

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Four bombs recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushia*

Police recovered four bombs in Kalukha upazila of Rajbari district yesterday. Local people found a polythene bag containing the bombs on railway track in Arpara area at noon. Being informed, a police team led by Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Pangsha Police Station Mofazzal Hossain went to the spot and recovered the bombs at around 12:30pm. Police, however, dismissed the possibility of subversive activity. "We think that criminal left the bombs on the track to create panic," OC said. Police has launched a drive to nab the criminals involved in the incident. Earlier Goalando police recovered two bombs from railway track on March 6.

Trucker, helper killed in storm

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Manikganj*

A truck driver and his helper were killed when a big branch of a tree fell on the Aricha-bound cargo laden truck on Dhaka-Aricha highway during storm Saturday evening. The identity of the dead could not be known. Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Shibalaya Police Station Meer Razaul Karim said the incident occurred at around 6:30pm at Mohadevpur area under the upazila. Traffic on highway remained halted for half an hour from 6:30pm.



PHOTO: STAR

The officer in charge of Singra police station hands over two valuable statues, earlier rescued from separate areas of Singra upazila, to Rajshahi Regional Director of the Department of Archaeology Badrul Alam for preservation at Mahasthangarh Museum yesterday.

Boy drowns in pond

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kishoreganj*

A five-year-old boy drowned in a pond in Itna upazila of the district yesterday. The dead is Nirjon Chandra Das, 5, son of Nirmal Chandra Das of Paschimgram Dashati village. Family sources said Nirjon went missing since 9:00am yesterday. After a hectic search, family members found his body floating on a pond near their house at 11:30am.

Drug peddler jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *C'navabganj*

A mobile court on Saturday sentenced a drug peddler to one year's imprisonment in Nayagola area under Chapainawabganj municipality. The convict is Mohammad Kainat Ali, 35, son of Mohammad Rupchand of Ramkrishnapur area of Chapainawabganj town. Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) conducted a drive in Nayagola area at around 11:30pm caught Kainat with drugs. Later, the mobile court led by Sadar Upazila Nirbahi (UNO) Officer Monirul Islam Patwary handed down the verdict.

Man electrocuted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Faridpur*

A man was electrocuted at Ukilpara in the town on Saturday morning. The deceased was identified as Dulal, 38, of Mollabari Sarak in the town. Locals said Gazi came in contact with a live electric wire while he was climbing a tree and died instantly. On information, fire Brigade personnel went to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to hospital for autopsy.

Rapist gets life

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*

A Thakurgaon court sentenced a man to life imprisonment in a rape case on Wednesday afternoon. The convict is Abdul Razzak, 35, of Mohishmari village under Baliadangi upazila of the district. Judge Mokhlesur Rahaman of Women and Children Repression Prevention Court delivered the verdict in a crowded courtroom in presence of the accused. The court also fined the convict Tk30,000, in default, he is suffer another six months in jail. According to the prosecution, Razzak raped wife of Nur Islam of Mohishmari village under the same upazila when she came out of her room to respond to the call of nature on the night of February 28 in 2005. Nur Islam was found lying with injuries beside their house. He filed a rape case with Baliadangi Police Station accusing Abdur Razzak. Police arrested Razzak. After investigation, police submitted a charge sheet against him.

Expat stabbed to death

UNB, *Satkhira*

A Bangladesh expatriate in Malaysia was stabbed to death by his friend following an altercation over repayment of borrowed money at Doluipur village in Kolaroa upazila on Saturday. The deceased was identified as Abdul Mannan, 38, son of late Enayet Ali of Bhorotpur village in Keshabpur upazila of Jessore district. Sources said Asadul Islam of Doluipur village in Kolaroa upazila and Mannan returned home from Malaysia four days ago. Police said Asadul borrowed Tk 50,000 from Mannan two years ago. On Saturday, Mannan came to Asadul's house and asked him to repay the money. After an altercation, Asadul refused to return the money and at one stage he stabbed Mannan indiscriminately, leaving him dead on the spot. On information, police rushed to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Satkhira Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Asadul had gone into hiding soon after the incident.

STEAMER PARTLY SINKS

500 passengers escape unhurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Chandpur*

Around 500 passengers of BIWTC steamer MV Sela narrowly escaped a major disaster after front part of the steamer sank in the Dakatia River at Chandpur terminal following cracks on the bottom Saturday night.

MV Sela started its journey towards Barisal from Dhaka at around 6:30pm and reached Chandpur port at around 11:30pm, sources said.

As the steamer tried to make its way to the anchor at the terminal, it hit already anchored steamer MV Masud and cracks developed on the bottom of the deck of MV Sela.

Seeing water entering the steamer, the passengers jumped into the river, nearby boats and anchored steamer MV Masud and reached the terminal and shore safely.

There was nor reports of casualties or missing as of filing this report yesterday.

The accident left a good number of Barisal bound passengers of the MV Sela into trouble as they had to wait at the river port amid sufferings for food and rest.

When asked, the authorities of MV Sela told this correspondent that they would arrange the passengers' boarding into another steamer by the late night of yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Passengers of Barisal-bound steamer MV Sela, which faced an accident at Chandpur terminal on Saturday night, head for their destination on own initiative to avoid the tiresome and indefinite wait for the next steamer.

Save Kalasona Char from Jamuna erosion

Demand locals in human chain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gaibandha*

Cross sections of people including students of Kalasona Char in Fulchhari upazila of Gaibandha district yesterday formed a human chain along the bank of Jamuna River, demanding steps to save their farmland and dwellings from devastating erosion.

Kalasona Protection Committee that organised the programme also held a press conference at the local primary school ground on Friday.

Last year erosion by the Jamuna devoured 350 hectares of cultivable land and a good number of dwelling huts, rendering 300 hundred families shelter less, the convener of committee Nazrul Islam Khan said, reading out a paper at the press conference.

Farmers of remote Kalasona Char along Jamuna basin under Fulchhari upazila have recently changed their livelihood by producing a variety of crops including boro,

chilli, kawn, cheena, garlic, ginger, pumpkin and onion, following initiative by donor agency Practical Action, he said.

But the growers face problem to sell their produces to outside areas as a ferry channel touching Kalasona is now on the verge of drying up.

Railway wagon ferry

transshipment between Balashi and Bahadurabad ghats remains suspended for a few months in the year as Kalasona ferry channel loses navigability during the dry season, speakers said at the conference.

The floating depot of diesel oil and kerosene at Balashi ghat becomes also face problem as oil tanker

cannot reach through Kalasona point, they said.

The speakers urged dumping concrete blocks and erecting groyne in the up stream to save Kalasona from devastating erosion and dredging of the ferry route connecting Kalasona Char for smooth plying of oil tankers and cargo and passenger carrying boats.



PHOTO: STAR

Locals including a good number of students form a human chain on the bank of the Jamuna River at Kalasona Char in Fulchhari upazila of Gaibandha district yesterday demanding steps to protect the area, now famous for vegetable cultivation, from erosion by the River.

UP POLLS IN SATKHIRA DISTRICT

268 out of 714 centres 'risky'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Satkhira*

Law enforcers have identified 268 out of 714 polling centres in 78 unions under seven upazilas of Satkhira district as vulnerable to violence.

District security branch (DSB) of police has already sent a list of the risky centres to the higher authorities concerned.

Sources in the district election office said 30 unions under Sadar, Assasuni and Debhata upazilas will go to polls on March 29, 24 unions in Shyamnagar and Kaliganj upazilas on March 31 while the remaining 24 unions in Tala and Kalaroa upazilas on April 3.

The number of voters in 78 unions now stands at 11, 96,761, sources added.

Contacted, Satkhira police Superintendent (SP) Habibur Rahman Khan said law enforcers will be deployed in all polling centres to maintain law and order during voting.

Striking police force will also remain in the seven upazila during election, he added.

Meanwhile, at least 25 people were injured in clashes over election campaign in Sadar and Chitalmari upazilas of Bagerhat district on Friday and Saturday.

Police said the supporters of mem-

ber candidates Mostafizur Rahman and Rezaul Karim clashed at Tetultola in Bishnupur union on Saturday, leaving ten people from both sides injured.

Of the injured, Sahidul Islam, 58, Mobassher Hossain, 60, Molla Motahar Hossain, 55, Asaduzzaman, 24, Molla Ariful Islam, 25, Shahinur Rahman, 30 and Tajul Islam, 30 of Bishnupur village were admitted to Bagerhat Sadar Hospital, reports UNB.

In Chitalmari upazila, supporters of chairman candidates Ohiduzzaman Panna and Mamtaz Ali Khasru for Barobaria Union Parishad locked in a clash during electioneering in Dalubunia village on Friday night.

PANCHHARI MUTINY CASE

16 more witnesses give deposition before special court

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Khagrachhari*

The special court-15 yesterday recorded depositions of 16 more prosecution witnesses (PWs) in the case for mutiny at 30 Battalion in Panchhari under Khagrachhari district.

The court headed by Khagrachhari BGB Sector Commander Col Abu Wahab Mohammad Hafizul Haque started recording statements of the prosecution witnesses at 9:30am and continued until 2:30pm.

Two others member of the court are Lt Col Sayed Sakline and Major AZM Golam Mostafa AL Mamun. All the 71 accused in the case were produced before the

court.

A total of 47 PWs gave their statements before the court until yesterday. After recording depositions of the witnesses yesterday, the court adjourned trial proceedings until 9:00am today.

Of the 71 accused, two confessed to their involvement in the mutiny at the battalion on February 26 in 2009 and begged for mercy while the rest claimed innocence.

The court asked the authorities concerned to produce the rest of PWs in the court today for recording their statements.

Deputy Attorney General Farhad Ahmad and Prosecutor Lt Col Md Zakir Hossain were present.

A different day for school kids

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Around 1000 children from eight primary schools in the port city spent a happy time, enjoying and performing at a daylong festival yesterday.

Fulki, a well-known educational institution in the city, in association with Manusher Jonno Foundation, organised the programme styled 'Integrated educationalcultural programme' at Muslim Hall in the city.

At the beginning, a colourful procession of the children marched through several important roads of the city.

The festival started with a sarigaan (traditional song) named Bratachari.

The second session of the festival started with the national anthem. A short discussion session followed.

"Such festivals are needed to make the children's life enjoyable. Only passing examinations and achieving degrees should not be the only

aim of the learners. They should participate in extra-curricular activities," said poet and journalist Abul Momen who inaugurated the programme as the chief guest.

"Kids are as sacred as flowers. Guardians should nurse them properly so that sins and misdeeds cannot touch them," he said.

Dipali Pradhan Dhar, headmistress of National Primary School, Zahirul Islam, principal of JM Sen School and College, Naznin Akter Haque, teacher of Collegiate School, Nasir Uddin Ahmed, headmaster of Bank Colony School, and Anchal Chowdhury, assistant headmaster of Chittagong Girls' High School, also spoke on the occasion.

Artistes from Educational Puppet Development Centre, Bodhon, Khelaghar, Prama, Sonartari, Shishu Academy, Fame and Kids Cultural Institute performed at the programme.

JCD procession at RU foiled

RU CORRESPONDENT

At least nine people were injured as police attacked a procession of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on Rajshahi University (RU) campus yesterday.

JCD leaders and activists brought out a procession on the campus at around 12:30pm demanding punishment to the BCL cadres, who stabbed JCD activist Ahasanuzzaman alias Olin, on February 8.

Police intercepted the procession in front of the university Senate Building and asked the JCD men not to proceed. As the JCD men tried to break the police barricade, they (police) went into action, leaving at least nine leaders and activists, including JCD RU unit convener Arafat Reza Ashiq, injured.

Eight other injured are Ikramul Haque Hira, Salauddin Rana, Kamrul Hasan,

Tanmoy Fahim Ahmed, Raihan Sarker, Imtiaz Ahmed, Saiful Islam and Hasem Ali. They were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital (RMCH).

Later, the JCD men gathered in front of the university main gate and staged demonstration blocking Rajshahi-Dhaka highway. Police chased them from there. Vehicular movement on the highway remained halted for half an hour.

RU Proctor Prof Chowdhury Muhammad Zakaria told this correspondent that the JCD men held procession defying restrictions on activities of students bodies on the campus.

Officer-in-Charge of Motihar Police Station Rabiul Islam said they intercepted the JCD procession as they (JCD) were holding procession on the campus defying restrictions on activities of the students organisations.



PHOTO: STAR

Police goes into action when activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal bring out a procession in front of the administrative building of Rajshahi University yesterday, causing injuries to nine people including RU unit JCD convener Arafat Reza Ashiq.