

SNAPS

Form Gram Sarker in time, Mannan tells UNOs

BSS, Narsingdi
LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has called upon Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNOs) to form Gram Sarkers in time.

New president, GS of Bagerhat BNP

UNB, Bagerhat
MAH Selim MP and Shamsul Alam Takukder were reelected president and general secretary (GS) of BNP district unit at the biannual conference and council session on Saturday.

Minister for Food and joint secretary general of BNP Abdullah Al Noman was the chief guest at the conference at Khan Jahangir Ali College ground with president of district BNP MAH Selim in the chair.

Seven including 2 outlaws held

UNB, Rajbari
Police arrested seven persons including two leaders of an outlawed party during a special raid at Subarnakholā village in Panchga upazila on Sunday midnight.

They are Mojibur Rahman, Mizanur Rahman Zillu, Zahidur Rahman, Shahidur Rahman, Jasimuddin Miah and Shariful Islam. Of them, Mojibur and Mizanur are listed criminals and activists of Biplobi Communist Party.

Nakshi Kanthar Math staged

A RU CORRESPONDENT
Gono Shilpi Shangsha at Rajshahi University stage the 'Nakshi Kanthar Math', a folk dance drama of poet Jasim Uddin, at Kagi Nazrul auditorium on the campus yesterday.

The programme drew a large audience including teachers and students.

Body recovered

UNB, Habiganj
The body of a middle aged man was recovered from a 'haor' (water body) near Mahtabpur village in Ajmiriganj upazila Saturday.

Landslides follow quake in Rangamati

MONIRUL ALAM, Rangamati

Rains in Rangamati in the last three days triggered landslides in Aimaichori, Bhusanchhara and Harina unions in quake affected Borkol upazila.

Intermittent downpours starting on Sunday continued in the area yesterday. Scared people in the remote hill region are leaving homes, fearing fresh tremor and landslides.

Many of them have moved to relatives' houses in other areas or to local schools. Over 1000 people have taken shelter at Kalabubia High School, according to information reaching here.

Residents of Arabunia, Arjunchhara, Dhumoichachhara,

Orjanchhori, Bamplanepara, Zakkubazipara, Bokbilochhara and nearby areas are also on the move for safer places.

People prefer to stay on open places, rather than at homes. Primary and high schools in Borkol upazila are closed as students and teachers do not attend classes, they said.

Borkol upazila headquarter is about 55 km from the district town. A government team of geologists from Dhaka including some teachers of Geography Department of Dhaka University visited the Borkol area yesterday and the day before. They said they will survey the area and submit a report to the government.

The July 27 moderate tremor and a series of aftershocks caused

numerous cracks on hills and hills in Rangamati.

The tremor opened a 10-km crack from Kolabunia to Bhusanchhara. Experts say this long crack indicates a major geological change in the hills, which may cause disaster any time.

"Land displacement is the major sign normally left by tremor", said Mominul Islam of the Chittagong Meteorological Department. "This clearly indicates tremor in near future," he said while visiting the area on Thursday.

Meanwhile Deputy Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Moni Swapan Dewan declared Borkol upazila a "tremor-torn area" and asked the district administration to provide relief and medical facilities to the people there.

Are not they scared of disasters?

BIWTC's daytime Dhaka-Barisal trips fail to attract passengers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

BIWTC vessel MV Shela with a capacity of 500 passengers carried only 724 in 14 daytime trips on the Barisal-Dhaka-Barisal route in a month.

It incurred a loss of over Tk one lakh taka in the trips. The daytime trip was introduced after the M V Nasrin-1 sank in Meghna on the route on the night of July 8, killing at least 600 people.

But the daytime trip has proved loss-making as passengers do not prefer this schedule, BIWTC sources said.

If his situation continues, BIWTC's loss in this route will

exceed Tk 3.3 lakh a month, they said.

MV Shela, was withdrawn from the profitable Dhaka-Barisal-Khulna route and placed in the new route on July 19 to ensure safety of passengers.

Although the first six trips were free, only 504 passengers availed those till July 24.

In the rest eight trips till August 3, only around 220 passengers travelled by Shela and BIWTC collected Tk 12,712 fare from these trips, they said.

The highest number of passengers in a Barisal-bound trip was 59 on July 28, and Tk 3,200 was realised as fare. On its return journey on

July 30, the ship carried only eight passengers, they said.

Shela's fuel cost for a round trip is Tk 22,000 and it lost over Tk 3.3 lakh in 15 round trips in a month.

The total operational loss will exceed Tk 5 lakh per month if other costs are added.

Shela used to earn a profit of over Tk 5 lakh in a month in the Dhaka-Barisal-Khulna route, they said.

Private launch operators in Dhaka-Barisal route said they are not interested in daytime trips as those are not profitable.

Car trader killed in road mishap

Survivor claims police took away Tk 6 lakh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A car trader was killed and two others were critically injured when their car collided head-on with a truck at Hatikumrul on the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway Monday afternoon.

The dead has been identified as Babul.

The three were going to Dhaka from Rajshahi to purchase cars, according to Prodip Kumar, one of the two injured persons.

Prodip and the other injured person Shelley have been admitted to Sirajganj Ibone Sina General Hospital.

Police seized the truck but its driver and helper managed to flee.

Prodip told this correspondent at the hospital that they were going to Dhaka with Tk 20 lakh to purchase cars. He alleged that police, while rescuing, took away Tk six lakh from them.

But police denied the allegation and said they found Tk 14 lakh with the victims.

A case has been filed with Sholanga police.

'Resolve water-power crisis in Ctg or face movement'

CU CORRESPONDENT

Water, Gas and Electricity Consumer Action Parisad (WGECAP) has submitted separate memoranda to the Chairman of WASA and the chief engineer of Power Development Board (PWB) here to ensure smooth supply of water and electricity in the port city.

In the memoranda submitted on Sunday, the Parishad threatened of greater movement if smooth supply is not ensured within a month.

In the memorandum submitted to the WASA chief, it said the organisation did not take any project though water crisis persists in the city.

It also placed a six-point demand including postponement of a decision to increase water tariff and proving metres to all consumers.

In the other memorandum, it urged the PWD authorities to stop the "menacing" load shedding, crippling businesses and industries.

It also called for snapping illegal power connections.

Barisal JCD leader killed, 2 party men hurt in road mishap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal.

A leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD)-Arikul Islam was killed and two party men were injured in a road accident at Kataksthal in Gournadi on the Barisal-Dhaka highway in the early hours of Monday.

Islam was office secretary of Barisal City JCD and a final year honours student of Chemistry at Barisal B M College.

The injured are Monir Hossain Sajal, a degree student at Barisal Government College and Selim, also a student. Critically injured Selim has been sent to Dhaka and Munir is under treatment at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH).

They met with the accident when a truck hit the motorcycle they were riding. They were going to Madaripur.

Gournadi highway patrol police rescued them from the roadside and sent them to Barisal SBMCH, where Tarik died early morning Monday.

Recruitment of teachers RUTA demands withdrawal of govt decision

A RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University Teachers Association (RUTA) has demanded withdrawal of the government decision regarding the university teachers' appointment.

RUTA President Sayen Uddin and Secretary Abdul Latif in a statement on Sunday said the government decision to withhold appointment of teachers in different universities is against the autonomy of universities.

The government recently withheld fresh appointments of teachers in universities till introduction of some new rules for appointment and promotion of teachers.

Three shops near JU looted

JU CORRESPONDENT

Robbers looted cash and goods worth Tk 38,000 from three shops at the Dairy Farm gate on the Jahangirnagar University (JU) campus in the early hours of Monday.

Five armed robbers came in a yellow taxi cab at around 2:00am, tied up security guard Faruque Hossain on gun point and kept him inside the cab.

They broke open the shops and looted those.

The dacoits fled away with the booty when patrol police came. The took Faruque along with them and set him free near a filling station at a short distance.

The shop owners later suspected that the dacoits could be from the area. No case was filed with Savar police till yesterday morning.

CU language course begins Sept 9

CU CORRESPONDENT

Admission in one-year diploma courses on foreign languages in Chittagong University (CU) in 2003-2004 session will begin on September 9.

Students can collect admission forms from the Dean office in Arts Faculty till August 31.

The courses will be on German, French, Arabic, Farsi languages.

SSC result debacle 353 schools to face action in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet.

The Sylhet education board has decided to take disciplinary action against 353 high schools as no student from any of those passed in the SSC examinations this year.

Showcause notices will be issued on schools having records of below 50 per cent pass and allowing examinees to copy, official sources said.

The schools will be asked to improve their performance within a certain period. If they fail, their monthly pay orders (MPOs) will be cancelled and government grants stopped.

A detailed report in this regard

will be sent to the education ministry soon, they said.

This year, 30,542 students appeared at SSC examinations from 594 schools under the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Sylhet.

Among them, 13,790 passed while 48 were expelled. A total of 145 schools had 20 to 60 pass percentage and 349 had below 20 per cent.

However, compared to other education boards, the Sylhet board had the highest pass percentage of 45.15 this year.

50 hurt as football fans clash in Gopalganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

At least 50 people were injured, six of them seriously, when football fans clashed during a match at Ulpur village in Gopalganj Sadar upazila on Sunday.

Police fired nine of blank shots to quell the violence when an unruly mob damaged the jeep of the Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO).

The clash also disrupted traffic on the Dhaka-Khulna highway for two hours.

Police and witnesses said Ulpur team was facing Banagram team at Ulpur MH Khan College ground.

The clash ensued when supporters of a team ran to the ground. Their opponents tried to resist them. The clash soon spilled over to nearby areas.

On information, police rushed there and fired blank shots to bring the situation under control. Six of the seriously injured persons have been admitted to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital.

They are Manu Molla, Jason Mollah, Mokit Khan, Haybath Ali Sikder, Mizanur Rahman Fakir, and Mashashain Fakir.

Three 'pirates' killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Three alleged pirates have been killed and 10 injured in a gunfight between two rival groups at Charer Khal in Swarankhola in the Sundarbans.

The dead have been identified as Abdul Mannan, 32, AL Amin, 45, and Zafar Shaikh, 40.

Some fishermen who witnessed the incident said the gunbattle between the groups belonging to Razzak Bahini and Mannan Bahini lasted for over three hours on

Thursday. The injured persons could not be traced after the incident, they said.

The gunbattle was over supremacy in the forest.

The pirates threw the bodies into the river, the witnesses said.

Members of these notorious gangs hail from Tafalbari and Sonatala of Swarankhata upazila in Bagerhat district, they said.

Abdul Mannan of Mannan Bahini who recently got out of jail on bail is an accused in several criminal cases, Swarankhola thana police said.

14 chargesheeted in cops murder case

BSS, Bagerhat

Police have chargesheeted 14 people for their alleged involvement in the murder of two policemen and looting arms in Bagerhat.

The Officer-in-Charge of Fakirhat police station Nikhil Candra Mondal submitted the charge sheet to a magistrate court here.

Miscereants shot dead on-duty policemen Shah Alam and Abul Kalam at Fakirhat bus stand on April 27 and looted two firearms.

The 14 accused are Wahiduzzaman, Bahauzzaman, BDR Altaf, Haroon, Shahadat alias Farhad, Hafiz, Zakir, Rezaul, Biri Masood, Ismail, Aslam, Manik, Shimu and Ali Hossain.

Police sources said, out of the 14 accused, 10 are residents of Khulna and Rupsha areas.

The sources said Biri Masood, Ismail and Manik are in jail and the rest are absconding. All the three in jail have given confessional statements.

BDR chief visits Feni border

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Director General of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Maj Gen Md. Jahangir Alam Choudhury visited BDR camp at Kotbari in Comilla and in Feni, Majumdar Hat and Anandapur on Sunday. He also visited the border area in Muhurir Char in Feni.

During the visit he urged BDR forces to stop smuggling and enhance vigilance along the border.

BDR sector commander in Comilla and local battalion commanders were present during the visit.



A two-day national workshop on Cub-Scouting ended at the National Scout Training Centre at Mouchak in Gazipur recently. Education officers and scout organisers from districts attended the workshop



Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU) Vice Chancellor Prof Dr M Aminul Islam addressing the inaugural function of the Third Annual Scientific Conference of the Bangladesh Association for Laboratory Animal Science (BALAS) at the university in Mymensingh recently.



Unocal Bangladesh organised a tree plantation programme in Sylhet, inaugurated by Forest Minister Shahjahan Siraj recently. The photo shows a group of Unocal employees planting saplings along the Airport Road, leading to the Jalalabad gas plant.