

SNAPS

Road mishap claims boy

**UNB, Manikganj**  
A little boy was killed in a road accident at Falshatia on Dhaka-Aricha Highway in Shibalaya upazila on Thursday.  
Monir, 7, died on the spot at about 9pm when a private car knocked him down. Police later seized the car but failed to catch its driver. The body was sent to Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed.

Youth killed in road mishap

**UNB, Sherpur**  
A young man was killed in a road accident at Shimultola in Sadar upazila on Dhaka-Sherpur highway on Thursday.  
Witnesses said Kuddus, 38, a farmer of village Alinapara, was crushed under the wheels of a Sherpur-bound coach coming from Dhaka while he was crossing the road. Police seized the coach and a case was filed with Sadar thana.

Body recovered

**UNB, Laxmipur**  
The body of a young girl was recovered from a pond at village Motobi in Sadar upazila on Thursday.  
Police said the body of Kohinur Begum, 17, daughter of Shadatullah was found floating in the pond. The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Man held with Phensidyl

**UNB, Gazipur**  
A man was arrested along with 1,450 bottles of Indian Phensidyl syrup from T&T gate in Morkun area of Tongi on Friday.  
Police seized Phensidyl from a green banana-loaded pick-up, which was parked in front of the godown of Hanif Mollah. Police arrested Shipon, 24, son of Hanif Mollah and also seized the van. A case was filed.

'Extortionists' held

**UNB, Kishoreganj**  
Three alleged extortionists were caught red-handed from a local hotel at Station Road of the town on Friday.

Work on Taltali Bridge stalled

**AKTER FARUK, Barisal**

Construction work of Taltali Bridge over the Taltali River remained suspended since 1999 though an amount of Tk 1.33 crore was spent in three years.

Quotation for construction of the bridge with 18-kilometre road connecting Muladi, Hizla and Mehendiganj upazilas with Barisal at a cost of Tk1.83 cr was called on February 2, 1996. The work order was given to a firm named Moitri International on April 8, 1996 to

finish its work within 15 months.

The project was initiated by the then President Abdur Rahman Biswas.

After the defeat of BNP in the national elections on June 12, 1996, no progress was made during the Awami League regime. The construction firm quit the project after realising Tk 1.33 cr for the half-done work in October 1999. Since then work on the project was stalled. Although 80 per cent of the bill for the work was paid, yet less than 40 per cent work of the bridge

and 90 per cent work of the road construction work remained unfinished at the time.

In the meantime cost of construction materials increased manifold.

After victory of BNP and its alliance in October 2001 national election, fresh tender was called to finish the project work with an estimated cost of Tk 1.19 cr.

The tender of February 2, 2002 was scheduled to be opened on March 9 and the lottery was scheduled to be held on March

12, 2002. But the executive engineer of Roads and Highways Department stopped the procedure on February 26, 2002. From then on all the activities of the project came to a standstill.

Local people are now facing problems. The river also lost its navigability. It has become very difficult to cross the river by boat in dry season. If the construction work of the bridge is finished then the socio-economic infrastructure of the northern part of Barisal would be changed a lot.



PHOTO: STAR

Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf, Minister for Disaster Management and Relief talks to the artistes after a cultural function to mark the 142nd birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, organised by Naogaon Zila Parishad, at village Patisar in Atrai upazila, Naogaon last week.



PHOTO: STAR

Incomplete Taltali Bridge in Barisal. Work on the bridge project has been stalled since 1999 after spending an amount of Tk 1.33 cr in three years. If the incomplete work of the bridge is done, direct road communications would be established with Muladi, Hizla and Mehendiganj and Barisal city.

Agartala municipal committee chairman visits Barisal

Communal harmony prevails in Bangladesh

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal**

Shankar Das, Chairman of Agartala municipal committee, India recently visited Barisal.

During his visit he lauded the unique communal harmony prevailing in Bangladesh.

He came to Bangladesh for talks on Agartala-Dhaka direct bus service. His entourage included his wife poet and journalist Falan Das, noted politician Advocate Dhiraj Guha and Himadui Chowdhury. Prof Shaif Ahmed of Jahangirnagar University acted as their guide.

On their arrival, Mayor of Barisal City Corporation Majibur Rahamn Sarwar welcomed the guest at Barisal Circuit House. He also accepted an invitation to visit Agartala.

During his stay over Shankar visited the birth places of Poet Jibanand Das, Mukunda Das, Aswini Kumar Das, BM College and School, the Dhanshiri River and other places of interest.

Barisal Sungskritik Sangathan Samonnya Parishad, coordination council of all the cultural groups of the divisional city, accorded a reception to the guests at Shabdaboli Group Theatre auditorium which was followed by a cultural function.

In his speech, Shankar Das emphasised on strengthening the existing ties between the people of Tripura and Bangladesh. He expressed his gratitude to the people and government of Bangladesh for their kind hospitality during his and his team's visit in Bangladesh.

Kidnapped Sitakunda newsman's family members threatened

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

Unidentified callers on Wednesday threatened the family members of kidnapped Atahar Siddiq Khosru, president of Sitakunda Press Club and correspondent of the Ittefaq, over telephone.

They threatened Khosru's eldest brother Azhar Siddiq Jahangir to withdraw the case filed with Double Mooring thana in the city on Tuesday.

Otherwise, they warned that they would send the dead body of Khosru to him soon.

Khosru's family members received several telephonic threats till filing of this report on Wednesday.

Unidentified callers also sent similar message to local newspaper offices on Wednesday after-

noon. A call came from Shegun Bagicha in Dhaka. However, the number could not be traced.

The newsmen of Sitakunda in a meeting at local press club demanded removal of the local assistant superintendent of police (ASP) for arresting the founding president of the press club Mahmudul Haq from Dhaka on Tuesday instead of rescuing Khosru.

They termed the arrest a plot to divert the case to another direction and strongly condemned the arrest.

Mahmudul Haq was arrested on Tuesday afternoon from Dhaka where he went to hold a press conference at the National Press Club. His arrest shrouded a mystery because it was done on charge of a case which was filed on the day before abduction of Khosru.

Crisis of one taka note, coin in Narail

**UNB, Narail**

An acute crisis of one taka note and coin has been prevailing in three upazilas of Narail.

People are facing problems in their day to day transactions while paying prices for commodities and bus and rickshaw fares.

There has been shortage of one taka note and coin in the district since long. Silver and copper coins of one taka denomination are hardly available hampering sale and purchase.

Bus, rickshaw and van passengers have to pay Tk two instead of Tk one and Tk four in place of Tk three.

Local consumers are forced to incur losses while purchasing vegetable, fish and other commodities. Similar situation prevails in banks and post offices.

In the betel leaf and tea-shops, the sellers are facing losses as most of the customers fail to give them one taka note or coin.

IRRI-boro harvesting begins in Jhenidah

**UNB, Jhenidah**

Harvesting of IRRI-boro paddy in six upazilas of Jhenidah is going on in full swing.

Local farmers said the harvesting began two weeks ago and would be completed within next 10 days. They are also making hurry, as they are anxious about the onslaught of natural disasters any time.

Standing paddy and other crops on vast tracts of land were damaged by a storm that swept over the district on March 16.

As a result, the farmers who borrowed money from bank for crop cultivation are in trouble in repaying their loans.

Department of Agriculture Extension sources said, 73,305 hectares of land were brought

under boro paddy cultivation in six upazilas in the current season with an output target of 2.40 lakh metric tons.

BNP-backed panel wins bar election

**UNB, Patuakhali**

Ruling BNP-backed candidates captured five posts out of seven including that of president and general secretary in the election of Patuakhali Bar Association on Thursday.

BNP supported candidates Abdul Haq Farazi and Wahid Sarwar Kalam were elected president and general secretary.