

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS

Train derails

A CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Train communication on Jamalpur-Mymensingh route yesterday remained suspended for four hours following a train derailment near Nurundi Railway Station. Jamalpur Railway Station sources said a boggy of a Chittagong-bound goods train from Jagannathganj Ghat Railway Station went off the tracks near the station at around 9:00 am. Following the accident, train service on the route came to a halt. The train communication on the route resumed at about 1:00pm after a relief train from Mymensing cleared the line.

Youth's body recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Police recovered the beheaded body of a young man from Belkuchi Telephone Exchange Complex in Belkuchi upazila on Friday night. The victim, Jewel, 25, was son of Khalilur Rahman of Sifatnagar village in Jhalakathi. Being informed, police went to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Sirajganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy. Mostafizur Rahman, officer in-charge of Belkuchi Police Station, said they are trying to unearth clues to the murder.

Clash over land, 15 hurt

UNB, Magura

At least 15 people were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers over a land dispute at Alokdia village in Shalikha upazila on Friday morning. Of the injured, Sunil, 50, Goutam, 22, Subir, 17, Parimol, 40, and Swaraswati, 35, were admitted to a local hospital in a critical condition. Shalikha police said an altercation erupted between one Sukumar and Schin Kumar of the village over the matter. Later, both the groups equipped with lethal weapons attacked each other, leaving at least 15 from both sides injured.

Housewife stabbed to death

UNB, Jessore

A housewife was stabbed to death at Enta village in Jhikargachha upazila early yesterday. The deceased was identified as Khaleda Khatun, 45, wife of Hazrat Ali. Police said a gang of 4/5 entered Khaleda's house at dead of night and stabbed her. She died instantly. On information, police recovered the body from the spot and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy. Jhikargachha police said Khaleda's son abducted a girl of the adjacent village two weeks ago and later she was allowed to return to her house. The woman might have been killed as a sequel to the incident, police added.

13 tonnes garlic seized

UNB, Satkhira

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) recovered 13 tonnes of garlic worth about Tk seven lakh from Sundarbans early Friday. However, no one was arrested. BGB Commander Major Hasib said on secret information, they raided the area and seized garlic while it was being smuggled to India by a gang of criminals.

2 held with stolen timber

UNB, Sylhet

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested two along with 131.45 cft stolen Segun timber worth about Tk 2.5 lakh from Bangabir Road in Dakkhin Surma upazila early Friday. The arrestees are Jamal Uddin, 40, son of Sheikh Saru Mia of Kasusuna village, and Jewel, 38, son of late Gani Mia of Ajgai village of the upazila. Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-9 conducted a drive in the area and arrested the duo along with the timber.

Drug peddlers, gamblers jailed

UNB, Bogra

A mobile court in Sherpur upazila sentenced two drug peddlers to six months imprisonment each and two gamblers to 30 days each on Friday morning. The drug peddlers are Aynal Haque, 24, son of late Hames Ali of Sherua village and Abu Zafar, 40, son of Anwar Hossain of Krishnapur village. The gamblers are Lal Mia, 25, son of Altaf Ali of Shibpur village and Rubel, 45, son of late Dabir Uddin of Parbhapanipur village in the upazila. Police said they arrested Aynal and Zafar early in the morning while they were selling heroin. Later, the duo were produced before the court led by Upazila Executive Magistrate Manjur Alam who penalised them. Gamblers Lal Mia and Rubel were arrested from Khamakandi village in the upazila and punished by the same court.

Sec 144 in Karimganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Local administration yesterday imposed Section 144 at Karimganj upazila headquarters as two factions of Awami League upazila unit called separate meetings at the same venue and time. Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Md Golam Kabir imposed restrictions on rallies and procession at the upazila headquarters from 3:00pm to 10:00pm, apprehending a clash between the two groups. Two rival groups--one led by Nasirul Islam Awlad, convener of Karimganj upazila AL, and the other by Abdul Qaium, Karimganj municipality mayor--called separate meetings in Nazakandi More (intersection) at 3:00pm, Local AL sources said.



PHOTO: STAR

A child receives vitamin A and polio vaccine in Dinajpur town as 20th National Vaccination Day was observed across the country yesterday.



Awami League-led grand alliance brings out processions in Dinajpur town, Barisal city and Rajshahi city during yesterday's countrywide programmes demanding speedy trial of war criminals and immediate arrest of the perpetrators who are still at large.



PHOTO: STAR

Speed up trial of war criminals, arrest those still at large

Demand rallies, processions across the country

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Awami League (AL) led 14-party alliance and their associate bodies organised processions and rallies in different districts across the country yesterday demanding speeding up the process of war criminals' trial.

The participants of a rally in Barisal city stressed speedy trial and punishment of war criminals and immediate arrest of those who are still at large, reports our correspondent from Barisal.

District and city units of AL-led 14-party alliance and their associate bodies organised the programme led by Barisal City Corporation Mayor and city AL convener Shawkat Hossain Hiron.

Among others, AL lawmakers Talukdar Md Yunus, Monirul Islam Moni, Manabendra Batobayal, KBS Ahmed Kabir, Mohiuddin Manik Bir Protik, addressed the rally on the premises of Central

Shaheed Minar in the city.

Speakers at the programme urged making the common people aware about the happenings during the Liberation War through socio-cultural-political activities to keep the nation free from extremism and militancy.

They demanded ensuring the war criminals' due punishment to uphold humanity, establish rule of law and safeguard the country's independence as well as culture and heritage.

They also criticised BNP-led alliance of a few opposition parties for their alleged role in creating obstacle in the way to the trial of war criminals.

The Awami League led 14-party alliance and district unit of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad brought out a procession in Rangpur town demanding trial of the perpetrators of war crimes committed during the 1971 Liberation War, reports our corre-

spondent.

The procession began at 12:15pm from Rangpur Central Shaheed Minar and paraded the main roads in the town.

Lawmaker Tipu Munshi, former lawmaker Shah Abdur Razzak, and Rangpur district commander of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad Mosaddek Hossain Bablu took part in the procession, among others.

Earlier a discussion was held on Rangpur Shahid Minar premises. Abul Monsur Ahmed, president of Rangpur district Awami League, presided over the meeting.

"The war criminals are still hatching conspiracies and committing crimes. We have gathered here to demand speeding up their trial," Rezaul Karim Razu, general secretary of Rangpur district unit of AL, said at the discussion.

Leaders and activists of local AL and its associate bodies as well as thousands of people from cross section of the society joined a

procession in Narail town yesterday demanding speedy trial of war criminals, reports our correspondent.

Later a meeting was held in Ruppang bus stand area of the town. Brig Gen (rtd) SK Abu Baker, lawmaker from Narail-2, attended the meeting as chief guest while district AL President Subash Bose presided.

The speakers urged the government for speedy trial for the criminals who were involved in massacre and other inhuman activities during the Liberation War.

Our Mymensingh Correspondent reports: Veteran freedom fighter principal Motiur Rahman MP, also president of district unit of Awami League, led a huge procession in the town yesterday afternoon while people from all walks of life joined it demanding early trial of the war criminals.

Among others, lawmaker

Muslem Uddin and Abdul Matin Sarker, district unit AL secretary, attended the programme.

Earlier at a rally, the speakers urged the government to expedite the war crime trial process to complete it during the present government's tenure.

Our Manikganj Correspondent adds: Leaders and workers of the 14-party grand alliance brought out a procession and held a rally in the town demanding increasing the number of tribunals for speeding up the trial of the war criminals.

Local lawmakers Zahid Maleque Swapan and ABM Anwarul Haque and Manikganj district AL President Golam Mohiuddin attended, among others.

The Awami League-led grand alliance held similar programmes in other districts across the country.

Trader, child rescued, 4 abductors held in two districts

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Law enforcers rescued a trader and a child and arrested four abductors in Netrakona and Rajshahi on Friday.

Our Netrakona Correspondent reports: Detective Branch (DB) of police here rescued a trader and arrested four abductors from Khorchowki-Daspara village in Durgapur upazila early Friday.

The arrestees are Julhash Mia of Khorchowki-Daspara village and Dulal Mia of Bosonkona in Durgapur upazila, Abul Kalam of Putika village in Purbadhola upazila and Nilu Mia of Bora-Kathuri village in Sadar upazila.

Police said, Nazrul Islam, a trader of Gangchur village in Comilla Sadar upazila, came to Netrakona district for a business purpose on January 3. On the same day, he was abducted for Tk 7 lakh ransom.

On a tip-off, DB police conducted raids at Khorchowki-Daspara village in Durgapur upazila early in the morning and rescued Nazrul Islam and arrested the abductors.

Our Staff Correspondent from Rajshahi reported that police rescued a abducted child from the bank of the Padma River near Bosepara police outpost early Friday.

The child, Hamim Abra Farshid, 6, is the son of a Dhaka-based businessman Ashfaqul Alam.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided Panchabati area and rescued Hamim from the bank of the Padma River at about 4:00am. Kidnappers left the child on the river bank and fled away.

Kidnappers abducted Farshid from Yangking Community Centre where he was playing with other children on the day.

Coal import from Meghalaya resumes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Import of coal in the Indian state of Meghalaya through Tamabil land customs station resumed on Thursday after its suspension for two weeks.

The decision was taken after a fruitful meeting held between local coal importers and Indian exporters. Import of coal stopped after sudden rise of its price by Indian exporters in the last week of December without prior notice. Indians raised the price of coal from 50 dollars to 60 dollars per ton. Bangladeshi importers could not accept the sudden

price hike by the Indians. However, three trucks entered Tamabil border check post after the meeting held in the afternoon with the Indian team near zero line, Emdad Hossain, president of Coal Importers Group, Sylhet, told this correspondent.

President of the Foreign Trade Chamber of Meghalaya, Than Kongla, led the 15-member Indian team while Emdad led the 12-member team of Coal Importers Group, Sylhet.

About 100 trucks remained stranded on the Indian side for days together during the stalemate.



PHOTO: STAR

Former chief adviser to the caretaker government Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman inaugurates the second phase of archaeological excavation at Raghurampur in Rampal union of Munshiganj Sadar upazila yesterday. Archaeology department of Jahangirnagar University is conducting the work with financial assistance from the cultural ministry.

8 fishermen abducted from Sundarbans

Fishing nets, fish and crabs worth Tk one lakh looted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Robbers kidnapped eight fishermen for ransom from Harmal Canal in the eastern part of the Sundarbans under Sharankhola upazila of Bagerhat district on Friday.

Four of them were identified as Khairul Islam, Abdur Rahim, Sarwar Hossain and Shafiqul Islam. They all hail from Rajapur village under Sharankhola upazila. Identity of the rest four could not be known as of 5:00pm yesterday

Golam Rabbani, deputy ranger of the Sundarbans Forest Division, said a gang of robbers belonging to infamous Shohag 'Bahini' picked up the fishermen at gunpoint while they were fishing in the canal at noon.

The gang looted valuables, including fishing nets, fish and crabs worth about Tk one lakh, from the fishermen and demanded a ransom of Tk 50,000 for each of the fishermen, he added.

The deputy ranger further said the kidnappers

threatened to kill all the eight fishermen in case of their failure to pay ransom by Wednesday.

Contacted Divisional Forest Officer (DFO east) Mihir Kumar yesterday said coastguards were informed of the incident on Friday evening.

Lt M Hasanuzzaman, staff officer (operation) of coastguards Mongla west zone, said they have launched drives in the coastal areas to rescue the fishermen and arrest the robbers, according to UNB.

Father kills daughter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A man yesterday strangled his seven-year-old daughter following a quarrel with his wife at his Thanapara house in the town.

Victim Tanjida Haq was a kindergarten student.

Tanjida's mother Sabina binte Afaz said that she had a quarrel with her husband Ahkamul Haque, a programme officer of a local NGO, 'Palok' in the morning.

At one stage, Sabina left the room. Then Ahkamul shut the door from inside and strangled his daughter at about 10:30am.

On information, police sent the body to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy.

Contacted, executive director of 'Palok', Nargis Chowdhury, said she noticed abnormality in Ahkamul's behaviour recently. So, he was not giving him any important task.

Contacted, Kushtia Sadar police station officer in-charge Kazi Jalal Uddin said Ahkamul was arrested just after the incident. He was kept at the police station till filing of this report at about 12:15pm.

Muggers kill driver, take away car

UNB, Rajbari

A gang of muggers took away a private car after killing its driver at Durgapur in Pangsha upazila at midnight on Friday.

The deceased was identified as Rashedul, 30, son of Abdul Hakim of Bhabankatha village in Birganj upazila of Dinajpur district and resident of Ashulia in Savar.

Locals said armed criminals intercepted the private car in the area on Rajbari-Kushtia highway at dead of night, strangled the driver and hijacked the car.