

Aricha ferry services suspended for 8 hours

MANIKGANJ, Feb 22: The ferry services between Aricha and Nagarbari ghats remained suspended for eight hours today due to a blockade by toll collectors, reports UNB.

BIWTA source said a group of people who used to control the Aricha ghat blocked the way to the ghat spreading a rumour early in the morning that the GOC of Bogra had asked for halting the ferry, "Shah Makhdam," until 8 am.

Nine ferries with hundreds of vehicles remained anchored off the Nagarbari ghat because the pontoon was not cleared.

Thousands of passengers were stranded at Aricha and Nagarbari ghats as the impasse continued although GOC Major General Sadequr Rahman himself called for removing the blockade.

BIWTA officials later removed the blockade at about 3 pm with the help of the local administration.

Kushtia transport workers continue strike

KUSHTIA, Feb 22: Road communications of the district with the capital and seven other districts remained cut off for the second day today due to a transport strike, reports UNB.

The strike was called by the Kushtia Private Motor Sramik Union on Friday to protest an alleged attack on a bus driver and a conductor by some local people of the Shantidanga and Taragonia bazar.

The union sources said they would continue their strike until the arrest of the attackers.

Property worth Tk 10 lakh gutted

COMILLA, Feb 22: Some 150 people were rendered homeless and property worth about Taka 10 lakh gutted in a devastating fire in Shadannadi village in Daudkandi thana on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said three people were also injured in the fire. Of them, one was rushed to Dhaka in a critical condition.

A gang of armed miscreants attacked the village at about 12 noon on the day and set some 27 houses on fire.

Deputy Commissioner and SP of the district visited the spot.



MYMENSINGH: Artistes rendering songs at the District Rabindra Sangeet Sammelan held recently at the local Muslim Institute.

Canal digging project lying incomplete

50,000 acres out of irrigation facility for over six years

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Feb 22: Over 50,000 acres of land under Natore and Pabna districts are not getting irrigation facility since 1986 as the reexcavation of Nimai-chara Canal has not yet been implemented.

The 48-kilometre-long canal was dug in the sixties to extend irrigation facility and navigation. The canal has become almost silted up.

With a view to removing this problem, Water Development Board Pabna, surveyed the spot in 1987 and requisite money was sanctioned next year with the financial assistance of World Bank.

But for the reasons not known, the project has not yet been implemented.

Another report says: Inhabitants of two pourashavas and six thanas of Natore district have been facing acute crisis of Liquefied Petroleum (LP) Gas for about three weeks beginning from the last week of January.

According to sources about 2.50 thousand of LP Gas cylinders are required for the local consumers in a month and five agents supply these cylinders. But only 500 cylinders of LP Gas were supplied in January.

Price of LP gas has also increased over the period, town residents said. They can not refill their cylinders since middle of February.

The refilling of charge was fixed at Taka 216 but residents

alleged that agents are charging from Taka 250 to Taka 285 per cylinder for the crisis.

The agents of Padma, Jamuna and Meghna Petroleum companies in the district said that they were not getting adequate supply from the depots of their companies.

Gas consumers informed that agents are realising excess money by creating artificial crisis of LP Gas.

The agents however denied the allegation.

As a result of the LP Gas crisis, fire-woods are being used indiscriminately as fuel in many houses in the district and its adjacent areas.

and sessions Judge awarded one to life-term rigorous imprisonment and fined Taka 5,000 in default, to suffer one year more for killing.

The prosecution story in brief is that on March 25, 92, Abdul Momin, son of Bakkar Ali of Kamarhati, village under Lalpur thana kidnapped a school student Reena Parveen (13), daughter of one Sanwar Pramanik of same village and killed her.

A case was filed with Lalpur thana and after the investigation police submitted charge-sheet.

After examining the witnesses and records, the Judge found Momin guilty and awarded the punishment.

2 dacoits held with arms, ammunition

From Our Correspondent KISHOREGANJ, Feb 22: Two notorious dacoits along with fire arms and ammunition were arrested by Nandail police recently.

Acting on a tip, a police party from Nandail thana conducted a raid in Dhargaon village and arrested Mizanur Rahman and Raisuddin. Police recovered two country made pipe guns four rounds of ammunition from their possessions.

A case was registered with the Nandail police station.

Student politics banned for 6 more months at IU

KUSHTIA, Feb 22: The student politics in Islamic University has been suspended for another six months, reports UNB.

With this, the university authority extended the deadline for the fourth time. The student politics was banned till 14th of this month.

The decision to extend the deadline of the suspension was taken at a Syndicate meeting held on February 9 at the Vice-Chancellor's office.

During the suspension period processions, meetings and all political activities of the students of the university will remain banned, university sources said.

Athletics training camp held

MAIJDEE COURT (Noakhali), Feb 22: A three-day long athletic training camp, organised by District Sports Office, was held at Ockhali Government High School ground recently, reports UNB.

A total of 23 students of different high schools took part in the training camp held last week.

Certificates were distributed among the participants by Assistant Commissioner (Land) Anisul Haq at a function presided over by the Headmaster of the Ockhali High School, Banamail Das, on the concluding day.

District Sports Officer Md Maimuddin and other elite of the town spoke on the occasion.

District roundup

BARISAL

Barisal Airport ready for operation

Feb 22: Barisal Air port at Rahamatpur, about 15 kilometres from here under Babugonj thana of the district is now ready for commissioning Short take-off-and-Landing (STOL) services, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the civil aviation authority has constructed 2,600 foot long and 100 foot wide runway.

Besides, marking of the air-port for STOL services, passenger lounge, VHF system for air to ground communications, HF communication system, Inter Tower Radio Transmission (ITRT), anchor guide, high power security light and wind soak have been set up for air service, the source added. A permanent terminal building is also being constructed.

The project director of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh CAAB said, government had undertaken a Taka 20 crore project to construct an air-port within 1996-97 fiscal year.

MAGURA

Sripur-Khamarpara bridge to be completed by June next

Feb 22: The construction work of Taka 1.60 crore Sripur-Khamarpara Bridge on the river Kumar will be completed by June next, reports BSS.

Major General (Retd) M Majid-ul Haque, Minister for Agriculture Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control, was told while he visited the construction site.

Bangladesh Water Development Board with financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank, is carrying out the construction work. The irrigation facilities will be extended of the Ganges-Kobadak Project area with the completion of the bridge, and the communication between Magura district headquarters and Sripur thana sadar will be easier.

SATKHIRA

One to suffer life-term for acid throw

Feb 22: Additional District and Sessions Judge ANM Bashirullah in a judgement on Thursday convicted a person and sentenced him to jail for life, reports UNB.

The convict, Sunil Kumar Biswas of Badrakhal village in Kalligonj thana under the district was also fined Taka 5,000 and in default to suffer rigorous imprisonment for six months more.

He was found guilty of spraying acid on the victim-Arjona Rani Sarker on December 17, 1993. Arjona is the wife of Subod Sarker of the same village.

A case was filed with Kalligonj thana in this connection.

Police after investigation chargesheeted against the accused.

After examining 10 witnesses and evidences, the judge found Sunil guilty and delivered the verdict.

A young man was crushed under the wheels of a truck at Pirojpur area 'bn Kalliganj-Shyamnagar highway Wednesday night.

The victim Ahmed Ali of Kasemari village in Shyamnagar thana met the tragic and while he was returning home from Kalliganj riding on a bicycle.

The body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

Police seized the truck but the driver managed to escape. A case was registered with the police.

PATUAKHALI

Two minor girls drowned

Feb 22: Two minor girls drowned in a pond at village Laukathi under Patuakhali sadar thana on Monday, reports BSS.

Honufa 6, daughter of Abdur Rashid Howlader of village Laukathi and her niece Mukta (4), daughter of Golam Mostafa Howlader were playing on the bank of a nearby pond.

All of a sudden they slipped into the pond and drowned. Relatives found the floating bodies of the victims later on.

Photo Report

Amar Ekushey in pictures

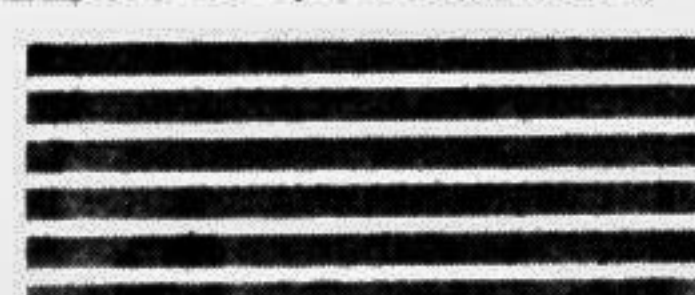
Different political parties, organisations and embassies placed wreaths at the central Shaheed Minar to pay their homage to the Language Martyrs Monday. Here, we print some of the pictures taken by our Staff Photographers.



Left parties



Nursing College



Music competition at Bangla Academy.



Freedom fighters



Members of the public



DUCSU



Foreign missions



Gano Forum