

Buses collide head-on, one killed, 70 injured

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Jan 20: One passenger was killed on the spot and 70 others were injured, six of them critically when two passenger buses collided head-on at Sadardi under Bhanga thana of Faridpur district around 2:00 pm Wednesday.

A passenger bus of Madhumati Paribahan when coming to Barisal from Dhaka and the other passenger bus, Parjatak was on way to Dhaka from Khulna collided head-on at Sadardi where one passenger, Faruk, 32, was killed on the spot.

Six critically injured Dhanaya, 35, Syed Ali, 45, Bhuban Saha, 40, Faruk, 35, Tarati, 20, and an one and half year old child Supria were admitted in Bhanga thana health complex and Faridpur sadar hospital.

Driver of the Madhumati Paribahan is still at large, police said.



HILL (Dinajpur): The biting cold has almost crippled life in this remote border area in Hakimpur thana of the district. A few old men 'sun bathing' early in the morning before going to work. The mercury reached as low as 4.8 degree Celsius on the day. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Pirates loot valuables worth Taka 2.5 lakh

BHOLA, Jan 20: Valuables worth Tk 2.5 lakh were looted in a daring piracy in a fishing boat at the river Meghna and two fishermen thrown on the river remained missing, police said, reports UNB.

According to police, a gang of pirates swooped on the boat on January 10 while fishing near Bijoypur char in Daulat Khan thana.

The pirates beat the fishermen indiscriminately, threw the grievously injured Chitu Majhi and Tunu Majhi into the river and decamped with the boat, net, cash and other valuables.

The owner of the boat filed a case against some identified dacots of the area with the police. Sadar ASP visited the spot but none was arrested so far.

Casting of fake votes: One killed, 20 injured

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 20: One person was killed and over twenty others were injured in a clash over casting fake votes in a polling centre of Nabiganj thana under Habiganj district Monday while UP election was being held. Election in the centre had been declared suspended.

The clash ensued at about 2.45 pm when some people tried to cast fake votes in favour of a chairman candidate, and others prevented them from doing so. The clash spread in add around the Borhanpur Government Primary School centre in Inathganj union Jagu Miah, 35, Nephew of a chairman candidate Khalilur Rahman Khaled died on the spot. Among the injured, three had been admitted into the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital with critical injuries. The others were admitted into the Nabha thana health complex. A case has been registered with police.

126 development projects in progress in Pabna

PABNA, Jan 20: A total of 1831 tons of wheat have been allocated for 126 uplift schemes under the Food for Works Programme in nine thanas of the district in the current fiscal, reports UNB.

The schemes include repairing of 113 roads, re-excavation of nine ponds and four earth filling works, official sources said.

District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer said, re-excavation of ponds were started on January 15 and repair works of roads would begin on January 31 which is expected to be completed by April 15.

A total of 349 tons of wheat have been allocated for 22 schemes in Sadar, 132 tons for 6 schemes in Atghoria, 196 tons for 11 schemes in Ishurdi, 242 tons for 20 schemes in Chatmohor, 87 tons for 6 schemes in Bhangura, 118 tons for 11 schemes in Faridpur, 300 tons for 16 schemes in Sathia, 180 tons for 12 schemes in Bera and 227 tons for 22 schemes in Sujanagar thanas.

The officials said re-excavated ponds will be brought under pisciculture to help meet protein deficiency in the district.

After completion of the schemes, rural road communication will be developed to a great extent.

Osmani Airport Sylhet runway extension work at a standstill

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, Jan 20: Works on the project of Extension of the Runway of Sylhet Osmani Airport is yet to be completed, though one year has already gone after issuance of work order to a construction firm. Fate of the project has become uncertain due to the negligence on the part of the executing authorities and apathy of the contractor's engaged for the same.

Works on the project began in the 1993-94 financial year. Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman through laying foundation stone formally inaugurated the project titled as 'Strengthening of the Sylhet Osmani Airport Runway'. The authorities said that the project was planned so that wider bodied aircrafts could land at the airport.

The expenditure was estimated to be Taka 14 crore 35 lakh. There was a good start. About 60 per cent works in the project was done within the financial year 1993-94.

In fact, works on the project went on a standstill in the 1994-95 financial year. Even ten per cent work was not done in the first six months of the financial year, sources confirmed.

'Bangladesh Dredging and Construction Company' a private firm was given the works of three inch Asphalt carpeting on the runway. The firm did not however, start its work. The executing authorities, that is, Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB), reportedly issued several notices to the firm for starting the works. But, there was no response. Recently, the work orders had been cancelled and fresh tenders for the purpose has been called, sources claimed. The source however, hoped that works would soon start.

Under the project, the existing Runway of six thousand square feet will be extended to a seven thousand square feet runway.

Some experts said that, at least 8,000 square feet runway is needed for take off and landing of 'Airbus' type crafts. The crafts like 'DC-10' needs ten thousand square feet runway. But, a 7,000 square feet runway can be used for take off and landing of the 'Airbus' type crafts somehow, the source informed. However, it would be a risky task, the source said while giving his strong view on the subject.

Technicians ask, how a faulty venture like the said project had been taken up by the authorities?

Besides the proposed ex-

tended area of the runway includes, the Sylhet-Salutkor-Bhologanj Road. The road is now being shifted to about 1500 feet off on the west. The Civil Aviation Authority is bearing the expense of shifting the road. Taka 70 lakh is being spent for the purpose, sources said. According to the sources, Roads and Highways Department is now pressing for construction of the new road as a highway. They claim that, there is a plan to convert the road as a highway. But, the Civil Aviation Authority reportedly not agreeing with the proposal which would cost much higher stating that, they are only to replace the existing one.

Further, in course of time, if the airport is to be turned into an international airport, the authorities would have to shift the new road again to the western side.

Then the present expenditure for the road construction would surely be proved as just waste of government money, sources said. Because, there is no scope for any kind of extension of the runway to other side than the west one.

So, it is widely felt that the whole project needs an immediate review to make the same worthy.

Reconstruction of Shah Khurram College demanded

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 20: College teachers from the four districts of greater Sylhet region at a meeting Monday demanded for reconstruction of Shah Khurram College and for ensuring congenial atmosphere in all the educational institutions in the region. They also handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner, later.

The meeting presided over by principal Nazrul Islam Chowdhury was also addressed among to others by Principal Sirajul Islam, Pranab Kumar Sinha, Ex-Principal Syed Abud Shahid, Professor Akram Ali, Professor Siddiquee Ali and Professor Tanuj Kanti Dey.

The meeting also condemned the incident of setting fire in the Anjad Ullah College of Biswanth thana, and demanded immediate arrest of the culprits involved with the incidents.

Unknown assailants kill youngman

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 20: A youngman was killed in the hands of unknown assailants. The body was recovered by the Sylhet Kotawal police Sunday morning.

Arjun Dutta, 27, an employee of BRTA, Sylhet and an inhabitant of Agpara of Sylhet town was called out of his residence on Sunday night. After quite sometime, he did not return. On getting informations, the police recovered the body from Daudpur area on Sylhet-Moglabazar road Monday morning. It was bearing a number of cut injuries, police said. The body had been sent to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

7 inter-district robbers held in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Jan 20: Police arrested seven members of a gang of an inter-district robbers Monday night from village Billa of Shamanagar thana under the district, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, a police contingent of Shamanagar rounded up the gang including their leader Jahangir when they were taking preparation to launch an operation at Noabaki Bazar in the thana.

Police also recovered a rifle, 10 rounds of bullets and seven live crackers from their possession, and filed a case against them.

RUTA election BNP, Jamaat candidates bag most of the votes

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 20: The BNP and Jamaat jointly backed green panel have got absolute majority in the Rajshahi University Teachers Association (RUTA) and representative to Different Bodies (RDB) of university election held here last Sunday.

In RUTA, green panel bagged 12 posts including president out of 15 posts dropping secretary, joint secretary and a member. Professor M Aminul Islam of Physics Department was elected president defeating Professor Shahidul Islam (Applied Chemistry) of Awami League backed yellow panel five by votes. Professor Aminul got 237 votes while Professor Shahidul Islam got 232 votes.

Awami League backed yellow panel candidate Prof. Mizan Uddin of Sociology Department was elected general secretary of RUTA, who bagged 249 votes. His nearest rival, Prof. A T M Obaidullah (Public Administration) of green panel got 221 votes.

The newly elected RUTA executives are vice president Prof. Abdullah Ansary (Mathematics), treasurer Prof M Kamrul Islam (Chemistry), Joint Secretary, Shamsuddin Ilias (Psychology) 10 members are Rashidul Alam, M Abdul Aziz Mia, M. Abdul Latif, K Enamul Haque Sanjid, Abul Fazal.

Razaul Karim, Amzad Hussain, Abul Latif, (Yellow panel) and Prof. Shahdat Hussain Mondal.

In teachers representative election to Syndicate, Academic Council and finance committee BNP backed green panel bagged all of 12 posts. On the other hand, green panel and yellow panel shared equally in six Deans election of six faculties and lone representative to Planning and Development Committee (PDC) elected from yellow panel.

The newly elected syndicate members are Prof Faisal Islam Faruqi, Associate Prof. Nur Muhammad and Kazi Sydul Islam, Lecturer Yonus Ahmed Khan and provost M Kurban Ali (SM Hall).

The newly elected members are M. Abdullah Al Harun, M Motur Rahman, Dr. Abdul Hye Talukdar, Habibur Rahman, Salim Reza and M Ayub Ali. The lone elected member of Finance Committee is Prof Mir Wahedul Islam and only elected representative to PDC is Prof. A H M Zehadul Karim. The elected Deans from yellow panel are M Abdul Khaleq (Arts) Prof. Golam Morshed (Social Science) M. Sidur Rahman (Life and Health Science) and from green panel are, Prof. S Q G Mahtabwaly (Science) Prof. Habibur Rahman Akan (Commerce) and Fayazuddin (Law-Uncontested).

Salam tells at a meeting

'Negative politics will be rejected by the people'

RAJSHAHI, Jan 20: The BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperative Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar Wednesday called upon party supporters and workers to unitedly foil the conspiracy hatched by some opposition parties so that the massive development works and democratic process now underway in the country could be ensured, reports BSS.

He was addressing the Rajshahi Divisional Conference of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) as the chief guest at the collectorate ground here Wednesday afternoon.

Barrister Talukdar said, 'BNP is the party of the people and it is the single largest political party in the country.' He added that BNP was voted to power thrice with the massive mandate of the people.

He bitterly criticised the role being played by Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat and said, their negative politics will be rejected by the people. He said that Awami League killed democracy by forming one party 'BAKSAL' when the party was in power. Besides, that, party closed down all the newspapers except four in the country and killed thousands of Freedom Fighters and created famine in the country in 1974.

Barrister Talukdar said, that the autocratic regime of Ershad snatched power from democratically elected BNP government and during their nine year misrule, his party ruined the economic backbone of the country. Jatiya Party government was a corrupt government and it did nothing for the welfare of the people.

BNP Secretary General said that 'Jamaat-e-Islami party is the enemy of democracy and of Islam as the partymen cut people's tendons in the name of Islam.'

He said that BNP will never bow down to anybody and asked the partymen to strengthen the party by their work and deeds.

Salam Talukdar said that BNP government had spent Taka nine thousand six hundred crore during the last fiscal year for massive development in the country. He added that an amount of Taka eleven thousand five hundred crore are being spent for implementation of various development work during the current fiscal year.

Alarming rise in young drug addicts in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Jan 20: The number of drug addicted youths is growing alarmingly in Kushtia town. Even youths in rural areas are starting to take drugs of different items like opium, morphine, sedative tablets, Mrita Sanjibani Sura and other types of liquids containing alcohol.

According to an official survey, Kushtia town and its suburbs have turned into open markets of drugs. All kinds of drugs and wines are available at drug stores, grocery stores and other shops. Cigarettes containing ganja are also available in certain places.

The survey reveals that addicted teenagers are at present 10 per cent but the number was growing fast everyday.

It is alleged that a well-organised gang has been smuggling these items of drugs from India and sold those here.

It is also alleged that the drug addicted young men are being involved in various crimes.

On the other hand rectified spirit is being consumed as alcohol by most youths in the district town causing moral degradation.

Residents complain that most youths buy the spirit from homeopathic doctors and take it as alcohol mixing in water.

It is alleged that some dishonest homeopathic doctors are selling the spirit to the addicts at exorbitant prices quite illegally.

As per government rule licences for rectified spirit are only issued to the bonafide homeopath practitioners and homeo medicine manufacturers.

Drug addiction among the youth causes concern among the parents and guardians.

School and college students make the largest group of addicts, it is learnt.

Youth stabbed to death in Patuakhali

From Our Correspondent

PATUAKHALI, Jan 20: A youth was killed by his cousin following his rejection of a marriage proposal for his sister Tuesday night at a village under Baufal thana in Patuakhali district.

The victim was identified as Shahin, 27. He was stabbed by his cousin who reportedly had a love affair with the younger sister of Shahin.

He was immediately rushed to Baufal Thana Health Complex at about 8:30 pm where attending doctors declared him dead.

A case was filed with Baufal Police Station.

18 students of primary schools receive scholarship

NARAYANGANJ, Jan 20:

The prizes of sixth primary scholarship competition under the auspices of late teacher Hazi Amiruddin Mollah Memorial Fund of Golakandall Union of Ruppang thana were distributed on January 14, 1995. The 18 recipients of the scholarship were selected from among the best 34 primary students of 9 primary schools of the Union. Besides this, a debate competition among the ninth and tenth grade students of the Ballapara High School was held this year on the theme, 'the rural life is better than the urban life', says a press release.

The prize giving function was presided over by Abdur Rahman Bhuiyan, Chairman of the Golakandall Union. Dr Akmal Hussain, Associate Professor of the Dhaka University attended the function as the chief guest. The founder of the memorial fund, Al-Haj Hemayet Uddin Mollah spoke about the activities of the fund since its inception in 1989.

Work-stoppage by truck drivers union in Sherpur

SHERPUR, Jan 20: The Sherpur district unit of Inter District Truck Drivers Union began an indefinite work stoppage from Wednesday to protest ransacking of its union office here on Tuesday, reports UNB.

They are also demanding punishment of those responsible for Tuesday's attack at the office launched by some local people after an altercation with a truck driver in Bottala area in the town.

The brawl ensued when a pedestrian became annoyed at the noise created by a truck's horn at Bottala area at 12 noon Tuesday. Later on, the aggrieved person along with some others allegedly ransacked the office.

On the other hand, local truck drivers in a meeting Tuesday declared the indefinite period work stoppage programme, which began from 6 this morning.

Rural road development works in progress

HOMNA (Comilla), Jan 20: Construction and reconstruction of four rural roads measuring 16 kilometres are underway at Homna thana of Comilla district under Food for Work Programme during the current dry season, reports BSS.

The government has sanctioned 863 metric tons of wheat for the purpose.

This was informed at the meeting of thana development coordination committee held here Wednesday. Shipping Minister M K Anwar was present as chief guest at the meeting.

The meeting was also informed that 1626 children studying in 11 schools of Homna thana have been brought under Food for Education Programme.



RU: Professor M Altaf Hussain, Pro VC of RU distributing warm clothes among the poor people of Rajshahi town. — RU photo

Barisal Pourashava polls Voters' list contain numerous errors, exciting campaign

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Jan 20: It is widely alleged that the voters' lists prepared for the coming Barisal municipal election contains numerous errors.

Many people alleged that due to faulty voter lists many voters may not be able to go to the polling booths. Numerous errors have been printed in the names of many voters list.

Astonishingly, name of a most reputed and respected man, Debendra Nath Ghosh, famous for his anti-British movement of the then British India, who has already crossed one hundred years of age has not been printed in the voter's list for the first time in his life. January 22, Sunday is the

date scheduled for the Barisal pourashava election. Meantime, campaign for the poura election, after 10 years has gained momentum. The contesting candidates as well as the residents of this poura area are busy campaigning.

Ahsan Habib Kamal, BNP supported with clock symbol, Mahub Uddin Ahmed, Bir-Bikram, AL supported with 'bicycle' symbol and Al Haj Golam Mowla, JP supported with 'umbrella' symbol are contesting the poura polls with their full strength.

Besides, 86 including a female ward commissioner candidates are contesting for 30

posts of which three were elected uncontested earlier in this poura area.

Spending of money by any candidate has no limitation. So spending by the candidates might exceed more than crore Taka in this poura election, sources said. It may be recorded as the most expensive election in comparison to any other Pourashava election held here earlier, they added.

It is expected that expenditure by the chairman candidate each may reach up to Tk 20 to 25 lakh on an average while Tk 20 to 50 thousand for each ward commissioner candidate in this poura election.



SYLHET: Women voters in a queue during the UP elections of three unions of Sylhet on January 15 last. Photo was taken from a polling centre in Khadimpara union of Sylhet sadar thana. — Star photo