

SNAPS

Negligence: 8 Darshana rly station staff suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga
The railway authorities on Wednesday suspended eight security personnel of Darshana railway station security camp on charge of negligence of duty. The suspended persons are SI Saiful Islam, Nayek Abdul Quddus and Shahjahan and security guards Golam Mustafa, Sajedul Hoque, Arman, Shomsher and Abul Hashem. Armed miscreants looted 50 bags of wheat from a wagon of Darshana railway station yard. Later, the matter came to the notice of the rail western zone authorities. After proper inquiry the general manager of Bangladesh Railway western zone suspended the security personnel.

Workshop for researchers held at IU

AN IU CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia
A two-day workshop on research methodology for M Phil and Ph D researchers at Islamic University (IU) concluded at the Arts Faculty on Friday. Prof Dr ABM Siddikur Rahman read out the keynote paper at the workshop, held with IU Vice Chancellor Mustafizur Rahman in the chair. Prof Dr AKM Iyakub Ali of Rajshahi University and Prof Dr AKM Nurul Alam, Dean of Theology and Islamic Studies Faculty of IU were present as special guest.

2 'outlaws' held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia
Two alleged members of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) were arrested from Marcha village in Daulatpur upazila in the district on Thursday. Police said the two are Abdul Mannan, accused in seven cases including three murder cases and Shukchand, accused in two cases filed with Daulatpur and Mirpur thanas. Acting on a tip-off, police raided the house of one Saidur Rahman and arrested them. But police did not arrest Saidur.

Kushtia BNP body formed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia
Kushtia district committee of ruling BNP has been formed with Sahidul Islam MP and Syed Mehedi Ahmed Rumi MP president and secretary respectively for next two years. Information Minister Tariqul Islam was present as chief at the convention, held at Kushtia Islamia College ground on Thursday. Food Minister Abdullah AL Noman, Mashiur Rahman MP, Shorab Uddin MP and Jamaat-e-Islami Kushtia Ameer Abdul Wahed were present as special guests. Kushtia BNP Vice-president Azizur Rahman was in the chair. Shorab Uddin MP of Kushtia Sadar was made the organising secretary of the district body. Party's district unit president and former post and telecommunications minister was not present the convention due to party's internal conflict, party insiders said.

Probe body trying to 'cover up' Barisal T&T scam

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal
Investigation into gross irregularities and corruption in Barisal T&T has started but members of the inquiry team are allegedly trying to cover up the scams. Some of the probe body members are seen moving with the accused persons, sources claimed. A divisional engineer from Khulna region leads the inquiry team, comprising officials from the General Manager's office in Khulna and sub-divisional engineers offices in Bhola and Madaripur districts. The team came to Barisal on Tuesday and started their work on Wednesday. The team is examining different official papers and visited Agailjhara to detect illegal ISD connections against fake addresses. But during its visit to Agailjhara, the team was accompanied by a Sub-Divisional Engineer whose son was allegedly involved in the illegal ISD connections. Sources claimed that some files are being tempered to cover up the gross irregularities which deprived the government crores of taka in revenue. Extra manpower has been engaged hurriedly to "eliminate the signs of corruption". This is also hampering normal functioning and maintenance at Barisal T&T, they claimed.




PHOTO: STAR

Blindness no more a hurdle in life: A chorus by blind children enthralled the audience in Lalmonirhat town on October 15. RDRS, an NGO, organised the function to mark the World White Cane Safety Day.

People want to get rid of govt's misrule, says AL leader Jalil

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal.
Rape and other crimes against women during the past two years of the alliance government have surpassed the record of Pakistan occupation army, Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil has claimed. Law and order has deteriorated and repression on opposition parties has mounted. Ruling party men try to foil opposition's programme organised anywhere in the country. They speak of democracy but act as fascists, he alleged. Parliament has been made inactive by silencing the opposition. Corruption under the government has crossed all records, he said addressing a party workers meeting at Kuakata in Patuakhali Thursday night. After politicisation of the administration, BCS questions are being leaked now to allow BNP-Jamat men get government jobs, he alleged. This cannot continue. People want to get rid of this suffocating situation. The AL general secretary said people are attending AL meetings and programmes in large numbers in different areas of the country. They even wait till late night to listen to AL leaders, which proves they no longer want the alliance rule. He called upon party workers to build up a movement against the government's "misrule". AL central organizing secretary and former VP of DUCSU Mahabubur Rahman Manna said prices of all essentials are increasing ahead of the holy Ramadan but the government is unconcerned. Local AL MP Mahbubur Rahman also addressed the meeting, presided over by Abdul Barek Molla, local UP chairman and president of the Latachapli UP Awami League. AL leaders and workers from different areas of Barguna and Patuakhali attended the meeting, rounded off with a cultural function. Jalil and Manna are visiting Barguna and Patuakhali region.

JSD forms human chain in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia
The Jatiya Samajtantric Dal (JSD) formed a human chain along the highway from Hosenabad in Danlatpur upazila to Kushtia town, protesting the BNP-Jamaat government's alleged misrule. Thousands of people joined JSD workers in the programme. It was formed on the third day of an eight-day programme for forming human chains in different districts. Speaking on the occasion, JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu said the government should step down as it failed to run the country.

AL-BNP clash leaves 25 hurt in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura
The feuding groups used lethal weapons during the clash. Police and locals said supporters of the organising secretary of the Sadar thana unit of AL Shahidul Molla and local BNP leader and union parishad (UP) member Lavlu Biswas clashed over establishment of supremacy in the area. On information, Sadar thana police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. Police arrested three persons from the spot. However, no case was lodged till filing of this report at 1-45 pm yesterday.

More recruitment demanded IU teachers demonstrate on campus

AN IU CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia
Islamic University Teachers Association (IUTA) brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus on Wednesday to press their three-point demand. The demands include recruitment and promotion of teachers. Speakers at the rally criticised the University Grants Commission (UGC) for taking no decision regarding recruitment of teachers. They threatened of a tough movement if the demands are not met within seven days. They also demanded that the IU should have authority to recruit teachers and take decision regarding their promotion. Presided over by IUTA President Dr Abul Kalam Patowari, the rally was addressed by, among others, its general secretary Dr M Alinur Rahman, AKM Motiur Rahman, Kamaluddin, Prof. Dr. Sahninur Rahman.

Tala upazila Jubo Dal council held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira
A biennial council of Tala upazila Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal was held on Thursday. The council formed a 51-member committee with Hafizur Rahman and Yasin Ullah as president and general secretary respectively. Habibul Islam Habib MP was the chief guest at the council, held on the premises of the Shilpakala Academy. Among others, Prof Modasserul Haq Huda, ABM Altaf Hossain, Mirinal Kanti, Abul Hasan Hadi and Maroof Khan Mithu, Abu Zahid Dablu, Hafizur Rahman, Wazed Biswas, Badruzzaman and Atiar Rahman addressed the council. Prof Saiful Islam was in the chair.

'Outlaws' kidnap 3 fishermen in Dumuria

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna
Three fish traders have been abducted from Shibpur village in under Dumuria upazila allegedly by outlaws, police here said on Friday. The fish traders are Ramzan, 40, Kawser Ali, 34 and Kawser Molla, 42. They are yet to be recovered although a combing operation is continuing in the upazila. Police arrested six persons including two Union Parishad members in connection with the abduction. The UP members are Babar Ali of Ward No 7 in Shovna union and Bishnupada Mondol of Ward No 6 in Altia union. The rest four are Kumaresh Mondol, Dipak Mondol, Dilip Mollick and Ajjar Rahman. Sources said abductors are armed cadres of Biplobi Communist Party. They abducted the fishermen as they were refused shelter in a shrimp enclosure on Sunday last, police said.

7 toll collectors caught by villagers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj
Villagers caught seven alleged extortionists when they went to realise Tk 50,000 toll from school teacher Bongshi Dor Shaha at Ichamoti village under the Sadar upazila at night recently. They are Shamim Mollik of village Pachibari Tulkocha, Younus Ali of Rajibpur, Nazrul Islam of Gorachara, Monjur Alam of Fulkocha, Mojuu Bhuiya of Gorachara, Rayhan of Gorachara and Bacchu of Gorachara village. Police said the seven went to the village at about 10 pm and demanded the toll money at gunpoint. As the schoolteacher cried out for help, villagers came and caught them. They were beaten and handed over to police.

Paturia-Daulatdia ferry service may snap any time

2 vessels run aground again, water level falling one inch in 24 hours

A CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj
Ferry service in Paturia-Daulatdia channel in the Padma may be disrupted any time as the water level is falling fast. From Monday to Wednesday, two ferry vessels ran aground in the channel. Tugboats sent to rescue the vessels were also stranded, BIWTA sources at Paturia terminal said. The water level is falling by about one inch in 24 hours. At least 7-30 feet water is needed for a ferry to move but now the depth is seven feet only, they said. Ferry vessel Shah Ali ran aground on Monday morning. The ferry was rescued by three tugboats Tuesday afternoon, but one of the tugboats was stranded there. Over 300 passenger on the ferry were stranded on the boat amid crisis of food and water. On Wednesday, another ferry vessel--Hamidur Rahman--ran aground on a shoal near Daulatdia ferry terminal. Three tugboats rescued the ferry. There are only four tugboats in Paturia-Daulatdia ferry terminals, and often those also become stranded while rescuing ferry vessels, the sources said. A message has been sent to Dhaka for more tugboats. Dredging is continuing in the channel but it is difficult to keep it navigable because of the fast-falling water level, they said. BIWT has opened a new channel on the route to avoid disruption in service, but the ferries are carrying one third of their normal load due to the poor navigability. This is creating snarl-up of vehicles at Paturia and Daulatdia, they said.

Diarrhoea kills 8 more in Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat

STAR NATIONAL DESK
Eight more persons have died from diarrhoea in Gaibandha and Lalmonirhat districts. Our Gaibandha correspondent reported that the disease killed seven more persons in the last three four, raising the toll to eleven in the district. Health officials said diarrhoea is spreading in Shaghata and Sunderganj upazilas and patients are going to local health complexes in large numbers for treatment. The dead are Lafsy Begum, 2 and Alama Begum, 10, of Fatekha village, Shahabi Begum, 5, of Baidanath village and Akbar Ali, 45, of Charuatar village under Sunderganj Upazila; Majeda Begum, 30, of Arifkha village, Jamila, 12, of Hasdara village under Gaibandha Sadar upazila and Kanchuri Begum, 55, of Madanerp Para village under Fulchari Upazila. The Deputy Commissioner has opened a control room to monitor diarrhoea situation in the district and said adequate measures have already been taken to check spread of the disease. Doctors say outbreak of diarrhoeal is a seasonal phenomenon. Every year this time people in remote areas are attacked with the disease. Our Lalmonirhat correspondent reported that diarrhoea killed one Badar Uddin, 45, at Jalangi village under Patgram upazila on Friday. With this, the unofficial death toll from the disease rose to six in Patgram. Officials confirmed three deaths earlier. At least 200 people have been attacked with the disease since it broke out in five upazilas of the district last week. Fifty-five patients have been admitted to different hospitals and health complexes and another over 100 taken treatment, the officials said. People in Patgram alleged that Saline was not available at the health complex. When contacted over telephone, Lalmonirhat Civil Surgeon Dr Sohrab Hossain Sarkar said 42 medical teams are working in the affected areas. A message has been sent to higher authorities for sending saline immediately, he said.

Journalist Shamsur Rahman murder Chargesheeted accused Shukur arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna
Shukur Hossain, one of the chargesheeted accused in Janakantho journalist Shamsur Rahman murder case, was arrested along with two of his accomplices Thursday evening from a house at Noepara under Abhoyanagar thana in Jessore. Police recovered from his possession two Indian revolvers and 150 bottles of phenisidyl. His two associates are Jahangir and Anwar. Mamtaz Begum, wife of Anwar, has also been taken to custody for questioning. According to police, Shukur, who first shot at Shamsur Rahman, came out of Jessore Central Jail on bail in January. He was involved in planning another killing along with Pagla Selim, the prime accused in Shamsur Rahman murder case. Abhoyanagar thana officer-in-charge said Pagla Selim and Shukur were hiding in the house of drug trafficker Anwar with arms and ammunition to kill a businessman. Police refused to divulge the name of the businessman for the sake of investigation. Police said Shukur and Pagla Selim went to India last month to buy arms. They are involved in both arms and drug trade, police said.

College girl Zahida rape, murder case CID fails to submit fresh charge sheet in 3 months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura
Fresh charge sheet in college girl Zahida rape and murder case is yet to be submitted three months after transfer of the case to the criminal investigation department (CID). "For submission of a fresh charge sheet in the case, arrest of at least one of the absconding accused persons is essential and we are trying our level best to nab the culprits," said CID inspector Narrul Islam while talking to The Daily Star. The case was transferred to CID in July this year for further investigation and submission of a fresh charge sheet following a 'narrail' (no-confidence) petition regarding the charge sheet submitted earlier by the Detective Branch (DB) of police. Zahida Khatun, daughter of a poor farmer Raihan Joarder of Boroichara village in Sreepur upazila appeared in the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination last year from Dariapur College. She secured first division in the HSC examination from Humanities group. But she could not know the result as she was raped and strangled by local miscreants on July 5, 2002, a few days after the examination. Zahida was returning home from her friend's house at that time. Miscreants allegedly led by Mamun of Dariapur village dragged her to a jute field and killed her after gang rape. Local people said, Mamun was handed over to police by his elder brother on the same day to save him from the wrath of people. After a few days he was released on bail while the rest accused persons are still at large.

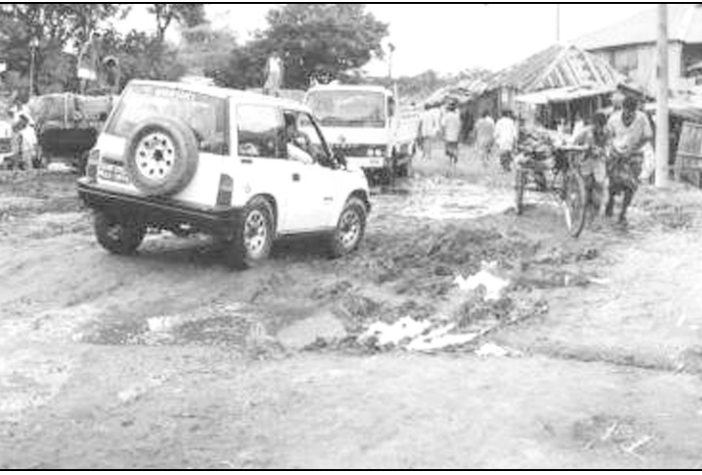



PHOTO: STAR

Sunset on the sea and its roaring waters in Kuakata attracts many tourists but it is not so easy to reach there. The main hurdle is the muddy Kalapara-Kuakata road, dotted with deep holes and small ditches. Even light transports face accidents and become stranded for hours. Roads linking Kalapara, Mohipur and Alipur ferry ghat are alike. At Alipur Chowrasta, Rashidia Madrasa and some other spots, there are holes more than three feet wide, virtually blocking the road. Roads and Highways Department in Patuakhali says DANIDA is responsible for maintenance of the road. So they have nothing to do. DANIDA officials say they have started work and the Kalapara-Kuakata portion will not be renovated before June next year.