

SNAPS

Dacoity bid foiled by police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A night coach dacoity bid was foiled last week on the Nilphamari-Dhaka highway due to promptness of police.

When a night coach coming from Dhaka reached Dhordhorarpool under Sadar upazila, a gang of highwaymen placed logs on the highway and stopped the vehicle. Just then a highway police patrol team of Nilphamari police station reached the spot and challenged them. At once the highwaymen fled away. The night coach again resumed its journey.

Bid to deceive bank employee

UNB, Manikganj

Three people were arrested from Zagir area in Sadar upazila on Thursday while they were trying to deceive an Agrani Bank employee with fake foreign currency.

The arrested are Shafiqul, 22, Shah Alam, 40, and Pannu, 22, hailing from Faridpur district.

Police said as per earlier settlement, the bank employee Nazimuddin agreed to pay them Tk 50,000 in exchange of 4000 Riyals and on the day he paid them Tk 40,000 with a promise to pay the rest amount later and received the two bundles of Riyals from them. But after a while to his utter astonishment he found the two bundles full of blank papers and raised hue and cry.

Fresh crisis grips Shahjalal varsity

Teachers stay off classes protesting staff shortage, govt embargo on appointment

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet.

The Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) is in a serious crisis again as first year Honous classes, scheduled to begin from today, has become uncertain.

The Academic Council held 12 hours' meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday but could not decide when classes will begin.

Most of the teachers declined to take classes till appointment of new teachers as the university has an acute shortage of teachers.

At the Academic Council meeting, Acting Vice Chancellor Prof Mosleh Uddin Ahmed said new teachers could not be appointed because of a government embargo. New appointments would be made after withdrawal of the embargo, he told the meeting but this could not satisfy the teachers.

On the other hand, student bodies like Jatiyotabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir handed over memorandums to the acting VC on Monday and threatened of agitation unless their demands are met.

Their demands include construction of new dormitory and cafeteria for students and publication of results of semester examinations of final year students.

The Teachers Association has also demanded appointment of new teachers. It has other demands.

Academic activities at SUST are being seriously hampered for long due to acute shortage of teachers.

The teachers association (SUSTTA) repeatedly demanded immediate steps for appointment of teachers.

Sources said out of 363 teachers, 149 are on leave for long. Of

them, 43 are on unauthorised leave.

The acting VC informed the Academic Council meeting that approval was received from the University Grants Commission for appointment of seven professors, 13 associate professors and assistant professors and 27 lecturers. Approval has been sought for appointment of teachers against rest of the vacant posts. But, nothing can be done till the government embargo is withdrawn, he said.

The university has only seven professors against a provision for 17. Among the seven, two are on lien. There are 13 associate professors against a provision for 30. Among the 13, three are on leave.

Due to shortage of associate professors and professors, assistant professors are now in charge of a number of departments, the source added.

Teenage girl commits suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A teenage girl was compelled to commit suicide at a village in Nilphamari due to abject poverty of her father.

Ill-fated Lucky Begum, 18, of village Daliram under Kishoreganj upazila remained unmarried due to her father's inability to manage dowry money for her marriage.

Whenever any marriage proposal came, prospective bridegrooms demanded dowry which her 50-year-old poor father Asgar failed to meet up. Being frustrated Lucky committed suicide by taking poison. An unnatural death (UD) case was filed with Kishoreganj thana.

Child killed in road mishap

UNB, Chandpur

A child who was injured in a road mishap near Waruk Bazar in Shaharasti upazila on Wednesday morning, died at a hospital in Comilla on the same night.

The deceased was identified as Rabbil, 5, a student of a local nursery school.

Padma, Mahananda in spate again

1000 families homeless in three days as Farakka gates opened to reduce water pressure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Padma and Mahananda rivers have swollen again submerging vast areas in Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj in last three days as hill waters are gushing through all the open gates of Farakka barrage.

The rise in the water levels of the rivers has also intensified erosion, rendering nearly 1000 families homeless.

The Padma is flowing two centimeters above the danger levels at Pankha.

Due to unprecedented erosion, Mahanada and the Pagla rivers have converged at Maldah in West Bengal (India) and are discharging a huge volume of water, Water Development Board (WDB) officials here said.

To contain the unprecedented erosion, the Indian authorities have

opened all the sluice gates of Farakka Barrage, they added.

Thousands of homesteads have been washed away and several thousand people are marooned again.

The 325 metre shank of Spar No-1 in the Padma Bank Protection Project, constructed at a cost of Tk 120 million, has been completely washed away.

In Shibganj, around 4,500 people of 761 families have been homeless in Kanchhira, Laxmipur, Babupur and Charpaka villages.

Over 2000 homesteads, crop lands and mango groves have been devoured by the Padma.

Several hundred houses have been washed away in Tangon in Motihar thana of the city and in Godagari and Charghat upazilas.

While visiting the areas, the

affected people said the erosion is taking place as the Padma bank protection project is incomplete for three years.

When contacted, Water Development Board officials said the project could not be completed for fund crisis.

Trader killed in Munshiganj

UNB, Munshiganj

A middle-aged businessman was killed by assailants at his residence at Nagar Kosba in Mirkadim on Tuesday night.

Locals said notorious criminal Didar alias Leha along with his accomplices beat businessman Shahjahan Bhuiyan, 55, to death as he earlier resisted him from abducting his tenant Moyna Begum.

Man gets life for women repression in Panchagarh

UNB, Panchagarh

A court here on Tuesday convicted a man and sentenced him to life term imprisonment in a women and children repression case.

The court also fined convict Rafiqul Islam of Thutapakuri village in Sadar upazila, Tk 20,000, in default, to suffer six months more rigorous imprisonment (RI).

Rafiqul Islam, son of Abdul Mannan with a promise of marrying her developed an illicit relationship with Amena Khatun, 14, of the neighbouring Datarampur village. But when the girl became pregnant and gave birth to a son Rafiqul denied to marry her.

A case was filed on April 26, 2001.

Additional District Judge Aftabuddin handed down the verdict.



(Left-right) This is Randhunibari bazaar in Sirajganj district, famous for handloom industry. The bazaar faces extinction by the mighty Jamuna as erosion has taken a serious turn in the area in recent days.



PHOTO: STAR

10 hurt as rival BNP factions clash in Sunamganj

UNB, Sunamganj

A fierce clash between the rival factions of ruling BNP left 10 people injured at Bishwambhorpur upazila headquarters here on Friday.

Locals said when upazila Krishak Dal joint convenor Abdul Karim along with his supporters protested the irregularities in the construction work of the college road his rival group led by Nazir Mia attacked them with lethal weapons.

Of the wounded, Nurul Islam, Nayan Mia and Abdul Karim were rushed to the Sadar hospital in critical conditions. Other injured were admitted to the upazila health complex.

3 'criminals' nabbed in Jhenidah

UNB, Jhenidah

Three alleged criminals including a gang leader were arrested from Dhaka and Savar along with a foreign made gun and five rounds of bullet on Wednesday night.

A team of police raided a house in Savar and nabbed Ayub, ringleader of notorious Ayub Bahini, who is accused

in 12 murder cases in Shailakupa.

As per his confession, police swooped on another residence in Dhanmondi area of Dhaka city and rounded up his two accomplices, Moazzem and Ashraf.

Police Super Abdullah Al Mahmud said Ayub was wanted in a dozen killing cases including Mir Ilias Hossain Dilip murder in 1999.

Couple arrested with heroin

UNB, Munshiganj

A couple was arrested along with 14 small packets of heroin from Nagar Kosba area on Wednesday.

Police Nasir Miah and his wife Rizia Begum were engaged in illegal drug trading in the locality for long.

16 ruling party men sued in Bogra

Attack on district AL office during hartal alleged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra.

Sixteen leaders and activists of ruling BNP and its front organizations were sued on Friday for their alleged involvement in the attacks on former lawmaker Begum Kamrun Nahar Putul and the district Awami League office during Thursday's hartal.

Putul, also secretary of Bogra district Sramik League, AL's labour front, filed the case with Bogra Sadar thana after the attacks but police recorded it at about 9pm on Friday.

The accuses include Mahbur Rahman Bakul, president of Bogra city BNP, Sahid-Un-Nabi Salam, president of district Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Shahabul Alam Piplu, secretary of district JCD and JCD leader Simpul.

In the case, it has been alleged

that leaders and activists of BNP and JCD attacked the district AL office under police protection and ransacked portraits of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Sheikh Hasina, Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni and Shahid Noor Hossain. They also beat Putul and Chhatra League leader Aminul Islam Dabul when the tried to resist them, it was alleged in the case.

Sugar recovered

UNB, Chandpur

A total of 110 sacks of Indian sugar were recovered from an oil shop in Shaharasti Poursabha here on Wednesday.

A team of police raided the shop belonging to Abul Kashem on Suapara-Chandpur-Comilla road and seized the contraband worth about Tk 1.37 lakh.

Woman killed in Noakhali road accident

UNB, Noakhali

A woman was killed and 20 others were injured in a road accident Chatkhill upazila on Choumuhani-Ramganj road on Friday.

The dead was identified as Sheuli Rani, 30, of Chandrapur village in Ramganj upazila.

Locals said driver of a Ramganj-bound bus fell into a roadside ditch killing Sheuli on the spot and injuring others at 4pm.

The injured were admitted to Chatkhill Upazila Health Complex. Condition of five was stated to be critical. A case was filed with the police.

Two minor boys rescued

UNB, Habiganj

An alleged child trafficker was arrested and two minor boys were rescued from his clutch from Kashinagar village in Bahubol upazila on Thursday night.

Police arrested the trafficker, Abdul Hamid raiding his house at the village and rescued the boys identified as Jahangir, 7, and Sujan, 6.

Police said Hamid took the two boys to India after abducting them a few months ago. Failing to send them to a Middle Eastern country as jockeys in camel race, he brought them back home.

'Rocket' runs aground, salvaged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Steamer 'Rocket' which ran aground on Thursday night was salvaged by BIWTC (Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation) tugboat on Friday night.

The steamer, PS Mahsud ran aground with hundreds of passengers on board while on way to Dhaka from Barisal. The accident occurred due to non-marking of new shoals along the navigation route.

According to passengers and BIWTC sources, PS Mahsud, coming from Khulna left Barisal for Dhaka on Thursday evening with about 600 passengers on board. At about 10 at night the steamer ran aground at Bogadiar Char under Barisal Sadar near Mehendiganj upazila.

Habibur Rahman, Barisal Station Manager told The Daily Star that there was no marking sign in the river to mark new shoals hidden in water.



PHOTO: STAR

Relief materials are being distributed among the flood affected people of Daulatpur upazila at Char Kalikapur Shukuria Dakhil Madrassah in Manikganj district. Adventist Development and Relief Agency in Bangladesh (ADRA-Bangladesh) in cooperation with Voluntary Organisation for the Needy (VON) donated the relief goods.