered her later.

On May 1, a six-year old girl was taken to a shrimp enclosure by one Firoz Ullah, an employee of the farm, and raped. The incident took place at Sreefalkasi village in Shyamnagar upazila. She was treated at Shyamnagar upazila health complex.

Separate cases were filed with police stations concerned in connection with the incidents.



PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN

Unabated logging of premature trees by Shamsnagar Forest Department in Moulvibazar. The photo was taken from a reserve forest in Shamsnagar on Friday last.

New Indian barrage poses threat to environment, farming in northern region

BSS, Panchagarh

Environment and farming face a threat following construction of yet another barrage by India, withdrawing water of 14 rivers flowing through Bangladesh.

India constructed a four-facet embankment at Fulbari in Shiliguri, 200 yards off Banglabandha, Panchagarh, to divert water of the Mahananda river flowing into the Bangladesh territory.

The new embankment has been designed by India to divert sources

of 14 rivers flowing through Bangladesh. The Indian authority has also created three artificial lakes north of the embankment to reduce the diverted water.

With the construction of sluice gates, water is being unilaterally withdrawn and passed through a feeder canal for irrigation in India.

As a result all the 14 rivers have become almost dry.

The construction of the Fulbari barrage, undertaken in 1982, was completed in 1986 at a cost of 250 crore Indian Rupees. There are 25

radial sluice gates in the project.

When contacted Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) engineers told BSS that because of unilateral withdrawal of water by India from 14 rivers, many shoals emerged in the rivers and silts deposited on riverbeds where boro paddy is being cultivated.

BWDB officials pointed out that this phenomenon has caused an acute crisis of water in eight districts of northern districts during dry season.