

STOL service at Shamsnagar

Passengers express disappointment

From Our Correspondent

MOULVI BAZAR, Feb 2: After launching of the short take off and landing (STOL) service at Shamsnagar Air Port under Moulvibazar district, it is facing serious setback with different issues like competition with Biman and facilities to the passengers. At the same time, people of Moulvibazar and Hobigonj districts demanding a full-fledged airport at Shamsnagar.

passengers in every flight of Dhaka-Shamsnagar route. The source added that at least 14 passengers are needed to operate a flight. As a result, the Airlines is mostly compelled to cancel the scheduled flights. The Aero-Bengal officials however, were not available for comments on the issues. The Aero Bengal Air Lines office at Moulvibazar town is always found under lock.

Shamsnagar fails to assure scheduled flight causing uncertainty to the passengers. The passengers added that, on the other hand, Biman, the national flag carrier, fixed the one way fare on Dhaka-Sylhet route at Taka 817 per passenger and provides luggage facilities. On the other hand, one way fare of the Aero Bengal's Dhaka-Shamsnagar flight is Taka 1200 and they do not allow luggage facility to the passengers. As a result, passengers of Moulvibazar and Hobigonj districts prefer Dhaka-Sylhet Biman flight though the Sylhet Osmani Airport is far away from Shamsnagar Airport.

There are four runways at the airport. At its early stage, there was a hanger for taking care of air-crafts. But after 1947, there was no arrangement to supervise the Shamsnagar Airport. During the period from 1947 to 1968 and 1970 to 1975, the airport was without security and goods worth taka several crore were stolen. In 1968, the then government of Pakistan had started air service via Shamsnagar on Dhaka-Sylhet route. But the service was closed in 1970 following an accident at the airport.

One convicted for murdering daughter's lover

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Feb 2: Md Rawnakul Islam, Additional Session Judge Court Number 3, Satkhira, convicted Wadud Moral of village Kamarali under Kalaroa thana on charge of killing his daughter's lover and sentenced him to suffer life term imprisonment. The prosecution story in brief is that Lipti, 15, daughter of Abdul Wadud Moral, fell in love with Mizanur Rahman, son of Montaz Sana and in course of time they made illicit connection, which was registered by Wadud off and on. But Mizanur did not pay heed to him and on December 1, 1992, at dead of night Wadud brutally killed his daughter's lover Mizanur. A case was lodged with Assasuri thana.

Wife allegedly stabbed to death by husband

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Feb 2: A wife was stabbed to death by her husband of village Khoyadia in Mukshudpur thana under Gopalganj district recently. It was reported that Santu Begum, 19, wife of Lablu Mia, a shopkeeper, was stabbed by her husband on January 27 last by a sharp weapon at midnight following trifling household affairs and soon after Santu Begum died on the spot. A case has been filed in this connection with Mukshudpur police station. Police arrested Lablu Mia.

Salanga Genocide Day — a day Raiganj inhabitants will never forget

From Ashit Chowdhury

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 2: The historic 'Salanga Genocide Day' was observed in the district on January 27. On the day in 1922, the then police of the British Government killed more than 2000 people by opening fire at Salanga hat in Raiganj thana under Sirajganj district. It is learnt from different sources that the weekly hat (market) of Salanga was the biggest business centre of North Bengal at that time which functioned on every Fridays and Mondays. It was also a well-known market of cattleheads. In 1922, the movement of boycotting British goods was at the peak. The movement initiated by Congress leader Gandhiji also spread in the rural areas. Volunteer teams were formed in every areas to intensify the movement. In Sirajganj, a strong volunteer team was formed under the dynamic leadership of the then young peasant leader Moulana Abdur Rashid Tarkabagish.

On receiving the information, thousands of agitating people assembled near the cattle hat and one of the congress leaders charged 'lathi' (stick) to the police super. The furious armed police opened fire on the crowd and did not stop until the bullets were finished. During firing, about 2000 people were killed, 2500 were injured and several thousands of cattle-heads were also killed. When the police stopped firing and there were no bullets, about 5000 people from the neighbouring villages cordoned the police with lethal weapons. The helpless administrative officers then set Moulana Tarkabagish free. Moulana Tarkabagish brought the situation under control and the killers were escaped unhurt. On the following day, the national dailies of Calcutta including Ananda Bazar and Amritabazar Patrika published the news item with banner headlines. Since then, the 'Day' is observed at Salanga to recall memories of the victims of genocide. This year also, programmes were taken by Salanga Tarkabagish Smriti Sangha and hat committee to observe the day.

Thread worth Tk 3.5 lakh recovered from two vehicles

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINWABGANJ, Feb 2: Shibganj thana police recovered 36 bundles of Chinese thread worth Tk 3 and a half lakh from Shibganj market recently. These bundles of thread were allegedly being smuggled to India, police also detained 2 cars Dhaka Metro V-3057, Chittagong Metro P-376 and a micro bus Dhaka Metro 02-0270 with one driver named Babul Aktar. Being informed by a secret source a group of police force of Shibganj thana led by SI Aminul Hasan stopped the vehicles and charged the drivers. Two of them fled and one Babul Aktar was arrested. Two different cases were filed at Shibganj thana concerning the incident.

Experts suggest to make more use of manure

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Feb 2: Insecticides used for crop production in most of the farms in Cox's Bazar has been affecting the crop output to a great extent. These smuggled insecticides from India are abundantly available in the markets of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and other neighbouring districts. According to farmers, one variety of these insecticides is so harmful that it kills insects including those which are useful for fertility. Agriculture experts said extensive use of such harmful insecticides has been lowering per acre yield of paddy and destroying soil fertility. They said local insecticides should be made abundantly available at reasonable prices. Prices of pesticides have registered a sharp rise in the district adversely affecting the cultivation, local farmers said. The farmers urged the

government to take necessary steps to check the price hike of fertilizers and pesticides to help boost agricultural production in the district. On the other hand, decrease in the use of cow-dung as fertilizer in the district has been causing loss to the productivity of land. Meanwhile, rampant use of chemical fertilizer has affected fertility of soil in Ramu, Cox's Bazar sadar, Ukhia, Teknaf, Moheskhal, Kutubdia and Chakonia thanas, according to survey reports. Agriculture Extension Department sources said, fertility of soil depends on its organic chemical and biological ingredients which are formed in cow-dung. There is three per cent of phosphorus and six per cent potash in cow-dung. A ton of cow-dung can produce as much as 25kg of ingredients of chemical fertilizer. But owing to price hike and scarcity of firewood, farmers of the district have been using cow-dung as fuel

instead of using the same as manure. It is learnt that the country gets nearly 2.7 crore tonnes cow-dung from the cattleheads annually. The large portion of cow-dung is being used as fuel instead of fertilizer and this trend is going on without any resistance. On the other hand, the price of paddy and other agricultural products has abnormally fallen. The price of chemical fertilizer has shot up 15 times during the period. A shallow tubewell is being sold at Taka 50,000 as against Taka 10,000 a few years back. The blacksmiths of the district have been facing problems to continue their ancestral profession. According to sources, inputs like firewood, coal, raw materials and chemicals have become expensive compelling most of them to give up their profession.

RUOA office bearers

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Feb 2: The executive body election of Rajshahi University Officers Association (RUOA) was held here on Saturday last. Dr Wajed Hussain Beg (Chief Medical Officer, RU Medical Centre) and Gulam Hussain (Section Officer, Mothar Hall, RU) have been elected president and general secretary respectively for the session 1996. The remaining office bearers are: The Moulvi Anwar (Vice-President), Gulam Mostafa (Treasurer) Abdul Bari (Joint Secretary) Md Khoaz Uddin (Office and Publication Secretary) M Gulam Mostafa (Cultural Secretary). Executive members are, Abdul Mubin, Gulam Zilani, Latiful Islam, Abdul Kalam Azad, Md. Abdul Latif Talukdar and Md. Lutfar Rahman.

Clash leaves 10 injured

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Feb 2: At least 10 persons were injured in a clash between the supporters of two rival groups over the appointment of the Principal of Madhakhala senior madrasa in Hossainpur thana on January 27 last. Police picked up seven persons from the spot and recovered one pistol, one cocktail, one ramdoo and one machete from their possessions. The arrested persons are Fahim, Patal, Jamil, Ujjal, Rahyhan, Moniruddin and Anwarul Alam. Seriously injured Anwarul Alam was later admitted into Mymensingh Medical College Hospital under police custody. The clash between the supporters of Moniruddin, a candidate for the post of Principal and Anwar Hossain Bhuyyan, Acting Principal and also a candidate for the same post, ensued while the meeting of the managing committee was going on inside the office-room of the madrasa.

Bank robbery, 3rd time in less than 30 days

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Feb 2: Another bank dacoity was committed recently in the Rupali Bank Tengrabazar branch under Rajnagar thana of Moulvibazar district. It was the third case of bank dacoity within a month from December 23 to January 19 last in Moulvibazar district. According to Rajnagar police, a gang of armed dacoits numbering 17 or 20 entered the residence of the Bank Manager which is adjacent to the branch office at dead of night on January 19 last. They snatched away the key of the bank from the Manager at gun point and then entered the bank by opening the lock. The dacoits also opened the safe and looted cash worth Taka 4 lakh 58 thousand, gold worth Taka 50,000 and a gun of the security guard of the branch. A case was filed with Raj-

nagar PS. Police have started investigation. No arrest was made till writing this report. It may be mentioned here that on December 23 last a gang of dacoits were trying to loot Agrani Bank, Munshibazar branch under Rajnagar thana. In that case, the dacoits, though managed to break the door of the bank, failed to open the strong room safe. After this, they looted seven shops of Munshibazar on the same night. In the second case, a gang of armed dacoits looted Taka 37,000 and a gun of the security guard from the Agrani Bank, Gias Nagar branch on Dhaka-Sylhet highway under sadar thana on December 26 last. It was gathered that a panicky situation is prevailing among the bank officials of rural branches and among the people who are living near the bank branch offices in Moulvibazar district.

BKB gives Tk 12 cr agri loan in Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Feb 2: The Bangladesh Krishi Bank has disbursed a total of Taka 12 crore 36 lakh 77 thousand as loan for different agricultural purposes during the first six months of the current financial year in the Sylhet district. Official sources informed this correspondent that, the loan was given among the recipients for cultivation of different crops, purchasing bullocks for tilling croplands, setting up of dairy farms, and for tea production in the Tea Gardens. All the 22 branches of the bank in 11 thanas of Sylhet district were involved with the disbursement of the loans, among 5,553 recipients, the source added. Of the total, Taka 7 crore 71 lakh were given to the 34 Tea gardens for tea production. Taka 40 lakh 90 thousand among 479 farmers for buying bullocks for tilling the paddylands. Taka 12 lakh 5 thousand for cultivation of potato. Taka 79 lakh 52 thousand among 960 farmers for cultivating Boro paddy. Taka 4 lakh for 4 projects of strengthening the tailing bullocks and Taka 12 lakh 80 thousand for establishing 4 dairy farms. The bank also realised a total of Taka 13 crore 79 lakh 81 thousand as arrear from 1591 farmers in the district during the period, the sources added.



Kanai Lal Sarkar

Challenging life!

From Delwar Kabir

JHENIDAH, Feb 2: Blindness could not keep by born blind Kanai Lal Sarkar in the dark. He took challenge against his blindness and proved that he is a complete man and leads his life like any other ordinary people. Kanai Lal, aged about 30, was born in village Parmandual in Magura district sadar thana. His father, Tarapada Sarkar was a cobbler. Kanai comes outside his house with his shoe polishing box early in the morning and walks by the roadside of Magura town. He shouts to polish shoes himself. Before polishing shoes, he asks the client about the colour of the shoes and starts polishing. He makes no mistakes. After polishing shoes Kanai does not claim charge for the service to the client. "Due to blindness", Kanai said, "some people give him Taka five, some give even more and some even cheats him. Sitting in front of Magura thana Kanai told that he does not like begging. Rather Kanai works sincerely and earns Taka between 40 and 60 daily which helps to run his three member family, Kanai said.

News briefs

Pipe-guns recovered

From Our Correspondent KISHOREGANJ, Feb 2: Two pipe-guns along with one round of ammunition were recovered from the ceiling of one Baten's house at Manipurhat area in the suburb of Kishoreganj town on January 22 last. Kishoreganj sadar thana police and army personnel jointly raided the house. However, none has yet been arrested. A case was registered with Kishoreganj sadar thana in this connection.

Robbery

From Our Correspondent KISHOREGANJ, Feb 2: A robbery was committed on Kishoreganj-Hossainpur road near Golpurpur bridge in Hossainpur thana on January 18 last. The miscreants waylaid nine rickshaws, two tempos and one tractor and at gun point looted Taka 40,000 in cash. The miscreants also attacked Barrister Mozammel Hossain, a lawyer of Dhaka Bar, while he was returning to his village home by a rickshaw and took away money and necessary documents from him on the same night. Cases were registered with Hossainpur police in this connection.

Nephew imprisoned for murdering uncle

From Our Correspondent KISHOREGANJ, Feb 2: Mainul Ahasan, Additional District and Session Judge, Second Court, Kishoreganj in a judgement delivered January 23 convicted Bilal of village Nohar in Kishoreganj sadar thana and sentenced him to life term. The court also found 14 persons innocent and acquitted them of the charge. According to the prosecution, there had been enmity between the deceased Yousuf Ali and his nephew Bilal over land property. On July 3, 1993, accused Bilal stabbed his uncle while he was working in the field. He died on the spot. A case was registered with Kishoreganj police who after investigation submitted charge-sheet against 15 persons.

Gold medalist of SAF games honoured

From Our Correspondent KISHOREGANJ, Feb 2: A reception was accorded to Karar Mizanur Rahman, a gold medal recipient in swimming in seventh SAF games on behalf of the people of Nikli thana on January 25 last. In this connection, a function was arranged at the Nikli town hall with Monsur Moshed Ansari in the chair and it was attended by Abdul Hamid, a retired headmaster as chief guest. Among others, Karar Giasuddin and M Nurullah spoke on the occasion. Two other young swimmers who got gold medals in national level competition were also accorded reception at the same function. Alleged criminal held From Our Correspondent KISHOREGANJ, Feb 2: Kishoreganj police arrested an alleged criminal named Badal from Sahasram — Dhuldia bazar in Katiadi thana last January 31. He was allegedly involved in a bus dacoity that was committed on Kishoreganj-Kargaon road on January 23 and was also wanted in a murder case, police said.

Unknown animal creates panic

From Our Correspondent

RANGAMATI, Feb 2: An unknown animal created panic at Tabalchhari Omdamea Pahar area of the town from Sunday last biting local people and domestic animals, reports UNB. The wild beast, looks like a little dog, coming out from a nearby jungle, so far, bit three people including two children, and eight domestic animals. The victims are — Kewar, 32, Tania, 4, and an unidentified boy, 10. They were admitted to the local hospital, but the vaccines are not available there. Local people could not identify the wild animal and urged the administration to take immediate steps to kill the wild beast.

Minor boys meet tragic death

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Feb 2: Two minor boys met the end of their lives in a tragic incident that took place at Raufi-Tekerbari village in Tarail thana last week. According to reports, Habibur Rahman, 8, son of Ramzan Ali and Rubel, 4, son of Sahed Ali were playing along with two other playmates on the road where earthwork was going on under Food for Works Programme. Suddenly the victims slid into a roadside ditch and earth fell upon them resulting in their instantaneous death. Later their bodies were recovered from under the earth. A UD case was registered with Tarail police station in this connection.

LIP can be an effective measure to control population growth

From Atiur Rahman

JESSORE, Feb 2: A new method of Family Planning implemented in 10 unions of Chowgacha thana of Jessore district has proved that population growth in the rural areas can be controlled. LIP (Local Initiative Programme), a part of Family Planning Programme has already showed very promising results attracting hundreds of couples to adopt the new method. The LIP programme is actually not a method but rather a very effective programme in motivating beneficiaries. It works on the participation of community. According to source, CFR (Contraceptive Prevalence Rate) was 71 per cent on average last year ending December 1995 in the area. It was up by 37 per cent within a period of five years. Monthly evaluation meeting of LIP held at local Thana Parishad Auditorium of Chowgacha in Jessore recently. — Star photo

after introducing LIP in July, 1990 when CPR was slightly below 54 per cent, a source said. Statistical reports say that a total of 25,563 able couples out of 29,672 were using various contraceptive methods including oral pill, condom, injection, vasectomy, tubectomy and norplant. It has been found that users of oral pill tops the list. On inquiring from users, why oral pill was so popular among all other methods though it was not permanent in effect, the users said that oral pill was the only method easy and simple to use. During survey it was also found that sterilization has no attraction among willing clients to adopt this permanent measure despite more attractive incentives and emoluments. Local thana Family Planning Officer Md Ishaque, when contacted, giving detailed picture of family planning activities in his area, told the Daily Star that at present the birth rate is 1.5 per cent. It was 2.17 when the LIP was launched five year ago. He admitted that successful implementation of LIP has made remarkable progress. He, however, informed that the result would have been better if all the unions of the thana could be brought under the LIP. He said that LIP was extended to 10 unions now out of 11 unions of the thana. Only one union was still beyond coverage of LIP due to restrictions imposed by the funding agency. Funded by FPMD (Family Planning Management Development), the LIP was formally launched by Dr Prof Haryono Sugono, State Minister for population and former chairman, National Family Planning, Coordinating Board of Indonesia on July 22, 1990. It was originally launched in Jogodishpur union with a limited number of volunteers of only 40 after five years the

Dacoity committed, two injured

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Feb 2: A dacoity was committed at village Eshakali in Gopalganj sadar thana recently. It was reported that the dacoits raided the house of Abdul Wadud Molla and looted cash worth Taka 40,000 and valuables worth about Taka one lakh. Wadud Molla and his son Nurul Alam, 30, sustained serious injuries when they tried to resist the dacoits and were admitted to the Jessore hospital.

One found guilty of keeping forged notes, sentenced to three years RI

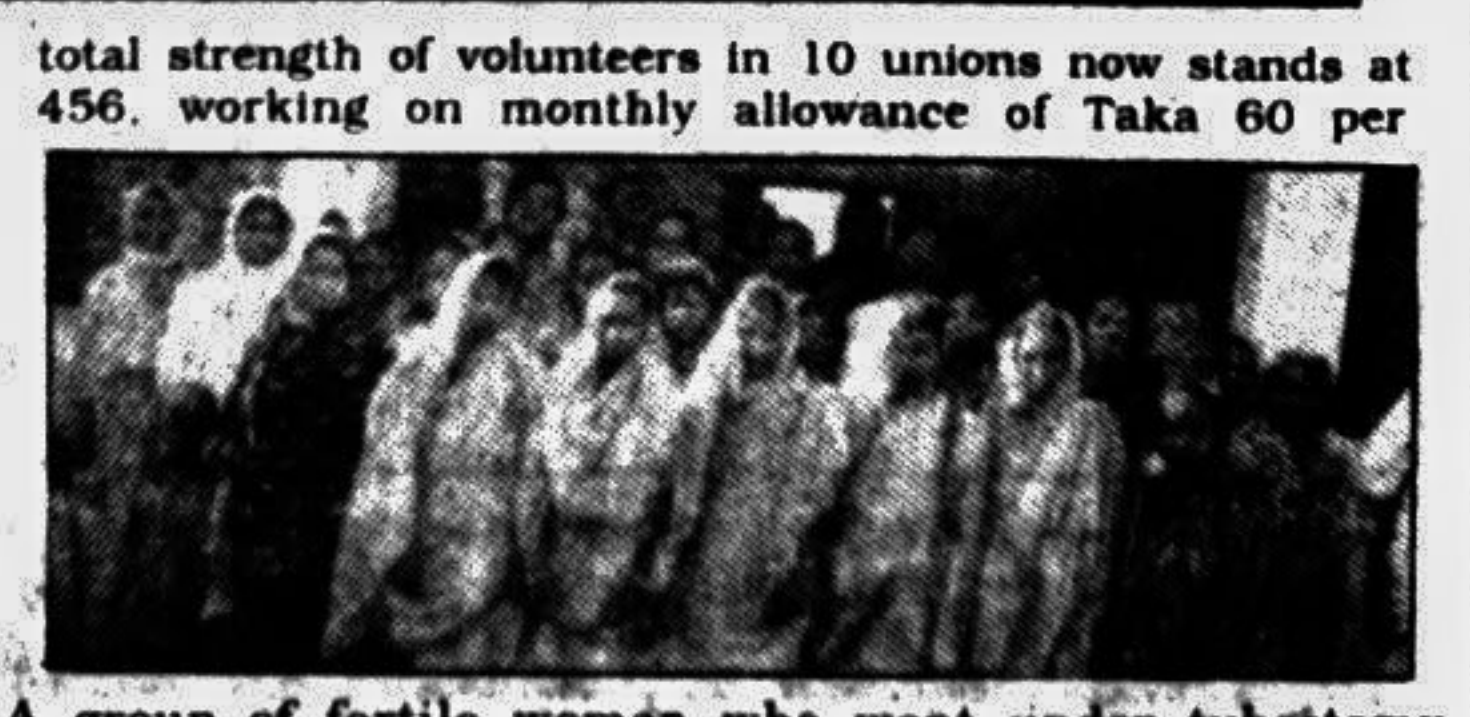
From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Feb 2: Md Alauddin Sardar, Judge Special Tribunal Court Number 1, Satkhira, convicted Maniruzzaman of village Bagmara under Kalgoinj thana of the district on charge of keeping forged notes and sentenced him to suffer rigorous imprisonment for three years.

Two die in road mishap

From Our Correspondent

BANDARBAN, Feb 2: Two pedestrians were killed in a road accident on Lama-Chittagong road near Azinagar in Lama thana last Monday night, reports UNB. Police said, Nurul Alam, 40, and Selimur Rahman, 30, of Chokoria thana in Cox's Bazar died on the spot when a speeding truck hit them in the morning. The driver along with his vehicle fled the scene. A case was filed with Lama thana.



A group of fertile women who went under tubectomy operation in a sterilization camp held recently in Chowgacha thana under initiation of LIP. — Star photo