

NEWS SNAPS

One sentenced to death in murder case

BSS, Lalmonirhat
Additional District and Sessions Judge Akbar Hossain Mridha on Sunday sentenced a man to death for killing a neighbour in Lalmonirhat town three years ago.

According to the prosecution, Masum Ali killed his neighbour Liton at Kali Bari in the town with lethal weapons in daylight on July 9, 1999 following an altercation with him on a trifling matter. After examining 11 witnesses, the judge pronounced the verdict with Masum Ali standing on the dock. Public Prosecutor S M A Jabbar and Assistant Public Prosecutor Abul Fatah were in the prosecution side while Advocate Sirajul Islam Khan pleaded for the defence.

Four arrested with gun in Rangamati

BSS, Rangamati
Members of the law enforcing agencies arrested four people from Betunia in Kaukhali Upazila and recovered a country-made gun along with seven bullets from their possession recently.

Police quoting members of Bangladesh Army said on suspicion they searched a jeep in the sugar mills area near Betunia at about 7 pm and recovered the arm and ammunition from it. They also arrested four people, including the driver of the vehicle. The arrested persons are Thoaiching Marma, 20, Mongsaw Marma, 35, Alamgir, 20, and driver of the vehicle Babul, 30. Later, Army personnel handed over them to police. A case was lodged with Kaukhali thana in this connection.

Two alleged criminals held with arms

BSS, Faridpur
Police arrested two alleged notorious criminals and recovered two light guns and six rounds of ammunition from Bilmamudpur on Monday.

Acting on a secret information, a police team raided a house at Bilmamudpur located in the suburb of the town and recovered arms and ammunition and arrested the alleged criminals recently. A case was filed with police in this connection.

Bid to kidnap schoolgirl foiled

BSS, Manikganj
Police arrested a youth from the local bus stand, when he was trying to kidnap a schoolgirl recently.

Police sources said Alamgir allegedly tried to kidnap a Class Nine student of S K Government Girls' High School, when she was going to school. Hearing the hue and cry of the girl traffic police nabbed the youth who was also given a good beating by people. A case was filed with sadar police station by the girl's father in this connection.

Ginger worth Tk 15 lakh seized

BSS, Chittagong
Members of Bangladesh Coastguard eastern zone at Chittagong on Saturday seized about 26.6-thousand kilo ginger worth Tk 15 lakh near Chaktai Chairman Ghat.

Sensing the presence of the coastguard, smugglers fled the spot immediately leaving their engine boat which was carrying the ginger. The coastguard handed over the ginger and the boat to the concerned authorities.

IEB prize giving ceremony held

BSS, Rajshahi
The national cultural competition for children organised by Islamic Foundation of Bangladesh (IFB) was held at Rajshahi Government High Madrasa on Thursday.

The certificate and prize-giving ceremony was held on the occasion with Divisional Director (DD) of IFB, Md Shadat Hossain in the chair. Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) M Mizanur Rahman Minu MP, distributed certificates and prizes among the winners as chief guest. A total of 600 children from 16 districts of Rajshahi division took part in the competition.

TCC declared no smoking zone

BSS, Rajshahi
The campus of Technical Training Centre (TTC) Rajshahi, was declared 'no-smoking' campus at a meeting held at its auditorium recently.

The meeting was organised by Jonony Library and Cultural Association. A total of 500 students, teachers, officials and personnel present in the meeting raising their hands strongly supported the declaration when Principal Abdus Sattar of the centre mentioned it in his speech as president of the meeting.

Construction work of bridges going on

BSS, Narsingdi
The construction work of four bridges and culverts is going on in full-swing in Narsingdi at a cost of Tk 4,84,15,000 in the last fiscal.

According to Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) official source, two bridges are being constructed in Rajpura upazila, one in Palash and another in Belabo. Of these, 125-metre long RCC bridges is being constructed on Tolatoli Morjal Chattanya road of Rajpura upazila at a cost of Tk 1,49,00,000.

About 20 per cent work have been completed while 90-metre long bridge on Gopinathpur Hasnabad road in Rajpura upazila at a cost of Tk 1,30,00,000.

100 per cent work of the bridge have been already completed.

Ansar-VDP training programme begins

BSS, Rajshahi
Rajshahi Range office of Ansar-VDP is implementing a programme entitled "Village-based Foundation Training for the Ansar-DP Members" aimed at bringing dynamism in the organisational activities and making the rural people self-reliant through social development.

Concerned officials of the organisation said that some 32,736 members would be given special training in 16 districts of Rajshahi division during the current fiscal. About Tk 1.38 crore have been allocated for the purposes.

Shots from disticts



PHOTO: STAR

Working journalists parade the streets in Satkhira town in a silent procession on Monday protesting assault on them allegedly by the cadres of the ruling Bangladesh National Party (BNP) while Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) Sheikh Hasina was on a visit here on August 30.



A participant speaking at a debate competition jointly organised recently by Nagorik Committee, Nalitabari (citizens' committee) and Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) at Taraganj Pilot Girls' School, Nalitabari in Sherpur. Alhaj Yakub Ali KG School and Taraganj Pilot Girls' School became champions in two groups of the debate at school level.

Fishermen catch 600,000 Hilsa fries every day

AROOP TALUKDAR, Barisal

Six lakh hilsa fries (Jatka) are being netted every day from the rivers Meghna, Padma, Baleswar and other rivers, fishermen said.

'Jatka' is available abundantly in the aforesaid rivers in the southern region.

About 300 maunds of hilsa reached the wholesale fish market at the Port Road in Barisal town from different places every day from August 31 to September 1. Of the quantity, about 200 to 250 maunds are hilsa fries.

According to the retail fish sellers in Barisal, unscrupulous fishermen maintain an unholy link with wholesale fish traders, staffers of the Fisheries Department and members of the law enforcing agencies. The fishermen have turned the rivers in the southern region a free zone for hunting undersize 'Jatka' throughout the fishing season.

As a result indiscriminate fishing of 'Jatka' is going on unabated defying government ban on it in the ongoing season too.

This results in sharp fall in production of hilsa, experts and officials said.

However, sharp fall in catches of hilsa for the last three years is also due to environmental changes including situation and changes in current and course of rivers, according to a survey report prepared by the Fisheries Resource Institute (FRI) earlier.

Against the country's annual production of about 10 lakh tons of hilsa, over 60,000 tons are caught from the rivers while the rest come from the Bay in the fishing season.

Fish exporters in Barisal have been incurring a great loss in the last couple of years due to non-availability of hilsa.

Government earns a substantial amount of foreign currencies by exporting hilsa to Kolkata in India, Myanmar, United Kingdom (UK), United Arab Emirates (UAE), Indonesia and other countries every year.

A hilsa fish exporter here said fishing of Jatka should be stopped at any cost. Government should take stringent measures to stop fishing of hilsa fries.

Trisha Murder Case

Six prosecution witnesses cross-examined

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Six prosecution witnesses (PWs) in the sensational Trisha Murder Case were cross-examined in the court of the District and Sessions Judge Court, Gaibandha last week.

The witnesses were Anowerul Hasan Sabur, Chairman of Gaibandha Municipality, Dr Amal Chandra Shaha, Emergency Medical Officer, Gaibandha hospital, Kiron Chandra Roy, magistrate, AM Syeed Iqbal, Sub-Inspector of Police, Saidur Rahman and Anwar Hossain, fire brigade personnel.

In the cross examination prosecution witnesses submitted their respective deposition before the court, Witness Anowerul Hasan Sabur told the court that on being informed they rushed to pond of Idris Ali and found Trisha dead. Local people recovered her and caught three accused Modern, Shaheen and Asha.

The municipality chairman brushed aside the cross examination of defence lawyer that he (chairman) appeared before the court against the accused because

fathers of the accused were his political opponents.

Dr Amal Chandra Shaha, Emergency Medical Officer, Gaibandha hospital told the court that he conducted autopsy of Trisha and found all symptoms of drowning. The defence lawyer pointed out that the confessional statement of the accused persons under action 164 was not described with time and the magistrate did not ask the accused persons if they were being tortured by police during remand. In reply magistrate Kiron Chandra Roy remained silent.

The next day of prosecution witness was fixed on September 9.

Donation

BSS, Mymensingh

Vice-chancellor of Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU) Professor M Mustafizur Rahman handed over a cheque amounting to Tk 5,91,400 to the students affairs adviser Professor Dr Md Amirul Islam for the treatment of Md Anisuzzaman (Aslam), a meritorious MS student of the university.

Aslam has been critically suffering from a problem in both the kidneys. The doctor said at least one kidney should be transplanted immediately to save his life. It would cost Tk 10 lakh.

Students of the university donated amounting to Tk 5,91,400 of their one month stipend and handed over it to the vice-chancellor for his treatment.

Md Atiqur Rahman, elder brother of ailing Aslam informed the university authorities that the kidney will be donated by his mother Rabeya Khatun.

Aslam stood first class first in DVM and currently doing his MS in the BAU Department of Parasitology. His family, being unable to defray the huge amount of money for his treatment, has appealed for help to the affluent persons of society.

Teachers and students of the university have requested the donors and philanthropic organisations to send the money to Md Anisuzzaman (Alam), against the savings account No. 16127 with the BAU Pubali Bank branch, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh or Dean, faculty of BAU Veterinary Science, Phone 091-52060.

Sultan mela in Narail ends

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail

The three-day long *Sultan Mela* (a fair) concluded in Narail recently. The fair was arranged on the occasion of the 78th anniversary of birth of renowned artist SM Sultan.

S M Sultan Birth Anniversary Committee-2002 chalked out an elaborate programmes to mark the occasion. The programmes included placing of wreaths at his graveyard, rally, art exhibition, children's drawing competition, rural games, boat race and cultural functions.

Three seminars titled 'Rural life in Sultan's painting', 'Sultan of ordinary people' and 'Sultan in the international arena' were held on this occasion.

Programmes at the concluding day included opening of an exhibition of folk culture, handicrafts show, sports, rowing competition and awarding of 'Sultan Medal' which was followed by a cultural function.

Earlier, Information Minister Tariqul Islam inaugurated the *Sultan Mela*. State Minister for Cultural Affairs Selima Rahman, Deputy Minister for Education Abdus Salam Pintu, Dhirendranath Shaha MP, Md Shahidul Islam MP, noted artist Prof Rafiqun Nabi and Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Mostofa Zaman Abbasi attended the fair as special guests.

It is to be mentioned here that the artist was born on August 10 in 1924 at village Masumdia in Narail.

Death of judges in Rajshahi court

UNB, Rajshahi

The number of pending cases is increasing day by day in the district due to the shortage of judges in local courts rising sufferings of the justice seekers.

Official sources said the post of District and Sessions Judge remained vacant since July 11 as he went into retirement. Now an additional judge is looking after the activities of the court.

Besides, the posts of Assistant Judge in four upazila courts Mohanpur, Charghat, Bagha and Putia remained vacant. The Assistant Judges of other courts are looking after the cases of these courts in addition to their original duties.

Concerned officials said around 2,000 cases on women and child repression remained pending with local court as it was not possible for a single judge to dispose of the huge cases.

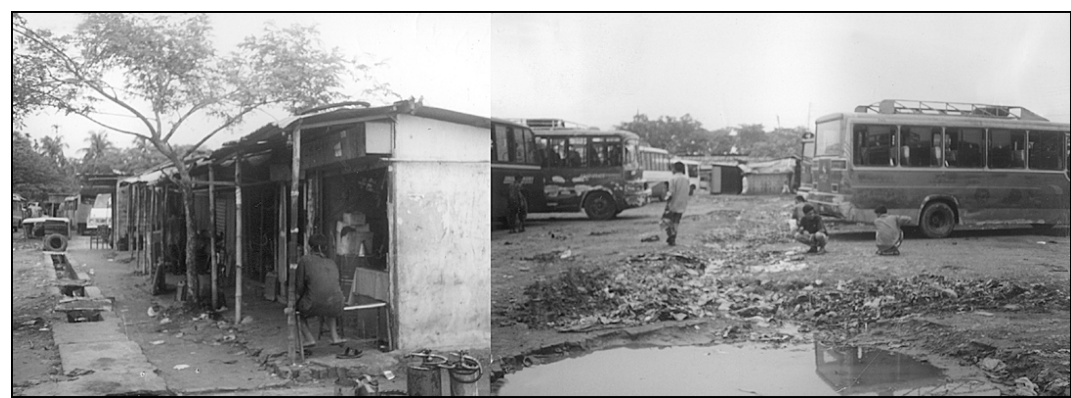


PHOTO: IQBAL SIDDIQUEE

Some unauthorised structures (left) and a small ditch (right) are seen inside the South Surma central bus terminal Sylhet. The bus terminal is in a pitiable condition.

Four colleges in Faridpur run short of teachers

ABDUL MATIN FAKIR, Faridpur

An acute shortage of teachers has been prevailing at different government colleges in Faridpur greatly hampering studies of the students.

The colleges are Government Yeasin College, Government Saroda Sundari Mahila College, Char Bhadrason Government College and Madhukhali Government Aynuddin College.

All these Colleges were nationalised in between late seventies and

late eighties.

The colleges are being run till now with the same number of teachers absorbed in the posts of lecturer and assistant professor during the period of nationalisation.

Since then no posts of professor, associate professor, assistant professor and lecturer has been created, according to the Enam Committee report.

Besides a good number of posts of assistant professor and lecturer created at the time of nationalisation

are still lying vacant in all the four colleges.

As a result the college administration has been facing problems to run the college effectively. Though the number of students has doubled or tripled in these colleges in the last two decades, no post of lecturer, assistant professor, associate professor and professor has been created anew till now to cope with the increasing number of students.