

SNAPS

Divisonal folk song meet today

BSS, *Khulna*

A two-day divisional folk song conference will begin at the divisional museum auditorium here today.

Department of Mass Communication is organising the conference.

Whip Mohammad Ashraf Hossain will inaugurate the function at 10 am. Khulna City Mayor Sheikh Toyabur Rahman will be the chief guest at the closing ceremony tomorrow.

The conference has been organized to haunt talented folk singers from the rural areas. They will later be involved in the Awareness Campaign to improve Maternal and Child Health and to combat AIDS.

2 jailed for snatching

BSS, *Chittagong*

A Speedy Trial court sentenced two snatchers to four years prison terms and fined them Tk 2000 each on Thursday.

The convicts are Shahidul of Ramu upazila and Kamal of Mahesh Khali upazila, both from Cox's Bazar district.

The court convicted them for snatching a necklace from one Sheeta Rani Roy when she was crossing Maizpara area under Panchlish thana in the city in a rickshaw on April 20.

Seminar on Chashi Bari

BSS, *Faridpur*

A day long seminar on "Chasir Bari Bagan Bari", setting up of ideal homestead for the farmers, was held at local Zila Parishad conference room recently.

Speakers at the seminar, organized by Bangladesh Chashi Kalyan Sanity, laid stress on building up a model homesteads where there will be sufficient number of trees, pond, cattle, ducks and hens.

At least 2250 homesteads in this district have been brought under the programme.

UP chairman murder in Rampal 28 sued, 18 of them from ruling party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Twenty-eight people including 18 leaders and activists of ruling BNP and its fronts Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal have been accused in the murder of Baintale Union Parishad Chairman Habibur Rahman in Rampal upazila.

The victim's father Moslem Sadar filed the case with Rampal police.

The FIR-named accused include senior leader of Rampal BNP Shaikh Mohammad Ali and 17 belonging to Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal, youth and student fronts of BNP, as stated in the

FIR.

Three of the accused arrested on Wednesday have been remanded to police for questioning. They are Zafar, Siddique and Tayeb Shaikh of Jubo Dal.

According to OC Nasiruddin, the murder of Habibur Rahman is a sequel to intra-party rivalry. He said 'very important clues' were obtained by interrogating Tayeb Shaikh who was a rival of Habibur in Baintala UP election.

Besides, Habibur and Tayeb Shaikh had a dispute over possession of a fish enclosure, the OC said. Meanwhile, chairman of Bashtali

UP and secretary of Bagerhat district Jamaat-e-Islami Moulana Rezaul Karim, Gouranbha UP Chairman Shaikh Nasiruddin, AL leader and Rampal Sadar UP Chairman Jamil Hasan Jamu, BNP leader and Sonatunia UP Chairman Khwaja Moinuddin Akhter and members of these UPs of Rampal upazila have filed general diaries (GDs) with Rampal thana seeking security of life.

Moulana Rezaul Karim stated in the GD that he was given death threat by a group of BNP cadres for opposing toll collection.

Extortionists, outlaws attack shrimp farms, 2 killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Two persons were killed and 10 injured in incidents of extortion and dacoity in three shrimp farms at two villages in Paikgacha upazila Wednesday morning and the night before.

The shrimp farms are owned by one Ali Akbar.

Mohammad Nurul Islam (28), an employee at one of the farms at Solemanpur village was killed in a bomb attack Wednesday morning when he protested demand for Tk Five lakh toll from the owner.

Narayan Chandra, manager of the farm, suffered bullet injuries and is undergoing treatment at Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH).

The body of Nurul Islam has been handed over to his father Khadem Biswas of Mathbati village

in the upazila after autopsies at KMCH morgue on Thursday.

In the other incident at Malat village on the night before, security guard Noor Islam, 34, was killed and eight others were injured during an armed dacoity in two shrimp farms, allegedly by outlaws.

According to police, a group of 12 armed outlaws swooped on the farms, exploded hand bombs and decamped with money, a huge quantity of shrimps and other things.

The injured now being treated at KMCH are Bishwajit, Abul Khaleque, Narayana, Akbar Ghazi, Fatik Ghazi, Abdul Aziz, Meser Morol, and Fazar Shaikh.

Two alleged outlaws reportedly belonging to New Biplobi Communist Party have been arrested. They are Gafur Gazi and Asit Biswas.

A case has been lodged with Paikgacha thana.

Wild elephant kills 2 in Bbandarban

BSS, *Bandarban*

Two villages were killed and eight injured in an attack by wild elephants in two remote villages in the Sadar upazila of the district here on Thursday, Forest Department officials said.

The elephants also went on rampage and damaged many houses and banana gardens.

Those killed are Rahima Akter of Muslimpara village and Kyamong Marma of Kibukchara village.

A laudable initiative

A CORRESPONDENT, *Natore*

The Terrorist and Extortionist Resistance Action Committee (TERAC), a body of Natore traders, will set up a 50-bed hospital near the town.

Two acres of land have been purchased for the Friendship Hospital, to be set up at Akdala, two kilometres from the town, TERAC President Abdus Salam said at a press conference here recently. It will cost Tk three crore.

Construction work will begin in July, he added.

It will be a non-profit organisation. Among others, TERAC General Secretary Saiful Islam Rojars, and local businessmen Khandaker Abdul Mannan, Abdullah Al-Mamun, Anisur Rahman Liton, members of TERAC and correspondents of different national and local dailies were present at the press conference.

Salam said, after formation of TERAC, Natore is now free from terrorism and drug.

Setting up of the hospital is a collective decision of all businessmen of Natore, he said.

Jute seed smuggling

Indian truckers freed on bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Fourteen Indian truckers arrested on March 24 have been granted bail and handed over to the Indian authorities.

District and Sessions Judge of Sathkhira AKM Zahir Ahmed on Tuesday accepted their bail petition, filed for the second time on June 1.

BDR arrested the truck workers while they were transporting 104 tonnes of Indian jute seeds to Benapole land port in eight trucks. The jute seeds were seized and they were handed over to Sathkhira police.

They were handed over to Indian immigration officials at Khojadanga.

Four customs personnel arrested in this connection were released on bail soon after their arrest.

RU accord with Japanese varsity

BSS, *RU*

An agreement has signed between Rajshahi University (RU) and Saga University of Japan for a five-year academic co-operation and exchange programme.

Prof Faisal Islam Faouqi, Vice Chancellor of Rajshahi University and Dr Jehara Haruo, President of Saga University signed the agreement.

Under the agreement, the two universities will exchange staff members, students, publications, relevant academic and scholarly information.



As in other areas of the country, rivers and water bodies are being grabbed in Gopalganj. The Modhumati river is dying as its flow has been stopped due to encroachment. It is now a breeding ground for mosquitos.

PHOTO: STAR

Two killed in boiler explosion

BSS, *Naogaon*

A grandmother and her grandson died in a boiler explosion at Khorda Narayanpur village under Mohadevpur upazila recently.

Quoting eye witnesses, police said a boiler made of drum-sheet suddenly burst while paddy was being boiled. Splinters hit Kanchan Bewa (63) and her minor grandson Abdur Rahman, killing them on the spot.

The victims hailed from Koibortypara village under Manda upazila.

A case has been filed with Mohadevpur police station.

Bus service from Barisal resumes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

Bus service on all six routes from Barisal to Jhalakathi and Pirozpur resumed yesterday after three days' suspension.

The services were stopped following a conflict between transport workers unions of Brisal and Jhalakathi over time schedule.

A Jhalakathi bus worker was beaten by workers in Barisal on June 2. Workers in Jhalakathi retaliated by beating up a bus driver of Brisal in Jhalakathi.

The bus services resumed after union leaders from the two districts resolved the dispute at a meeting

Two gunned down by 'extremists' in Rajbari

BSS, *Rajbari*

Suspected extremists shot dead two men including a college teacher and injured another at Gobindapur village in the Sadar upazila on Wednesday, police said.

Mahbubur Rahman, 45, a lecturer at Kushtia College and Habibur Rahman, 35, died on the spot while Abdul Kuddus sustained serious injuries as the assailants shot them point blank.

Police said Mahbub and Habib came from Kushtia seven days back and were staying at Kuddus's house at Gobindapur. The murders are suspected to be sequel to previous enmity, police said.

Earlier on April 30, suspected extremists killed two persons at Boroladangi village in Pangsha upazila, police said.

Nurul Amin laid to rest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Netrakona*

BNP lawmaker and valiant freedom fighter Nurul Amin Talukdar was buried at his family graveyard at Deosree village in Atpara upazila after Jumma prayer yesterday.

The body was brought to Netrakona by an Air Force helicopter from Dhaka at 9 am. His first Namaz-e-Janaja was held at Muktarpara Maidan. A second Namaz-e-Janaja was held at his village.

State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar, M A Karim Abbasi MP, district BNP leader Abdul Mannan, advocate Mahafuzul Hoque were among thousands of people who attended the Janajas.

Road mishaps kill 6 in Magura, Rangamati and Rajshahi

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Six persons were killed and 28 injured in road accidents in Magura, Rajshahi and Rangamati on Thursday.

Our Magura correspondent reported that one person was killed and twenty were injured, eleven of them seriously when a Magura-bound bus collided with a Faridpur-bound truck near Gama bridge on the Magura-Faridpur highway.

The truck driver was killed in the accident but his identity could not be known till yesterday, police said.

The critically injured persons were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital. They include Solaiman 15, Noor Islam, 20, Shaon 25, Kamar Ali 50, Ranga Mian 35, Zaheda 30, Jamal 35, Noor alam, 13 Kumudini

Bala.

Our Rangamati correspondent reported that one persons was killed and six were injured when a Chittagong-bound truck loaded with jackfruit and pineapples skidded off the road near Shalbagan area on Chittagong-Rangamati highway.

The dead has been identified as Babul Biswas, 18, a fruit trader and resident of Kodala village of Rangunia upazila of Chittagong district. He died on the spot.

There were some traders on the truck. The driver lost control when another truck from the opposite direction came, witnesses said.

The injured are Sunity Ranjan Chakma, 55, Progyajoyti Chakma, 40, Kinaram Chakma, 40, Shotish Kumar Chakma, 55, Nironjon Chakma, 35, and Rahul Chakma. All

were admitted to Rangamati General Hospital.

Rangamati Hill District Council Chairman Maniklal Dewan visited the spot. Kawkhali police seized the truck and a case was filed.

In Rajshahi, four persons were killed and two injured when a sand-laden truck coming fell into a roadside ditch while overtaking a rickshaw van at Borosenbahh on Natore-Rajshahi highway, our correspondent reported.

The deceased are Mofizuddin, 35, Reza, 34, Monsur, 36, and Rafiqul Islam, 35, of Charchat upazila of Rajshahi.

The injured are the rickshaw van driver Momtaz and sand trader Jamiruddin.

Keep development of Sylhet city above politics: Saifur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman has said political difference will not stand in the way of developing the newly created Sylhet City Corporation (SCC).

Development programmes should be kept above politics he said and assured of taking all necessary measures to meet the city dwellers' needs.

The finance minister said, though election of local bodies like city corporations should not be held on party basis, a culture has grown to deal things politically.

"We should come out of these. It is unfortunate that we do things on party basis. There was some wrong propaganda on the eve of city corporation polls here. Now it is clear that we all should work together and remain above politics for the cause of development".

Saifur was addressing as chief guest a reception accorded to him by the SCC on Thursday.

Held on the corporation premises, the function was chaired by Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran while State Minister for Local

Government Ziaul Haque Zia spoke as special guest.

The function was also addressed by, among others, Moulana Farid Uddin Chowdhury MP, Dilder Hossain Selim MP, Ilyas Ali MP and Ward Commissioner Ariful Haque Chowdhury.

Saifur said Tk 200 crore has been earmarked for development of rail link in Sylhet region in the upcoming national budget. The country's first hanging bridge will be constructed on Surma river. Its foundation will be laid soon. Both banks of the river in the city will be protected and beautified with parks, he said.

The finance minister also requested the LGRD ministry to conduct a feasibility study on establishment of surface water plant in Sylhet to meet drinking water crisis.

Besides, effective measures will be taken for overall development of the city through ensuring waste management, resolving water logging problem and others problems, Saifur said.

"I will do everything necessary for the city's development as it is my constituency. I am committed to do

so".

Mayor Badar Uddin Kamran in his speech said, "Though I am a party man, I want to build the corporation as a neutral institution. The corporation office will not be used politically. We will work keeping ourselves above politics".

Rangamati bar assoc formed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangamati*

Another report says: A nine-member Rangamati District Lawyers Association was formed on Tuesday through a consensus.

The office bearers are: Fomindral Das (president), Kolyan Mitra Chowdhury and Din Nath Tanchongya (vice presidents); Uo Thoi Mong Marma (secretary); Tushon Chakma (assistant secretary); Ushamoy Chakma (treasurer); Mrinal Kanti Chakma (cultural secretary).



This giant crab weighing two and a half kilograms was netted by fishermen in Kuakata coast in Barisal. Fishermen said the rare variety of crab can cut to pieces a small piece of wood. It has been kept at the Kuakata Sea Fish Museum.

Reduce VAT, Barisal Chamber urges govt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Barisal*

Leaders of Barisal Chamber of Commerce and Industry has called upon the government to reduce VAT from consumer products.

The government has imposed 1.5% VAT on consumer products, which adds to another 15% of VAT in the production chain, BCCI leaders said at a press conference at a local hotel on Wednesday.

No small industry is viable with so much of tax, they said and threatened movement if the rate is not reduced.

They also demanded raising the income tax ceiling to Tk 1,25,000.

The press conference was addressed by, among others, BCCI President Ebaidul Huq Chan and Hanif Mia, convener of VAT Tax Resistance Committee, Barisal.

Fishing nets seized at Kaptai lake

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Rangamati*

A vigilance team seized 27 fishing nets from fishermen in Kaptai lake while they were fishing illegally.

Fishing in Kaptai lake is banned for three month from May 12 as this is breeding period.

The nets were seized during a recent drive led by the Bargaichhori upazila nirbahee officer (UNO). None was however arrested, Bangladesh Fisheries development Corporation (BFDC) sources said.

Indian dacoits torch four houses, two injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Chuadanga*

Armed Indian dacoits backed by BSF torched four houses at a village in Damurhuda upazila in the early hours of Wednesday, leaving three persons injured.

BSF (Border Security Force of India) personnel fired several shots in support from the nearby camp across the border when the dacoits swooped on Kamarpura village in Damurhuda upazila at about 3:30 am, local people said.

Two cows and four goats were

burnt to death in the fire, they said.

When contacted over telephone, a spokesman of Bangladesh Rifles 18 Battalion Headquarters at Chuadanga confirmed the incident and said a Company Commander has been sent for investigation.

The injured persons are Nuhu and Hatem Ali.

The intruders who were from Kestoganj in Nadia district, tried to take away Nuhu but he escaped, the local people said.

Tension is prevailing along the border in the area, they said.

6 hurt in Chuadanga bomb explosions

Suspected outlaws flee in microbus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Chuadanga*

Six persons were injured, when two bombs exploded at two places at Kobikhali village in Chuadanga Sadar upazila on Wednesday.

Police said three of the injured who were outsiders in the village and suspected to be members of an outlawed party where whisked away in a microbus by their fellow men before police reached there.

The three villagers injured are Mosab Ali, 62, Shuborna, 10,

Nazmul, 11.

It is reported that the first bomb exploded near a residential area in which the three outsiders were injured. It is presumed by police and villagers that the three were making bombs when one of those exploded.

The second incident took place when a bomb, left on a road in the village, was hit with sticks by two children, injuring them elderly Mosab Ali.

A case has been filed with Chuadanga Sadar thana.