

SNAPS

Seized narcotics destroyed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gaibandha* Illegal narcotics and liquor seized on different occasions were destroyed on the Police Super's office premises on Saturday.

The items are 3,501 bottles of Phensidyl, eight kilogram of country liquor, four and a half kilogram of hashish and 11-litre of other kinds of liquor.

2 get life term for rape in Bhola

A CORRESPONDENT, *Bhola* District and Session Judge Abdul Kudus Mia on Saturday gave life term to two persons for raping a disabled woman.

The convicts are Saifulbh, 30 and Shahin, 24 of Lalmothon upazila.

They had raped the woman in September 2001. Her husband had filed a case with Lalmothon thana.

Measles attacks 150 babies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bandarban* At least 150 children have been attacked with measles in Roangchari upazila.

Sources in the Health Department told this correspondent that the disease has been spreading at nine tribal villages. However, Ghroaumukh Bazaar Para, Sundari Para, Ghroau Bhitur Para, Baroshila Para and Moungbau Para are the worst affected villages.

Acting Civil Surgeon Dr Aung Sue Prue Marma told the journalists that the World Health Organisation (WHO) has sent a vigilance medical team who are working at field level.

Outlaw held in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna* A regional leader of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP M-L) named Mofazzel Hossain Tapu was arrested on Wednesday midnight. Jhenidah police nabbed him from Biswas Pharmacy at Barandipara in Jessore town.

On interrogation police recovered from his possession three rifles and on SLR. The arms were hidden in the house of Rahima Khaton of Kanuharpur village in Jhenidah Sadar upazila. Rahima is a comfort woman of Tapu, police said. She was also arrested.

Benapole land port security privatised

Problems will increase, importers and C&F agents say

QUAZI AMANULLAH, *Khulna*

Security system at Benapole land port, the country's biggest one, has been privatised.

Messers Basic Security System of Dhaka is expected to take up the responsibility of the security system from February 1. It has got the work order, official sources said.

Seventy security personnel of Mongla Port Authority (MPA) serving there now will be taken back to their head office by January 31.

They would be replaced by over

100 security guards of the private company.

When contacted, MPA Chairman Commodore Khurshid said security system at the land port will henceforth be looked after by Messers Basic Security Systems as per a decision of the government. He reserved his comment when asked about the impact of privatising the security stem.

He stressed the need for industrialisation of the South-Western region of the country to keep Mongla sea port operative and help restore its lost glory.

Some importers and C&F (clearing and forwarding) agents this correspondent talked to however said the privatisation will increase theft and pilferage of imported goods at the land port.

Leaders of Benapole C&F Agents Association said problems relating to security of imported goods worth crores of taka will increase in the new arrangement.

The off and on problems are manifold and corruption at the port is deep-rooted. It will not be possible for a private company to tackle those, they said.

A window to exotic sea life

84 species at a Kuakata museum



PHOTO: STAR

Sea life at a glance ...Hasanul Haq Iqbal at his museum (left) and a rare variety of crab along with other species (right). The photo was taken on Friday.

MD. SAHRAB HOSSAIN, *Patuakhali*

You can see almost all the live species of sea fish together at a place in Kuakata, thanks to the efforts by two young friends.

They have set up a sea fish museum where rare species can be seen.

Hasanul Haq Iqbal of Narail and Manjour Alom of Dhaka came to visit Kuakata in

November 2001.

Enchanted by the beauty of the sea and its resources in the wild, they thought the exotic species could be put together for visitors.

"We talked to some fishermen and they said they could collect for us live fishes and other animals", Iqbal told this correspondent.

They hired a house and built big aquariums. "With much care, we started collecting rare varieties of deepsea fishes", he said.

The number is 84 now. The collection includes Rangdhanu Crab, Khatak, Patka, Reha, Stapvol, Jungle Terana, Shapla Buroi, Bata, Latiar and such other aquatic living beings.

A 12-feet Potka fish weighing six

kilograms will draw anybody's attention. It cost them Tk four lakh, Iqbal said.

"Last year, a South Korea tourist was surprised to see the collection of crabs and asked me why it is not exported", he said.

The museum remains open for visitors during the whole day the year round. The two friends charge only Tk five as entry fee.

BRTC service finally resumes in 3 Sylhet UZs

People's agitation crowned with success

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*.

At last, BRTC resumed its bus service in three upazilas in Sylhet on Friday in the face of people's agitation. Four buses have been rolled on the Sylhet-Tamabil route, covering Jaintapur, Kanaighat and Gowainghat upazilas.

Following this, the 17 Parganas Shalish Samannaya Committee, a non-partisan people's forum, withdrew its yesterday's hartal in the three upazilas, called earlier. Ruling party lawmaker from Sylhet-4 Dilder Hossain Selim took the four buses to Jaintpur Saturday night. Earlier in the evening, he received the buses from the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet.

Soon after arrival of the buses, a rally was held at the Bat Tola at Jaitapur upazila headquarters under the auspices of the Samannaya Committee.

Addressing the rally, Dilder Selim thanked Finance Minister M S a i f u r R a h m a n and Communication Minister Nazmul Huda for meeting people's senti-

ment in the three upazilas.

He also thanked the people of the region for continuing the movement amid sufferings for resumption of BRTC service.

President of the Samannaya Committee, Siraj Uddin Ahmed, who chaired the meeting termed resumption of BRTC service a victory of the people.

It was addressed by, among others, district BNP Vice-President Nurul Haque, Jaintapur Upazila Awami League President and former Upazila Chairman Md. Abdullah, Abdul Quadir Khan and Abdul Haque, Upazila BNP General Secretary and former UP chairman Abdul Malik Manik, Nijpat UP Chairman Mokhlisur Rahman Doula, UP chairman ABM Zakaria, Darbast UP Chairman Kamal Ahmed, UP chairman Golam Kibria Helal, ex-UP chairman and upazila Jatiya Party Convener Muhibul Haque Muhib, ex-UP chairman Musa Miah, Moulana Hossain Ahmed Chotuli, Upazila Chhatra League

President Hanif Mohammad, ex upazila JCD president Abul Kalam Azad, Prof. Fayez Ahmed Babar, Anwarul Haque, Siraj Uddin, Baharul Alam and Mashuk Ahmed.

The speakers called upon the people to continue their boycott of private transports, saying that the BRTC service was suspended following a conspiracy by their owners.

Mentionably, the transport owners and workers associations strongly protested BRTC service in the upazilas, which was started on September 10 last year.

Amid the continued agitation since then, the Samannaya Committee suspended supply of sand, stone and coal from the 3 upazilas to other parts of the country on January 9.

The people, led by the Committee, also laid a siege to the Jaintapur, Kanaighat and Gowainghat headquarters on 17 January.



PHOTO: STAR

The photo taken of Saturday shows erosion of soil at the under-construction Pakshi Bridge.

Erosion at Pakshi Bridge pillar 'nothing unusual'

Chief Engineer visits site

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Pabna*

The soil erosion at Pakshi Bridge pillar near the river control embankment was stopped yesterday by dumping sandbags and boulders.

About 150 metres space created by the erosion has been filled up.

High officials of the Pakshi Bridge Construction Project rushed to the bridge site from Dhaka after newspapers reported the erosion.

Chief Engineer of the project, Sheikh Rabul Islam, told newsmen at the site that such erosion of soil during bridge construction is quite normal and there is nothing to raise a hue and cry over it. He was accompanied by Additional Chief Engineer of the Project Syed Ahjad Hossain.

The sudden erosion of soil into the Padma river started Friday morning.

Expert said on Saturday the erosion was caused by the river

current.

The Project Director, Anwar Ahmed of Roads and Highways, said the erosion will neither affect the pillars nor the construction work.

"It is hard to say the actual reason of erosion. It needs inquiry," he said.

The chief consultant of the constructing firm, Chris Round, said erosion of connecting road or river control embankment during construction is not unusual.

A system for quick case disposal

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A new system was evolved for quick and timely disposal of cases including reduction in case backlog.

Field testing of case management and court administration reforms for civil cases started in Khulna city recently.

The field testing began on conclusion of two workshops on "Field Testing of Case Management and Court Administration Reforms for the Civil Justice System," says a press release.

The workshops and field tests were organised as part of the Legal

and Judicial Capacity Building Project by the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and the Institutional Reforms and the Informal Sector (IRIS), the University Research Corporation International and the University of Maryland, USA.

Chief justice KM Hasan and former chief justice Mustafa Kamal attended the two workshops.

Thirteen cases were filed in the Central Filing Section by lawyers on the first day of the field testing.

IRIS consultants including team leader John M Greacen monitored the work in the Central

Filing Section. Judicial officers including he district judge visited the Central Filing Section and observed the activity.

Lawyers and litigants were encouraged at the new system. Lawyers became hopeful about the success of the system.

The field test includes introduction of modern technology like computers for case processing and case management.

Court officials were trained on computer operation. Arrangements were made for their training at Khulna court where 10 computers were already installed.

Darwani Textile Mills

Golden handshake dues to be paid before Eid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Nilphamari*

The 98 former workers and employees of Darwani Textile Mills under BTMC will get their 'golden handshake' dues before the Eid-ul-Azha following intervention by BNP Senior Joint Secretary General and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's son Tarek Rahman.

This was conveyed to Nilphamari Press Club and to a local daily on Friday from Dhaka by Md Mokbul Hossein, a leader of workers and employees who had been agitating for months to realise their dues.

Nilphamari district BNP president and nephew of the prime minister, Engineer Shahreen Islam Tuhin, also took interest in the matter, he said.

On 12 January, the agitating workers and employees staged a token hunger strike in front of the mill and announced a self-immolation programme if their dues are paid by January 25.

They have postponed all agitation programmes following the assurance, their leaders here said yesterday.

Photojournalist, lawyer beaten by Jubo Dal cadres in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bogra*

Jatiyatbadi Jubo Dal cadres beat up a photo journalist and a lawyer at Pakulla village in Sonatola upazila on Friday.

The photojournalist is Shahinur Rahman Bimu of The Daily Jugantor and the lawyer is Advocate Haroon-Ur-Rasid.

Bimu filed a case with Sonatola thana against two Jatiyatbadi Jubo Dal activists named Jahidul, son of Khairul Rahman of Pakulla village and Necal, son of Khairul Islam of the same village.

Police sources said that a members of a commission appointed by the Sub-Judge court along with a group of lawyers went to Pakulla Union Parishad (UP) to investigate into violation of a stay order of the court.

Photo Journalist Bimu went to take a snap of the UP building, built violating the stay order. As soon as he took snap of the building a group of miscreants led by Necal snatched away his camera and beat him up.

The miscreants beat up Advocate Haroon when he tried to save Bimu.

Local journalists condemned the incident and demanded arrest of the culprits without further delay.

Food poisoning: 2 brothers killed in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Magura*

Food poisoning killed two brothers at Majhayeel-Mandartala village in Sreepur upazila on Sunday.

The victims were identified as Jahurul, 10, and Kampur, 6. Both are sons of Akhimul Mia, a farmer at the village.

Family sources said, they drank milk in the morning and became sick at their maternal uncle's house at Char Goyeshpur village in Madhukhali upazila of Faridpur.

As their condition worsened, they were sent to Madhukhali Upazila Health Complex where they died after a while.

They are political leaders!

New Bogra dist BNP body includes accused in murder case, drug peddler, former night guard etc

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Bogra*

Discontent is brewing among devoted party leaders and workers over composition of the newly formed Bogra district BNP committee.

Party sources said at least 20 of them were involved in crimes, murders drug peddling and other anti-social activities.

Some of them were charged for involvement in murders.

President of the committee, advocate Mahabubur Rahman, however said he and all BNP men are "happy with this committee".

Giving some examples, the sources said, Tauhidul Alam Mamun, who was the main

accused in labour leader Manik murder case, is secretary of the district Shechcha Sebak Dal, a front of BNP. Manik was killed at Chalapara in Bogra town on November 3.

Another district committee leader, Morshaid Milton, was arrested with Phensydil at Bera in Pabna few years back.

Sohorab Hossin Laygu, who read up to class eight and was a lineman of Power Development Board (PDB), is the Publicity Secretary of the new district body.

Balal, who was a night guard at a rickshaw garage, is now a member of the district committee.

Jahidul, known as Tablet Jahidul, is Information and

Research Secretary.

Aminul Islam Palas, who was a fourth class employee of Water Development Board (WDB) is the new Labour Secretary.

A prominent BNP leader seeking anonymity said a political party can not run with such people.

Some of the new leaders like Forest and Environmental Secretary Sumsul Haque Ramun were not "active" in the last 12 years.

Another leader said many of the new district committee members were selected without consulting devoted and sincere party men.

Osmani Hospital tense

Body formed to probe Shibir activities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*.

A tense situation is prevailing at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College due to the stand-off between activists of Jatiyatbadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir over a cultural programme of Shibir.

The Academic Council at an emergency meeting on Saturday night formed a probe body headed by Prof Wazir Ahmed Chowdhury. It will submit its report within three days.

Academic activities are not affected, the principal said.

Activities of student organizations on the campus is suspended since 1993 following a consensus. Since then, student fronts of different political parties are holding limited activities in the guise of literary and cultural programmes.

On Friday in the evening, an offshoot of Shibir started a four-day cultural programme at the college auditorium. Presence of a large number of outsiders there angered JCD.

As tension mounted, the authorities suspended the programme at 10 PM same day and deployed police.

PBCP claims responsibility of Barun murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

Outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist (PBCP M-L) party has claimed responsibility for killing the leader of Biplobi Communist Party (BCP), another outlawed party.

The party's Second in Command Atul Goshai Alias Barun was gunned down at his Noapara house in Barasat district, West Bengal recently.

The 52-year-old Barun fled to India from Dumuria in Khulna on October 16 in 2002 to evade arrest during the Clean Heart operation. He was the Second-in-Command of

Khulna-Satkhira unit of BCP, police said.

Meanwhile, all police stations and camps of Khulna, Bagerhat and Satkhira were put on red alert following bomb attack at Gouramva police camp.

Forty two persons were picked up from different places of Rampal and neighbouring Batiaghata and Dakop upazillas.

The police camp was withdrawn for security reason, Rampal thana OC said. But the routine patrol duty will continue, he said.

Meanwhile, hundreds of youths of several villages in Rampal left their homes to evade arrest.



PHOTO: STAR

The Mymensingh unit of Bangladesh Teachers-Employees Federation brought out a big procession in the town on Saturday to press its 17-point demand, which includes nationalisation of services of teachers. The procession followed a rally at the Town Hall ground.