

SNAPS

Strange fish on display

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A strange fish is on display at the depot of a fish trader in Bagarhat town. Curious onlookers are observing the fish on payment of Tk one per person. The fish trader is Sarwar Mia. He purchased the fish weighing over two maund on payment of Tk 2,000 on Thursday. The fish looks like a bat and was caught by angler Aji Roy of Rayenda upazila in Bagarhat district from the Bay of Bengal on Sunday.

Fugitive criminal arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Nabinagar Police on Thursday arrested a fugitive armed robber from Sherkuta Bazaar in Nabinagar upazila. The arrested bandit is Shukku Mia alias Shukku Dakku, 35, son of Abu Shama of Samontanagar village under Bidyakt union. According to police sources, Shukku Mia is a member of inter-district gang of dacoits. Several cases were lodged against him in different police stations. A police team headed by Sub-Inspector (SI) Akbar Ali raided Sherkuta Bazaar and arrested Shukku from a tea stall under a case filed at Nabinagar Police Station. He was sent to jail custody.

Girl killed in B'baria road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A schoolgirl was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck while she was crossing the Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Budhumil village in the Sadar upazila on Thursday. The victim is Tahmina Akter, 10, daughter of Abdus Sattar Ali. According to eye-witnesses and police sources, Tahmina was returning home from school in the afternoon. While she was crossing the highway, a speeding truck knocked her down and killed her. The autopsy of the body was done at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital. The truck driver and the helper fled the scene with their truck.



A housewife of Dainna village in Tangail Sadar upazila cooking food by bio-gas produced in her plant. Local people installed bio-gas plants on personal initiative and changed their lives rapidly.

Bio-gas changes life in 11 Tangail upazilas

Private gas plants set up by using cow dung and poultry bird excreta

JAHANGIR ALAM, back from Tangail

Bio-gas has changed life in rural areas of 11 upazilas in Tangail district. A few enthusiastic persons took an initiative to install bio-gas plants without government assistance. Bio-gas is being created by using cow dung and excrement of hen. Anyone having five cows or 1,000 hens can set up a bio-gas plant. He gets enough gas to cook for a 20-member family and required light for his home. The cost of a single plant is Tk 15,000 while that of a double plant is Tk 24,000. According to Fazlul Karim, Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), Tangail,

about 260 bio-gas plants were installed on personal initiative. Even many persons installed more than one plants for commercial purpose. Nazim Uddin of Dainna village in Tangail Sadar upazila told this correspondent he had installed a single bio-gas plant four years back. His wife Hajira Khatun uses the gas for cooking food for his ten-member family. He also gets enough light from it. Now he has four cows and three calves. Answer Ali of Deldaur upazila told The Daily Star, he has a single bio-gas plant. About 20 to 22 kilogram cow dung or excrement is required to run a single bio-gas plant, he disclosed. Food for a 20-member family can easily be cooked and the house can be enlightened by using its gas.

According to Amir Hossen of Sakhripur, he installed a single bio-gas plant initially. Afterwards, he set up two double bio-gas plants for commercial purpose. He plans to supply bio-gas to six houses. He has 10 cows, four calves and 3,000 hens in his farm. The DD of the DAE, Tangail told The Daily Star he earned profit by establishing a bio-gas plant. From the plant he gets both bio-gas and light. Usage of bio-gas is increasing day by day, he added. The government started a project for installing bio-gas plant through agriculture farm in Tangail in 1988. But after a year the project was stopped. Then enthusiastic people installed bio-gas plants by own efforts.

Transport owners clash at Khulna bus terminal: Police deployed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two platoons of police were deployed in and around Sonadanga Inter-district Bus Terminal on Friday. The police deployment followed a fierce clash between two rival factions of transport owners on Thursday. Four persons were severely injured during the clash. Injured persons belonging to the faction led by BNP leader Shahruzzaman Martuza are undergoing treatment at Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH). Two buses were totally damaged during the clash. According to police, the clash ensued when supporters of transport union leader Sirajul Islam strongly protested toll collection by BNP leader Martuza who is also president of Khulna Divisional Minibus Association.

NON-PAYMENT OF 18 MONTHS' SALARIES 140 B'baria pry school teachers in miseries

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Primary school teachers here formed a 21-member action committee to carry on struggle for payment of their salaries without further delay. About 140 primary school teachers formed the committee at a meeting held at Brahmanbaria Primary Training Institute (PTI). Assistant teacher MA Mumen presided over the meeting. They threatened to force close down the District and Upazila Education offices in near future if their 18 months' salaries and three Dearness Allowances (DA) are not paid. The teachers of primary schools under ADB/IDA project are not getting their salaries for the last 18 months. The government appointed 180

teachers in primary schools under ADB/IDA project in 2001 and 2003. The teachers who were appointed in 2001, were given salary for several months. But the teachers who were appointed in June, 2003 were not given any salary. Even they were deprived of DA. The teachers along with their family members are now passing hard days.

BCIC Tender Notice

The Managing Director, Bangladesh Insulator & Sanitaryware Factory Ltd., Bux Nagar, Mirpur, Dhaka invites sealed tender in one envelope system for supply of "20 MT Feldspar (Glaze), different sizes un-treated wooden box & 75 MT Ball Clay (Forming) Local" against Tender Enquiry No. BISF/PD-3. 14/13/233, BISF/PD-3. 18/04/234 & BISF/PD-3. 14/14/235 dated 28/12/2004. The tender documents will be available from (i) BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A., Dhaka, (ii) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad, C/A, Chittagong & (iii) BISF Ltd, at Tk. 25.00, Tk.50.00 & Tk. 25.00 per set respectively (non-refundable). Tender will be received up to 11-00 AM on 09/02/2005 at BISF and will be opened immediately thereafter. Under unavoidable circumstances if it is not possible to open in the tender in the specific date it will be opened on the next working day at same time & place. No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening of tender. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. BCIC In-charge General Manager (Com.) G-63 For Managing Director

20,000 cases pending with Satkhira courts At least 14 magistrates needed to conduct cases

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Over 20,000 cases await disposal due to shortage of judges and magistrates in courts. According to the court sources, at least 9,931 cases have been pending for trial in the judge's courts till December 31 last year. The number of civil cases is 8,314 while the number of criminal cases is 1,617. At least 14 magistrates are needed to conduct the pending cases. According to lawyers, an assistant judge is conducting the trial of cases in three assistant judge's courts. One additional judge is

conducting the trial of three other additional judge's courts. At least, 40 cases are being put up before the courts for trial daily. According to sources in Satkhira Deputy Commissioner (DC) office, at least 9,506 cases have been piled up in the courts of magistrates. About 4,020 cases are pending in the Cognignence courts and 4,713 cases in the trial courts. Besides, three cases are pending under the Speedy Trial Act, 700 cases pending under the Forest Act and 70 cases are pending under Drug Control Act for a long time. Only one first class magistrate out of eight first class magistrates, conduct the cases. Only three second class magistrates are conducting the cases. On an average, at least, 400 cases were put up before the courts for trial everyday in 11 magistrates' courts. According to senior lawyers, trial of civil cases filed in 1980 have been pending in the courts. Litigants told this correspondent, they come to the court on the day fixed for trial but they go back disappointed as the trial of the cases did not take place due to shortage of judges.

Locker introduced for tourists at Kuakata

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Locker has been introduced for visiting tourists at Kuakata sea-beach in Kalapara upazila. Tourists can keep their valuables safely in the locker. Police Nari Kalayan Samity, an association of policemen's wives introduced the system. A tourist named Masum Khan told The Daily Star, 'It is a great opportunity for us as we can keep our valuables safely when we go to the sea for swimming.'

A tourist can keep their valuables and money in the locker by paying Tk 10 only. About 30 tourists can keep their valuables at a time here. A tourist named Masum Khan told The Daily Star, 'It is a great opportunity for us as we can keep our valuables safely when we go to the sea for swimming.'



Tourists can keep their valuables at safe lockers at Kuakata sea beach. Police Nari Kalayan Samity, an association of policemen's wives introduced the new locker system recently.

Vow to resist move to change names of 2 Moulvibazar villages

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A move to merge two villages in the Sadar upazila by changing their names has triggered commotion among the villagers. The villages are Mustafapur and Pagulia. The villagers have formed two separate action committees to resist the moves. The committees are named as Mustafapur Tradition Protection Committee and Resistance Committee to Change Name of Pagulia Village. The formation of the committees were announced at joint press conference held at Moulvibazar Pourashava auditorium on Tuesday. Saiful Haque Chowdhury and Nurul Huda Quraishi, two conveners of the action committees and Syed Kamal Ahmed Babu Labour Affairs Secretary of Moulvibazar district BNP addressed the press conference. Over 100 people of Mustafapur and Pagulia villages attended the press conference. Leaders of the action committees disclosed that the upazila administration has taken the move to change the names of Mustafapur and Pagulia villages, according to an application submitted by Syed Sawkat Ali and 87 of his associates. They proposed Islamabagh as new name of the villages. They condemned the move and blamed the UNO of Moulvibazar Sadar upazila for it. More than hundreds of years back the names of Mustafapur village was kept after the name of Hajrat Syed Shah Mustafa Bagdadi (RA) one of the 360 Awlias of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) of Sylhet. They said the name of Pagulia village was renamed after the name of Pagol Awlia Hazrat Shah Jamal (RA) who lived in the village. So villagers irrespective of religious faith love the name of two villages. They will resist any such unholy move, they declared.

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Advertisement for Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST). Includes details about the university, its location, and contact information.

Advertisement for the District Council, Sylhet, regarding the renovation of the Shikhar Park-Kam-Chidra Khana. Includes details about the project and contact information.

Advertisement for the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Education Engineering Directorate, Ministry of Education, Bogra Zone, Bogra. Includes details about a tender notice for the development of selected madrasas.