

NEWS SNAPS

Gunfight leaves pirate dead

UNB, Bagerhat
A fierce gunfight between pirates and coastguards left a pirate dead at Kolumula in Chadpai range of the Sundarbans Tuesday.
The gunfight erupted when the pirates opened fire on the coastguards when they, acting on a tip-off, raided the area. Pirates Abdul Gaffar, 40, died on the spot. Another pirate was arrested from the spot along with a foreign-made gun and 43 bullets. The body of Abdul Gaffar and the arrested pirate were handed over to police.

Youth killed in road accident

UNB, Narayanganj
A young man was killed and nine people were injured when a truck they were travelling with a dead body fell into a roadside ditch at Premierbazar in Sonargaon upazila in Narayanganj Friday.
The dead was identified as Rafiqul, 26, of Gopetbag village. They were returning home with the dead body of their neighbour Jalal, 32, who died of diarrhoea at a hospital in Dhaka. A case was filed.

Housewife commits suicide

UNB, Joypurhat
A housewife allegedly committed suicide by taking pesticides at Rukundipur village in Akkelpur upazila in Joypurhat district recently.
Family sources said Misti Parina, 34, of the village took poison following a family trouble.

Child drowns

BSS, Chapainawabganj
A three-year-old girl child drowned in the river Mohananda in Chapainawabganj recently.
Sumaia, daughter of Amir Hossain of village Binedpur under Shiganj upazila, met the tragic end of her life when she fell into the river from boat. She was going to a relative's house with her parents. The body was recovered by the villagers.

Farmer dies as elephant tramples

BSS, Rangamati
A farmer of village East Jalalaad under Longdadu upazila in Rangamati was trampled to death by an wild elephant at a paddy field Monday morning.
The man, Ramzan, was guarding his crops at night. He was asleep when the mammoth animal trampled him. The body was handed over to his relatives.

Man with gun held

UNB, Jhenidah
Police arrested a man along with a shutter gun from his house at Bertan village in Maheshpur upazila in Jhenidah on Saturday.
The arrested, Shaiful Islam, was sent to Jail Hajat. He was wanted in a number of cases, police said.

176 FFs get allowance

UNB, Noakhali
Social Services Department distributed allowance among 176 distressed freedom fighters in Sadar upazila of Noakhali district Sunday.
State Minister for Youth, Sports and Culture Obaidul Quader distributed the allowance among the freedom fighters, according to a handout.

Tk 10 lakh properties gutted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Barisal
Properties worth Tk 10 lakh were gutted at Batajore Kalibazar under Gourmadi upazila in Barisal last week.
The fire, which originated from an electric short circuit in a shop, engulfed seven shops in the bazaar, local people said. Four people also received injuries.

Blood bank set up

UNB, Madaripur
With a view to meeting urgent need of blood the government has set up a blood bank in Sadar Hospital in Madaripur.
Health Minister Sheikh Fazul Karim Selim inaugurated the blood bank recently.
The minister also laid the foundation stone of the nursing training center on the hospital premises. Accompanied by local MPs the minister later laid the foundation stone of the youth training centre in Pakadi area in the town on the same day.

19 schemes being implemented

UNB, Bandarban
Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is implementing 19 development projects in four unions of Thanchi upazila in Bandarban costing Tk 51 lakh.
Of the amount, Tk 35 lakh will come from Asian Development Bank (ADB) while the rest from LGED's own fund, officials said. The projects include construction of three footbridges at Kutangpara in spdar, Hosav Karbaripara in Tindu and Bazarpara in Remakri, three community clinics, passenger sheds, development of Remakri Bazar, installation of water supply line at Cha Thoyai Hala Karbaripara and construction of culverts.

Outlaw arrested

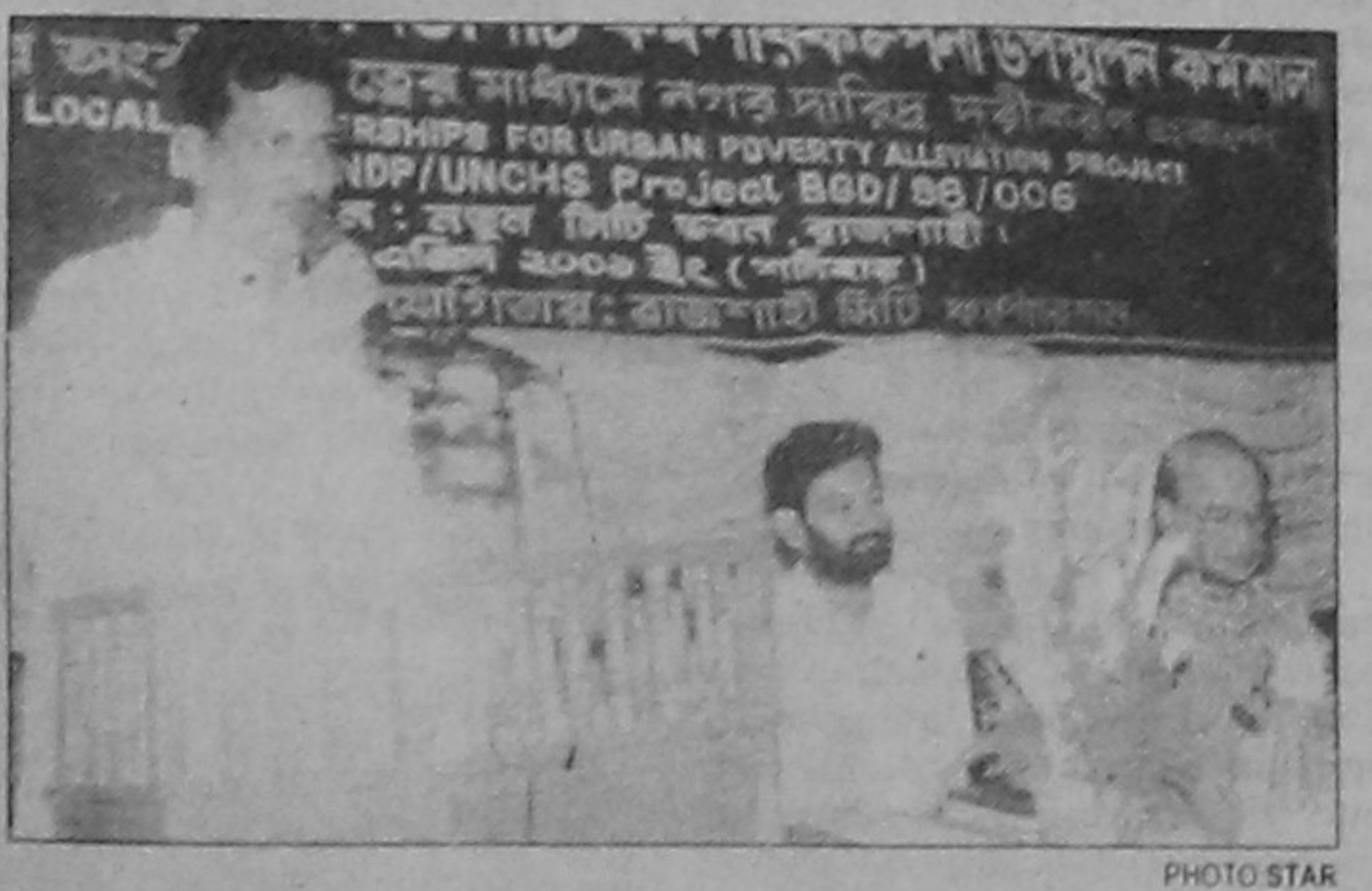
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna
A leader of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party was arrested in Khulna city recently.
The outlaw was identified as Moniruzzaman Moni, 30. Sonadanga police, however, said they could not recover any arms from his possession. He was wanted in several criminal cases in Jessore and Khulna including murder and extortion. Police said Moni came to Khulna city few days back to draw up a blueprint for killing some political figures. He was staying at Banargati Metepole area, police added.

Two youths held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong
Two youths were held in Chittagong city recently.
Acting on a tip off, police raided Halishahar area and held Shibir activist Jasim Uddin, 28. Police said Jasim was arrested in connection with three criminal cases. Meanwhile, Chandganj police in another raid arrested Dud Mia alias Duda, 22, from Bahodderhat Haq Super Market area and recovered two kg of ganja (herp) from his possession.

181 projects implemented

BSS, Narshingdi
A total of 181 projects under Rural Infrastructure Development Programme in Narshingdi district for 2000-2001 fiscal year have implemented recently.
About 1941 tons of wheat were sanctioned for the projects. Of the total project, 40 projects were implemented in Sadar upazila, 26 in Rajpara upazila, 25 in Polash upazila, 36 in Monohardi upazila, 22 in Belabo upazila and 32 in Shibpur upazila. The projects included construction and reconstruction of roads and culverts, earth work for construction of different educational and religious institutions.



Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu speaks at a workshop on 'Orientation and Community Works Plan Presentation' held recently in Rajshahi. The workshop was organised under Local Partnerships for Urban Poverty Alleviation Project of UNDP/UNCHS in collaboration with RCC.

Drive against jatka fishing goes ahead in Padma, Meghna

30,000 metres of current nets seized, 30 arrested last week

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

About 30,000 metres of current nets, used for catching fish fries, were seized from fishermen in the river Meghna and Padma last week. Thirty fishermen along with their boats were also arrested in this connection.

There have been reports of indiscriminate use of current nets in different areas of the river Padma and Meghna since the beginning of the year.
Mobile courts are carrying out vigorous campaigns against catching of fish fries in these rivers. About ten thousand fish fries were recovered from the fishermen during raids by mobile courts in Nilkamal, Ibrahimpur, Bangachar, Eshanbala, Alurbazar in Chandpur and Haimchar Upazila of the district. Mobile courts also conducted campaigns in different hats and bazars including Palbazar, Biponibag, Bishnudibazar and Purnabazar under Chandpur municipality.

Vigorous campaign against fry catchers are also being carried out in the district under the direct supervision of the deputy director of the Fisheries Department, Chittagong Division.

According to Chandpur Fisheries Department sources, they started manoeuvring the campaign in March and will continue their operations till end-June.

Md Hasan Mahmud, Deputy Director of the Department, told this correspondent that catching of fries in the area is decreasing day by day as a result of their continuous over-seeing move.



Pictures show officials with fishermen nabbed while catching fish fries with current nets (L) and seized nets being destroyed by officials at Chandpur (R).

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Navy has launched its campaign against fish hunters in the river Meghna and Padma from March 30, which will continue till the end of June. The three Naval ships working for the programme are also alerting the fishermen against catching of fries from these rivers. It may be mentioned here that this is for the first time that Bangladesh Navy has launched such a campaign.

Associated by two speedboats, Navy ship 'BNS Barkat' is conducting the programme in different river areas. Lt. Commandar Hasan Jaman Khan of BNS Barkat said that about sixty naval soldiers were working day and night to make the campaign a success.
He also said that they had already seized huge quantities of current nets, many engine boats and other illegal fry-catching equipment from the possession of the fishermen. Besides, the other two naval ships are also carrying out similar drives in the river areas in Bhola and Barisal districts.
About 10,000 current nets are

used everyday to catch hilsa and other fish fries in rivers like Padma and Meghna, according to sources.

Hilsa fries measuring 4 cm to 15 cm are called jatka, and these are found in the fresh waters of Padma and Meghna from January to June. After the end of this period, they migrate to the sea. During their stay in the rivers they are netted by unscrupulous fishermen, which has been banned by the government as it frustrates the drive to increase fish production.

PHOTO STAR

Siltation takes toll on navigation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkima

The rural economy in seven upazilas of Sathkima is faced with a serious setback as most of the rivers flowing through the district are drying up fast due to heavy deposition of silts.

River communication, which is one of the most important and easy modes of transportation for the people in Assasuni, Shyamnagar, Kaligonj, Debhata, Tala, and Sadar upazilas, is increasingly getting disrupted these days due to the rapid siltation process.

The district has huge economic potentials due to its strategic geographical location, but the gradual drying-up process of these major rivers is surely going to pose a threat to the development prospect in the area, said a local engineer.

The mighty rivers like Kabodak, Betna, Marichchap, Ichhamati, Chura, Kakshiali get silted up during the rainy season every year with deposition from the upper riparian rivers across the borders. Though there is no actual estimation how much silt is being deposited every year, an unofficial source said that this would be around 76 lakh tons.

Experts say that due to sloppy geographical structure, water with huge silts roll down from across the upper riparian areas to the lowlands of Sathkima and ultimately settles down on the riverbeds. As a result of this process, innumerable shoals have emerged in the aforementioned and other rivers, which have their origin in neighbouring India.

Due to massive siltation and the resultant loss of depths, these rivers lose their capacity to hold water properly or endure heavy pressure, resulting in heavy flooding in the locality during the rainy season. This causes huge loss of property almost every year.

In the dry season on the other hand, irrigation in croplands gets

seriously hampered due to drying up of the water bodies and reservoirs. Irrigation activities along the banks of these rivers are being badly hampered nowadays as flow of water in these rivers has almost ceased.

A large number of hats and bazars are on the verge of closure due to accumulation of silts in the river beds and subsequent disruption of the business activities which are dependent mainly on river communication, sources said. Thousands of boatmen, vessel workers and coolies have already lost their jobs.

A local engineer opined that if a smooth river communication cannot be ensured, it may leave a disastrous impact on the district's infrastructure.

Constable stabbed

UNB, Munshiganj

A police constable was critically injured when terrorists stabbed him as he caught one of their fellowmen from near Borolia Bridge in Tongbari upazila in Munshiganj Saturday midnight.

Police said constable Nasiruddin challenged three terrorists near the bridge for their suspicious movement while he along with two other constables were returning to police station after arresting two accused from Soapara. Nasir caught one of the terrorists as they tried to run away. But two of them returned to the spot and stabbed Nasir indiscriminately in an abortive bid to make their fellowman free. The injured constable was admitted to Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. A case was filed.

Jhenidah DIARY

Youth stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A young man at village Perdaknapur under Harinakundu upazila in Jhenidah district was chopped to death on Thursday.

The youth, aged about 35, came under the attack by a group of unidentified hoodlums numbering about 15 when he was returning home from the local market at about 9:30 in the morning. A case was filed in this connection and eight people were arrested.

10 injured as storm lashes

A storm swept over Bijulia and Monoharpur villages in Shaiklupa upazila under Jhenidah district last week injured ten people and damaged at least 50 houses and standing crops.

Crop and property losses could not be estimated immediately.

Two cows poisoned to death

Two cows at village Tripurakandi under Shaiklupa upazila in the district died recently after the animals ate poisonous fodder.

Tofazzel Hossain, 34, who owned the cattle, said some unidentified miscreants mixed poison in fodder. A general yard (GD) was filed. Last month his three more cows were killed in same way.

50 injured in Sirajganj clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

At least 50 people were injured, 20 of them critically, in a clash at Pangashi under Raiganj upazila in Sirajganj district recently.

According to local people, the clash, which lasted for more than two hours, ensued over organising a gamble at Pangashi.

Police rushed to the spot and charged baton to bring the situation under control.

Chandpur-Shariatpur ferry services soon

BSS, Chandpur

Chandpur-Shariatpur ferry service in the river Meghna, is expected to start very soon.

According to official sources, Taka 22 crore has already been sanctioned for the purpose.

Alurbazar in Haimchar upazila, about eight kilometers south of Chandpur town, has been selected as the suitable site for the ferry terminal on Chandpur district side.

The width of the river between Alurbazar to Bhederganj will be about 10 kilometers. Construction work on eight kilometers long connecting roads between the ferry terminals has already been started.

If the project is implemented, it will usher in a new era in the economic developments of the southern districts of the country.

As a result, the distance between Khulna and Chittagong will be reduced by 150 kilometres.

At present, the vehicles from the eastern districts of the country have to ply a long way through Dhaka city to reach Khulna and other southern districts.

This creates traffic jam in Dhaka city. The proposed ferry service, when implemented, will greatly ease the traffic congestion in Dhaka.

This ferry service will again reduce fuel consumption to great extent.

If the ferry service is started, it will also greatly improve the economic activities in the districts of Chandpur and Shariatpur.

Besides, communication between southern districts and eastern districts will be easy. New mills and factories will be established in the area and new job opportunities will be created for thousands of people, official sources said.

Chandpur Roads and Highways Department is working day and night to connect roads between the

two ferry terminals.

According to Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC), some ferries of Aricha terminal will be operated in the new route.

Two killed in road accidents

UNB, Gopalganj

Two people were killed and 65 passengers injured in separate road accidents in Gopalganj district Sunday.

Police said Abul Basar Matubbar, 18, helper of a bus driver, died on the spot when the bus fell into a roadside ditch at Gohala on Gopalganj-Kashiani road. The injured were admitted to Sadar Hospital and Kashiani Health Complex. In another incident, Kalidashi Rani Basu, 45, a housewife, was run over by a speeding car at Potharchar on Moksudpur-Kalna highway on the day.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Ministry of Information Planning Cell Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka

No/MI/PC-2/2001/848 Dated: 19-4-2001

Re-Tender Notice

Tenders are invited from interested bonafide Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM)/distributors/authorised dealer for procuring and installation of computer, computer accessories and establishment of computer network in the Ministry of Information (MOI) with different Agencies for the project titled "Establishment of computer network in the Ministry of Information (MOI) with different Agencies" by Ministry of Information.

Schedule of tender can be procured from Planning Cell, Ministry of Information (Room No 304, Building No 9) Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka on payment of Tk 1500 (one thousand five hundred only) (non-refundable) from 22-04-2001 at 10.00 AM to 30-04-2001 at 1.00 PM. The technical and financial offer will have to be deposited in the separate envelop system in 4 sets of each on 10-5-2001 by 2.00 Noon in the tender box kept at the Planning Cell MOI (Room No 306, Building No 9 Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka). Only the technical offers will be opened on the same day at 2.00 PM to 3.00 PM in presence of the tenderers (if any one remain present). Earnest money at an amount of the Tk 3,50,000 (three lakh fifty thousand) in the form of PAY ORDER/BANK DRAFT from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of the Project Director, "Establishment of Computer Network System with Ministry of Information and its Different Agencies" must be submitted with the technical offer.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any offer without showing any reason.

Mushtaq Uddin Ahmad Project Director "Establishment of Computer Network in the Ministry of Information with Different Agencies" DFP-10588-22/4 G-742

Time Extension Against BPDB's Tender Enquiry No. Pur-3009/2000 dated 08-02-2001

The closing & opening date of BPDB's International Tender Enquiry No. Pur-3009/2000 dated 08-02-2001 for supply of Oil Filter Machine for Ashuganj Power Station Complex, PDB, B'baria is hereby extended up to 15-05-2001 from 29-04-2001. As such tender will be received on 15-05-2001 up to 11.00 AM & will be opened at 11-30 AM on the same day in presence of the intending bidders or their representatives, if any. No tender document will be sold after 10-05-2001.

Biddut-Jan-2026(5)/2000-2001 Director of Purchase GD-371 PDB, Dhaka

Pre-Qualification Notice for Re-Tender Military Engineer Services

1. Applications are invited from the interested firms/organization once again on letter head pad by AHQ, OMG's Br, DW & CE(Army), Dhaka Cantt for pre-qualification of the firms to issue tender documents for the following works:

- Name of works, Earth filling (By dredging) at south side of the Buriganga River.
 - Description of works site, 11,27,482.00 (Eleven lac twenty-seven thousand four hundred eighty-two) Cum earth filling by dredging from the Buriganga River for 100.37 acre land at Tegharia (Ekuria) Mouza under Keranigonj Upazila.
- MES enlisted 'A' class interested firms and other govt/semi govt, private firms and joint venture firms who have completed approximately 05 (five) lac cubic metre earth filling (by dredging) in a single work order may apply for the Pre-qualification documents. Firms/contractors not enlisted in MES are required to apply with Bank Draft/Pay Order to Tk. 100.00 (one hundred) from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh issued in favour of AHQ, OMG's Branch, DW & CE (Army), Dhaka Cantonment.
 - The following documents are to be attached with the application:
 - Attested copies of up to date enlistment (As applicable).
 - List of dredging works done under a single work order mentioning amount of taka in last 10 (ten) years (Certificate from an officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer to be enclosed).
 - All documents related with pre-qualification to be submitted (03 (three) copies in the form of Booklet).
 - Financial statement for last 03 (three) years (Duly audited by audit authority).
 - List of all Equipment, Transport, Machinery, Own Dredging Feet & T&P mentioning present location of these and time required to mobilize at the site.
 - List of technical personnel including Bio-data of important persons of the firm.
 - Bank solvency certificate (detail financial transaction in the bank accounts (including last 03 (three) years for year ending June 2000. Submit power of authorization in favour of DW & CE (Army) his authorized representative for verification of correctness of the bank statement).
 - Financially solvent, experienced and qualified local firms or joint venture of one or more local firms fulfilling the abovementioned conditions will be considered for pre-qualification. If the local Bangladeshi firm of the joint venture fulfills the conditions of the tender document, the said firm will be considered as Lead Firm. Bangladeshi firm in joint venture will be considered as lead firm having not less than 40% of the total share. If any foreign firm is included in joint venture, the foreign firm must fulfill the following conditions:
 - A branch in Bangladesh must be established.
 - The firm must be registered with Registrar of Companies in Bangladesh.
 - An account must be opened with a scheduled bank in Bangladesh.
 - Contractors must have VAT registration, VAT and other taxes are payable as per rules. Joint Venture Firms have to submit an up to date VAT Registration and Income Tax certificate for both the firms separately.
 - As per rule of BIWTA royalty money required for net quantity of earth cutting to be paid to that organization (BIWTA) by the contractor in advance.
 - All payment under this contract will be made in local currency.
 - Application for pre-qualification should be collected from this Directorate till 30 April 2001 during office hour. Interested firm may apply for pre-qualification duly filled up Pre-qualification Documents mentioning the name of work at the top of a sealed envelope and to be submitted till 10 May 2001 during office hour from 0730 hour to 1300 hour.
 - The firms/contractors which/who will have required qualifications will be selected by the Evaluation Committee and will be eligible to bid.
 - The firms who have applied for pre-qualification documents fulfilling the requirements/conditions as per advertisement published in the daily "The Independent", "The Bangladesh Observer" dated 25 January 2001, "Jugantar" dated 26 January 2001 and Ittefaq dated 29 January 2001 need not to apply but those firms who could not submit documents fulfilling the terms and conditions as asked for, may apply for pre-qualification documents once again.
 - Authority reserves full power to accept/cancel any/all applications without assigning any reason.

ISPR/Army/2001/359 DFP-10413-22/4 G-743 For DW & CE (Army)