

SNAPS

Woman held with Phensidyl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria
Army personnel on winter training on Friday caught a woman with smuggled phensidyl at Poshchim Molindo village under Brohmanbaria Sadar upazila.

23 accused arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria
Bahmanbaria police in a special drive is different areas of the district arrested 23 absconding accused on Saturday night.

Lalmohon BNP body formed

A CORRESPONDENT, Bhola
A new committee of Lalmohon upazila BNP, headed by Anisul Hoque and Jasimuddin Ahmed as president and secretary, was formed at a party council here on Friday.

Water Resources Minister Maj (Retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed and district BNP president Advocate Mogammal Haque attended the council as chief guest and special guest respectively.

BKB branch opens in Lalmohon

A CORRESPONDENT, Bhola
Bangladesh Krishi Bank has opened its branch at Mongol Sikder in Lalmohon upazila.

Two 'pirates' held

A CORRESPONDENT, Bhola
Charfession police on Friday arrested two alleged pirates in Kolmiri Khal area and seized their trawler.

'Criminals, non-students' in key posts of new Sylhet JCD bodies

2 of new leaders in jail, many face charge: Protests by local leaders and activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet.

JCD leaders and activists in Sylhet have strongly protested formation of most of its committees in the district with "criminals and non-students" in key positions and demanded their dissolution.

They brought out processions and held rallies in different upazilas including Golapganj and Gowainghat.

The Madan Mohan College JCD held a rally on the college campus Saturday afternoon and brought out a procession rejecting the new party unit at the college.

Central JCD Vice President Shamsuzzaman Mehdi, who is in charge of Sylhet division JCD, announced 52 committees for Sylhet city wards, different colleges and upazilas on December 31 in Dhaka. The papers signed by him reached Sylhet Thursday night, party sources said.

A good number of non-students, persons wanted in criminal cases, convicts, addicts and drug traders are in key positions in the new bodies, some leaders of the district and city committees alleged.

Sylhet district JCD president Emran Ahmed Chowdhury, general secretary Syed Shafeque Mahbub, city unit president Ziaul

Gani Arefin Zillur and general secretary Nurul Alam Siddiqui expressed utter dissatisfaction over the new bodies.

They said that they were "surprised" to see the new committees.

They said names for posts of presidents, general secretaries and organising secretaries of all the bodies were submitted to the central committee on December 30. But this was ignored.

The lists covered Sylhet Sadar North, Sylhet Sadar South, 27 wards in Sylhet city; Balaganj, Osmaninagar, Gowainghat, Beanibazar, Companyganj, Golapganj, Biswanath and Beanibazar upazilas; MC College, MAG Osmani Medical College, Sylhet Sarkari College, Sylhet Law College, Madan Mohan College, Sylhet Polytechnic Institute Fenchuganj Degree College, Balaganj Degree College, Sylhet Government Veterinary College, Tajpur Degree College, Gowainghat Degree College, Beanibazar Degree College, Dhakadakhin Degree College, Beanibazar Pourashava and Golapganj Pourashava.

A good number of non-students who could not pass SSC examination, vandals, extortionists, hijackers, drug addicts and traders, persons accused for dacoity and

murder, convicts in criminal cases have been included, they said while talking to journalists.

Some of the persons in the committees are now in jail, they claimed.

Blaming Mehdi, they said this has been done to tarnish JCD's image in Sylhet and demanded his punishment for the "wrongdoing". Party sources said they got messages from Dhaka that Mehdi's position has already become shaky after announcement of the committees.

The new JCD General Secretary in Companyganj thana, Bahar Ahmed, is an accused in an arms case and is in the jail hajat now, they said.

Gowainghat thana president Humayun Jamal, who is no longer a student now, is facing charges for snatching and other crimes, they added.

General secretary of the same unit, Golam Kibria, is now an employee in a college. There are also allegations against Golapganj thana JCD president Maniruzzaman Ujjal.

Mahmud Hossain Samun, who has been made president of South Surma thana unit, was accused in a number of cases including those for snatching, hijacking. He was also caught with Phensidyl several times by police, they alleged.

Sarder Habibur Rahman Mosharraf, a non-student, convicted in a criminal case, has been made general secretary of Madan Mohan college unit.

Jamal Ahmed Jamal, who had long been involved in different criminal activities and was arrested by Kotwali police on Wednesday night, has been made JCD president in Ward No. one in Sylhet city.

The new JCD president at Ward No 2 in the city, Dipon Roy, studied up to class IX and was known as an extortionist.

President of Ward No 5, Nasim Ahmed, is a satellite cable operator. Dilwar Hossain, a non-student involved in anti-social activities, has been made president of JCD unit at Ward No 8, the leaders said.

Abdullah Al Mamun Parvez, an accused in JCD leader Jahangir Shamim murder, now in jail hajat, has been made JCD president at Ward No 13.

Another non-student, Munim Ahmed Tanim, who was involved in drug trade, is president of Ward No 14.

Lipu Gani, jailed for three years by the Speedy Trial Tribunal for assaulting an army officer, has been made general secretary of the same committee.



Indigenous Garo people going to the rally at Tolki yesterday in a procession.

Garo people vow to continue agitation against Eco Park

"I am with Garo people", Kader Siddiki tells public meeting

JAHANGIR ALAM, back from Modhupur (Tangal)

Garo tribesmen held a rally at Tolki in Modhupur yesterday protesting the killing of Peren Sna in police firing on January 3.

Bangabir Abdul Kader Siddiki MP, chief of Krishak Samik janata Paty, was the chief guest at the meeting.

Police had opened fire on indigenous people when they were protesting raising of a boundary wall in the forest by the authorities for creation of a planned Eco Park, which they say would displace them from their ancestral homes.

The authorities had postponed construction of the wall last year

following protest by the Garo people, but resumed the work this year.

Speakers at the rally said the Garo people will not back out from agitation till their five-point demand is met. The demands include scrapping of the Eco Park, punishment to Peren's killers, compensation for the victim's family and long-term lease of forestlands to indigenous people.

They claimed that ruling party activists threatened Garo people to stop the movement against the proposed Eco Park.

Ruling party activists are attacking Garo people in Modhupur and threatening the villagers not to take part in agitations, they claimed.

Such "terrorist activities" must stop, they said.

Presided over Ajoy Mree, it was addressed by, among others, Albar Mankin, Rakhi Mrong and others Garo leaders.

Kader Siddiki said, "I am a man of the Garo area. I think I am an indigenous Garo. I declared that I am with the Garo movement."

Earlier in a meeting, the Garo people formed a 15- members coordination committee headed by Ajoy Mree as its convener to continue the agitation.

The meeting decided that meetings and processions in the area will continue till January 30 and a human chain will be formed in the last week of the month.



PHOTO: STAR

A partial view of the workshop on Monga Situation and Steps organised by Gaibandha district administration and Gano Unnyan Kendra, an NGO, held on Saturday

Workshop told 'Only agri uplift, industry can remove monga'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A day-long workshop on 'Monga Situation and Steps' was held here on Saturday.

District officials, Union Parishad leaders, NGO representatives and the elite attended the workshop, held at the DC's conference room.

Earlier, three such workshops were held Gaibandha Sadar, Shaghata and Fulchari upazilas to create awareness among officials, NGO workers, UP representatives and monga-stricken people.

Presided over by Deputy Commissioner Tapan Chandra Majumder, the workshop was addressed by, among others, Agriculture Extension Department

(DAE) Deputy Director Abdul Rouf, Civil Surgeon Dr Abdul Quddus, District Livestock Officer SM Shawkat Hossain Sarker, Oxfam official Farid Hossain Ahmed and Gano Unnyan Kendra Chief Executive Abdus Salam.

The speakers said monga situation is created due to unemployment and partial food crisis in October and November. Natural calamities like drought, flood and river erosion aggravate the situation. Providing relief will not solve the problem.

Only industrialisation, development of agriculture and soft term micro-credit will help improve the situation.

They also emphasised listing the poor, jointly by the govern-

ment, NGOs and UP leaders.

The DC urged NGOs, officials and local UP leaders to take up pragmatic programmes to stop recurrence of monga and assured all out cooperation in this regard.

Abdur Rouf said introducing early varieties of paddy like BR-33 and Bri-28 in char lands will be helpful because people will get work during October and November.

Other speakers said the government should have a political commitment to overcome the recurring situation.

The workshop was arranged jointly by the district administration and Gano Unnyan Kendra, an NGO with assistance from Oxfam, Bangladesh.

Bedcover, lungi not safe for human health!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A BSTI (Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution) surveillance team identified seven commodities produced here as unsafe for human health.

The products include bedcover and lungi of Taslima Textile Mills and Royal Enterprise in Kumarkhali, Nikti brand mustard oil of Shahjhan Store, Butter Oil of Ghosh Store, Special Butter of Kalachad Store, Teer brand mosquito coil of Shahjhan Store and packet tea of Sen tea house.

The team led during its investigation also found that these items were being produced without BSTI approval.

Contradiction

Sushil Chandra Roy, Caretaker of Nilsagor dighi, Nilphamari has contradicted a report published on the National Page on December 27.

In a written statement, he withdrew his versions regarding the tourist spot.

However, The Daily Star stands by the report.

--- Page in-charge

Two Bangladeshis kidnapped by BSF

A CORRESPONDENT, Lamonirhat

The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) abducted the two Bangladeshis nationals on Wednesday morning, BDR and local sources said.

Both of them were abducted from a place near to the Bangladesh outpost at Gangarhat under Fulbari police station in Kurigram.

The Bangladeshis were identified as Rasel, 25, son of Abdur Rahman and Salim Rahman, son of Khaleque of Gangarhat village in Fulbari thana, BDR and local sources said.

Village police sources said they were abducted when they went to work at their land at about 8 am on the day.

A BDR source at Fulbari outpost told this correspondent that they were trying to establish contact with the BSF.

Kushtia Jubo Dal body formed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A new committee of Kushtia district unit of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, headed by Mohsin Ali and Sahidullah Sahid as president and general secretary respectively, was elected here at its council held on Saturday.

Barkat Ullah Bulu, Advisor to Commerce Ministry and president of central JJD, inaugurated the council, held at the Zila Parishad Hall.

Central JJD General Secretary Moazzem Hossain Alal MP, Sahidul Islam MP, Syed Mehedi Ahmed Rumi MP, Shorab Uddin MP, Ghaus Uddin Ahmed Khokon, Tofazzol Hossain, Mir Mominur Rahman Sujon, Abdul Mueed Babul and Al Kamal Mustafa addressed the council.

The new committee was elected by councilors through voting.

Abdur Rashid and Mezbaur Rahman Pintu have been elected vice-president and organising secretary.

Four jailed in arms case in Narayanganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A speedy trial court here sentenced four persons, including notorious criminal Kamu, accused in over 50 criminal cases, to five years rigorous imprisonment (RI) in an arms case on Saturday.

The court also fined them Tk 5,000 each, in default, to suffer six months more RI.

Other convicts are Mofazul, Ujjal and Rafiqul Islam Babul. Magistrate Manjurul Mannan delivered the judgement.

Kamruzzaman Kamu and his three accomplices equipped with revolver, pistol and knives entered the house of Maksudur Rahman Rony in Narayanganj Bandar area on September 3 last year. They opened fire at Maksud's father and uncles. They also looted gold ornaments at gunpoint and left the house firing gunshots.

BUET student ends life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A second year student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on Friday night over a family feud.

Police said, the victim, Abu Wbaida 22, son of Abu Hamza of Panti village under Kumarkhali upazila had an altercation with his father before he took poison.

He was rushed to Kushtia General Hospital where he died on Saturday night.

A case has been filed with Kumarkhali police station.

5 drug traders held in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police on Saturday night arrested five persons for alleged drug trading.

Rasel, and Tuhin were arrested from Chourhas Colony in ten town with 10 bottles of phensidyl. Dilip, Hamidul and Babu were arrested from Bottoli Bazar on the outskirts of the town with a can of rectified spirit, police said.

Retired college teacher dies hearing son's arrest

A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

An old father of a former Union Parishad (UP) chairman died after hearing the news of his son's arrest.

Prof Abdul Hamid, 80, a retired teacher of Barisal BM College died when he heard the news of arrest of his son Hasan Mahmud Dulal, 45, ex-UP chairman of Labukhali UP under Dumki upazila yesterday.

Patuakhali and Dumki thana police in a joint operation arrested Dulal at 11 am on the day from his house in the government college road area in Patuakhali.

Police said Dulal was arrested in connection with an incident of bomb recovery from the house of Labukhali UP chairman Yunus Howlader, also the general secretary of Dumki upazila BNP. The bombs were recovered from the house on December 27.

Road accident kills 2 in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Two persons were killed and two others injured in a road accident when a Jhenidah-bound truck hit a rickshaw van from behind near Golakata bridge in Sadar upazila on Magura-Jhenidah highway yesterday.

The dead were identified as Shafiq, 30, and Azam Mia, 40, of Rammagar village in Magura Sadar upazila.

Agri ministry decides fate of Barisal Dev Project today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The fate of the Coordinated Regional Development Project, Barisal will be decided at a ministerial meeting in Dhaka today.

Future of thousands of peasants in the region is depended on approval of the project.

If approved, about one lakh acres of uncultivated land will be brought under cultivation and food production in the region will increase by about two lakh tons, sources in Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) here told this correspondent yesterday.

Once known as the granary of Bengal, Barisal is not self-sufficient in food now, they said.

BADC placed the project before agriculture ministry last year.

The five-year project covers 38 upazilas of six districts of Barisal division.

Among other this, the project includes providing irrigation facilities and crop diversification.

The ministerial meeting will also take up such projects prepared for Comilla and Sylhet regions, the sources said.

Talking to this correspondent, Majibur Rahman Sarwar MP, BCC Mayor and minister in-charge for Barisal, said he has sent a letter (no. BCC/-General-DO-1/2003-813) to the agriculture ministry with a request to approve the project.

43 chargesheeted in Khulna Jubo Dal leader murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Forty-three persons were chargesheeted in Khulna district Jubo Dal General Secretary Molla Sirajul Islam murder case.

Dumuria thana Officer-in-Charge (OC) Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal submitted the charge-sheet to court on Thursday afternoon after 20 months of filing of the case. Abu Hena is the third Investigation Officer (IO) of the case.

Molla Sirajul Islam was gunned down at 9 pm on April 20, 2002 at Dumuria bazaar.

Victim's elder brother Molla Abul Kashem, Convener of Dumuria upazilla BNP lodged the FIR on April 21 as complainant naming two persons and 16 unidentified persons as accused.

Twenty-two charge-sheeted accused are still absconding while 20 others are in jail. One accused is free on bail.

The charge-sheeted accused are New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP) ring leader Monoranjan Goshai alias Mrinal, Vice President of Dumuria upazilla BNP Delwar Hossain Khan, General Secretary of Dumuria upazilla Jubo League and incumbent chairman of Gutudia union Parishad Khan Alamgir Kabir Alam, former president of the district committee of Chhatra Union K M Shamim Aktar and Shafiqul Islam Litu, incumbent chairman of Bhandarikot Union Parishad in Batiaghata upazila.

The charge-sheeted accused included 34 armed cadres of the outlawed NBCP, Abu Hena said.

Free plastic surgery camp at Faridpur

BSS, Faridpur

A week long free plastic surgery camp will begin at Faridpur General Hospital from January 19.

Faridpur Welfare Foundation, a local NGO, in collaboration with the Faridpur branch of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) will organise the camp.

Faridpur Welfare Foundation (FWF), a charitable organisation founded by Shamim Haque, an expatriate businessman of Holland organised free plastic surgery camps here in 2000 and 2002. The operations were performed by an eminent surgeon of plastic surgery from Holland Dr Cornelis Arend Spronk.

Eminent Dutch surgeons like Dr CA Spronk, Paulus, Spauwen and Dr RPE Niemeijer are likely to attend the camp.

In the camp, patients with complications due acid and fire burn, congenital hare lip and other deformation will be operated upon. Patients with paralysis from polio will also be treated.

Anti-drug body formed in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A new committee was formed here to make people aware about bad effects of drug and smoking.

It was formed at a meeting on 'anti-drug and smoking campaign' held at Brahmanbaria District Council Auditorium last week.

Md Muzibur Rahman, Vice Principal of Brahmanbaria Government College and Advocate Tanvir Bhuiyan were selected as president and secretary of the committee.

The menace of drug is very intense at the bordering Kasba upazila.

Kasba thana police launched separate anti-drug drives and recovered drug worth about Tk 14 lakh from different parts of the upazila during last eight months, police source said.



Danish Ambassador Niels Severin Munk (1st from right) visiting a pisciculture scheme in Greater Noakhali Aquaculture Extension Project recently.