

National

PM likely to inaugurate work on Pakshey Bridge next month

PABNA, Nov 24: Dispelling all speculations, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to formally inaugurate the construction work on Pakshey Bridge sometime next month, reports UNB.

Preliminary work on the country's second longest bridge has already begun, raising hope that economic activities will gain momentum with the setting up of a north-south transport grid.

Although the survey on the bridge started in 1995, the present government took up the mega project soon after assuming power.

The 1.8-km long and 18.10-meter wide four-lane bridge is being constructed over the River Padma at Pakshey in between Pabna and Kushtia districts and 300 meters down the Hardinge Bridge.

The government will provide Tk 71.32 crore for implementing the Tk 567.68 crore project while Tk 496.36 crore will come from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). Roads and Highways Department is implementing the project.

It will be a 17-span bridge with concrete pile foundation and a 10-km approach road at the Pabna end while a 6-km one at the Kushtia end.

For construction of the approach roads, the bridge authorities have already acquired 103 hectares of land permanently and 47 hectares temporally on both sides of the bridge in addition to its main site.

Meanwhile, tenders have been floated for the approach roads while earth-filling work is progressing along the eastern side of the river.

Officials said Major Bridge Engineering Bureau (MBEB), a Chinese construction firm, has got the work order for constructing the bridge.

An agreement to this effect was signed between the Bangladesh government and the Chinese construction firm on August 17 at Sarak Bhawan in Dhaka.

R and H Chief Engineer MA Wadud signed the agreement on behalf of the Bangladesh Government while Chief of Overseas Economic Undertaking Section of China Zao Kiping signed on behalf of MBEB.

American designer Mot Maedon prepared the design of the bridge. Person Bringkarfey Associate of the United States will oversee construction work of the bridge.

The project is scheduled to be completed by September 2003.

10-yr-old boy languishing in prison

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Nov 24: A ten-year old orphan boy has been rotting in Faridpur District Prison for the last four months knowing nothing about his fault.

The victim, Sudhir Bairagee along with some of his acquaintances came from Bagerhat to Sreeangan, a holy place of the Hindus in the town from where he was arrested by the police for reasons best known to them and sent to Faridpur prison.

Sudhir has been staying in the prison since his arrest with none to take any initiative to get him free from the prison.

Human Rights and other philanthropic organisations should take positive move to set him free.

Export-import thru' Benapole suspended

JESSORE, Nov 24: As Indian truckers began wildcat strike on Wednesday, export and import of goods through Benapole-Hardiaspur check post was suspended, reports UNB.

The strike began in the morning after BSF men beat up a driver at Hardiaspur in India.

Sources said the Indian border guards assaulted the Indian truck driver, Govinda, at about 6:30 am while a number of trucks were being loaded with jute at no man's land.

Later, the Indian truck drivers put up barricade at the border point, disrupting movement of trucks through the check post.

About 100 trucks freighted with jute remained stranded at Benapole check post while 200 at Hardiaspur in India following the incident.

A meeting between Indian Truck Drivers Association and the local administration was continuing to resolve the matter.

20 hurt as AL factions clash in Shariatpur

SHARIATPUR, Nov 24: A fierce gunfight between two factions of local Awami League at village Senerchar in Jajira upazila left 20 people injured, five with bullet, on Wednesday reports UNB.

Witnesses said the gun battle took place in the morning when the armed supporters of Siraj Sikder attacked the house of Monir Hossain Fakir.

Of the injured, Shahjahan, 28, Aslam, 26, and Ahsan Habib were admitted to the Jajira Upazila Health Complex in critical condition.

Locals said the clash occurred over establishing supremacy in the area.

Police said Monir Hossain Fakir filed a case. Meanwhile, ASP of the district visited the spot.



Flood has damaged badly Arpara-Dhoneshwari Road in Magura district causing immense sufferings to the passengers of buses which ply along the route. The road needs to be repaired on emergency basis

--Star photo

Sugarcane crushing begins

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Nov 24: Sugarcane crushing in Faridpur Sugar Mills here began last week.

Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed inaugurated this year's crushing season in the premises of the factory at Madhukhali.

On the occasion, the minister told the gathering that none of the 15 nationalised sugar mills will be denationalised amid huge clapping.

The minister, however, said workers and employees should work hard to make the factories profitable.

Faridpur Sugar Mills fixed the target to produce 12,293 metric tons of sugar this season by crushing 1.99 lakh metric tons of sugarcane in 129 working days.

President over by Mofiz Ahmed, chairman of Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industry Corporation, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Kazi Sirajul Islam MP, Abdur Rahman, former BCL leader and Syed Kabirul Alam, president of district unit of Krishak League.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Percy Schmeisser, a Canadian farmer, Jenifer Morino of PAN AP, Shaheed Hossain and Mahfuz

Rally to make farmers aware of adverse impact of pesticides

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 24: A farmers' rally was held at remote village Baro Vela under Chakaria upazila in Cox's Bazar district on Monday to make the peasants aware of adverse impact of indiscriminate use of pesticides on croplands.

The rally was held as part of a campaign, "Peoples' Caravan-2000", Asia and the Pacific-based organisation Pesticide Action Network (PAN AP) in collaboration with several farmers' organisations of some countries, including Bangladesh, India, Malaysia and Indonesia, has launched the programme aiming at creating awareness against the adverse impact of chemical insecticides and pesticides on lands and humankind. The campaign also advocates alternative method of pest management, besides protecting bio-diversity.

Slogan of the campaign, which also discourages farmers to use genetically modified seeds, is make the land and food poison-free.

Members of 'Peoples' Caravan-2000', who started from India on November 13, reached Bangladesh on November 18 to hold rallies in different remote villages of Cox's Bazar, Tangail and Pabna.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Percy Schmeisser, a Canadian farmer, Jenifer Morino of PAN AP, Shaheed Hossain and Mahfuz

Rahman of a Bangladeshi organisation, Officer of upazila administration Syed Md Belal Haider and Upazila Agricultural Officer Zainal Hossain, besides some local farmers.

4,000 copies of Inqilab burnt

BARISAL, Nov 24: More than 4,000 copies of the daily Inqilab were burnt at Shikarpur ferry ghat on Dhaka-Barisal highway on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Sources said activists of Awami League and its front organisations stopped a microbus carrying the newspapers and set fire on the copies of the Inqilab preventing the daily from reaching its subscribers of the southern region.

They also burnt about 400 copies of the weekly "Purnima" published from the Inqilab House.

Robber gets life term

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Nov 24: A court here recently sentenced a man to life term in a robbery case.

The convict was identified as Din Islam of village Char Kushali under Terokhada upazila in Khulna district.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Percy Schmeisser, a Canadian farmer, Jenifer Morino of PAN AP, Shaheed Hossain and Mahfuz

JP for new dimension in politics: Manju

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Party (M-M) Secretary General and Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju has it possible to reduce corruption in the country if the persons involved in corruption at the higher level is tried.

Manju and that JP wants to introduce and bring a new dimension in the politics for ensuring welfare of the people. He said people have started thinking about the new approach of the party and in the meantime JP has strengthened its organisational activities in each upazila.

"Standard of life of common people might improve if the corruption is eliminated from the society," he said while addressing a public meeting at Narail District Auditorium on Tuesday.

The Narail district unit of JP organised the meeting, which was presided over by district Convenor Ishtiaq Hossain Manjur, JP President Member

Sheikh Shahidul Islam, Joint Secretary General Sadeq Siddique, Shamsul Huda, Ameria Bari, General Secretary of Jatiya Juba Sanghati Mir Harun-ur-Rashid, Jahangir Hossain and BM Fashiar Rahman.

Speaking at the gathering, Manju said there is acute crisis and extreme poverty everywhere in the country. There is also demand for construction of culverts and bridges all over the country, he added.

He said the country was liberated twice in last 50 years but lack of the commonman is yet to improve although there is resources in Bangladesh, said a press release here.

The Communications Minister hoped that the JP would do better in the next parliamentary polls and called upon all to rally round under the banner of the party to ensure development of the country and the nation.

News snaps

9 fishermen abducted by NASAKA

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Nov 24: Members of Myanmar border force NASAKA abducted nine Bangladeshi fishermen from Bangladesh territorial waters.

According to a delayed report, NASAKA men seized two fishing trawlers and abducted the fishermen when they were fishing in the Bay on November 19. Owners of the trawlers, Nur Ahmed and Md Amin, registered a GD with Teknaf police station in this connection.

Diarrhoea claims six lives

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 24: Diarrhoea that broke out in an epidemic form in Katiadi upazila claimed six lives including three children and affected 25 people, reports UNB.

The deceased children were identified as Partha, 2, son of Didi Mia of village Barabari, Mobarak, 1, son of Emdad Mia of village Barabari, Babul, 5, son of Pintu Mia of Charpara village. Besides a man died in Paspara and two others in Dhuldia village of the upazila. Official sources said the disease broke out in Chirupur and Shahrasam Dhuldia unions of the upazila and a diarrhoea control room was opened in Chirupur union. But the local people demanded of the authorities to send medical teams to the affected areas.

Anniversary of death

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Nov 24: The first anniversary of death of Asir Uddin Ahmed, social worker and retired co-operative inspector will be observed tomorrow (Saturday) befittingly.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil and doa mahfil followed by feeding of destitutes and orphans have been arranged after Johar prayers at his house at Road No 3, House No 228, Mulatole, Rangpur. Relatives, friends, colleagues, and well-wishers have been requested to attend the mahfils and pray for salvation of the deceased.



Newborn stolen from RMCH rescued

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov 24: Finally the newborn baby boy, who was stolen from the labour ward of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) on November 13, was rescued on Monday night. The baby was returned to his mother.

Acting on a tip-off, police rescued the baby from New Market area in the city. Police also arrested Shefali, 30, and her husband Farhad in connection with the theft.

The mother, Shukman of Silinda under Rajpara police station in the city, gave birth to the baby at obstetrics ward (ward No 22) of RMCH. As the mother's condition was critical, a woman, introducing herself as aunt of the baby, took the baby from the on-duty nurse and fled the hospital.

A general diary was recorded with Rajpara police station in this connection.

According to police and RMCH sources, a rickshaw puller, Rezaul informed Dr Daemuddin, head of the probe committee formed by the RMCH authorities to investigate into the theft, that an elderly woman from a slum in Bhadra area had stolen the newborn baby.

Police later raided the slum and arrested the woman suspected in the theft. The women said that her daughter Shefali, who lives in New Market area, had stolen the baby.

Mother of two children, Shefali had told her neighbours that she had given birth to the baby.

Minister's car hits rickshaw: Two injured

NARSINGDI, Nov 24: A minister's car dashed a rickshaw in Raipura upazila here on Dhaka-Sylhet highway leaving two rickshaw passengers injured on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, who was on way to Sylhet, was unhurt after his car met with the accident at Morja bus stand at about 9 am.

Witnesses said eight more people were wounded as police resorted to baton charge to disperse a mob encircling the car. However, the minister's car left the scene safely.

Of the injured, two rickshaw passengers Salma Begum, 30, and Motaleb Khanda, 60, and Awlad Hossain, 30, Shahjahan, 25, Nazrul Islam, 30, and Mister Hossain, 30, were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

Villagers caught Din Islam during robbery at village Manikdah under Gopalganj Sadar upazila on November 21, 1998.

Meanwhile, all necessary measures have been taken by the concerned organisations to distribute hybrid Boro seeds, fertilisers, insecticides and other agri-inputs among farmers at fair prices while Bangladesh Krishi Bank and other banks are providing necessary farm loans.

"If the weather does a favour, we may see another bumper production," said a senior AED official.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Local Government

Rural Development and Co-operatives (LGRD&C)

Local Government Division

URBAN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROJECT

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Notice Inviting Tender

1. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Urban Primary Health Care Project and it is intended that a part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract (hereinafter referred to as the contract) for which this invitation for bid is issued.

2. Project Director, Urban Primary Health Care Project on behalf of Local Government Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives (LGRD&C) will act as Employer.

3. Project Director, Urban Primary Health Care Project now invites sealed bids from prequalified bidders of UPHC Project for the construction of the following works in Dhaka City Corporation, Khulna City Corporation and Rajshahi City Corporation comprising of but not limited to all kinds of civil, plumbing, sanitary, electrical and mechanical works, site development etc.

Package No	Schedule of work	Budget Provision	Earnest Money

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