

SNAPS

Kotirbazar bridge opens next month

**BSS,Narsingdi**  
The 160-metre Kotir Bazar-Adiabab bridge on Arial Kha river is expected to be opened for traffic next month.  
Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is implementing the project.  
LGED sources said 98 per cent work on the project has been completed and the rest will be done within the stipulated time.  
Narsingdi LGED Executive Engineer Elias Morshed visited the on-construction bridge recently to see the progress of work.

Sons hand over father to police

**UNB, Meherpur**  
Sons handed over their father to police for killing their mother at village Komorpur in Mujibnagar upazila on Monday.  
Police said Shahan Ali beat his wife Chan Moni,32, to death following a family dispute on Monday noon.  
When Shahan Ali tried to flee, his two sons and neighbours caught him and handed over to Komorpur police camp.

Woman killed by husband

**UNB, N'ganj**  
A woman was beaten to death allegedly by her husband for protesting his extra-marital affairs at Azibpur village in Siddhirganj thana Monday night.  
The killer, Suruj Mian, along with other house inmates went into hiding after killing her wife Nasima Akhter China 23. A case was filed with local police.

Human chain formed

**A CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj**  
The Manikganj district unit of Bangladesh Mohila Parishad on Monday formed a human chain in the district town protesting killing, rape and torture on women and children.  
Wearing black badges, people from all walks of life including students, teachers, lawyers, journalists and NGO workers participated in the human chain formed in front of Manikganj Press Club.

Case against 32 Barisal AL men

HC stays hearing by lower court, issues rule nisi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The High Court on Tuesday stayed for six months the hearing of a case against 32 Barisal Awami League leaders and workers in a court here, according to a message received here.  
The HC also issued a *rule nisi* on the relevant authorities to show cause why the case would not be transferred from the Barisal court, court sources here said.  
The HC ruling by a Vacation Bench comprising Justice A B M Khairul Huq and Justice Salma

Masud Chowdhury followed a writ by the AL leaders in the HC earlier on Tuesday.  
Laskar Nurul Huq, president of Barisal district Awami Ainjibi Parishad, who is among the 32 accused, filed the writ under Section 526 of CRPC for transfer of their case from the lower court in Barisal.  
All the 32 are now on two month's interim bail, granted by the HC on August 23.  
Earlier, hearing was scheduled for September 13 (Monday) at a Barisal Magistrate Court whether charges would be framed against

the 32 accused.  
The case against the 32 was lodged under the Speedy Trial Act on August 14 after some vehicles were ransacked during an AL procession in the town when the party leaders and workers were on the their way to Tungipara to join Bangabandhu Sheik Mujibur Rahman's death anniversary celebration there.  
The lower court in Barisal then ordered confiscation of movable properties of the accused as they went into hiding to avoid arrest.

Joint anti-piracy drive in coastal areas from today

Police, Coast Guard, Navy to fan out

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A joint anti-piracy operation by police, Coast Guard and Navy begins today in the Meghna estuary and coastal areas of Barisal and Bhola against the backdrop of several recent incidents of piracy and killing of fishermen.  
In the latest such incident, four fishermen were reportedly abducted from Latakhali in Monpura on September 4 and feared killed.  
The operation was scheduled to begin yesterday, but delayed as the naval force was not deployed in time.  
When contacted yesterday, the Barisal Deputy Commissioner told this correspondent that he sent an urgent message and expects the naval force would reach the area by this morning.  
The district law and order review committee at a meeting at Bhola on

Tuesday with state minister in charge of the district Mosarraf Hossain Shahjahn in the chair discussed the situation.  
Bhola Police Superintendent Mallick Fakrul Islam will coordinate the operation and Commander Lt. Roisuddin Ahmed will be in charge of Coast Guard personnel, sources said.  
The combing operation will cover the five upazilas of Monpura, Charfesson, Lalmoohan, Borhanuddin, Tazumuddin and Daulatkhan and their territorial waters to nab pirates and trace the abducted fishermen, dead or alive, the sources said.  
Police teams from Barisal, Bhola, Laxmipur, Ramgoti and Noakhali have joined the operation.  
Talking to this correspondent Bhola Additional SP Lutfar Rahman expressed hope about success of the operation.



PHOTO: STAR

A canal dug over a century to keep Rangpur town clean and disease-free is now a breeding ground for germs.

A laudable initiative

'Citizens rally' at Rangpur today for re-excavation of century-old canal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A 'citizens' rally' will be held in the town today demanding re-excavation of the century-old 'Shayama Sundari' canal passing through the town and to free it from encroachers.  
Natun Dhara, a local socio-cultural organisation, organised the rally.  
The canal, dug in 1890 at the initiative of the then Zamindar of Dimla Raja Jonaki Ballav to drain out stagnant and polluted water from the town, is now virtually derelict and filled with garbage. Sayings go that he had taken the initiative as diseases like malaria, cholera, typhoid, and skin infection became almost endemic in the small town as rain-water remained stagnant for long creating dirt and filth.  
After excavation of the nine-mile canal through the town, the diseases tapered off. The canal falls into the Tapa river.  
But the derelict canal is now a breeding ground for germs, mosquitoes and flies, spreading diseases and polluting the environment.  
The original canal was 30 to 35

feet in breadth. But in several areas, it has been encroached by land grabbers, choking the outlet.  
After the rally, a memorandum will also be handed over to the Deputy Commissioner for removal of encroachments.  
The rally will be followed by mass songs to create awareness among

the people.  
Natun Dhara has also planned pisciculture in the canal and tree plantation on its banks, sources said.  
They said people of all strata of life and all political parties and socio-cultural bodies have extended support to their initiative.

Market now a desolate place

Panicked traders witnessed five murders in front of Khulna AL office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Shankha Market, where Awami League office is situated in the town, is now a desolate place.  
Most of the shops closed soon after Saturday's murder of AL leader Kamrul Islam Kutu in front of the AL office are yet to reopen.  
"We are in panic", said a medicine shop owner.  
"It has become highly risky for us to do business near a political party office", said Mansur Azad who owns an electronic goods shop.  
Another shop owner said he is planning to shift his business from the market.  
"Business is not all. Security is important. We are apolitical, but might be implicated in any dirty matter any time", he said.  
Businessman at Shankha Market have witnessed five politi-

cal murders in front of the AL office in last one decade.  
The victims belonged to AL, its youth front Jubo League and student front Chatra League.  
After every murder, police come but in most cases, the killers escape the police net, another trader said.  
Jubo League leader Tutul was gunned down in front of AL office in 1992.  
Chatra League activist Bikash Jubo League leader Anwar Hossain were gunned down there in 1996 and 1999 respectively.  
Another Jubo League activist, Shajahan, was shot dead in 1999.  
All these murders were committed in presence of large number of people and policeman deployed to guard the AL office.  
Investigation of three of the murders have been stalled for reason yet to be known.



PHOTO: STAR

Members of the Christian community brought out a mourning procession in Lalmonirhat town on Monday (left), demanding proper inquiry into the death of housewife Tia (right).

Housewife's death in Lalmonirhat Hunger strike, procession for 'proper' probe

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Members of the Christian community, joined by primary school students, yesterday observed a five-hour hunger strike at the Mission Crossing in the town demanding "proper" inquiry and punishment to the "killers" of housewife Tia.  
Tia, 25, died from burn injuries she suffered at her husband's residence in the town on August 29.  
The Christian community also brought out a mourning procession on Monday.  
Claims and counter-claims were made by Tia's father and her husband's families about the cause of her death.  
On September 7, a press confer-

ence was organised by the local Christian community at a Christianpara house where the victim's father demanded proper investigation into the death.  
The victim's younger brother Arvin Sihir Adhikari alias Tota submitted a complaint to the Lalmonirhat superintendent of police (SP) on September 6 for a proper inquiry into the death.  
Family members of her husband Pavel told journalists that Tia was injured as the stove burst when she was boiling milk at the kitchen.

Baishtila will now be a children's park cum zoo

Tender floated by Sylhet Zila Parishad last week

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet.

The site selected for a proposed 'natural park' in Sylhet city's suburban Baishtila area years ago will now be used for establishing a children's park cum zoo.  
It will be set up and run commercially by a private company under contract, official sources said.  
Sylhet Zila Parishad owns the huge area. The site covering 43.39 acres of land was acquired decades ago for establishing a natural park. About 10,000 trees of different species are there.  
Last week, the authorities floated

tender for establishing the proposed children's park cum zoo. Proposals have been sought from private firms to set up and run the park and zoo for a period of ten years.  
The successful bidder will have pay revenue on yearly basis in compliance with terms and condition of the contract.  
It will construct all necessary infrastructures keeping the biodiversity and environment as it is. It will collect all animals for the zoo.  
The project may involve about Tk three crore, said an expert.  
Earlier, the Zila Parishad had leased the site to a private firm in 1999 for

ten years through tender for establishing a 'natural park'.  
The firm had made an initial payment of Tk 2.5 lakh in December 1999 as revenue for the first year (2000). A total Tk 36 lakh was to be paid to the Zila Parishad in three years.  
But after the initial payment, the party neither made any more payment nor did any work on the project. The agreement provided for completion of the project in three years.  
Now, the defaulter firm will have to pay Tk six lakh or face legal action, said an official.



PHOTO: STAR

From planned 'natural park' to children's park cum zoo... will the latest plan be implemented?

