## Fake students sued in Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Feb 20: A case was filed against seven students of Sundarganj DW College as they got admitted into the college by showing fake marksheets of SSC examinations and appeared in the HSC examinations of 1999.

Rajshahi Education Board recently confirmed that the documents the students produced to get admitted into the college were fake papers.

The accused students are Abdul Hannan, Waresh Ali, Saiful Islam, Nurunnabi Sarker, Shahabul Islam, Aminul Huq and Brazendra Nath.

## New executives of Faridpur unit of journalists' assoc

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Feb 20 : A 23-member executive committee of the district unit of Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity was elected recently in a meeting held at the municipality auditorium here.

President Gen Secy

Munshi Harun-or-Rashid (UNB), Prabir Sikder (Janakantha) and Mahbub Pial (Mukta Kantha) were elected president, general secretary and financial secretary respectively for the term 2000-2001.

The district unit election was preceded by its biennial conference with its president Munshi Harun-or-Rashid in the chair.

## Saraswati Puja celebrated

MYMENSINGH, Feb 20: The local students of the Hindu community was celebrated the Saraswati puja here in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

Puja *mandaps* were erected here in most of the educational institutions of the town including Ananda Mohan University College, Shahid Syed Nazrul Islam College, City Collegiate School and Mrityunjay School.

A large number of Hindu devotees including students and their guardians were assembled at the puja *mandaps* for offering their prayers to the Goddess.

They also organized a cultural function in their respective institutions.

A report from Madaripur says: Hindu community of the district celebrated Saraswati puja here with due solemnity and religious fervour recently.

It was organized by local educational institutions, socio-cultural and religious organisations.

Students of Chormuguria High school set up a puja *mandap* in its auditorium to celebrate the puja.

Concerned officials of the district administration visited different educational institutions.

**Cleanliness is next to godliness**
Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) conducted recently an extensive drive among the city dwellers to create awareness about cleanliness and sanitation. Photo shows *Gambhira*, a regional folk music being rendered at a function at Ward Number 19 in the divisional city on the occasion. Among others, city mayor Mijanur Rahman Minu, chief executive officer Mohammad Shahjahan and ward commissioners enjoying the song. — Star photo

# Fund shortage hampers work on Gopalganj District Jail

From Alimuzzaman Miah

GOPALGANJ, Feb 20 : Construction work on Gopalganj District Jail remained incomplete even after five years of the time schedule.

Work on the perimeter wall and earth filling work inside the boundary was going on till filing of this report.

Inmates staying in the existing sub-jail were facing various problems for a long time. Now they live in congested rooms.

Accommodation capacity of the sub-jail was about 38, out of them 36 were male and the remaining two were female prisoners. But sometimes the number of prisoners became much higher. As a result the prisoners' woes multiplied.

Jail superintendent, doctor, pharmacist and jail subeder were suffering a lot due to shortage of space. There were no offices or any residential quarter for them. The sub-jailor was performing his duties in a tinshed. Moreover, the main gate and passage were very narrow. No sufficient space was available between the main gate and the security gate. There was no prisoner van at the sub-jail.

There was no scope of extension of the sub-jail in the present place. All the available spaces around the jail were already occupied for government quarters and officers. So renovation of Goplaganj Sub-Jail into a district jail was not possible.

The sufferings of inmates of Gopalganj Sub-Jail worsened during the rainy season. After a heavy shower, water got accumulated in the jail compound and remained stagnant for a long time. Very often rain and flood water entered into the prisoners' cells. This created much suffering to the inmates.

According to Public Works Department (PWD) official records, the sub-jail was first constructed in 1921, on one acre of land with only two wards. Then the population of the area was negligible. Now the population of the district was over 15 lakh.

Due to space problems handicrafts or other work programmes could not be introduced for the prisoners of rigorous imprisonment. On different occasions the people of Gopalganj demanded shifting of the sub-jail and its upgradation into a district jail.

While talking to the exceutive engineer of Public Works Department (PWD), Golpalganj, he told The Daily Star correspondent that Gplaganj District Jail started functioning five years ago (1994-95). But work on the district jail was delayed due to want of fund. He further said that the work would not be completed as per the time schedule.

According to official sources, PWD took possession of six acres of land in 1993. A site was selected at Gosherchar in Gopalganj Municipality area for construction of Gopalganj District Jail.

They further said, out of the total amount of the project -- Taka 739.91 crore, an amount of Taka 161 crore was spent. But at present there was no fund for continuation of the project work.

The Executive Engineer of PWD, Gopalganj urged the higher authorities to take necessary steps for fund for its proper implementation.

# Fish crisis in northern region

From A Correspondent

KURIGRAM, Feb 20: The northern districts, including Kurigram, once known for fish production, now face acute shortage fish.

Officials of the Fisheries Department have attributed the rapid decline in fish production to siltation of water bodies like canal and *beels* and indiscriminate fishing of fries.

The also said indiscriminate use of chemical fertilisers in croplands are also polluting waters of ponds, canals and *beels*, leading to drastic fall in fish production.

According to an unofficial estimate, about 30,000 fishermen in the northern region are passing hard days as fishes of different species have disappeared from the water bodies.

Sources in the Fisheries Department said in the region's Bramaputra, Padma, Teesta, Dharla, Shankos, Saniajan, Zinziram, Mohananda, Atrai, Ichhamati, and Karatoa rivers are getting dried up, causing decrease in water levels in water bodies in the 16 districts in the region.

Meanwhile, no re-excavation work has been done in the region's 10 big *bills*, including Chalan Beel, Halti Beel, Bulbhatia, and Gajner Beel, the sources added.

Besides, many water bodies are not under scientific fish cultivation. Local people said these water bodies and ponds should be brought under modern pisciculture to boost the fish production in the region as well as in the country.

Meanwhile, many fishermen in the region have given up their ancestral profession only to earn a decent living.

UNB from Rangamati says: Rangamati, once known as a big bowl of fish, now faces an acute fish crisis. The blame goes to rapid siltation of water bodies.

Sources said fish production in all water bodies in Sadar, Baghaichhari, Naniarchar, Longodu, Borbol, Bilaichhari, Jurachhari, Kaokhali, Kaptai and Rajsthali has fallen drastically compared to any time before.

According to an estimate, there are over 15,000 fishermen in the district. Gone are the days when the fishermen would not have to worry for their living. Now they can hardly manage three meals a day.

Meanwhile, many of the fishermen have given up their ancestral profession in search of new life in agriculture or other professions.

Experts attribute the rapid fall in fish production in the hilly countryside to siltation of water bodies like canals and rivers, and indiscriminate catching of fish fry.

They said once the water bodies would be leased out to genuine fishermen, but now non-professionals, who are least bothered about siltation, get lease.

The mushroom growth of pisciculture in the district is also blamed for the worsening misery of the genuine fishermen.

There have been allegations that some influential people in collaboration with a section of officials of Fisheries Department are taking loans from banks in the name of fish farming, depriving the genuine fishermen.

Another report from Joypurhat says: Two important posts in Fisheries Department of the district have long been lying vacant hampering fisheries programmes.

According to a competent source, the post of district fisheries officer are lying vacant for nearly six months while that of thana fisheries officer in Akkelpur thana for two years.

He said the 4th fisheries food project (Hastabeel) could not yet be launched as the post of fisheries official in Akkelpur thana remained vacant.

**Office of the Executive Engineer**
Panchagarh O&M Division
PWDB, Panchagarh

**Corrigendum-1**

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the Tender Notice No. Panch-06/1999-2000, the selling date of tender will continue 01.03.2000 instead of 23.02.2000 and the receiving date shifted to 29.02.2000, 01.03.2000 and 02.03.2000 (up to 12.00 hours) instead of 22.02.2000, 23.02.2000 and 24.02.2000 respectively. The open lottery (if required) will be held on 9.03.2000 at 11.00 AM instead of 29.02.2000.

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

**Executive Engineer**
Panchagarh O&M Division
BWDB, Panchagarh

PANI-357/1999-2000
GD-150

## Road mishaps on rise

Road accidents are on rise in recent days in districts, report agencies.

At least 35 people were killed in various traffic mishaps throughout Kushtia district in 1999.

Of the deaths, three each were reported in January, February, April and October, two each in March and May, four each in June and July, five each in August and September and one in December.

While transport owners attribute the rising trend of traffic mishap to shabby condition of roads, police held reckless driving, plying of unfit vehicles, overloading and holding markets on main roads responsible for the unabated road accidents.

According to the transport owners, three out of five main routes in the district — Pragpur-Bheramara, Kushtia-Meherpur and Kushtia-Alamdanga — are extremely vulnerable to mishaps.

At least 30 people, including two children were injured in a mishap on Patuakhali-Barisal road near Khalishakhali ferry ghat on Monday.

Witnesses said the accident occurred at about 10:00 am

**Patronising female education**
Golam Mortaza, Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) of Sailkupa in Jhenidah district handing over a cheque to a girl student recently as part of a local voluntary organisation named RAAC's stipend awarding programme. — Star photo

**গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড**
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)
বাড়ি নং-১, সড়ক নং-১২, সেক্টর-৩
উত্তরা মডেল টাউন, ঢাকা-১২৩০

গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ এর অপচয় রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন

**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

| ক্রমিক নং | দরপত্র নং | বিষয় | দরপত্রের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য) | আর্নেষ্টমানি |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ০১। | জিটিসিএল/প্রশাসন (ক্রয়)/ পিসি/৯৯-২০০০/০৫ | আনুষংগিক যন্ত্রপাতি ও প্রিন্টার সহ পার্সোনাল কম্পিউটার | ৳ ৫০০.০০ (পাঁচশত টাকা) | উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের ২.৫ % (আড়াই শতাংশ) |
| ০২। | জিটিসিএল/প্রশাসন (ক্রয়)/ফার্নিচার/৯৯-২০০০/০৬ | ষ্টীল ও কাঠের আসবাবপত্র | ৳ ১০০.০০ (একশত টাকা) | -ঐ- |

**দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থানঃ**
গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন কোম্পানী লিঃ
বাড়ি নং-১, রোড নং-১২, সেক্টর-৩
উত্তরা মডেল টাউন, ঢাকা-১২৩০।

**দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলার তারিখঃ**
গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন কোম্পানী লিঃ
বাড়ি নং-১, রোড নং-১২, সেক্টর-৩
উত্তরা মডেল টাউন, ঢাকা-১২৩০।

দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের সময়সীমা : ২২/০২/২০০০ ইং তারিখ হইতে ০১/০৩/২০০০ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত।
দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময় : ০২/০৩/২০০০ ইং তারিখ সকাল ১১.৩০ পর্যন্ত।
দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময় : ০২/০৩/২০০০ ইং তারিখ সকাল ১১.৪৫ মিনিট।

GTPR-03/2000 GD-149

## 3 Indians with arms caught

SATKHIRA, Feb 20: Three Indian nationals were caught from Pagoryarikhal in the Sundarbans with arms and ammunition on February 11, reports UNB.

The arrested identified as Kattik, Pizus and Prodip of Homongar of 24 Pargona district of West Bengal were sent to jail *hazat*.

Police also recovered two pipe guns and huge ammunition from their possession.

## Surma bank protection projects

SYLHET, Feb 20: Water Development Board (WDB) is implementing four projects, aiming to protect the bank of River Surma, at a cost of Tk 4.92 crore, reports UNB.

Officials said WDB undertook the projects in 1999-2000 fiscal under the sub-divisional engineers' office-2.

They said Tk 2.94 crore has been earmarked for one of the projects to be implemented at Koilashtila in Golapganj while Tk 1.10 crore for Golapganj-Simpur project and Tk 44 lakh each for Bianibazar-Nayagram and Kanaighat-Nandirai projects.

## Fratricide

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Feb 20: Elder brother was killed by his younger brother at village Chakchaka under Sadar thana in the district recently.

Villagers said younger brother Mainul hit his elder brother Ramjan Ali with a hoe following an altercation over land dispute. Severely injured Ramjan Ali was rushed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

A case was filed in this connection.

## Mymensingh Udichi confce

MYMENSINGH, Feb 20: The two-day long 9th biannual conference of Udichi Shilpa Gosthi, Mymensingh district unit was held at the local Shaheed Minar premises under the presidentship of Pijush Kanti Ghose, president of the district unit, reports BSS.

The conference, was attended by the deputy commissioner Rafiqul Islam and general secretary of Udichi central committee Mohmud Selim as chief and special guests respectively.

Speaking on the occasion, deputy commissioner called upon the members of Udichi Shilpi Goshti to spread out the Bangla culture in the remote corner of the country. In this connection he assured them of all possible help and cooperation from his side.

Earlier a big procession of the members of Udichi was brought out from Shaheed Minar premises and paraded the main streets of the town.

On the second day of the conference a 33-member executive committee has been formed unanimously with Pijush Kanti Ghose and Sarwar Jahan Rabin as president and general secretary respectively.

## Ten injured in road accident

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Feb 20: Ten people were injured in a road mishap occurred at Matherhat on Gaibandha-Palashbari road recently.

The accident occurred when a truck hit an auto rickshaw, injuring ten.

Critically injured Mamun, 35, Raja, 25, and Anwar, 40 were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

A case was filed in this connection.

## Efforts on to develop infrastructures in villages

RAMPAL, Feb 20: State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Talukder Abdul Khaleq Saturday said the government was working relentlessly to develop infrastructures in the rural areas across the country, reports BSS.

The state minister was addressing the inaugural function of Baliaghata-Bhanganpar Bazar, Bharasapur-Busstand, Ronsen-Gourambha, Baburbari-Rajnagar-Kalekhar-Dighirpar and Rampal-Jhalmalia road construction under Rampal thana.

Bagerhat Roads and Highways Department and Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) are jointly implementing the road construction and carpeting project at the cost of Taka 57 lakh.

He also attended the annual sports and cultural competition and prize giving ceremony of Rampal College in the afternoon as the chief guest. On the occasion he urged the students to learn education to bloom themselves in the light of knowledge.

Earlier the state minister distributed interest-free loans amounting to Taka 300,000 among 91 persons of six villages and Taka 115,000 among 59 persons of six maternity centres.

# News snaps

### BCL factions clash: 20 hurt

BARISAL, Feb 20 : At least 20 people, including a woman, were injured in a violent clash between rival factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at Kalkini on Friday, reports UNB.

Residents and police said the clash erupted between the factions of BCL — one led by local unit president Sabuj Hawlader and another by vice president Masud Rana alias Dulal — at Kalkini Bazaar at about 11 am after a hot exchange of words. They exchanged 16 rounds of gun shot, series of bombs exploded, 13 shops ransacked and robbed during the 2-hour clash leaving at least 20 people injured. Of them, conditions of Kamal, 22, Belal 28, Mohammad Ali, 40, Salma, 22, Zahir, 20, Akbar, 23, Habib, 38, and Babu, 27, were stated to be critical. Kalkini police admitted the clash between rival groups of BCL. But no arrest was made till Saturday evening.

### BCL leader arrested

BARGUNA, Feb 20: A pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader was arrested on Saturday on charge of terrorist acts in Zilla Parishad Bhaban, reports UNB.

Mosharraf Hossain, district unit general secretary of BCL, was detained in connection with the January 4 attack on the Parishad Bhaban. Earlier, police arrested another BCL man, Sipon, in this connection.

### Road mishap kills youth

MAGURA, Feb 20: A young man was killed and 20 others sustained injuries, 11 seriously in a road mishap in front of police lines in the town on Dhaka-Khulna highway on Saturday morning, reports UNB.

Police said a Dhaka bound bus from Khulna collided with a truck coming from the opposite direction killing an unidentified passenger, 35, on the spot. The seriously injured persons were rushed to Magura Sadar hospital in a critical condition. Police seized both the vehicles but the drivers managed to escape. A case was filed with the police.

### Record output of foodgrains

BARISAL, Feb 20: Barisal division produced 16.69 lakh mts of foodgrains last season against its annual demand for 13.60 lakh mts, showing a surplus of 3.09 lakh mts, reports UNB.

Agriculture officials attribute the huge farm output to massive use of manure on croplands by farmers, adequate irrigation facility and silts brought by the 1998 flood. They said some 8.71 lakh hectares of lands in six districts of the division were brought under cultivation last season.

### Rape victim dies

JHENIDAH, Feb 20: The teenaged girl, whose eyes were gouged out by miscreants after rape at Khalishakunda village in Harinakunda thana Wednesday night, died at Khulna 200-bed Hospital on Saturday, reports UNB.

The 14-year-old girl, a class IV student of a BRAC school, fell victim to the rapists while she was going to the wedding ceremony of her cousin in the village at 9pm. The culprits took her to a betel-leaf garden and gouged out her eyes after gangrape. Hearing her screaming, passersby rescued the girl and sent her to the thana health complex in a critical condition. She was later shifted to Sadar Hospital and then to the Khulna Hospital, where she died on Saturday morning. Meanwhile, police arrested three men — Selim, Rafiz and Oltu — from the village in this connection.

### Barisal Reporters Unity floated

BARISAL, Feb 20: Local newsmen has forged a unity, Barisal Reporters Unity, to protect their professional interests, reports UNB.

A 7-member convening committee has been formed with Ismail Hossain Negaban (Observer) as its convenor. The other office-bearers are: member secretary-Anisur Rahman Swapan (Bhorer Kagaj), members-Mainul Hasan (Ittefaq), Akhtar Farooque Shahin (Banglar Baani), Meer Moniruzzaman (Ajker Kagaj), Monirul Alam Swapan (Manab Zamin) and Pulak Chaterjee (Jugantar).

### Old widow beaten to death

MUNSHIGANJ, Feb 20: An old widow was beaten to death by some miscreants in Sirajdikhan thana on Thursday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Kasirannesa, 50, wife of late Abed Ali, of Chitrakot Kalipura village. Police said the miscreants led by Farman entered into the house of the widow and beat up her mercilessly with iron rods. She died on the spot. The cause behind the killing could not be known. Brother-in-law of the widow Abdul Haque filed a case with police in this regard.

### Heart camp opens

KUSHTIA, Feb 20: Eminent heart specialist Dr SR Khan opened a camp for treatment of heart, eye, throat and skin diseases at Baria High School premises on Wednesday, reports BSS.

Khulna National Blind Association and Siddikia Foundation of Kushtia jointly organised the camp. Ninety eye operations were done and 200 eye patients got free treatment in the camp. Dr Anwarul Karim, Professor of Islamic University presided over the inaugural function.

### Law and order improves

JAMALPUR, Feb 20: The law and order of Jamalpur district during the month January 2000 has improved compared to the previous month, reports BSS.

It was revealed in the monthly meeting of Law and Order Committee presided over by the Deputy Commissioner of Jamalpur held at his conference room on Thursday. In the month of January theft cases were four, cow-lifting — six, murder — three, riot — one, killed due to rioting — ten, police hurt — one, smuggling — four and miscellaneous cases — 75, police sources said. Advocate Md Shahidullah, member of the committee, while thanking the government for enacting the new law on public safety to curb the anti-social activities urged the administration and police force to apply the law in right perspective.

### Contraband seized

COMILLA, Feb 20: Police seized smuggled goods worth of Tk 5 crore from different parts of the district last year, reports UNB.

During the period, they also arrested 106 smugglers and filed 134 cases. The seized contrabands included saree, fish, powdered milk, bicycles, timbers, steel-made household appliances, video cassettes, phensidyle, cigarettes and sugar valued at Tk 35 lakh. Police also recovered snake poison worth of Tk 4.78 lakh during the period.

### Life term for 2 killers

TANGAIL, Feb 20: A court here Thursday condemned two people to life term imprisonment in a murder case, reports UNB.

The court also fined the lifers — Niyat Ali and Abdus Sattar of Laskarpur village in Kalihati thana — Tk 2,000 each, in default, to suffer six months more RI. According to prosecution the convicts attacked their fellow-villager Halim Mondol on January 14, 1996, leaving him critically injured. Halim had been admitted to Dhaka PG Hospital, where he died on January 16. After examining records and witnesses, Second Additional District and Sessions Judge AR Masud handed down the judgment. He acquitted six other accused of the case.

### Businessman killed in road mishap

MANIKGANJ, Feb 20: A businessman was killed and two people were injured in separate traffic mishaps on Dhaka-Aricha highway in the district on Saturday, reports UNB.

Police said businessman Noor Hosain, 24, was killed when a coach hit his motorbike in Sadar thana in the afternoon.

The body was sent to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed. In another incident, three people — Muhammad Didar, 26, and Akhinul Islam, 30, — were admitted to the hospital after they sustained critical injuries in a road accident at Twara.

### Water supply in Chuadanga

CHUADANGA, Feb 20: A total of 6,30,000 people are now getting pure drinking water in four thanas of Chuadanga district, reports BSS.

The thanas are: Chuadanga Sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar. Public Health Engineering Department has ensured supply of drinking water through hand pump tubewells and tara pumps. According to an official source, the thanawise break up of the people getting pure drinking water is — 1,53,000 people in Chuadanga Sadar, 1,85,000 people in Alamdanga, 2,00,000 people in Damurhuda and 92,000 people in Jibannagar. A total of 7,772 hand pump tubewells and 694 tara pumps, installed by Public Health Engineering Department in all the four thanas of the district, are now in operation through which pure drinking water is being supplied to the people.