

# Second border *haat* to open Apr 24

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The country's second border *haat* (market) comprising 50 sheds on a 70-square metre site at Dolura in Sunamganj district is set to be inaugurated on April 24.

Items like fish, chicken, betel leaf and household materials will be sold there two days a week and a buyer will be allowed to shop for 50 dollars or local currencies equivalent

to it, officials said.

The sheds will be equally distributed between Bangladeshis and Indians.

Set on zero line, attached to the border pillar 1212 along the Meghalayan border, the market will be monitored by the customs officials from both sides.

Well-set barbed wire fence has also been raised around the site, near Dolura Muktijuddha Smriti Soudha and 100 yards from the Indian

Border Security Force's camp atop a hill on the other side.

"We have asked the Local Government Engineering Department to construct a new road to the *haat* and a culvert over the narrow canal to ease connectivity to the market that would benefit people of at least 10 nearby villages," said Sunamganj Deputy Commissioner Md Yamin Chowdhury.

On Wednesday last, Commanding Officer of Border Guard Bangladesh 8 Battalion, Sunamganj, Lt Col Masudul Haque, and his counterpart from the Indian Border Security Force Commandant AK Singh of 83 Battalion and Commandant Komoljith Singh of 44 Battalion held a meeting where they discussed measures to curb smuggling on the border *haat* and steps for maintaining law and order in the area.

Earlier, the country's first border *haat* on Kurigram border was opened in July last year.



The country's second border *haat* at Dolura in Sunamganj district waits inauguration on April 24.

## CHARGES OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES

### 47 Jamaat leaders, activists held in Chandpur, Satkhira

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Police arrested 47 leaders and activists of Jamaat-e-Islami on charge of planning to carry out subversive activities in Satkhira and Chandpur districts on Saturday.

Of them, 20 were arrested in Chandpur and 27 in Satkhira.

During a raid, police arrested four local Jamaat leaders and 16 activists in Chandpur, reports our correspondent.

Refayet Dorji, organising secretary of Juba League Chandpur unit, filed a case with the police station Saturday night.

Contacted, Rustam Ali Shikdar, officer-in-charge of Matlab police station (north), said that the 20 arrestees were sent to jail by a court yesterday morning following a case filed against them on charge of planning subversive activities.

Chandpur district Jamaat unit Ameer AHM Ahmed Ullah and its secretary general Maulana Billal Hossain Niyazi, Matlab (north) upazila Jamaat unit Ameer Abul Bashar and its secretary general Md Amir

Hossain are among the arrestees.

The OC said, police arrested them while they were holding a clandestine meeting at an office of Ideal Trust to carry out subversive activities. Police also seized around 300 *jihadi* books from their possession.

In Satkhira, police arrested 26 *rokon* (full-member) of Jamaat at a house at Sora village in Shyamnagar upazila on Saturday.

Alamgir Hossain, officer in-charge of Shyamnagar police station, said the Jamaat men were nabbed while they were holding a secret meeting there, reports our correspondent.

The OC said, acting on a tip-off that a secret meeting was in progress at the house of Master Nurul Islam, a police team conducted a raid on the house of one Abdul Jalil in the afternoon and arrested them.

The arrestees will be charged with sedition, the OC added.

Later at night, following the statements of 26 arrestees, police arrested former Jamaat lawmaker Gazi Nurul Islam from his Shyamnagar house. He was elected from Satkhira-5 constituency in 2001 poll.

### 'Killing' at brick field, 2 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police recovered a human skull and bones from a brick field in Birampur upazila of the district on Saturday.

They also arrested Shital Chandra Borman, 45, manager of the brick field, and Md Alauddin, 42, a labourer.

Police said Md Hamidur Rahman, a night guard of brick field, had gone missing in October last year. Recently, Alauddin found some human bones in a big pile of mud at the brick field, SA Bricks, at Tatakpur village and informed other workers of the matter.

As the news spread at the village, Md Ashraful Alam, son Hamidur of Khoyerpara village in the upazila, filed a case with Birampur Police Station on Friday, accusing 10 people, including Shital and Alauddin, of killing his father.

After filing of the case, police raided the brick field on Saturday and picked up manager Shital and labourer Alauddin. On their statements, law enforcers led by Birampur Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Roksana Begum, also an executive magistrate, went to SA Bricks at around 5:00pm and recovered a human skull and bones from a pile of mud. They also found a bunch of keys and a torch there.

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## SNAPSHOTS OF PAHELA BAISHAKH



1) Students of the fine arts department of Rajshahi University bring out a colourful procession on the campus on Saturday to celebrate Pahela Baishakh, the first day of Bangla New Year, 2) people take traditional *panta ilish* at a park in Narsingdi, 3) Potteries on sale at a mela that held at Motkhola on Chandpur-Comilla Road a day ahead of Pahela Baishakh, 4) a colourful procession in Mymensingh town, and 5) a horse-drawn carriage in a procession in Manikganj town.

## SNIPPETS

### Two injured in gunfight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Two people including a sand trader were injured during a gunfight in Manikchala area in Sadar upazila yesterday afternoon. Sources said, a few months ago, Mohammed Ali, 50, father of injured sand trader Miju, was killed by his rival Apon in front of his residence following a feud over sand business in the area. Bullet injured Miju was admitted to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital (SZMCH) in the town. Police said a gang led by Apon attacked Miju and his men at around 2:45pm with firearms and sharp weapons. During a gunfight, Miju received bullet injury in his shoulder while an unidentified youth of the rival group was hit by a bullet in his hand. The youth however managed to escape. Police said at least six people were killed in the area in the last 5 years centering the sand business.

### UP chairman murdered

UNB, Narsingdi

A union parishad (UP) chairman and local Awami League leader was knifed to death by assailants at Sutapatti near Janata Bank in the district town last night. The dead is Abdur Razzak Sarkar, 60, chairman of Alukgali UP of Sadar upazila and a local AL leader. Witnesses said a gang of unidentified miscreants attacked him at Sutapatti at Narsingdi Bazaar and stabbed him indiscriminately with knives leaving him severely injured at 9:30 pm. Duty doctor at Narsingdi Sadar Hospital declared him dead on arrival. He was elected as chairman of the UP for five times.

### Mayor loses his post

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Zulfiqar Ali, general secretary of Mongla Poura BNP, has lost the post of mayor for concealing information regarding his wealth in the statements submitted to the Election Commission. The election to Mongla Pourasava was held on January 13, last year. Md. Abu Shamim Azad, judge of the Election Tribunal, Bagerhat pronounced his verdict on Thursday (April 12). The tribunal has directed the Election Commission to cancel the results of Mongla Pourasava mayoral poll and hold re-election there within 90 days from the date of the pronouncement of judgment. Shaikh Abdus Salam, a veteran leader of Mongla Awami League and defeated candidate for the same mayoral post filed a petition on January 20 in the same year with the Bagerhat Election Tribunal seeking cancellation of election results bringing allegations of concealing information about wealth and property against the elected mayor. Mayor Zulfiqar Ali said that he would appeal in the higher court of Bagerhat today against the judgment.

### Hilsa fry seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Around two and a half maund of hilsa fry (*jatka*) was seized from Char Hajiganj market area beside the Padma River of Gazirteek union under Charvadron upazila yesterday. Source said, acting on a tip-off, Md. Abdur Rashid, upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) of Charvadron upazila along with M Azam Ali, official of upazila fish office, conducted the raid on Char Hajiganj area and seized the fishes.

## TRANSFORMER GOES OUT OF ORDER

### Boro farmers, examinees suffer for over a week

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Power supply in three areas of Gaibandha municipality has remained suspended for eight days, but the authorities concerned are yet to take any steps to mitigate the sufferings of the locals.

Residents alleged that a transformer got damaged due to overload, plunging Paschim Gobindapur, Professor Colony and Nurjahan Road into darkness.

As local PDB men are yet to replace the burnt-out transformer, over 500 people, including the HSC examinees, of the areas are suffering a lot due to interruption in power supply.

Boro on at least 15 acres of land in the areas are drying for lack of irrigation as pump machines have been lying idle since the day, they said.

"We have lodged several complaints with

local PDB office for immediate replacement of the burnt-out transformer from Gobindapur area, but to no effect," they said.

Study of the students is being hampered as darkness after sunset, said housewife Momtaz Begum of Nurjahan Road.

Residents of Professor Colony alleged Local PDB men have demanded Tk 14,000 for replacement of the burnt-out transformer. "The situation still remains unchanged as we are not paying heed to the demand," they said.

Refuting allegation, a PDB official said replacement of transformer takes time as extra transformer is not available with the department.

Halal Afzal, executive engineer (in-charge) of Gaibandha PDB, refused to make any comment on the issue.

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