

Mysterious death of housewife

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Feb 15: A housewife was strangled to death allegedly by her husband at Patakhali village under Rajapur thana of Pirojpur district Friday night.

Witnesses and police said, the incident took place when Sahanor, 22, wife of one Tota Mia, a rickshawpuller, went to her maternal house with her husband at that village. Later, she was killed mysteriously and her body was found in the garden behind their house with torture marks on her neck in the morning.

Mother of Sahanor lodged a case. Tota Mia is absconding. Police arrested his father Yusuf Ali in this connection.

15 injured in train-truck collision

JAMALPUR, Feb 15: At least 15 people were injured in a collision between a passenger train and a truck at a level crossing near Islampur rail station here Friday, reports UNB.

Rail police sources said the Jamalpur-bound train from Bahadurabad Ghat hit the truck at Islampur level crossing at 6:40 am. The engine and a bogie of the train derailed and the truck was smashed.

The injured were rushed to Jamalpur Sadar Hospital and Islampur Thana Health Complex. Their identity was not immediately available.

Rail communication on the route remained suspended for seven hours and several trains including Intercity Teesta and Ekota were stranded on both sides of the spot.

Movement of heavy vessels disrupted in Jamuna

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 15: Movement of heavy riverine transports remained disrupted in two routes for about 10 days due to sharp fall in the water level of the Jamuna river, reports UNB.

Movement of ferries and launches between Sirajganj and Jagannathganj remained snarled while travellers on the Sirajganj-Bhuapur route have to walk more than three kilometres from the Sirajganj ghat which had been shifted.

The launches could not reach the Bhuapur ghat, on the other side, due to rise of char lands along the mid-channel of the river.

Despite dredging by BIWTC, navigability in the Jamuna has been reducing fast.

A Sirajganj-bound barge carrying 300 tons of wheat from Khulna ran aground about five kilometres downstream due to emergence of chars.

Navigability is also hampered in the Boral, one of the Jamuna's tributaries, leaving the busy Baghabari ghat in Shajadpur nearly inoperative.

Villager killed in bomb attack

NAOGAON, Feb 15: A villager was killed, two of his family members critically injured as armed dacoits attacked his house at Kamalpur village in Dhamoirhat thana recently, reports UNB.

Police said, Mosharrat Hossain, 26, died on the spot when the dacoits hurled a bomb at him.

The dacoits also beat up his wife Safurun Bibi and daughter Mahfiza Begum.

A case was filed with Dhamoirhat thana in this connection.

135 held from Pirojpur in 24 days

BARISAL, Feb 15: Police have arrested 135 persons and recovered illegal arms from Pirojpur district during 24 days as part of the country-wide anti-terrorist drive launched since January 15 last, reports BSS.

Police said the arrested persons were wanted on various charges like killings, abductions, toll-collections and robbery.

The arms and ammunition recovered during the period included pipe guns, 13 rounds of bullet and 2 cartridges, the police added.

Meanwhile, the police on Thursday arrested Mahbubur Rahman alias Kana Badal, a regional leader of the outlawed Sarbapha Party, from West Narayanpur village of Wazipur thana in Barisal district.

Abul Kalam Azad, a police officer, was seriously injured in a scuffle that took place between him and Kana Badal.

He has been hospitalised for treatment.

The police has also arrested Tutul, an accomplice of Kana Badal.

Businessman robbed

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 15: A gang of armed miscreants kidnapped Lutfar Rahman, 44, a businessman, at gunpoint from Sayedabad bazar near Jamuna bridge here on Saturday afternoon, reports UNB.

Five people were injured as local people tried to rescue him from the terrorists. They were admitted to Sayedabad health centre.

The kidnapped businessman, a cloth merchant, is the resident of Mulibari village in Sadar thana. Police search is on to rescue him. A case was filed with the Sadar thana police.

Loadshedding hampers irrigation

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Feb 15: All irrigation machines, including deep, shallow and lowlift machines remain stopped in eight thanas of the district during day time due to erratic power supply and frequent loadshedding, according to reliable sources.

As a result prospect of IRR-Boro cultivation in eight thanas of the district, is bleak during current season. The ongoing loadshedding has created this situation.

No water can be supplied to IRR field during this period. Normally power is made available to these machines at 9 in the night. But how long it continues is uncertain. It may go off any moment without forewarning.

It is also reported that the supply that is made is also irregular and insufficient to meet the requirement. According to a number of machine-operating managers and farmers, the IRR cultivation in this season, will largely be affected and fail to attain target of cultivation.

According to a source, farmers stormed the office of Monirampur Palli Bidyut Samity-2 (PBS-2) recently causing extensive damage to it in protest against the loadshedding.

According to another source, local people recently gheraoed the Chowgacha office of Palli Bidyut Samity a few days ago on the same reason. The people of Jhikargacha also observed half-day hartal in protest against this loadshedding.

Reports also say that people of Benapole Land Port, have been united not to pay electric bills of Jessore Palli Bidyut Samity-1 due to its loadshedding.

When contacted, Deputy Director, Local District Agriculture Extension Office, MA Satter told The Daily Star that the total target for IRR-Boro cultivation during the current season was 93000 hectares of land. He also informed that the total irrigation machines included

deep, shallow and low-lift machines in the district were 17400. Giving details, he said that out of the total, deep tube wells were 2000, shallow tube wells were 15000 and low-lift machines were 400. He expressed hope that if nothing could have intervened the target of production was quite easy to be achieved this season.

When contacted General Manager, Jessore Palli Bidyut, Nizam Uddin told The Daily Star that Jessore Palli Bidyut Samity-1 as elsewhere in the country depends on the Power Development Board for power supply.

He said that PBS, purchases it from PDB on payment and then they distribute it among its consumers. It has no plant of its own for generation of power. Explaining the situation he said, chance in slum to regain position until the Power Development Board improves its total power generations.

Father, son killed in car-bus collision

COMILLA, Feb 15: An old man and his son were killed when a private car and a passenger bus collided head-on on Dhaka-Chittagong highway Friday, police and witnesses said, reports UNB.

Shafiqul Alam Chowdhury, 60, of Dhaka's East Goran area died on the spot when his Feni-bound car was hit by the Dhaka-bound bus from Noakhali at Dattasar Dighirpar in Chaudhagram thana.

His son, Saifullah Chowdhury, 27, succumbed to his injuries at Feni Sadar Hospital.

Father and son were the only passengers of their car.

Police seized both the vehicles, but the bus driver fled. The two bodies were kept at the Feni Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

One killed in dacoity incident

PANCHAGAR, Feb 15: One person was killed and his wife injured seriously in an incident of dacoity at a bordering village under Atiari thana in the district early Monday, reports BSS.

Police and eyewitnesses said a group of dacoits entered the Baro Avlia village at about 1.30 am and looted valuables worth about Taka 50,000 and eight heads of cattle.

The villagers challenged the dacoits when they were decamping from the village with the booty. As a result, the dacoits hurled a huge number of hand-made bombs on the villagers. Sirajul Islam was killed on the spot. His wife was also injured in the attack.

Police alleged that the dacoits entered the bordering village from India. The body of Sirajul Islam was sent to the morgue of Thakurgaon general hospital for autopsy.

Houses gutted

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Feb 15: Some dwelling houses were gutted in a fire that broke out at the residence of one Sabur Hossain of village Nishchintapur under Sadar thana of the district recently. Some goats also fell prey to the fire incident.

It was learnt that the fire originated at 8 pm from a woven and spread to the adjacent houses.

The extent of loss was estimated at more than taka one lakh.

Tk 9,900cr private industrial estate in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 15: A private industrial estate is being set up in Sirajganj district on 60 square miles area at the bordering point of sadar and Karipur thanas.

It is learnt that the proposed industrial estate will be set up at an estimated cost of Tk 9,900 crore including Tk 2000 crore in foreign currencies.

Several launch passengers robbed

CHANDPUR, Feb 15: Ten launch passengers including a woman were robbed of their belongings by an organised gang in separate incidents on Saturday and early hours of Eid Day Sunday, police said here today, reports UNB.

According to police, the gang as a friendly gesture managed to feed dhutra poison mixed food to the Chandpur ghat bound passengers from Sadarghat in Dhaka and took away their belongings.

River police sent them to Chandpur hospital in a critical condition, on their arrival at Chandpur ghat. Among them, four were unconscious till Tuesday.

Hospital sources said these passengers of different ages between 25 and 40 years, were coming home by different launches to celebrate the holy Eid.

Another report adds: A Comilla-bound Pepsicola van ran over two young men along with their bicycle at Baburhat here on Saturday killing one and injuring another seriously.

Jakir Hossain 30 of Sengao in Sadar thana was killed on the spot and his friend M. Mohsin 22 was seriously injured. They were going together in a bicycle for Eid shopping at Chandpur town.

Mohsin was admitted to Chandpur hospital in a critical condition. Police seized the van but the driver managed to escape.



BARISAL: Chief Whip Alhaj Abul Hasnat Abdullah, addressing a function as the chief guest following cheque awarding ceremony at Batajore. — Star photo

Fertilizer from water hyacinth New alternative to combat bad effect of chemicals on soil

From Ranesh Maitra

PABNA, Feb 15: The Pabna District Agriculture Extension Department has taken up a unique project for preparing compost fertilizer through huge quantity of water-hyacinth hitherto lying unused in large number of rivers, tanks, ponds, khals, beels, and other water bodies spread over the district.

The Department, although on an experimental basis, has already built up a village known as "Tangbari compost village" where huge quantity of this fertilizer has been prepared and used in the adjacent cultivable lands with tremendous success.

Wasmuddin Akhand, Deputy Director of Pabna District Agriculture Extension Department, took a personal interest along with the officials and men serving in the Department, with a creative approach, for replacing the harmful and highly expensive chemical fertilizers with compost fertilizer by using the valuable resources available in huge quantity, but remain unused or destroyed. These resources are water-hyacinth and cow-dung.

Wasmuddin Akhand, an experienced and energetic agriculture specialist, narrated his "Tangbari Compost Village Project" to The Daily Star recently in his Pabna office. While talking over the ambitious pro-

ject, Akhand, during his hour-long discussion with this correspondent over various aspects of the issue stated that initially, 5,000 compost stacks and 1,000 cow-dung preservation tanks would be constructed. Water-hyacinth from various water bodies would be brought there. Thus, these water bodies after making clean and free from water-hyacinth, would be made worthy of huge quantity of fish cultivation on the one hand and through preparing compost fertilizer from water-hyacinth, huge quantity of urea, TSP and potassium fertilizers would also be produced.

"If the project becomes successful," highly optimistic and assertive agricultural specialist said, "75 kg of urea would be available from each stack of water-hyacinth, 52 kg of TSP and 58 kg of MP fertilizer from each tank of cow-dung and the total value in financial term would stand at Tk 1,260 per stack of water-hyacinth and tank of cow-dung. Now, he said, from 5000 stacks of water-hyacinth and tanks of cow-dung, the total availability of fertilizers of different kinds would stand at 375 metric tons of urea, 250 metric tons of TSP and 270 metric tons of M — valued in total at Tk 35,00,000, according to the official prices.

Wasmuddin Akhand said

Begum Motia Chowdhury, Minister for Agriculture recently visited Tangbari project and showed keen interest in it.

continued to endanger the lives of thousands of passengers and pedestrians.

Local people complained that the drivers violating the traffic rules accommodate the passengers even on the rooftops of the buses and ply the vehicles beyond speed limit. Over loaded trucks are seen carrying timbers and bamboos on Kaptai-Chittagong, Rangamati-Chittagong, Khagrachhari-Chittagong and Bandarban-Chittagong routes everyday before the noses of the law enforcing agencies.

Moreover, undue delay and overloading of goods from trucks in the busy Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban town areas are also causing traffic jams.

From CHT Correspondent

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GAIBANDHA: The railway authorities' move to raise water level of ferry routes near Kalasona point has failed totally. — Star photo



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: A local artist rendering songs at the gold medal awarding ceremony of Monnujan Hall of the university recently. — Star photo

5000 candidates apply for 49 vacant posts of asstt teachers

From MA Ali Himu

NATORE, Feb 15: More than 5000 candidates have applied for only 49 vacant posts of assistant teachers of different primary schools in six thanas of the district, district primary education office sources said.

Of the total candidates, about 73 per cent candidates are female.

An advertisement, inviting applications for appointment to those posts, was published in the national dailies recently. The office, so far, received 5,087 applications from intending candidates of the district. Out of the total, 3,709 were female candidates and the remaining 1,378 were male.

The sources said that 554 intended candidates including 352 female candidates have applied for vacant posts of primary teachers at Gurudaspur thana while 740 candidates including 559 female have applied for the posts in Boraigram thana. 539 candidates includ-

ing 377 female in Bagatipara, 868 candidates including 667 female in Lalpur, 1,053 candidates including 763 female in Shingra thana and 1,333 candidates including 981 female candidates have applied for the posts in Sadar thana of the district.

The sources also said, female candidates having minimum SSC level educational qualification and male candidates having HSC level qualification including PTI training or having graduation degree were invited for the posts.

But, the sources added that most of the candidates, applied for the posts of primary teacher, having a Master degree. The official sources said that the scrutinised applications will be sent to Dhaka, by February 21.

The examination for appointing the primary teachers is expected to be held in March. It was gathered that many

candidates have been using influence after filing applications. Some are seeking influence of local political leaders and elected MPs.

On the other hand, taking this opportunity, some publishing organisations have published guide books. These guide books with a number of errors and printing mistakes are being sold largely at local book-stalls.

It is alleged that a dishonest circle have already started to take bribe giving assurance of a post of primary teacher in the district.

However, there are only 49 vacant posts of assistant teachers of the primary schools in the district.

Knowledgeable circles urged the concerned authority to take proper and immediate steps to ensure appointments of skilled and fittest primary school teachers.

No headway to construct pucca approach road at Natakhol

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Feb 15: Six kilometre-long approach road to Natakhol from Nagarbari ghat has not yet been adequately repaired. The road is temporary built and may collapse resulting in complete break-down in the only existing link between North Bengal and eastern zone of the country due to tremendous heavy pressure of traffic.

Expressing doubt and apprehension over the situation, a leader of the transport owners expressed surprise and said, "The role of the government in keeping this only link between the two zones of the country was most disgraceful and they failed to show minimum seriousness over this vital issue. This is another example of continuing utter neglect to the people of North Bengal by the government," told Baby Islam, the leader of the transport owners of north with utter disgust just on the eve of the Holy Eid-ul-Fitr.

Rafiqul Islam Rafiq, a northern zone transport workers' leader told with regret, "We do not understand as to why the government has not yet taken any measure to build the pucca road from Kazirhat to Natakhol ferrighat and declared Nagarbari ferrighat abandoned in 1995. The construction of a permanent approach road to Natakhol ferrighat ought to have been completed by now but, surprisingly, they have not yet taken up the

construction work to the utter detriment of the interest of the people of 16 districts of North Bengal."

The Executive Engineer, Roads and Highways Department, Pabna, when contacted last (Tuesday) afternoon over telephone said that the scheme for the construction of the approach road to Natakhol from Kazirhat was yet to be received. He said as the Kazirhat-Natakhol road construction could not be started yet, there was no other alternative but to depend on the temporary approach road.

However, apprehended that the temporary approach road running between Nagarbari-Natakhol ghats might be eroded or damaged by strong waves of the Jamuna river during the ensuing rainy and flood season and it would be disastrous if, god forbid, anything such happened, "In that case", the Executive Engineer said, the ferrighat would have to be shifted back to Nagarbari or Raghunathpur ghat.

A ghat samik leader, Abdulh Al Mamun told this correspondent that he doubts whether Kazirhat-Natakhol approach road, with a length of only 25 kilometers would at all be constructed as the vested interest that grew in Nagarbari during last 35 years were opposing the construction through conspiracy.

Four get life term for acid throwing

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Feb 15: Four persons were found guilty for throwing acid on a girl and sentenced to suffer life imprisonment with a fine of Tk 5 thousand each, in default, to suffer another one year imprisonment.

Mrs Nazmun Ara Sultana, District and Sessions Judge, Chandpur after examining the records and witnesses awarded the punishment recently.

The prosecution story in brief is that on the night of September 24, 1992 Nazma Akter, 16, daughter of Abdul Gafur Bhandari of village Suhilpur under Haziganj thana was sleeping in her house with her mother. Suddenly accused four persons Liton, Billal Hossain, Shafiqur Rahman and Abdul Jalil threw acid on Nazma Akter through a window and fled away. While the accused were fleeing Nazma's father found them.

In this connection a case was registered with Haziganj police station accusing four persons. The police after investigation submitted chargesheet against accused Liton, Billal Hossain, Shafiqur Rahman and Jalil. Injured Nazma Akter was first admitted at Haziganj Hospital where her condition deteriorated. Later she was shifted to Comilla Sadar Hospital. After one month she was again shifted to Dhaka Shuhrawardi

Hospital. There she was in treatment for about three months. At that time plastic surgery was done by a visiting foreign medical team. She hails from a poor family. Now she is living with her parents in sub human condition.

The District and Sessions Judge of Chandpur after examining the witnesses and evidences found the four persons guilty and sentenced them to suffer the aforementioned punishment. The case was shifted from Haziganj thana to Chandpur Sessions Court.

PP Jahirul Islam and APP Siddiquar Rahman conducted the case on behalf of government.

Young man stabbed to death

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Feb 15: One young man was stabbed to death following an altercation with some other youngmen at Miruhar village under Nalchity thana of Jhalakathi district Friday.

Witnesses said, Saha Alam, 24, was stabbed to death on the spot allegedly by one Ibrahim during a hot altercation over demanding of only 12 Taka as a making charge of a ladies garment.

Couple commits suicide

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Feb 15: One Tofazzal Hossain and his wife allegedly committed suicide at village Salur of Chowgacha thana Friday night.

According to police Arjuna Khatun, 25 and her husband aged about 32 took poison following a quarrel.

Police sent the bodies to the General Hospital, Jessore for autopsy.

Construction of 2 groynes progressing

RANGPUR, Feb 15: Construction works of two groynes under Teesta Barrage project is expected to be completed by the end of this month at a cost of Taka 15 crore, reports BSS.

Under the supervision of the Water Development Board 95 per cent work of the groynes has already been completed, official sources said.

With the commission of the groynes vast areas of Hati-bandha thana under Lalmonirhat district will be protected from flood and erosion of the Teesta river.

The groynes are situated at 13 kilometres upstream from Teesta Barrage.

Coach helper killed in road accident

PATUAKHALI, Feb 15: A coach helper was killed and about 25 passengers were hurt, 12 critically, when the vehicle turned turtle near Barphasha on Bakerganj road, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the Bauphal-bound bus dashed a roadside tree as the driver lost control of the vehicle while giving side to a BRTC bus on January 27. The helper of the bus, Harun, 30, died on the spot.

Most of the injured were admitted at Bakerganj Thana Health Complex. One of the seriously wounded, a school boy, was sent to Barisal Medical College Hospital.

The driver of the bus went into hiding. A case was filed with the police.

Series of clashes leave 10 injured in Bhola

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Feb 15: At least 10 activists from two factions of JCD were injured following a series of clashes for last three days at Charfasion of Bhola.

Witnesses said, two factions of JCD were locked in clashes over some trivial matters for last three days that left 10 activists injured including Asraful Islam Tipu, thana JCD unit president and Firoj Kibria, president, Charfasion, College JCD unit. They were sent to Barisal SBMC hospital in critical condition. Both factions used lethal weapons and bombs. Two shops were also ransacked during the clash, police said.