

SNAPS

Wife killed by husband in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra Housewife, Badana, 18, was killed at Shalla village in Dupchiacha Upazila recently allegedly by her husband.

Police said her husband Shajan Ali surrendered to Khailo thana on Saturday, which sent him to Dupchiacha thana. A case has been recorded.

Woman killed over land dispute

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natrakona Housewife Sufia Begum, 38 was killed at Shreedhorpur village in the Sadar upazila by some miscreants on Sunday over a land dispute.

Police and family sources said, the miscreants entered the house forcibly, attacked her with sharp weapons. She died on the spot.

Police arrested one Abdul after filing of a case.

Indian couple loses cash, gold after arrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi Cash and gold ornaments of an Indian couple are missing after their arrest from Rajshahi bus terminal by Boalia thana police on Saturday.

The Indian nationals were identified as Nurul Amin, 30, son of late Sekandor Ali and Fulmoni Khatoon, 22, daughter of Tawhid Sheikh of Hatpara area in Kandi police station in West Bengal, India.

The couple told a group of journalists that they came here to visit their relatives in Chittagong and they were carrying Tk 15,000 and gold ornaments.

After filing a case for illegal entry, police produced them before a court and said they were carrying only Tk 7,600.

USTC students hold rally wearing black badges

CU CORRESPONDENT

Wearing black badges students of the University of Science and Technology, Chittagong (USTC) held a rally on the campus on Saturday.

They demanded punishment to some security guards who had a clash with students on the day.

At least 10 people were injured in the clash as security guards tried to prevent a student procession from entering the campus. They were demanding reopening of the Student Council room.

Students were agitated when police from the nearby Khulshi thana rushed to the campus to desist students from holding the rally in the morning.

However, National Professor and USTC Vice Chancellor Dr Nurul Islam met the students and assured action against the security guards if the investigation committee find them guilty.

The USTC authorities already opened the Student Council room on the day.

Moulvibazar Chamber body formed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Md Abdul Wadud has become new president of the Moulvibazar Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI).

A seven-member executive committee of MCCI was also formed at its recent annual general meeting.

The AGM was presided over by outgoing president of MCCI Syed Mohsin Ali.

Earlier, all the MCCI directors were elected unopposed for the year 2004-05.

Muhibur Rahman Tarafder and Md Samsul Alam were elected vice-presidents. The elected members are Anker Ahmed, Dr MA Ahad, Md Tara Miah, Syed Mofassil Ali, Mahmudul Haque Tarafder, Syed Mujammel Ali, Syed Abdur Rouf, Md Ansar Ahmed, Md Abu Taher, Sajal Kanti Ghose, and Abu Sufian.

Life term for bus robbery in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Additional District and Sessions Judge-I Aminul Haq has given life term to two persons for a bus robbery on the Kushtia-Jhenidah highway in 1999.

The convicts are Abu Kasem 23, of Halsadanga village in Manirampur upazila in Jessore and Ismail Hawladar, 32, of Razapur village in Swarankhola upazila in Bagerhat.

The two were among eight others who robbed the Khulna-bound bus from Rajshahi when it crossed the Jhenidah Cadet College in the evening on May 5, 1999. Villagers caught and handed them over to police. The rest escaped.

The verdict was passed on Saturday.

11 river routes in southern dists face closure

3 to 6 feet water depth at many points, channels clogged by shoals and silt: Massive dredging needed immediately

AKTER FARUK, Barisal

A massive dredging of river routes from Barisal to other districts should be started immediately under a master plan to keep those navigable, vessel operators and IWTA officials said.

Many routes to Dhaka, Khulna, Chittagong, Bhola and Patuakhali are being clogged by emerging shoals at numerous points and deposit of silt.

At many points, the water depth is only three to six feet now. Some of the routes will have to be abandoned soon unless dredged, they said.

Waterways in Barisal division have already lost navigability at eleven points and vessels plying the routes are often stranded for hours, waiting for high tide.

The Kirtonkhola river on which Barisal river port stands, Ganeshpura river near Char Mohima in Sreepur Mehendiganj,

Lohalia river near Patuakhali port, Bukhainagor river crossing channel, Badartuni-Hizla-Muladi channel, Maskata-Meherdiganj channel, Char Kasrupi and Chandra Mohan channel of Bhola are rapidly losing navigability threatening closure of traffic.

Md. Kabir, who operates passenger launch Dwipraj in Barisal-Dhaka-Barisal route said new shoals have emerged in the Kirtonkhola river near Saistabad, 10 kilometers from Barisal river port. Hundreds of vessels have to cross this channel every day on way to Dhaka, Khulna, and Chittagong. The water depth at Saistabad is only six feet now during low tide. Vessels are often stranded and have to wait for hours for high tide. In the same route, a one-kilometre-long shoal has emerged near Hizla on Lata river, he said.

Abdul Berek, who plies BIWTC vessel MV Alauddin on Barisal-Chittagong route said the journey

is regularly delayed by 4 to 6 hours due to newly emerged shoals. The route is risky at the Daulat Khan point in Meghna and at Hizla, and Kirtonkhola points in Barisal.

The Barisal-Bhola route faces closure as the depth of water is only about three feet in Shaheberhat channel, connecting Kirtonkhola river in Barisal and Kalabador river in Bhola. This is an important channel as it links Barisal with eastern parts of the country.

Vessels have to wait for high tide to cross the channel.

Rabin Das of MV Soheli plying Barisal-Bhola-Barguna-Patuakhali routes said numerous shoals have emerged in the Bishkhali river in Patharghata, Tentulia in Kathalia, Suganda in Betagi, and Shandhaya river in Uzirpur upazila, obstructing navigation.

BIWTA sources said the Kirtonkhola, Lohalia, Bishkhali, Paira, Nishinda, Kalabadar, Arial Kha, Tentulia, Ganeshpura,

Sugandha and Shandhaya rivers in Barisal region should be dredged immediately.

Shahjal Huq, Deputy Director, River Conservancy and base commander of salvage vessel Hamza said dredging of rivers near Barisal and Patuakhali ports, Char Maheshpura, Shaheberhat, Sayestabad, Hizla,

Muladi, Barguna channel and Ganeshpura river should be taken up on priority basis.

He said 'first class' vessels (big ones) need at least 14 feet water depth and 'second class' (smaller) eight feet to ply.

Sources said BIWTC is dredging the Kirtonkhola at only one point near Sayestabad but the work is often disrupted due to shortage of funds.

When contacted, BIWTA manager in Barisal said dredging is done routinely every year before or after the dry season but it is affected by shortage of fund and dredgers.



A vessel stranded on the Kirtonkhola after it got stuck up in a shallow water shoal. The photo was taken on Sunday.

Wanted criminal moves with police protection!

OC visits his house every night, KMP DC declines to comment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Expelled central vice-president of BNP-backed 'Deshnetri Parishad' Kazi Khairuzzaman Shipon is being given police protection.

He moves with police protection. Police also guard his house in the city round the clock.

This has created a sensation among all classes of people in the city.

Hailing from Morrelganj upazila in Bagerhat, Shipon was among the "most wanted persons" during the Operation Clean Heart by joint forces to nab criminals.

A team of the Joint Force had recovered the entire docket of

Dinik Janakantha Jessore bureau chief Shamsur Rahman murder case from his house in Khulna city during a raid in July last year. He escape by scaling the boundary wall of his house, sensing arrival of lawenforcers.

Some people talking to this correspondent said it is still mysterious how case docket of a most sensational murder case was in possession of a "wanted criminal".

He was expelled from the Deshnetri Parishad one week after the case docket was recovered from his house.

Deshnetri Parishad is a body formed by BNP supporters. BNP leaders and activists call their party chief Khaleida Zia Deshnetri (leader

of the country).

Apart from the case docket, some forged documents of different ministries were also recovered from his house.

Sources and eyewitnesses said the officer-in-charge of Sonadanga thana visits his house every night.

Top police officials arrange transports and other logistics when he goes to Bagerhat and other places out of Khulna city.

When asked, Shipon said he has received death threats from miscreants. So police protection has been arranged for him. When asked, DC (South) of KMP Mahubub Hakim refused to make any comment about the matter.

Fog: Vessels arrive Barisal 6-12 hrs behind schedule

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Dense fog delayed arrival of vessels to Barisal by 6 to 12 hours on Sunday.

BITWC vessel PS Masud reached the port from Dhaka at about 10 am, six hours behind schedule, BIWTC sources said.

Another vessel-- MV Dwipraj-- owned by a private company, was delayed in its journey from Dhaka by over six hours.

A big vessel --MV Kirtonkhola-1 -- with about 1500 passengers ran aground in a shallow water shoal while trying to negotiate the dense fog on the Meghna in Satnol. The passengers have been brought to Barisal in two hired smaller vessels. The Kirtonkhola-1 is still stuck up there, sources here said Monday morning.

About 50 other vessels with

thousands of passengers were delayed by 10 to 12 hours. These were scheduled to reach in the morning but came in the evening.

Crew of several vessels told this correspondent Monday morning that they felt Dhaka Saturday evening and were scheduled to reach Barisal between 4 am and 5 am Sunday. But they had to keep the vessels anchored at Satnol on the Meghna midstream as visibility was totally lost.

About 40 vessels including tankers and cargo vessels were stranded there for about 10 hours.

Thousands of passengers and crew on these vessels suffered from shortage of food and drinking water in the cold night.

Some vessels were also stranded near Vasharchar on Arial Khan river for several hours due to fog, sources said.

Telelink with Rangamati snapped for 60 hours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Rangamati's telephone connection with rest of the country remained snapped for over 60 hours from 9 am Friday at a time when a UNDP team is visiting the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

This happened as the underground optical fibre snapped during earth cutting for rural electrification extension work near Betbungia, BTB (Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone

Board), sources said.

Asked by the BTB, experts from a Chinese company rushed to the spot and restore the network at around 2.30 pm on Sunday.

This was the 16th time in one year that the optical fibre was snapped in the district.

As a result, administration suffered and newsmen could not send news.

More than 2500 subscribers and all public call offices (PCOs) in nine upazila headquarters also suffered.

Smugglers snatch seized goods from BDR in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Armed smugglers snatched away 14 sacks of seized Indian sugar and salt from a team of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in the bordering Dakra area of Charghat upazila here on Saturday afternoon.

BDR personnel raided a house in the area in the afternoon and seized 12 sacks of sugar and two sacks of salt. All on a sudden about 50 smugglers attacked them when they were returning to their base.

Smugglers beat up BDR men and damaged their vehicle during the attack.

Later at night, BDR caught three of the attackers and filed a case accusing 13 smugglers for snatching seized goods and hindering government work.

Captain Manjurul Kabir, adjutant of 10 BDR Battalion confirmed the report and informed that team leader Nayeb Subedar Abdul Gafur was closed to the Battalion headquarter for negligence of duty.

Govt staff in BCC agitate for city corp'n allowance



PHOTO: STAR

Government employees based in Barisal city brought out a procession on Sunday demanding city corporation Allowance.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Barisal and Sylhet municipalities were upgraded to city corporations in July 2002. Government employees based in Sylhet are getting city corporation allowance since January last year.

They said the allowance is their legitimate demand and urged the government to fulfil it.

The government is discriminating between employees based in Sylhet and Barisal they said and urged it to announce the allowance

soon.

A "grand rally" will be held at the central Shaheed Minar here on Wednesday to press the demand, it was announced at the rally.

The rally was addressed by, among others, Alamgir Hossain, Shamsuddin Ahmed and Bazlur Rashid, advisor, convener and joint convener respectively of the Committee for Realising City Allowance, a newly formed body.

Accused in Pabna Mental Hospital dacoity case held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Selim Reza alias Kalu (40), al alleged ringleader of an organised gang of criminals and an accused in Pabna Mental Hospital dacoity case, was arrested on Saturday from Chanchra Madhyapara in Jessore Kotwali thana.

The dacoity was committed at the hospital on December 25 last year.

According to the OC of Jessore Sadar thana, Selim confessed to police that 14 members of his gang joined in the dacoity in which medicines worth Tk 30 lakh were looted.

Members of the gang are inhabitants of Jessore, Pabna and Dhaka, he said. He is the son of Fazlur Rahman of Chanchra, Jessore, sources said.

19-man Gopalganj Press Club body elected

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

A 19-member executive committee of Gopalganj Press Club headed by Alhaj Farid Ahmed (Dainik Rupali) and Syed Mirazul Islam (UNB) as President and General Secretary (GS) was elected through an election held here on January 1.

Mia Arifuzzaman (Dainik Desh Janata) and Sheik Masudur Rahman (Dainik Janata) were elected vice presidents while SM Mirazul Hoque (Dainik Tathya) and Aminul Islam (Dainik Khobor Patra) were elected joint secretaries.

Other office-bearers are: Syed Muradul Islam (Dainik Probaha)-Organising Secretary, Alimuzzaman Lipu (Dainik Matrichhaya)-Office Secretary, Ahsanur Rahman Sikder (Dainik Matrichhaya)-Office Secretary, Ahsanur Rahman Sikder (Dainik Aiker Darpan)- Treasurer, Abdul Kuddus Daria (Dainik Shirin)-Cultural Secretary, Harun-ur-Rashid (Dainik Ekusher Bani)-Sports Secretary, Sailendra Nath Mazumder (Dainik Bartaman Katha)-Social Welfare Secretary, Kamruzzaman Sikder and (Dainik Khola Bazar)-Library Secretary.

Elected members are: Dulal Biswas (Dainik Gono Jagoran), Mohammad Ali Siddique (Dainik Janabarta), Abul Khayer Khan (Dainik Suvodin), Imam Raza Hasu (Dainik Gono Sanghati), Sazzad Ahmed Chowdhury (Banglar Pran).

The election was conducted by Advocate Idris Ali Mollah as Chief Election Commissioner and Advocate Khosrul Alam and Advocate Nasir Ahmed.

10 babies die of Pneumonia in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A least 10 babies died from pneumonia and four elders died from cold in the district in the last seven days.

Sources at Satkhira Sadar Hospital and Satkhira Shishu Hospital said the babies who at the hospitals include Rejaul (8 days), Badhan (22 days), Sonia (2 months), Nahar (8 days), Rasul (9 days) and Baby (one month). Two new born babies also died from pneumonia at the hospitals.

The elders are Zobeda Khatu, 60 of Bakshia village, Anil Pal, 55, of Senpur, Abdul Gaffar, 58, of Mahmudpur and Mazed Ali, 60, of Bhasra village, all in Tala upazila.

Bodies of two brothers recovered

A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Police on Sunday recovered bodies of two abducted brothers from a shoal in the Botolbungia river in Sharikkhali village in the Sadar upazila.

Police said, Mosharrif Hossain, 21 and Sohel, 25 were fishing in the river on December 31 when they were abducted by some unidentified miscreants.

They could not be traced since then. A case has been filed with the Sadar thana.

Lalmonirhat Bar Assoc office-bearers

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A new committee of Lalmonirhat Bar Association was elected with Advocate Hasan Shaheed as President and Advocate Abul Fattah as Secretary for the year 2004-'05.

Other office-bearers of the new committee are: Advocate Najmul Haq (Vice-President), Advocate Habibur Rahman (Joint Secretary), Advocate M B Al-Mahmud (Treasurer), Advocate Golam Mostafa-1 (Organising Secretary), Advocate Shashi Mohan Roy (Library Secretary) and Advocate Golam Mostaf-2 (Social Welfare and Cultural Secretary). Members are: Advocate AKM Shamsul Haq, Advocate Lutfar Rahaman, Advocate Azizul Islam, Advocate Nital Chandra Pal, Advocate Nur Alam, and Advocate Lutfar Rahaman

Warm clothes distributed among distressed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Bogra district administration distributed warm clothes among the cold stricken people of 12 upazilas here recently.

A total of 3,500 blankets and 1,050 woollen scarves were distributed among the needy in two phases in seven constituencies of the district, Bogra Deputy Commissioner (DC) office sources said.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister (PM) has allotted 2,800 more blankets for distribution among the distressed. Four hundred blankets are allotted for each constituency.



Bogra Deputy Commissioner Rafiqul Mohamed distributing warm clothes among cold-hit people in the town on Saturday night.

20 hurt in clashes in Patuakhali

A CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least 20 people including two women were injured in clashes over land in Dashmina and Boupthal upazilas recently.

Of them, 17 including two women were injured at Gopaldi village in Dashmina upazila, police said.

Eight of them are now under treatment at the upazila health complex. They are Majeda, 65, Saleha, 40, Jaynal, 70, Kalam 45, Fazlur Rahman, 28, Haibur Rahman, 40, Rezaul, 25 and Atahar 35.

In another incident at Suradi village in Boupthal upazila, three persons were injured in a clash over harvesting paddy from a disputed land.

Physics confce begins at CU

CU CORRESPONDENT

An international Physics conference began at the Mathematical and Physical Science Research Centre (MPSRC) of Chittagong University (CU) on Saturday.

Vice Chancellor (VC) Professor AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury opened the conference in the morning as chief guest. Pro-VC Professor Dr M Shamsuddin and Dean of Science faculty Professor Dr MA Saleh attended the opening session as special guests.

UGC Professor and noted scientist Professor Dr Jamal Nazrul Islam presided over while eminent scholars from home and abroad took part.

Law and order reviewed in Bhola

A CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

Th district law and order committee at a meeting on Saturday with the Deputy Commissioner in the chair reviewed the crime situation in the district.

The meeting was informed that 87 crimes including five murders and seven rapes were recorded by police in the seven upazilas. The number was 87 in November and 72 in October.

The Police Superintendent, officers-in-charge of seven thanas, UNOs, political leaders and Bhola Press Club Secretary attended the meeting.