

SNAPS

Advocacy meeting on AIDS

UNB, Benapole  
An advocacy meeting on AIDS was held at the auditorium of C&F Agents' Association on Sunday.

Local member of parliament (MP) Alhaj Ali Kadar attended the meeting as chief guest while former MP Advocate Noor Hossain attended as special guest.

Alhaj Nuruzzaman presided over the meeting organised by Social Marketing Company (SMC).

Road accident

claims boy

UNB, Gopalganj  
A boy was killed in a road accident in Nobinbag area of the town on Sunday. Imam, 6, son of M Babul Mollah, was crushed under the wheels of a Khulna bound private car when he was crossing the road, witnesses said. He died on the spot. The driver managed to flee along with the car and a case was filed.

Timber loaded trawlers seized

UNB, Patuakhali  
Forest officials seized two trawlers loaded with smuggled timbers from a river adjacent to Khatashia bazaar in Sadar upazila on Sunday.

They said the smugglers fled the area leaving behind the trawlers when local people challenged them on Saturday night. On information, they seized the trawlers along Sundari timbers worth Tk two lakh the next morning.

Outlaw arrested

UNB, Magura  
An activist of an outlawed party was arrested along with a pipe gun from Sachani village in Sadar upazila on Thursday. The arrested person Amirul Islam, 35, an activist of Sorbohara Party was wanted in a number of criminal cases.

Garment worker gangraped

UNB, Narayanganj  
A garment worker was gangraped at Volain in Fatullah thana on Sunday night. Two youths Ahmed Ali and Dulal arrested for the involvement in the crime.

House demolished by Rajshahi City Corporation 'without prior notice'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The family of a retired army sergeant was evicted and their house at Dingadoba in the city was demolished by Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) on Sunday for construction of a drain there.

Sergeant (rtd) Anwarul Islam, was kept confined for several hours at Rajpara thana.

Talking to The Daily Star he alleged that his one-storey house, built on 4.31 decimal land purchased from one Gajlul Haq in 1984, was demolished without any prior notice. He said he had been living in the house since 1984. He also showed land settlement records in support of his claim.

Witnesses said policemen and labourers led by RCC Magistrate Mujibur Rahman demolished the

house despite repeated appeals by Islam's wife and daughter to give them time to remove the households. Islam was not present at the house when the demolition was started.

He soon rushed there and protested it.

"The magistrate seemed angry and told me you are under arrest when I protested," Islam told this correspondent.

He also said policemen took him to Rajpara thana and asked him to sign an undertaking that he obstructed work on a RCC drainage project and that there would have no objection if the authorities take legal action if he obstructs the work in future.

Islam said police also threatened to sue him if he denies to sign

the undertaking.

He was released after signing the undertaking, he said.

When contacted, RCC Magistrate Mujibur Rahman told this correspondent that as per CS land records the land is a property of RCC.

He said the house was demolished as per an order of the chief executive officer (CEO) of RCC. "Notifying the house owner is not my job. I just followed order."

Replying to a question Rahman said, "I asked the law enforcers to arrest Anwarul Islam and accused him under Section 253 of Bangladesh Penal Code for obstructing government work."

Despite several attempts, CEO Khalilur Rahman could not be contacted for comments.



PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN

The terminal building and runway of Bogra airport are ready for use. The airport will be opened soon to facilitate air link between northern districts and the capital.

Boro production may fall short of target in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Boro production is likely to fall short of target this season.

Frequent power failure, abnormal price-hike of agricultural inputs, chemical fertilisers, pesticides, lack of irrigation facilities, high price of fuel, persistent drought and hailstorms wreaked havoc to standing boro crop.

On contact, growers in Char Madhabdia area of Kotwali thana told this correspondent that they apprehended that they would be deprived of production cost of their produce. They disclosed that quality seeds were not available in the markets during the sowing season. No government agency supplied the same to them. About 4,000 shallow and deep tubewells did not operate properly due to erratic power supply.

Farmers faced extreme financial constraints. Poor farmers were

denied agriculture loan.

About 44,869 hectares of land were brought under boro farming with a production target of 51,300 metric tons of paddy, according to sources in the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE). He opined that because of unfavourable weather, the boro output target won't be achieved this year.

Shortage of judges delays trial in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Ten posts of judges including the district and sessions judge of Faridpur District Judge Court have been lying vacant for long causing piling up of pending cases.

Lawyers of Faridpur District Bar Association in a recent meeting urged the authorities concerned to immediately fill up the posts for people's interest.

Three killed in Daudkandi road accident

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Three people were killed and at least 15 injured when a Comilla-bound bus hit a standing truck at Shaheednagar under Daudkandi upazila on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway Sunday night.

Those killed are bus driver Humayun Kabir, 30, truck driver Abdul Haque, 37 and its helper Kanak Mia 16. They died on the spot.

Four given 17 years RI for keeping illegal arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Four persons including two Indian nationals were sentenced to 17 years' imprisonment recently for keeping illegal firearms.

The convicts are Abdul Bari and Saiful Islam of Sora village in Shyamnagar upazila, and Nimai Mondal and Khokon Raptan of Kumir Maco village under Gosaba thana in 24 Parganas district in West Bengal, India.

Shyamnagar police raided a pirates' den at Pashurtala near Malanaha river in the Sundarbans, arrested them and recovered fire arms on March 4, 2001.

Satkhira Additional District and Sessions Judge Tapas Kirmar Dey delivered the verdict.



Unocal volunteers constructing a house for a homeless family in Mymensingh on May 8. Habitat for Humanity, an international NGO, sponsored the programme to build houses for homeless people in Mymensingh and Jessore with financial assistance of Unocal.