

Scenic Durgapur isolated for want of a bridge

JAHANGIR ALAM, Netrakona
Durgapur, a scenic tourist spot in Netrakona district, is virtually isolated from rest of the country as construction of a bridge that started 14 years ago is yet to be complete while another bridge damaged by flood two years ago awaits repair.

Rich in mineral resources, Durgapur has the country's biggest china clay mine at Bijoypur and a ceramic factory based on the clay has been set up in the upazila.
At least 40 tonnes of coal are collected every day from Someshwary River and supplied to other districts.
Mostly indigenous people

live in Durgapur, a bordering upazila comprising the Garo hills.
Birishiri Tribal Cultural Academy, the lone institution for development and research on tribal cultural activities in greater Mymensingh area, has been set up in Durgapur.
Durgapur is also the birthplace of great communist

leader Moni Singh and famous Tanka movement was launched from there.
A good amount of fruits like banana and pineapple is supplied from Durgapur but traders from other districts have to make a tedious journey and face hurdles to reach the producers.
Durgapur upazila headquarters is only 45 kilometres from Netrakona district town.

To ease communication on Netrakona-Durgapur road, the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) started construction of Suknakuri bridge in 1995 with an estimated cost of Tk 7.50 crore but the work stopped after completion of about 60 per cent work due to fund crisis, said Netrakona RHD officials.
"Durgapur has great potentials for development and can make enormous contributions to the national economy. It is rich in minerals. Besides, the area can be developed into an attractive tourist spot. But everything depends on good communication system, which is lacking," said Md Julfikar Islam, executive engineer of local RHD.

Asked about reconstruction of Janzail bridge, he said a project proposal has been submitted to the higher authorities but the fund is yet to be sanctioned.
Local people have urged the authorities concerned to take necessary action for making the two bridges operational.



A fertiliser-laden vessel headed for Baghabari Ghat gets stuck in a shoal on the Jamuna at Nakalia in Pabna district yesterday as the flow has drastically fallen during the ongoing dry season.



Fourteen years after start of construction, incomplete Shuknakuri bridge on Netrakona-Durgapur road in Durgapur upazila remains a farce for the local people who have to make tedious journey for going to other areas.

Student nurses agitate again for 6-pt demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh
Students of Mymensingh Nursing College yesterday boycotted classes and brought out a procession on the campus to press their six-point demand.

Their demands include permission for college student's union, hostel facility for male students, upgrading the standard of nursing education and giving clear conception about B.Sc nursing curriculum to the students.

They stressed the need for practical classes on the subjects like physiology, anatomy, micro-biology, pharmacology, health assessment and community health.
They also gave a 24-hour ultimatum to meet their demands. Otherwise, they threatened to go for hunger strike from January 17.

Headmaster murdered in Shariatpur

Schoolboy strangled in Pabna
UNB, Shariatpur

Criminals murdered headmaster of a high school and injured three others at Santospur Bazaar in Sadar upazila on Friday night.

Victim Abdus Samad Azad, 47, was headmaster of Chikandi Safar Ali High School of the upazila.
Police said, an armed gang shot Azad indiscriminately while he was gossiping with some locals at the bazaar. When he fell down, the assailants stabbed him indiscriminately leaving him dead on the spot.
The injured were rushed to Sadar hospital. On information, police recovered the body and sent it to morgue for autopsy.

Rabiul Alam, OC of Palang police station, said, Samad might have been killed as a sequel to previous enmity.
In Pabna, criminals strangled a schoolboy at Kamar Dulia Purbapara village in Sujanagar upazila on Thursday.

Victim Hasibul Amin was a class-III student of Kamar Dulia Government Primary School and son of Ruhul Amin of the village.
Police said Ruhul went out of his house along with Hasibul at about 5:00pm and after sundown he sent him back home with a torch.
But on returning home Ruhul found his son missing. Later he found the body of Hasibul near a haystack adjacent to his house at about 9:00pm.



Students of Mymensingh Nursing College bring out a procession on the campus yesterday to press for their six-point demand including reformation of the curriculum in conformity with the development of medical science.

FRIDAY'S CLASHES BL College Shibir activists freed

25 Meherpur Govt College Shibir men sent to jail

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Police yesterday released eight Shibir activists arrested in connection with Friday's violence on Daulatpur Government BL College campus while a Meherpur court the same day sent to jail 25 Shibir men who were arrested after clashes at Meherpur Government College on Friday.

Principal Dr Ahmed Reza said, "An uneasy calm is prevailing on the campus as neither of the two parties is happy with the decision to ban political activities here for indefinite period. I have introduced the system of showing students' identity card to check entrance of outsiders."

Police on Friday night took eight Shibir activists into custody for questioning in connection with their violent clashes with activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League that left 50 people injured on BL College campus the same day, reports our staff correspondent from Khulna.

Expressing his commitment not to allow politics on the campus, he said a committee will be formed to probe the cause of violence and identify those who supplied lethal weapons from outside during the clash on Friday.

The Shibir men, were, however, released at 9:00am yesterday from Daulatpur Police Station on condition of appearing there whenever asked for, said Anis Ahmed, assistant police commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP).

Our Kushtia correspondent reports: Twenty-five leaders and activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir, arrested on Friday after a clash with Chhatra League at Meherpur Government College, were sent to jail as police produced them before the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court at Meherpur yesterday.

The eight Shibir activists are Sheikh Sohel, Mohammad Aslam, Abu Hasan, Shariful Islam, Masum Billah, Ziarul Islam, Riaz Mahmud and Kamal Hossain.
With fatal head injuries, Shibir activists Touhid and Ashrafal are now undergoing treatment at Khulna Medical College Hospital.
When contacted, BL College

Police prayed for seven-day remand of seven of the Shibir men and the court fixed Sunday for hearing on the prayer.
The arrested Shibir men include its Meherpur district unit president Iqbal Hossain, general secretary Sohel Rana Dollar and former secretary of town unit Shamsur Rahman Tutul.
Police filed a case against the Shibir men under Special Powers Act.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Tiger kills one in Sundarbans

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira
A tiger yesterday killed a man in Dingimari area in the Sundarbans. Victim Ruhul Amin Sardar, 50, was son of Khokon Sardar of village Uttar Atulia in Shyamnagar upazila. According to forest officials, Ruhul Amin and four others went to the Sundarbans to collect 'gol pata' (tree leaves) taking pass from the Burigoalini forest station on January 7. A tiger attacked Ruhul while collecting leaves and dragged him into the deep forest yesterday morning. Forest guards and locals recovered the body in the afternoon, they said.

Prisoner dies in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj
A prisoner died of cardiac arrest in district jail here early Friday. Convict Abdur Razzaque, 57, son of Omed Ali, hailed from Barapur village in Belkuchi upazila. He was jailed for life in a murder case recently. Police said, Razzaque suddenly fell sick after he felt acute chest pain at midnight and died at hospital after a few minutes. Sirajganj Sadar Hospital later completed his post mortem. A UD case was filed.



Prothom Alo Bandhusava forms a human chain in front of Gopalganj deputy commissioner's office yesterday demanding arrest and punishment of Ashish Biswas, accused in a case for throwing acid on two cousins on January 6.

Smuggled fertiliser seized

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni
Police recovered one tonne smuggled MOP fertiliser from a truck on Friday night and arrested one person in connection with the incident. Police said, acting on a tip-off that smuggled goods were being unloaded from a truck at Lalpur on Dhaka-Chittagong highway, police rushed to the spot and recovered the fertiliser from a warehouse owned by one Lutfor Rahman. Feni police station sub-inspector (SI) Md Ismail said, a case was filed while Lutfor was still being interrogated.

10 hurt as students clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur
At least 10 students were injured in a clash between the activists of Awami League backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) backed Jasod Chhatra League at Rangpur Government College Campus yesterday. The clash ensued at about 11:00 am following an altercation over hanging a banner. Sources said, JSD backed Chhatra League claimed AL backed BCL used to hang its banners at the college removing the banners of other parties. Yesterday's clash took place after the JSD-backed students protested the matter, they said.

Smuggled coal seized

UNB, Sunamganj
Members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized 47 metric tonnes of smuggled coal from Lalghat Haorerpar and Guchchhagram in Tahirpur upazila on Thursday night. Acting on a tip-off, a BDR team of Baliaghat outpost under 8 Rifles Battalion conducted separate drives and seized the coal worth about Tk 3 lakh. However, none was arrested in this connection as the smugglers fled the scene sensing presence of the border guards. The seized coal was deposited to local customs office. A case was filed.

Human chain in Meherpur

A CORRESPONDENT, Meherpur
Journalists of Meherpur yesterday formed a human chain in front of the press club in protest against Friday's attack on the journalists by BCL activists in Meherpur Government College area. They demanded punishment to those who beat up and injured Prothom Alo correspondent Tuhin Aronya, RTV correspondent Polish Khandoker and Desh Tothya staff reporter Mizanur Rahman. Ex-BNP lawmaker Masud Arun and district Jamaat Ameer Haji Samiruddin expressed their solidarity with the journalists.

Munshiganj honours three of her noble sons

A CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

tion, are Dr Dinesh Chandra Mondol, retired teacher of a secondary school Fazlur Rahman and retired teacher of a primary school Motiur Rahman. Besides, mothers of three meritorious students were also given citations.

Noted physician Dinesh Chandra Mondol, who was a student of the two teachers, said: "I feel proud as I have been honoured along with my teachers.
Marjana Islam who got scholarship at primary level said she felt very happy to take citation from such noble personalities.
Nuh-e-Alam Lenin described Bangalees contributions outside the country. He said Atish Dipankar, who was a son of Bikrampur, contributed a lot toward

progress of world civilisation. Many other noted personalities have also contributed in different fields at home and abroad. He said Agrasor Bikrampur is working with an aim of bringing out more such personalities from the soil of Bikrampur.
Laila Hasan said, "We have to protect our culture." She said due to aggression by the satellite culture nurturing of the country's 1000-year-old glorious culture is being hampered. "We must project true history of the county's Liberation War to our new generation," Laila Hasan said.
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Noted cultural personality Laila Hasan hands over a crest to a scholarship-achiever student as Agrasor Bikrampur arranged a programme to accord reception to three noted personalities and 164 meritorious students at Munshiganj Shilpakala Academy auditorium yesterday.