



PHOTO: STAR

Winter migratory birds fluttering over a water body at Banshkali in Subarnachar upazila under Noakhali district offer a captivating sight.

HAJEE DANESH UNIVERSITY

Agitating BBA students lock administrative, academic buildings

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Students of Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) department at Hajee Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) yesterday locked administrative and academic buildings demanding introduction of major subjects of the discipline.

Sources said, at least 250 people including the vice chancellor, his teachers, officials and staffs were confined to two buildings as the agitating students all of a sudden put them under lock and key around 3:30pm.

Sources said, the students of the BBA faculty came in a procession in front of the administrative building chanting various

slogans.

Half an hour later, about 150 students of second and first year BBA locked the entrances to the buildings in a bid to press home their demand.

Rajesh Biswas of BBA department told this correspondent that they would go for a fast unto death programme if their demand is not met by the authorities.

The teachers of the university yesterday urged the agitating students to cancel their programme but to no effect.

At a rally held in front of administrative building in the afternoon, the students alleged they took admission in BBA with a hope to have a full-fledged syllabus, but mysteriously the university authorities

are yet to start the major subjects including accounting, management and banking.

The students said they had requested the university authorities to introduce the subject but those fell in the deaf ears.

If the subjects are not started at the university immediately it would hit the students hard in the job markets, the students alleged.

Despite several attempts, this correspondent failed to contact Professor Dr M Afzal Hossain, vice chancellor of the university, as he was not receiving the phone call.

Till filing of this report at 5:00 pm, the students were continuing agitation on the campus.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Printing press gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Fire gutted a printing press and a motorbike showroom damaging goods worth Tk 20 lakh in the district town on Monday morning, said firefighters. Locals and fire service sources said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at Saroda Printing Press and Stationery at about 9:10am and soon the flame engulfed the nearby showroom of Indian TVS motorcycle. On information, firefighters from Kurigram rushed to the spot and doused the flame after one and half hours of hectic efforts. The blaze burnt a printing machine, two computers and stationary papers.

Land dispute kills one

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

A man was killed and two others were injured allegedly by rivals over a land dispute at Burgaon village in Tarail upazila yesterday morning. The deceased was identified as Habibur Rahman alias Habul Mia, 50, son of late Matir Rahman of the village. Police said there was a longstanding dispute between the victim and one Abu Mia over control of a land at the village. Habul along with his two younger brothers Harun Mia, 40, and Tara Mia, 35, came under attack by the supporters of Abu Mia when the three went to the land to dig at about 8:00pm. They hit Habul with a spade, leaving him dead on the spot. Harun Mia and Tara were rushed to Tarail upazila health complex in critical condition.

BNP stages protest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

City and district units of BNP yesterday morning formed a human chain and held a rally demanding construction of Padma Bridge immediately and repair of roads and highways. Addressing the rally, Mojibur Rahman Sarwar, city unit president of the party, said the present government is involved in corruption which stopped the construction of Padma Bridge. Besides, the repair work of roads and highways of the southern region was halted due to the corruption, he added. The BNP leader also warned that the people of the region will call a mass movement, if the construction work of the bridge is not started soon. District, city and local leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations took part at the protest programme in front of Ashwini Kumar Hall of the city.

Youth murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A youth was killed and another injured by criminals at Ramashapur Bazar in Gabtoli upazila yesterday morning. The victim is Bipul, 18, of the bazar area. Abdul Rashid, officer-in-charge of Gabtoli police station, said a transgender person harassed one Mukul, 17, near a shop in the area on Monday evening sexually. Following the incident, Bipul and Swapon, 25, rushed to the spot and locked in a clash with the gang. At one stage, the attackers stabbed the duo, leaving them injured seriously. The youths were rushed to Ziaur Rahman Medical College and Hospital where Bipul died at about 6:00am, the OC added.

Illegal notebooks flood Barisal, Khulna markets

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Illegal notebooks and guidebooks, printed by some unscrupulous publishers, have flooded the markets in Barisal and Khulna districts.

According to our Barisal correspondent, notebooks and guidebooks are being sold openly in the city and different upazilas of the district. Bookshops at Sadar Road, Girza Moholla, Parara Road, Line Road, Anami Lane, and Band Road in the city are selling the banned books.

A mobile court led by Magistrate Shahinuzzaman yesterday conducted a drive in Sadar Road area, seized some banned note and guidebooks from two shops and fined the owners Tk3,000 each.

Sensing the presence of law enforcers, the owners and employees of other shops fled the area, keeping shutters down.

District administration sources said drive will continue in the city and

upazilas markets to stop selling the banned notebooks and guidebooks.

Some guardians held private coaching centres responsible for encouraging the students to buy notebooks and guidebooks. They said the bookstores are selling the banned books at much higher rates.

A bookseller in the city, requesting anonymity said notebooks and guidebooks were printed, giving false addresses of printers and publishers. "I have been selling the banned books since the beginning of the New Year," he added.

"Notebooks and guidebooks are still in high demand. We sell the books for high prices to cover business risk," said another bookseller at Sadar Road in the city.

In Khulna, banned notebooks and guidebooks are being sold in the city and upazilas, reports UNB.

Almost all bookshops in the city and different upazilas are selling the

banned notebooks and guidebooks secretly published by a section of unscrupulous publishers, guardians alleged.

Besides, the textbooks meant for free distribution among the secondary and primary level students are also being sold on the markets. The sellers are giving the books only to their known customers.

A notebook seller, keeping his identity secret, said he has been selling the banned books and textbooks since the beginning of the New Year.

A number of publishers printed the textbooks secretly and selling those on the markets. Those deprived of getting textbooks are being deceived after buying the printed books of the companies.

Contacted, TM Zakir Hossain, deputy director of secondary and higher education of Khulna region, said sale and marketing of notebooks and guidebooks are banned.



PHOTO: STAR

Ethnic people form a human chain at Zero Point in Rajshahi city yesterday demanding arrest and punishment of the criminals who attacked women of the community at Kagthia village in Godagari upazila under Rajshahi district on Sunday.

20 Shibir activists arrested in Sylhet

UNB, Sylhet

Police arrested 20 activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, from different areas in the city yesterday.

Kotwali Model PS officer Khandaker Nawroz Ahmed said, the arrestees are Shibir activists and students of different colleges, madrasas and universities.

They were held in connection with a case filed by Sust unit Chhatra League (BCL) on charge of attacking

BCL men and vandalising vehicles.

He said police conducted a drive and arrested them from the Alia Madrasa students hostel, Madina Market and Balaura area near Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) in the early morning.

Abdullah Al Azad, additional commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police confirmed the arrests.

He said the drive to arrest the rest accused in the case will continue.

Tk 3.6 lakh fertiliser seized in Khulna

UNB, Khulna

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered 360 sacks of fertiliser worth Tk 360,000 from a shop at Kharnia Bazar in Dumuria upazila on Monday afternoon.

Rab-6 said, a team, led by DAD Aliuzzaman raided M/S Bismillah Traders and seized the fertiliser on charge of illegally hoarding the agricultural input at the shop at 1:30 pm.

Upazila Agriculture Officer Mohadev Chandra Saha confirmed the seizure

informing that Rab handed over the fertiliser packed in 360 sacks to local agricultural office.

He said the fertilisers include 260 sacks of TSP and 100 sacks of MOP worth Tk 3.6 lakh.

Mohadev said the Rab personnel seized the fertilisers as the dealer hoarded those illegally.

He said action would be taken as per the decision of the Upazila Fertiliser and Seed Monitoring Committee.

MEETING WITH MINISTER

Launch owners agree to relax rotation system after 7 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Owners of launches plying Barisal-Dhaka-Barisal river route agreed to temporarily relax the 'rotation system' for the vessels, seven years after imposition of the system, following a tripartite meeting presided over by Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan at the ministry on Sunday.

"After the tripartite discussions, the launch owners agreed to put, for the time being, 4-5 launches in service from each end of the route every day instead of 2-3 launches," said Saidur Rahman Rintu, vice president of launch owners association.

Complete and permanent end of the rotation system would be considered in future after surveying the rush of passengers and profit and loss of the vessel owners operating on this route, said Rintu, also owner of triple-deck Sundarban launch fleet and president of Barisal Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

Barisal City Corporation Mayor and city Awami League (AL) convener Shawkat Hossain Hiron, AL lawmakers Talukdar Md Yunus and Monirul Islam Moni, JP lawmaker Golam Kibria, shipping Secretary Abdul Mannan Howladar, representatives of passengers and launch owners and officials of local civil and police administrations attended the meeting.

An 11-member review committee headed by Md Alauddin, joint secretary of shipping ministry, and comprising administrative officials and representatives of launch owners association and citizens, has been formed.

They will conduct a survey considering the demands of both passengers and vessel owners and submit report

within a month.

According to the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority sources, 13 launches have route permits and so, six launches are supposed to ply from each end of Barisal-Dhaka-Barisal route.

But only two to three launches started plying the route from each end every day as the launch owners' association imposed 'rotation system' on February 14 in 2005, violating of the conditions for route permits.

The vessel owners said each of the 13 triple-deck launches has capacity to carry 760-1220 passengers (including 20-25 percent cabin and sofa seats) and at least 4500-5000 passengers per day is required to run six launches from each end.

Saidur Rahman Rintu, vice president of the launch owners association, claimed that total number of passengers never exceed 2500 from each end on normal days although there is rush of cabin passengers on the route every weekend and holidays.

"We had to decrease the number of launches by imposing rotation system to avoid losses as operating cost per one way trip for each vessel stands at Tk 1.5 lakh," he said.

"Now we request the authority to conduct survey on the poor number of deck passengers that causes us huge losses daily," said Riaz Hossain, owner of Suravi launch fleet.

On the other hand, the BCC mayor and other representatives on behalf of the passengers posed the question why newly built launches worth cores of taka are floated for service on the route if they sustain losses and why their route permits would not be cancelled if they fail to follow rules and regulations of the government.



COURTESY: BANGLALION

Officials of Banglalion Communications Ltd announce at a press conference at Feni Press Club the launching of their internet service Banglalion Wimax in the district on Monday.