

SNAPS

Off-season fog disrupts waterway journey

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal
Off-season foggy weather disrupted waterway communication on Friday and Saturday nights in Barisal region.

Signature campaign for trial of killers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj
The Manikganj unit of Bangladesh Mohila Parishad has launched a signature campaign demanding arrest of the killers of a young girl.

Shahid Minar demolished

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal
Unidentified miscreants demolished a temporary Shahid Minar at Nazipur School at Muladi under Barisal district on the night of February 20.

Sources there said the local people built the temporary Shahid Minar on the school premises as there is no permanent one. The incident created tension in the area but people observed their Ekushey programs in a befitting way.

Artificial crisis of kerosene in 3 dists

STAR NATIONAL DESK
An artificial crisis of kerosene prevails in Bogra, Barisal and Gaibandha for several weeks. Our Bogra Correspondent has reported one crore litre of kerosene were mixed with diesel used for irrigation purpose in the northern region during last two months.

Each litre of kerosene is being sold between Tk 22 to 24. According to market sources, the depots of Meghna, Padma and Jamuna oil companies under BPC have a capacity to contain more than 17 lakh litre of kerosene in the region.

The district administration in Barisal held a meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office recently to review the crisis of kerosene. Our Gaibandha Correspondent has reported Sunderganj upazila unit of Samajtantrik Khet Majur and Krishak Front brought out a procession at Sunderganj on Tuesday.

Plunder of reserve forest

35 unauthorised sawmills process 3500 cft illegal timber daily in Mymensingh, Tangail forest areas: Officials blame each other

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona
Unbelievable though, there are 35 unauthorised sawmills in preserve forest areas in Mymensingh and Tangail districts. Law prohibits setting up of sawmill within ten kilometres of reserve forest area.

destinations, they said. Rickshaw van driver Abul Lalam talking to this correspondent during a recent visit said the smugglers are very organised and they come to the forests in groups. "They are very powerful and maintain links with persons concerned".

Krishnapur, Anayatpur, Dulma, Khaigao, Gupinathpur and Betbaria area are under the Santushpur beat. When contacted, Santushpur Beat Officer Narayan Candra Das said the forest department has forbidden establishment of any sawmill in 10 km area.

Md Abraham, Ranger of Rashulpur forest range, said he has nothing to do if the higher authorities do not take any action. It is not possible to stop illegal felling of trees with the present small manpower, he said.



One of the unauthorised sawmills in Rasulpur forest range area in Tangail, left, a heap of smuggled timbers in the area, right. The photo were taken last week.

Outlaw Tushar confesses to 17 murders

Victims include AL leader Monjurul Imam, advocate Bijon Behari Mondol, journalist Manik Saha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira
Notorious outlaw Abdul Gaffar alias Tushar, now in custody, has confessed to his involvement in 17 murders including those of Awami League leader Monjurul Imam, advocate Bijon Behari Mondol, journalist Manik Shah and Sirajul Islam, godfather of outlaw Mrihal.

He has also disclosed names of his political godfathers, who include some BNP leaders and Jugikhalil UP chairman Rafiqul Islam. But police declined to disclose names of the BNP leaders. Police said Gaffar is yet to give any information about his arms.

Joint forces also raided the house of BNP leader and UP chairman Rabiul Islam but failed to arrest him. Police said Rabiul Islam is also wanted in several cases filed with Kalaroa thana. Gaffar was taken to Sonandanga thana on Saturday to probe Sirajul Islam murder case.

Gopalganj Bar Assoc polls held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

Election to Gopalganj Bar Association was held here on Friday. Advocate Din Mohammad Sikder has been emerged as president of the association defeating Advocate Sarder Ahmed Nawsher Ali by six votes.

Advocate Fayekuzzaman and Advocate Md Abu Tarek Molla were elected vice presidents while Advocate Iftekhab Alam and Advocate Zender Ali became assistant secretaries. Advocate Rawsan Ali Mia, Advocate Aminur Rahman Biswas and Advocate Enamul Huq were elected members of the association.

Six get 20 years RI for kidnapping

BSS, Manikganj

A court here on Thursday sentenced six persons to rigorous imprisonment (RI) for 20 years and six months each for crimes related to kidnapping, trespassing and attempt to murder. The convicts are Moti, Sojon, Shahed, Shahidullah, Lal Mia and Abul Kashem, court sources said. The court also fined each convict Tk 3,000, in default, to suffer five months' more RI.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Usha Rani Goswami, mother of Rajat Kanti Goswami, local correspondent of The Daily Star died at her Moulvibazar residence due to old age ailments on Friday. She was 75. Wife of Radhika Mohan Goswami, Bangladesh Central Pujya Udayjan Parishad Vice President, National Awami Party (NAP-Muzaffar) Vice President, retired journalist of government-owned news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) and former president of Moulvibazar Press Club, Usha Rani was survived by husband, three sons, one daughter, two grand sons and four grand daughters to mourn her death.

Manik Saha murder case

Police apathy in raid on criminals' hideout

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna
Alleged outlaw Ali Akbar, 28, arrested by joint forces from Ramnagar village under Rupsha thana recently, is being quizzed under remand in connection with journalist Manik Saha murder case.

last month by Khulna police. They confessed their involvement in the murder, along with Akram and two others. According to reliable sources, the rickshawpuller who took Manik's home is being harboured by Hosna Ara and her son Shahid of Pabla ward under Daulatpur thana.

Manik home are associates of criminal Shahid and are inhabitants of Pabla. IO of Manik Saha murder case did not raid the hideouts of Shahid where the rickshaw owner and the person who pulled it are reported to have taken shelter. Large number of people of Pabla have sent Petitions to the prime minister, the Home Minister, Home Secretary, IGP, DG of Anti corruption, DIG of Khulna Ranga, DC of Khulna and Commanders of Daulatpur and Khalishpur thana joint forces drawing their attention to the failure of KMP to make any break through in probing the Manik Shah murder case.



No body knows when construction of the Gorai Bridge on Kushtia-Dhaka highway to connect six districts with the capital will be completed. Its construction began six years back. Its design was changed thrice. A Chinese construction firm formulated a new design in 2002 as per directives of the government. But no progress is in sight. Meantime, cost of project has increased to Tk 26 cr from Tk 16 cr.

India postpones barbed wire fencing along Habiganj border

A CORRESPONDENT, Habiganj

India has postponed construction of barbed wire fencing along Sharifpur border till demarcation of the border line in a week. The decision was taken at a flag meeting between Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at Sharifpur on Saturday. Srimangol-2 Rifles Battalion Commander Lt Col M Imamul Huda and 34 BSF Commandant Bipra Das led their teams in the meeting.

Fake NGO men held for swindling

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Villagers at Chapani Hat in Dimala upazila caught two employees of a fake NGO for allegedly swindling Tk two lakh and handed them to police. They two - Maruf Ahmed and Abdul Latif of Grameen Progati Sangstha- came to the village one month back and started taking 'deposits' from poor people, promising them bigger loans and other facility.

AL leader killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Sujan, 28, an Awami League activist of Netrakona Sadar upazila unit of the party, was killed by miscreants at Muktirbazar on Saturday. Police said Sujan of Kaliara Gabragathi village was killed when he was returning home from Muktirbazar. A case was filed with Netrakona police station in this connection. None was arrested.

Second inter-city train between N-districts, Dhaka soon

All preparations ready, trial run any day

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha
Bangladesh Railway is going to introduce soon the second inter-city train service from northern districts to Dhaka via Jamuna Bridge, covering seven districts. The Lalmonirhat-Dhaka service will cover Kurigram, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Bogra, Natore and Naogaon districts. All preparations are ready for its formal inauguration and all the coaches are at Lalmonirhat now.

spondent over phone that that the exact time schedule for the commercial operation is yet to be fixed. About 500 passengers will travel in the 11-coach train, now ready at Lalmonirhat for the trial run. Six of the coaches have been renovated at Syedpur railway workshop and the rest arranged from other railway zones. "We expect to cover the distance the distance (Lalmonirhat to Dhaka) via Santaher and Iswardy in 10 to 11 hours" the DRM said.

Eight of a bridal party killed in road mishap

2 others killed in Comilla

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Joy of a bridal party turned into a heart-rending scene at Syedpur as eight of them died when a truck rammed one of their vehicles. A pall of gloom descended the town when the bodies were brought on Thursday. About 100 people in eight vehicles were going to Katnarpara in Bogra for marriage of one SM Shah Jahan of Syedpur town. At Dhaper Hat in Gaibandha on the Rangpur-Bogra highway, a truck coming from the opposite direction hit a microbus in the convoy, killing three on the spot. Four others died while being taken to hospital and another at Rangpur Medical College Hospital. Seven of the victims are Asif, 40, Attab, 30, Rana, 8, Tamjuddin, Mintu, 45, Raju, 14, Shahida, 60.

The name of another victim could not be known. The survivors said soon after the accident, some people instead of rescuing them snatched gold ornaments and other valuables. The tragic accident brought people from nearby areas. They barricaded the highway for three hours till police came and restored traffic. Our Comilla Correspondent reports: A mother and her son were killed when hit by a pickup van while they were crossing the Dhaka-Chittagong highway at near Kalakachua, five miles of the town on Saturday. The victims are Dipali Begum, 20, wife of Nur Alam and her son Shafi Hossain, 5 of Kalakachua village under Burichong upazila. Police arrested the driver and seized the vehicle (Dhaka-BA-368).



A woman receiving Tk 20,000 agriculture loan from Sonali Bank General Manager (Administration) Md Ziauddin Ahmed at a function held at Imam Nagar Government Primary School in Singair upazila, Manikganj on Thursday. An amount of Tk 2,50,000 was disbursed among 19 poor farmers of Bahadia Soyani model village under a special pilot project of the bank.

UNDP set to start fresh uplift activities in CHT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations Development Fund (UNDP) is set to start fresh development activities under a new project in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), officials told this at a workshop in Bandarban on Tuesday. The workshop on 'Mouza Headmen and Karbari' held at Rajbari, Bandarban, said that about 60 million US dollars could not be utilised due to unrest in the region during the last five years. The one-year pilot project aiming at bringing people's confidence and socio-economic development, would cover Sadar and Thanchi upazilas in Bandarban, Bilaichhari and Sadar upazilas in Rangamati and Matiranga and Panchchari upazilas in Khagrachhari. The project would involve private and public organisations responsible for development work in the area, provide 'quick impact fund' or small loan to common people leading to their financial independence, develop coordination among development partners and establish offices in Bandarban, Rangamati, Khagrachhari and the capital. Although offices were set up but the UN agency could not implement its objectives at the grassroots level due to unrest in CHT. Project director Michael Hen,

Top criminal nabbed in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A top criminal was nabbed by Brahmanbaria Sadar thana police on Wednesday. Arrested Atik was also engaged in arms and drug smuggling. A police team headed by SI Monirul Gias raided Atik's house in Pokurpur area of Brahmanbaria Poursabha and arrested him. He is accused in several cases filed at Brahmanbaria sadar thana and Akhaura Government Railway Police (GRP), police sources said. Atik was sent to Brahmanbaria Jail custody, police sources told this correspondent.

Sewing machines for 25 distressed women

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Twenty five distressed women began life anew at their villages in Kasba and Akhura upazilas on Friday. BNP member of parliament (MP) Md Musfiqur Rahman's wife Jabunnessa Rehman donated 25 sewing machines to them to start income generating activities in a public meeting here. Chaired by the MP, the meeting was addressed by Akhaura Upazila BNP Secretary N M Hasan Khan, businessman Kazi Istiak, Rumi, Monia Rahman, Muna Rahman, abul Mansur, Masudur Rahman, Selim and Sheikh Ashique Huiyuan Dula.

Hemp recovered: One arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

One person was arrested and 37.50-kilogram of hemp was recovered from different bordering areas here from February 2-19. The arrested is Md Ibrahim, son of Younus Mia of Nuapura village in Kasba upazila. Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) jawans of 7 Rifles Battalion led by Habilder Md Abu Talal and Habilder Md Tufazzal Hussain recovered the illegal narcotic at Kaikatchcha in Sarail upazila. They also recovered 522 bottles of Indian Phenisidyl, 205 bottles of wine and 7,000 intoxicant tablets. A case was filed.