

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 Phenyl, 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 Saifulib, 30 and Shahin, 24 of Lalmoni upazila.

They had raped the woman in September 2001. Her husband had filed a case with Lalmoni 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, Giroamukh Bazaar Para, Sundari Para, Ghorai Bihor Para, Baroshila Para and Moungbua 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 Jessor town.

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

Borhanuddin AL council postponed

A CORRESPONDENT, *Bhola*

The council of Borhauddin upazila unit of Awami league, scheduled to be held on Thursday, was not held.

Party sources said the council was postponed due to internal feud, lack of coordination with district leaders and fear of attack by ruling party men.

They said most of the party leaders in the upazila are almost inactive and do not stay at homes as they are facing "false cases" filed by ruling party men.

AL central leader Tofail Ahmed was defeated in the area in the last election.

Immigration service to expand in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

The Immigration Advisory Service (IAS) in Sylhet may be expanded, its Chief Executive Keith Best has said.

IAS has been playing an important role in developing the existing friendly relations between the people of Britain and Sylhet, he said while speaking at a review meeting on performance of IAS, held at a city hotel on Thursday.

Opened in July 2000, the IAS gives free legal advice to immigrants and asylum seekers. Out of the 17 IAS offices, 16 are in the UK and one is in Sylhet.

Other speakers stressed the need for creating skilled manpower to face the challenge of free market economy in the present global scenario.

They called upon the authorities of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) and the UK-based Bangladesh Welfare Association to come forward in this regard.

Sylhet Divisional Commissioner Abdus Salam Khan chaired the annual meeting.

IAS Media Advisor Abu Musa Hasan, Awami League leader Samad Chowdhury, Prof Dr. Abdul Awal Biswas of SUST, Bangladesh Welfare Association President Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury, Sylhet Press Club General Secretary Liaquat Shah Faridi, Chief Executive of Bangladesh Overseas Centre Shamsul Alam, former President of Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdus Salam Chowdhury, IAS Senior Representative in Sylhet Abdul Samad and its Executive Officer Mahbub Ahsan Chowdhury and Sylhet representative of the UK magazine-Curry Life- Syed Uthba also spoke.

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.

Twenty 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.

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.

BRTC service finally resumes in 3 Sylhet UZs

People's agitation crowned with success

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

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 UPP Chairman Mokhlisur Rahman Doula, UP chairman ABD Zakaria, Darbasi 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 Chhata League

President Hanif Mohammad, ex-upazila JCD president Abul Kalam Azad, Prof. Fayed 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.



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

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 Manjor 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 dead seafishes", he said.

The number is 84 now. The collection includes Rangdhanu Crab, Khatak, Patka, Reha, Stapvol, Jungle Terana, Shapla Burol, 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.

They are political leaders!

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

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.

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, Tawhidul 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 Chalopara in Bogra town on November 3.

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

Sohorab Hossain 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.

Aminal 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 Jatiyatabadi Chhata Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhata 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.

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

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.

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

Gaibandha Krishak Dal council held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gaibandha*

The district unit council of Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal concluded here at Gaibandha Natya Sangsta on Saturday.

State Minister for Culture Selima Rahman was present as chief guest while Deputy Minister for Relief and Disaster Management Principal Asadul Habib Dulu opened the council.

Presided over by district convenor Syed Belal Hossain Yousuf the council was addressed, among others, its central secretary Shamsuzzaman Dudu, central BNP member Saiful Alam Saja, Abdul Motaleb Akanda, MP, Md Shahjahan Mia, President district BNP Hamidul Huq Chhana, Secretary Anisuzzaman Khan Babu and Principal Moklesur Rahman.

Selima Rahman said during the Awami League rule youths, farmers and labourers were tortured, but BNP changed people's fate after assumption of power.

Asadul Habib Dulu said President Ziaur Rahman formed Gram Sarker for the overall development of villages.

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 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.

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 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 the district judge visited the Central Filing Section and observed the activity.

Lawyers and litigants were encouraged at