

NEWS IN brief

12 Rohingyas arrested in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested 12 Rohingyas in Satkania upazila of Chittagong on Thursday on the charge of entering the country illegally. Acting on a tip-off, the law enforcers held them in Deodighi Bazar area at about 6:00pm on the day, said Jafar Ahmed, sub-inspector of Satkania Police Station. A case was filed against them, he added.

US embassy closed tomorrow

CITY DESK

The US embassy in Dhaka, including the Consular Section and the American Center with the Archer K Blood American Center Library and the EducationUSA Student Advising Center, will be closed tomorrow, on the occasion of Martin Luther King, Jr's birthday.

The day is an American holiday, said a press release Thursday.

However, on emergency services for American citizens, the duty officer can be reached at 885-5500.

2 boys abducted from train rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Rapid Action Battalion rescued two boys from Chakgopal in Joypurhat Sadar upazila yesterday a day after human traffickers had abducted them from a train at Joypurhat station, said Rab.

Maj Saiful Islam Khan of Rab-5 said they arrested Anwar Hossain who was along with the children in a house.

The rescued, Shamim Ali, 13, and Jamal Ahmed, 9, of Thakurgaon, are students of a Naogaon madrasa. Rab said the duo was picked up while going to Thakurgaon from Naogaon.

3 drug peddlers jailed in Chuadanga

A CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

A mobile court in Chuadanga Thursday afternoon sentenced three drug peddlers to one-month imprisonment each.

The convicted are Joni, 35, Nannu, 32, and Amir Hamja, 30, of Faridpur village in Damurhuda upazila of the district.

They were arrested with 40 kilogrammes of hemp in Damurhuda bus stand area around 4:30pm, said Damurhuda Police Station Assistant Sub-inspector Abdul High.

Later, they were produced before the mobile court led by Executive Magistrate and Damurhuda Upazila Nirbahi Officer Faridur Rahman.

Six carjackers held with microbus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police arrested six alleged carjackers in Fenchuganj of Sylhet Thursday night.

Some contraband drugs and a microbus were also seized from their possession.

The arrested are Mamun Hira, Jhuton Mia, Faisal Mia, Rokshana Begum and Ruma Begum of Shashiali village in Chandpur district; and Moni Begum of Luxmipur town.

Police said they halted the microbus on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in which they were travelling in and arrested them.

5 AL men hurt in factional clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

At least five activists of Awami League were injured when two rival factions clashed at Barotalian village under Kaliganj upazila in Jhenidah yesterday.

The injured were taken to the upazila health complex. According to villagers, a gang of AL men led by Sher Ali, Ziarul Islam and Shukur Ali attacked Sakhawat Hossain, a local AL leader.

They stabbed Sakhawat and looted his house, said villagers, adding that when the news spread, Sakhawat's supporters rushed to the spot and attacked the rival gang. A chase and counter chase then took place.

Police said the clash centred the recent general polls.



The first weekend after the start of The Dhaka International Trade Fair-2014 lures in massive crowds yesterday. Inset, visitors wait in long queues to buy tickets at the counters outside.

PHOTO: COURTESY



BANGLADESH-MYANMAR JTC agrees to boost trade

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and Myanmar have agreed to work out ways to increase the volume of the annual bilateral trade to US\$500 million from existing \$100 million through establishing greater connectivity.

The agreement was reached at the seventh meeting of the Bangladesh-Myanmar Joint Trade Commission (JTC) in Naypyidaw, the capital of Myanmar, on January 14-15.

Issues related to border trade, cooperation in agriculture, food, fisheries, power and mineral resources sectors; shipping arrangement; exchange of business delegation; participation in trade fairs; popularising business through the Letter of Credit; exploring possibilities of reducing duty on certain

products; and finalisation of bilateral investment agreement figured in the meeting.

Commerce Secretary Mahub Ahmed led the Bangladesh delegation comprising officials from ministries concerned, leaders of business bodies including FBCCI President Kazi Akram Uddin Ahmed, and Bangladesh Ambassador to Myanmar Anup Kumar Chakma, said a PID release yesterday.

A 43-member Myanmar team was led by Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint San.

Mahub Ahmed underscored the importance of connectivity and expressed satisfaction over the start of operation of flights on Dhaka-Yangon-Dhaka route and finalisation of the draft shipping agreement

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1 killed, 5 hurt in Panchagarh attack over land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A man was killed and four others were injured in an attack at Quaderpur in Boda upazila of Panchagarh yesterday over land dispute.

The deceased was Fazlul Haque, 45, son of late Lal Mia of Quaderpur village.

Boda police Officer-in-Charge Din Mohammad told The Daily Star that Fazlul Haque was ploughing a piece of land at the village.

All of a sudden, co-villagers Asraful Haque and Azizul Islam along with around 20 people attacked him with sticks to take control over the land, killing Fazlul instantly, he added.

Afazul, Taslima, Komola and Nazrul - who are Fazlul's relatives - sustained injuries as they came to rescue him.

Trade fair draws huge crowds

BSS, Dhaka

The Dhaka International Trade Fair-2014, which began on January 11, drew a large number of visitors yesterday, the first weekend after the start of the country's biggest trade fair.

Visitors, particularly youths, flocked the ticket counters rushing to enter the fair premises at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

"We expect the daily turnout of visitors to hit one lakh from next week," Bikarna Kumar Ghosh, member Secretary of DITF-14, told the news agency yesterday on the fair premises.

This year's trade fair features several special arrangements, including the Sundarbans eco-park, DITF e-shop, small scale medical centre, blood donation centre, performance of local folk songs and countdown clock, said Ghosh, also deputy director of Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), co-organiser of the fair.

"Every year I wait for the fair to

purchase household necessities because I get discounts here. I come to the fair every Friday round the month every year," said Shakura Sharmin Khan, a visitor who came from Mirpur.

"My son Samayel was overwhelmed with joy all the way to the fair premises," said Dr Fahrina Rahman, another visitor.

An array of local products especially electronics, traditional Jamdani products, jute and jute goods, leather and leather goods, export-oriented readymade garment goods, furniture and handicrafts are being displayed in the fair to attract foreign buyers.

The majority of the visitors were seen gathering at different stalls that were displaying home appliances kitchenware and textiles or clothing items.

Aktaruzzaman Opu, in-charge of Walton High-Tech Industries Ltd (Walton HIL), said despite apprehension of lower turnout of visitors

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Bangladesh to root out communal forces

Gonojagoron Mancha spokesperson tells rally during road march to Thakurgaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Protesting attacks on Hindus allegedly by BNP-Jamaat-Shibir men just after the 10th parliamentary polls on January 5, Gonojagoron Mancha Spokesperson Imran H Sarker yesterday said Bangladesh would start a new journey after eradicating communal forces.

"None can escape after carrying out communal attacks on the minority communities and the Jamaat-Shibir, not the minorities, will have to leave this country," he said.

Addressing a street rally at Rabna Bypass near the Tangail district headquarters, he demanded that the government arrests the perpetrators and immediately bans Jamaat-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir.

Gonojagoron Mancha embarked on a three-day road march yesterday from Dhaka to Thakurgaon urging people to resist the attacks and communal forces, including Jamaat-Shibir.

"We are carrying a message to the minorities in the northern districts that people of all walks of life are with them," said Imran, stating that Gonojagoron Mancha activists would sacrifice their lives, if needed, to resist the communal forces.

He also urged the young generation to stay alert so that fundamentalists and war criminals do not get the opportunity

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Children of employees of The Daily Star raise gifts they received yesterday during the annual "Family Get Together" of the English newspaper at Dhaka Residential Model College in the capital.

PHOTO: STAR

DHAKA TODAY

Roundtable
The Prothom Alo will arrange a roundtable meeting on "Utilisation of Information and Communications Technology in Agriculture Sector"; Venue: Prothom Alo office, Karwan

Discussion
Muktijoddha Janata Mancha will hold a discussion protesting the ongoing violence; Venue: 21/2 Purana Pallant; Time: 4:00pm.



With a queue of goods-laden trucks taking up one lane amidst the absence of broad roads and adequate parking space, traffic and pedestrians have to do with what remains at Hilly Land Port in Dinajpur yesterday, creating frequent vehicular congestion and public nuisance.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Govt won't

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for announcing peaceful political programmes but in the same breath said the BNP had shifted its dependence on foreign diplomacy after failing to launch movements.

Diplomats from around 50 countries met the foreign ministry officials on Thursday for the first time after the new government was formed. They made several recommendations about the 10th general elections on January 5 and urged a meaningful dialogue between the two major parties.

During the meeting, the American envoy called for a fresh election, in response of which, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam said the US call "is too ambitious".

3 die in Bogra road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Three women, including two siblings, were killed and at least seven others injured as a bus rammed a human hauler near Pakurtala Bazar in Shibganj upazila of Bogra yesterday afternoon.

The deceased were Sajeda Khatun, 50, her younger sister Majeda Khatun, 45, and Maleka, 55.

The injured were admitted to different clinics and hospitals in the district.

Mokamtola police Sub-inspector Sanwar Hossain said the accident occurred around 5:45pm when the driver of the Rangpur-bound passenger bus from Rajshahi lost his control over the steering and crashed into the human hauler.

The three women were killed on the spot, he said. Meanwhile, soon after the accident, agitating locals blocked the road for an hour demanding construction of a speed-breaker on the spot.

In another accident, a motorcyclist was killed and another injured at Dhunat as a sand-laden truck hit his motorcycle yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Rony Karmakar, son of Mohadev Karmakar of Mogra village in Kalihati upazila of Tangail district. The accident occurred as the Dhunat-bound truck from Sonamukhi knocked the motorcycle in the East Bharanshahi area around 3:30pm after the driver had lost his control over the steering.

Obituary

CITY DESK



Ramon Bibi, mother of Bangladesh Photojournalists' Association General

Secretary Nuruddin Ahmed, died at Square Hospital in the capital yesterday. She was 90.

She left behind her four sons, two daughters, grandchildren and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death, says a press release.

She was buried at her family graveyard at Shajahanpur following a namaz-e-janaza at Shahidbagh Jame mosque.

All the members of the association condoned the death. A doa mahfil will be held at the mosque after Asr prayers on Tuesday.