



Blooming cotton silk flowers, heralding the advent of spring, offer a captivating sight. The photo was taken from Kashiadanga in Rajshahi.

PHOTO: STAR

SNIPPETS

ASI closed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

An assistant sub-inspector (ASI) was closed to the district police lines on Wednesday for selling 100 bottles of phensidyl. Assistant Police Superintendent Anisur Rahman said action was taken against ASI Sajjad of Kotwali Police Station after the departmental probe found him guilty. The ASP said Sajjad arrested a drug peddler along with 100 bottles of phensidyl from a bus on February 7. Later, he sold the phensidyle to other people and produced the drug peddler in a court under Section 34.

Nipah virus kills 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Nipah virus claimed the life of an SSC examinee at Patuakhali General Hospital yesterday. The victim, Nargis Akhter, 16, daughter of Hasan Sikder of Gabua village under Patuakhali Sadar upazila, was appearing in the ongoing SSC examinee from Gabua Janata High School. Family and hospital sources said Nargis fell sick after having date juice at around 8:00am. She was taken to the hospital where she died at around 1:30pm.

Banglalink staff abducted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Zahid Hasan Rashid, an employee of Banglalink customer care centre at Belkuchi in the district, was kidnapped on Wednesday night. Police said Zahid, son of Mainul Islam of Masimpur in Sirajganj town, was picked up by an unidentified gang while he was returning home in the town in an auto-rickshaw in the evening. Later, a man phoned his family members, demanding a ransom Tk 35 lakh. A general diary (GD) was recorded with Belkuchi Police Station. Police said they have launched a drive in different areas to rescue Zahid and arrest the culprits.

Salesman mugged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Muggers took away Tk one lakh from a sales representative of a company at Kanaitala near the district town on Wednesday night Feroz Ahmad, sales representative of EON Agro Industries Ltd, said a gang of muggers swooped on him while he was returning to Jessore town from Monirampur upazila riding a motorcycle at around 10:00pm. The gang shot at Feroz, leaving him seriously injured and looted the money and his motorbike. Hearing screams, locals rushed to the spot and sent him to Sadar Hospital.

Six shops gutted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Six shops were gutted in a fire at Chowdhury Bazar in Thakurgaon municipality early yesterday. Fire fighters and locals said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at a shop at the bazar at around 4:00am and soon engulfed the adjacent shops. Being informed, fire fighters rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control after one and a half hours frantic efforts.

Two 'carjackers' held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police arrested two alleged carjackers from Chawrampur village in the district early yesterday. They also seized a private car from the possession of the duo. The arrestees are Shohel Rana, son of late Abul Hossain and Md Saiful Islam, son of Nurul Islam, of Kaliakoir upazila in Gazipur. Ibrahim Patwari, sub-inspector of Dinajpur police station, said the gang attacked the driver of the car at Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital Wednesday and took away the vehicle. The driver then informed police who later arrested the two along with the vehicle at the village near Dinajpur-Dhaka highway. Masud Khan, a resident of Ashulia, is the owner of the car, the SI added.

TR wheat seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Police seized 12 tonnes of wheat meant for a Test Relief (TR) project from a truck on Patuakhali-Barisal road in Lebukhali ferry ghat area on Wednesday night. They also arrested two people on charge of selling the wheat in black market. The arrestees are trucker Siddiqui Rahman, 42, of Bakerganj and his helper Russel, 27, of Bhataerkhal in Barisal. SM Shahnewaz, officer in-charge of Dumki police station, said on secret information, they raided the Patuakhali-bound truck from Kalkini upazila in Madaripur district and seized the wheat.

STREAMLINING CITY LIFE

Dinajpur townspeople place 5-point demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Dinajpur townspeople yesterday formed a human chain in front of the municipality office to press home their five-point demand including a ban on movement of buses, trucks and nasimons (shallow engine-run three wheelers) in the town from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

The four other demands are expansion of roads, relocation of central bus stop outside the municipality, demolition of illegal structures erected on the canals flowing through the town and improvement of road traffic management.

Organised by Nagorik Udjog, a citizens' body,

social and cultural activists, representatives from different professional bodies and the elite of the town joined the programme that continued for an hour from 11:30am.

Addressing a rally at the venue, the speakers said accident risks can be reduced if restrictions on plying of such vehicles in the town are imposed.

They urged the authorities concerned to meet the demands immediately. Otherwise, they threatened to launch a tougher agitation programme.

At least 3,000 unregistered battery-run auto-rickshaws ply the roads in the town, the speakers said, adding that the municipal

authorities should immediately bring them under registration rule.

Mirza Anwarul Islam Tanu, convener of Dinajpur unit of Sammilito Sangskritik Jote, former mayor Syed Mosaddek Hossain Labu, Golam Nabi Dulal, general secretary of Dinajpur Press Club, Rabiul Awal Khoka, Abul Kalam Azad and Moinuddin, convener and general secretary of Nagorik Udjog spoke at the rally.

Contacted, Jahangir Alam, Mayor of Dinajpur municipality, said he will take necessary steps to meet the demands in consultation with the district administration.



PHOTO: STAR

Citizens' body Nagorik Udjog forms a human chain in front of Dinajpur municipality office yesterday demanding steps to streamline traffic and other problems in the town.

North Bengal Sugar Mill meets the same fate

Shut for want of sugarcane

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

North Bengal Sugar Mill under Lalpur upazila in the district suspended its operation on Tuesday night for want of sugarcane.

The mill started operation on November 11 last year to produce 12,750 tonnes of sugar by crushing 170,000 tonnes of sugarcane during its 103-day operational period.

However, it produced 9,850 tonnes of sugar by crushing 135,400 tonnes of sugarcane in the last 90 days (November 11 to February 08), officials said.

Mahbubur Rahman, managing director (MD) of North Bengal Sugar Mill,

said supply of sugarcane was not enough to keep the mill functional for the rest 13 days.

Therefore, the authorities were compelled to suspend operation, he added.

The sugar mill has incurred a loss of Tk 12 crore this year. The mill also faced Tk 22 crore loss in last two years, the MD said.

Thakurgaon Sugar Mills also suspended its operation on Tuesday, after operating 67 days in the current season, for want of sugarcane.

The mill started operation on December 2 last year of produce 6,300 tonnes of sugar by crushing 90,000 tonnes of sugarcane during its 75-day operation period. However, the mill pro-

duced about 4,800 tonnes of sugar by crushing 79,486 tonnes sugarcane in the last 67 days with a recovery rate of 6.04.

During the operation, the mill was forced to stop operation for about 40 hours due to mechanical faults, officials said.

As the molasses is sold at Tk. 70 per kg while the sugar at Tk 55 in the local markets, farmers became interested to produce molasses for instant profit. And this has put the mill into sugarcane crisis, the officials observed.

Earlier in the current season, two other sugar mills in northern districts of Joypurhat and Natore also met the same fate for want of sugarcane.

Kuet expels 20 students, fines 22 for violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (Kuet) authorities on Wednesday expelled 20 students on different terms for their involvement in violent clashes on the campus last month.

Twenty-five students were injured as BCL workers, equipped with machetes, iron rods, billhooks, chains and bamboo sticks, attacked the students who protested serving of sub-standard food at an annual feast on the campus on January 2.

The next day, university authorities shut down the university for an indefinite period.

The decision to expel and fine the students were taken at a meeting of the university disciplinary committee

Wednesday evening with vice chancellor Prof. Alamgir Hossain in the chair.

The authorities expelled five students for life, 4 for two years, six for one year and 5 others for six months.

Twenty-two others were fined Tk 5,000 to Tk 10,000 each for their involvement in the clash.

Eight other students were warned for the same offence.

The five who were expelled for life are: Md Raihan Tahsin Haque, fourth year student of Industrial and Production Engineering; ASM Mohiuddin, first year student of Electronic and

Erratum

The photograph of a person printed on this page yesterday was not of Narsingdi BNP leader Nurul Islam. We regret the inadvertant mistake.

Communication; Md Saifullah al Mamun, third year student of Mechanical Engineering; SM Jubair Siraj, fourth year student of Electrical Engineering; and Rabiul Hassan, third year student of Electrical Engineering.

The university will reopen on February 13, after 40 days of closure due to the clash, it was decided at the meeting on Wednesday.

Campus sources said the university authorities formed a five-member probe committee on January 4 to investigate the incident. The committee submitted their report to the disciplinary committee on Wednesday.

The students were punished as per the probe report submitted by the committee, they said.

Acid attack for dowry

Bipasha now groans in pain at Pabna hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Acid-burnt allegedly by husband for dowry at Library Bazar in the Sadar upazila, a woman is groaning in pain at Pabna Medical College and Hospital.

The victim, Bipasha, 20, daughter of Shahjalal of Library Bazar area, was going to buy medicine for her mother at about 6:30pm on Wednesday when her husband Monirul Islam aided by his family members and accomplices threw acid on her, said Bipasha's elder sister Afsana.

Police arrested parents of Monirul, the main accused in the case for the acid attack.

"Bipasha was married with Monirul Islam, son of Md Golam Rasul Bablu of Chhoto Shalgaria village in Pabna Sadar upazila in October last year. We gave Tk 2 lakh in cash and 2.5 tola ornaments during their marriage. But they started torturing my sister demanding more dowries," Afsana said.

"As we failed to meet their demand Monirul sent a divorce letter to Bipasha. Then we filed a case with a



PHOTO: STAR


Acid-burnt Bipasha Khatun being treated at Pabna Medical College Hospital yesterday.

Pabna court. But they threatened us to withdraw the case and finally threw acid on my sister," she said.

Demanding due punishment to her husband for the brutality, Bipasha said, "We got married after two years of love affair. But he shattered my dream."

Following a case filed by

the victim on Wednesday night, police caught Bipasha father-in-law Golam Rosul and mother-in-law Asma Begum from their residence yesterday morning but the main accused Monirul Islam went into hiding," said Pabna police station officer in charge Md Enayet Uddin.



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