

SNAPS

Lightning kills couple

BSS, Joypurhat
A couple was killed by lightning at Sagarpara in the town Thursday night. The dead were identified as Abdul Bari, 50, a peon of Joypurhat Government College, and Ramicha Khatun, 42.
Police and witnesses said lightning hit the couple when they were preparing supper at the kitchen of their rented house. They died of serious burn injuries while being taken to Joypurhat hospital.

Trade fair begins

BSS, Rajshahi
A month long Rajshahi Trade and Commerce Fair 2003 began here on Friday. Post and Telecommunications Minister Barister Aminul Hoque opened the fair at Rajshahi Collectorate ground.



PHOTO: IQBAL SIDDIQUEE

The Ludarpur bridge on the busy Sylhet-Jagannathpur road has become risky for vehicles. The risk increases at nightfall as drivers have to take a sharp turn while crossing the ramshackle bridge but the Roads and Highways (R&H) Department remains a silent spectator.

Road mishaps claim 7 in Pabna, Satkhira, Manikganj

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Seven people were killed and 66 injured in road accidents in Manikganj, Jhenidah and Pabna on Friday and the day before.
A BSS report from Manikganj said three people were killed and 40 injured when two buses collided head-on at Uchutia under Manikganj Sadar upazila on the Dhaka-Aricha highway.
The dead were identified as Sathi, 17, Jania, 25, and Mizanur Rahman, 50.
Police said the accident occurred at about 2:30 pm when a Dhaka-bound bus of Hanif Paribahan collided with a minibus.
The injured were rushed to Manikganj Sadar Hospital and local

clinics. Later, five of them were brought to Dhaka in critical condition.
A case was lodged with Manikganj police station.
Our Correspondent reported from Jhenidah that two persons including a truck helper were killed and seven injured when a cattle-loaded truck hit another truck near Barda on the Kushtia-Jhenidah highway.
One of the dead was identified as cattle trader Jamal, 24, of Hatacharipur village in Kushtia. The identity of the dead truck helper could not be known, police said.
Both died on spot as the trucks collided at about 5 am. The bodies were sent to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital

morgue for autopsy and the injured were admitted there.
The trucks were seized and a case was lodged with Sailkupa police.
Our Correspondent reported from Pabna that a couple was killed and their son and 19 others were injured when a pick up van rammed an autotempo at Sharibari on the Pabna-Nagarbari highway on Thursday.
The dead were identified as Majed Sarker, 50, and his wife Alea Begum, 40.
Nine critically injured passengers were taken to Pabna General Hospital. All the victims were passengers of the autotempo, police said.

Tk 283 cr PDB bills unpaid in Khulna

Employees oppose proposed co, threaten movement

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

The Power Development Board (PDB) has Tk 283 crore unrealised bills in its Khulna zone.
The defaulters include government, semi-government and private institutions.
Of the total amount, government and semi-government institutions owe Tk 190 crore.
The bills remained unrealised despite repeated reminders and warnings, PDB's Khulna Zone Chief Engineer Mohammad Abdullah told The Daily Star. Political pressure and influence are creating serious problems in realisation of outstanding bills. Besides, shortage of manpower and bureaucratic tangles are

also major factors in his regard, he said.
Abdullah said PDB has 3,17,135 consumers in its Khulna zone, of which, 2,43,306 are domestic consumers, 59,000 commercial enterprises and 8,000 small industries. Besides, there are 510 other consumers under the Pali Biddut Samity (rural electrification association).
Outstanding bills lying only with jute mills stand at Tk 107.13 crore.
The Khulna City Corporation is showing no tendency to pay Tk 27 crore bills despite reminders time and again, the chief engineer said.
PDB men face unpleasant situation when they snap electricity

lines of defaulters. Political pressure and threats force them to restore snapped lines, he said.
He said Tk 362.49 crore bills were realised from the Khulna zone in last eleven months of the current fiscal year.
The chief engineer said a 'power distribution company' covering the 15 districts in PDB's western zone will be formed soon to improve power supply and realisation of bills. Preparations in this regard are underway.
But employees under the Khulna zone have threatened of movement if the company is created. The west zone reels under constant loadshedding.

7 Janata Bank staff held for forgery

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police arrested seven officials and employees of Janata Bank Boro Bazar branch in the town on Friday for their alleged involvement in misappropriation of money through fake documents.
The arrests were identified as Sanker Kumar Das, Ehsanul Azim, Md Mukshed Ali, Abu Haider Rezzak, Sunil Chandra Das, Md Abu, Hakim and Hasina Nazneen.
Police said, they misappropriated Tk 18 lakh 25 thousand from three accounts during February-June this year through 15 forged cheques.
They were arrested after bank manager Azaharul Haq filed a case with Kotwali police station, finding irregularities.

Govt poultry farm

Underhand deal for TK 20 lakh feed supply alleged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Work for supply of Tk 20 lakh poultry feed for the government poultry farm at Asambasti in Rangamati town has been given to only two suppliers through an underhand deal without any bidding, contractors alleged.
Tender was floated but the suppliers could not buy schedules as the authorities told them that they had no tender schedule, according to suppliers Ashih and Mostafa.
The authorities did not even open the tenders, they alleged.
When contacted over telephone, Gonjog Marma, private secretary to the chairman of Rangamati District Council, said that he (chairman) would not talk on the matter.
Member of the district council, Sujit Dewan, who is convener of the committee on poultry farmers, could not be contacted despite repeated attempts.

Schoolteacher s get 2nd letters for toll, flee homes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Extortionists have again sent letters to two schoolteachers for Tk one lakh toll and threatened them with death for failure.
The letters, sent recently, were the second in over a month to Kiron Kanti Goshami and Kishloy Kanti Goshami of Raidoultpur village under Kamarkhand upazila, the schoolteachers said.
After receiving the letters, they left their village and took shelter at Sirajganj town.
The first two letters were given on May 14 when four persons including a woman were killed by extortionists at Kaliakoir village in Ullapara upazila for not giving Tk two lakh toll.
Police arrested one Shafiqul Islam after the first letters were given.
Meanwhile, local people said panic gripped the Kamarkhand upazila area as posters have been pasted on houses of two local Union Parishad chairmen, one political leader with four others in the name of Purb Banglar Communist Party demanding toll.

18 suicides in 18 days

BSS, Pabna

The number of suicidal incidents is increasing alarmingly in Chatmahor upazila in the district.
According to police sources, 18 people committed suicide in 18 days from June 8 to June 25 in the upazila. The victims included 11 housewives, four girl students and three male students.
Dowry, family feud, frustration and love affair were the main reasons behind the incidents, police said.

Robbery at BMDA building

BSS, Rajshahi

An armed robbery was committed in the Barind Multipurpose Development Authorities (BMDA) building at Upashahar under Rajpara police station in the city on Thursday night.
Police said a gang of about 25 tied the night guards and took away T.1.48 lakh.

6 get life term for rape attempt, abduction

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Six persons have been given life imprisonment in Naogaon in two cases, tow of them for attempted rape and four for abducting a woman.
In Gopalganj, three persons were sentenced to seven years in prison for snatching money.
A BSS report from Naogaon said Judge S M Salaiman of Naogaon Women and Child Repression Prevention Court sentenced Masum and Mazed of Andharkota village in Mohadebpur upazila to life term for attempting to rape a teen-aged girl of the same village.
In the other verdict, the judge handed down life term to Firz, Azizul, Azhar and Reza of Madhabpur village under Dhammurhat upazila for abducting the wife of a BDR official and taking her to India. The woman was however returned recently after a flag meting between BDR and BSF.
Our Gopalganj correspondent reported that Assistant Sessions Judge Sheikh Jallaluddin gave Mizan Sheikh, Laikat Ali and Abbas Biswas of Gamadanga village under Tungipara upazila seven years' prison term for snatching Tk 26,000 from a person.

Suit against editors protested

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Journalists in Mymensingh and Satkhira protested filing of the defamation suit against the editors The Daily Star and the Prothom Alo by Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Advisor Salauddin Qader Chowdhury.
Our Mymensingh correspondent reported that members of Mymensingh Reporters Unity (MRU), Mymensingh Press Club, Mymensingh Sangbadik Union and the local unit of Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity formed a human chain in front of Mymensingh Press Club and held a meeting there on June 22.
They demanded its immediate withdrawal.
A large number of journalists working for different national and local dailies took part in the programmes.
The meeting was presided over by Md Mosharraf Hossain, secretary of the club. Sultan Uddin Khan and Md Saiful Islam, president and secretary of the Reporters Unity; its vice-president Abul Quasem; Ataul Karim Khokon, secretary of the Sangbadik Union; Mir Golam Mustafa, joint secretary of the press club addressed the meeting. The speakers also included journalists Jagadish Chandra Sarker, AHM

Motaleb (Khobar), Niamul Kabir Sajal (Prothom Alo), Md. Babul Hossain (Janakantha), Jahangir Alam Liton (Bhorer Kagaj), Md. Nazrul Islam (Dainik Jahan) and Biplab Kumar Guha Manik, joint secretary of the local unit of Bangladesh Photo Journalists Association.
Our Correspondent reported from Satkhira that local journalists in a statement condemned filing of the defamation suit and demanded its immediate withdrawal.
Signatories to the statement included Subhash Chowdhury (Bhorer Kagoj), Advocate Abdur Rashid (Independent), Mizanur Rhamn (Janakantha), Ramkrishna Chakvaborty (Juganatar), Kazi Shahidul Haq (Sangbad), Kazi Dulal (Bangla Bazar Patrika), Kalyan Banerjee (Prothom Alo), Prof Abu Ahmed (Daily Star), Advocate Arun Banerjee (Observer), Dilip Dev (New Nation), Goldar Shahim Hossain (Janata), Kalidas Roy (Khabor Patra), Abdul Wahab (Samachar), Eyarab Hossain (Runner), Abdul Bari (Dristipat), Moina and Abdul Jalil (Kafela), (Kafela), Abu Jafar (Patradut), Muzaffor Hossain (Janmabhumi), Obaidullah (Probartan), Neli Afrin (Dainik Taihya), Kazi Jamaluddin Mamun (Abas), Debnath Sharma (Satkhira Chitra) and Anisur Rahman (Gramer Kagoj)



A medical officer of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), Rajshahi Sector, treating a poor women at Kadirpur BDR camp in Bagha upazila recently. BDR organised a half-day free treatment for destitute people there.



Chief Whip Khondker Delwar Hossain releasing fish fries at a pond at Uthli in Shibalaya upazila in Manikganj district on Friday.

Proper advice can help infertile couples, seminar told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Proper advice and treatment can help many of the infertile couples overcome their problem, speakers said at a seminar here.
They called for formulation of a protocol for infertility management and proper training of doctors concerned.
The seminar attended by medical experts and veteran gynae specialists from home and abroad was organised by Chittagong unit of Obstetrics and Gynaecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB). It was held on Chittagong Club premises on Wednesday.
Sponsored by Organon (Bangladesh), the seminar was addressed by Prof. Dr Nurjahan Bhuiyah, pro-VC, BGC Trust university Bangladesh; Prof. Dr Shamsunnahar, head of gynae department at Chittagong Medical College and Hospital; Prof. Dr Taher Khan; Prof. Dr. TA Khan; Eigon Roam, a Dutch gynae expert; Prof. Dr. Syeda Aktar; Prof. Dr. Fazlul Karim; Prof. Dr. Anwara Begum; Dr. Shamima Rosy; Dr. Mahbul Alam; Dr. Shahanara Chowdhury; Dr. Rokeya Begum and Rahbar A. Anwar, marketing manager of Organon.

Fisherman abducted for ransom rescued by police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Police in a gunfight with pirates rescued a young man five days after his abduction for ransom from Kabodak area in the Sundarbans.
Pirates abducted Ayub Hossain, 26, son of Korban Ali Mollah of Sovla village in Shyamnagar upazila when he and his friends were fishing in Dargang area on June 16 and demanded Tk four lakh ransom.
The victim's relatives informed police. A team of Shyamnagar thana police raided several areas in the Sundarbans.
On June 21, acting on a tip-off, police raided the Kabodak area and rescued Ayub after a gunfight with the pirates. Ayub is now being treated at Shyamnagar health complex.

Tree fair opens

BSS, Rajshahi

A seven-day tree fair opened on Friday on the premises of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) office here.
Post of Telecommunications Minister Barister Aminul Haque inaugurated the fair. RCC Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu MP also spoke.