

SNAPS

**Stolen Sundari wood recovered in Patuakhali**

**A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali**  
Sundari wood worth about Tk 70 lakh was seized from the Chotto Bighai river under Sadar upazila recently.  
Police arrested two persons in this connection.  
Police said a gang of smugglers were going to Sarupkhathi in two trawlers loaded with the wood stolen from Sharakhola range in the Sundarbans. While they were crossing the Chotto Bighai river, local fishermen challenged them. The smugglers fled away keeping their trawlers. Local people caught two of them and handed over to police.

**Teenage domestic help 'strangled' by house owner**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla**  
A teenage domestic help was strangled recently allegedly by the house owner at Rampur village under Moradnagar upazila.  
The victim was identified as Niyoti Rani Pal, 16, daughter of Narayan Chandra Pal, an inhabitant of the same village.  
According to police sources Niyoti was serving at the house of Anil Chandra Shaha, son of Bishambir Chandra Shaha for the last five years.  
A case was registered with Moradnagar police station.

**Youth rescued, 2 abductors held**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira**  
Police rescued a young man named Mahiuddin from Eliaschar village in the Sadar upazila and arrested two of his abductors from Satkhira town on Tuesday.  
Mahiuddin, 17, son of Mazid Sardar of Pantipara village in the Sadar upazila was abducted from Kathanda bazaar on the same day by Farooq, 19, son of Majan Ali of Sultampur and Hazrat Ali, 18, son of Mazid Sardar in the Sadar upazila.  
The arrested culprits confessed to police who rescued the victim afterwards.

**Pneumonia kills 9 more in Patuakhali**

**A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali**  
Pneumonia killed nine more children in Patuakhali in the last three weeks.  
Over 50 pneumonia patients come to Patuakhali Sadar Hospital every day, sources there said yesterday.  
At least 20 children were seen lying on the floor in unhygienic condition for want of bed at the children's ward. As treatment takes one to two weeks, accommodation has become a problem, doctors said.  
Civil Surgeon office sources said the disease is widespread due to lack of primary healthcare knowledge of illiterate parents.  
The situation was not better earlier also. Since January, 65 children died and at least 30,000 were attacked with the disease, they said.  
They said measures for imparting primary healthcare training to parents should be taken to contain spread of the disease.

A success story of Sylhet Partnership

**Garbage-based compost plant holds hope for a clean city**



(From left) Waste being collected from bins kept at different points in Sylhet city, compost fertiliser produced at Sylhet Partnership Composting Plant and farmers at Anantapur village in Sylhet Sadar using the fertiliser.

**IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet**

Some individuals through collective efforts are doing the job which the Sylhet City Corporation failed to do. They are keeping some city areas clean by recycling the waste into compost fertiliser for use in croplands.  
The compost plant set up in the city by the Sylhet Partnership is a success story, holding hopes for a clean city, free of dirt and garbage.  
The city corporation has however extended a helping hand to the organisation whose 10-member Board of Directors include the Registrar of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Acting Editor of a local Daily, president of Sylhet

Chamber, NGO representatives and the Mayor of Sylhet City Corporation.  
The pilot plant set up on a rented plot at Shamimabad is running well, producing 400 to 500 kgs of compost fertiliser from waste collected from houses and business establishments, its Chief Executive Officer Uttam Kumar Shaha told this correspondent.  
Though set up with a non-profit organisation, it hopes to earn profit, he said.  
The compost produced is sold at Tk 5 per kg and is in good demand because it regenerates soil fertility, destroyed by use of chemical fertiliser, he said.  
"We would be able to earn Tk 3,000 to 4,000 by selling a ton of

compost while the city corporation is now spending Tk 2800 only to collect the waste", he said.  
The project is yet to reach break-even point. But the existing staff would be able to manage things even if the present operational arrangement is extended four times. This would definitely make the plant profitable, other Partnership officials hoped.  
Now, wastes are collected from 2700 households in Wards 1 and 2 and from 2000 business establishments from Airport to Circuit House areas by small area-based voluntary organisations through 16 vans and brought to the plant.  
The beneficiary house owners pay Tk 20 to Tk 30 for the service.

Waste collection and disposal is the number one problem of the city of 26.5 square kilometers with a population of about six lakh.  
According to SCC sources, every day 180 to 200 metric tons of waste are generated in the city. The SCC collects only 60 to 70 tonnes while the rest ultimately clogs outlets creating serious pollution and environmental problem.  
The collected waste is now being dumped in SCC's dumping ground at Lalmatia, 7 kilometres off the city, amid protest by local people.  
The Partnership has also formed a networking group comprising the Department of Agriculture, On Farm Research

Division (OFRD), Soil Resources Development Institute (SRDI) and Environmental Engineering Department of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology.  
The quality of compost has been analysed at the SRDI laboratory in Dhaka.  
The report says the compost produced has good NPK value. It has one per cent Nitrogen (N) against 1.1 per cent in those available in the international market, 0.5 per cent Phosphorus (P) against 0.4 and 0.5 per cent Potassium (K).  
The compost will regenerate soil fertility, lost due to excessive use of chemical fertilizer, the report said.

The pilot project was started last year with assistance from the British High Commission, European Commission's Asia-Urbs programme and Denmark's Horsens Municipality.  
It is the outcome of a two-year work that began in 2001.  
Partnership's major expenditure is for the salary of its 24 permanent labourers and other staff. It also pays Tk 7500 per month as rent for the plant site, Uttam said.  
"We can expand the project in five more wards with a small funding to develop a sustainable waste management system", he added.  
SCC Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran is also hopeful of a big success from the pilot project.

**BIWTC Barisal-Ctg service on verge of closure**

**AKTER FARUK, Barisal**

Lack of vessels, poor navigability and alleged negligence by BIWTC has brought Barisal-Chittagong direct river communication to a near-close situation.  
Two out of three BIWTC vessels on the route are out of order and the rest one -- MV Matin--plies twice a week-- on Tuesday and Friday.  
The lone vessel may discontinue the service due to continued loss, BIWTC sources said.  
But passengers say irregular service and long travel time compelled them to avail other routes and transports.  
BIWTC sources said a ves-

sel could earn a profit of around Tk 50,000 earlier in a round trip, but loses around Tk 80,000 now.  
Operation cost per round trip is about Tk one lakh including TK 90,000 for fuel and Tk 10,00 for staff salary and other expenditure.  
Carrying of merchandise through vessels has sharply declined, they said.  
Passengers say they can reach Chittagong from Barisal in 24 hours using other transports while a BIWTC vessel takes 30 to 36 hours. The ships also lack modern facilities for loading and unloading of goods.  
Besides, vesels are often stuck up in shoals, specially during low

tide in dry season because of shallow water. This happens in Meghna waters in the downstream, said Habibur Rahman, BIWTC station manager in Barisal.  
There are at least 11 points on the route where vessels have to negotiate very carefully. So sea-going vessels can not ply.  
Vessels remain stranded for hours during low tide, he said.  
Lack of proper navigation signal lights is another major hindrance to operation of vessels on the route. Buoy and signal lights are required at least at 14 points on the route for smooth operation of vessels, but such facilities are available only at seven points now. It is highly risky for vessels to ply without such facilities, he said.

**PBCP leaflets in 2 dists call to fight 'class enemy police'**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**

Outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP, M-L) has dropped leaflets all over Khulna and Bagerhat districts vowing to wage a guerilla fight against their 'class enemies' police.  
All its cadres have been asked to snatch arms from police by planned and organised attacks throughout the southwestern zone

of the country.  
The leaflets termed policemen as miserably corrupt. They have no right to live. They should be physically liquidated for emancipation of the oppressed and unarmed innocent people', the leaflets said. 'Innocent people are being falsely implicated in the murders of armed cadres Rahamat, Aziz, Sabuj, Jashim, Saeed, Mannan and Bishwajit who were actually beaten to death by police',

the leaflets further said.  
The leaflets printed in name of Abdur Rashid Tapu, General Secretary of PBCP's Khulna-Bagerhat regional committee, wanted to know from the high command of the BNP-led Alliance government including the Law Minister whether murders in name of combating operations were legal or illegal and liable for punishment under law of the land?

**12 killed, 50 hurt in road mishaps in Patuakhali, Comilla, Mymensingh**

**STAR NATIONAL DESK**

Twelve people including two children were killed and at least 50 injured in road accidents in Mymensingh, Patuakhali and Comilla yesterday and the day before.  
**Our Mymensingh Correspondent** reported that at least eight persons were killed and 20 injured in two road accidents in Phalpur upazila yesterday morning.  
Six of them were killed on the spot and 21 injured when a Netrakona-bound bus collided head with a pickup at Gazalorpur on the Mymensingh-Metrokona highway in Phalpur upazila at about 5.30 am police said.  
Another person died at Mymensingh Medical college Hospital (MMCH) later.  
Three of the dead have been identified as Rana Baul, 33, son of Sumendra Baul of Kristapur in the district town; Rashedul, 30, son of Imam Ali of Bauli village and Abu Taher, 40, son of Imam Ali of Hapanea village under Purbadhala upazila in Netrokona. Identity of rest of the victims could not be known immediately.  
The injured include Monu Miah, 30, son of Kchham; Tanvir, 33, son of Tofazzol Hossain; Mamtaz Miah, 21; Sukesh Chakraborti, 48, son late Satish Chakraborti.  
In another accident on the

Mymensingh-Haluaghat highway at Deau in Phalpur, one Abdul Waheed, 30, of Batia village was crushed under the wheels of a Dhubura-bound bus from Mymensingh at about 8 am yesterday.  
**A Patuakhali Correspondent** reported that three persons including a child were killed and 30 people were injured in three road accidents in the district.  
Police said, Jahangir, 40, died on the spot and 20 people were injured as a bus skidded off the Patuakhali-Amtali road and fell into a ditch on Saturday near Amtoli.  
The injured were taken to Amtali health complex and Patuakhali Sadar Hospital.  
In another accident in Bauphal upazila, five year-old Kawsar died

on the spot and at least seven people were injured as another bus met with an accident near the upazila headquarter.  
An autotempo fell into a ditch at Chatra Kanda village in Bauphal upazila on the same day, killing a member of a bridal party. The dead was identified as Ali Hossain.  
**A correspondent reported from Comilla** that a boy was killed in a road accident at Kotbari intersection under the Sadar upazila on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway.  
Police and witnesses said Md Rajib 12, son of Abul Kashem of Champu-knagar area in the Sadar upazila, was killed by a Dhaka-bound bus while he was crossing the road. The bus sped away.  
Following the accident, agitated people put up a barricade on the road stopping traffic for an hour.

**Rangpur Sugar Mills reopens on Dec 5 following agitation**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha**

Once laid off due to recurring losses, Rangpur Sugar Mills in Gaibandha will reopen and begin sugarcane crushing on December 5 following movement by its workers and sugarcane growers.  
The decision to resume production was conveyed to the mill authorities on Saturday by the Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation, sources at the mill said yesterday.  
The mill was declared laid off last year due to recurring losses.  
Protesting the decision, mills workers and sugarcane growers launched a vigorous movement which included protest processions, road barricades, laying siege to the Deputy Commissioner's office and submission of memorandum to the Prime Minister.  
The government withdrew decision in the face of the agitation.  
Earlier, the authorities had decided to start sugar cane crushing from November 30 but the industries ministry stopped the move for unknown reasons.  
Finally, the ministry agreed to reopen the mill on December 5, the sources said.

**Diarrhoea kills 7 in Gaibandha**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha**

At least seven persons died of diarrhoea and over 100 have been attacked with the disease in Gobindaganj and Saduallapur Upazilas.  
The dead are Sabijan, 55, of Sundail village; Gandela Shikh, 50 and Abdul Jalil, 48, of Narichagar; Anser Ali, 42, of Purbo Durgapur; Sima, 8, of Urdha Nagar; Rafiqul Islam, 20, of Pachim Durgapur and Chand Mia, 65, of Monduervillage.  
Every day, 10 to 15 diarrhoea patients are being admitted to Gobindaganj upazila health complex, sources there said. On Friday, 15 patients were admitted there.  
Some of the patients said they were given with TC capsules and oral saline from the hospital, but critical patients have to buy Cholera saline from outside.  
A doctor at the hospital said the situation is under control. Outbreak of diarrhoea during this time of the year is a seasonal phenomenon as people take impure water and unwholesome food due to poverty.

**9 ruling party men among 14 hurt in Satkhira clash**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira**

At least 14 persons were injured, two of them in critically, in a clash over installation of shallow tube-well at a crop land at Komorpur village in the Sadar upazila here on Saturday noon.  
Of the injured, nine were cadres of Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal, youth and student wings of the ruling BNP who were hired for the clash while five others were innocent villagers.  
The injured Jubodal and Chhatra Dal leaders were Shamim, 28, Nansa, 25, Bobby, 26, Badrul, Zia, Bappi, Akbar, Shahin and Shahid while the injured villagers were Alhaj Muzammel Hq, 45, Sirajul Islam, Shahanara Khatun and two other unidentified villagers.  
Of the injured Nansa and Bobby were taken to Khulna 250-bed Hospital as their condition deteriorated. Other injured were treated at Satkhira hospital.  
Police quoting local people said, there was a longstanding dispute over installation of shallow tube-well on a crop land between Mahiuddin Master and Jahangir Hossain of Komorpur village.  
Mahiuddin Master with the help of his relative Obaidullah, a BNP leader and Chandu of old Satkhira hired about 60 cadres of Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal to threaten Jahangir.  
All of them led by Obaidullah and Chandu went to the village by two minibuses and 22 motorbikes

at noon and attacked the villagers. The villagers including men and women armed with lethal weapons retaliated the attackers. They beat up and chased the attackers injuring at least nine of them, while five of their side including a woman were injured. The villagers also damaged eight motorbikes of their rivals.  
Police rushed to the spot after being informed and brought the situation under control. On contact, the Officer-in-Charge of Sadar thana Abdul Kadar Beg told this correspondent that he was not aware about the dispute earlier.  
**Bid to commit robbery foiled: eleven held**  
**A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali**  
Galachipa police arrested 11 pirates while they were taking preparation to commit armed robbery at a fishing boat at the Bay of Bengal on Sunday night.  
Local fishermen led by Abdus Salam Khan encircled the boat and informed police.  
On arrival police arrested the pirates named Mahmudul Islam, 45, of Luxmipur, Moslem Uddin, 32, of Bhola, Shafiqul Islam, 45, Shahidul, 25, Shafiqul, 18, Salam, 30, Hafez, 35, Nizam, 18, Sohag, 35, Dalil Gazi, 25 and Habib Molla, 25, hailing from various villages under Kalapara upazila.