

NEWS SNAPS

Man throws acid on wife, minor daughter

UNB, Moulvibazar
A greedy man allegedly threw acid on his wife and his one-year-old daughter for failing to realise dowry money at village Shahbagh in Sri Mongol upazila on Tuesday.
Monohor Ali hurled acid on his wife Sharmin, 25, and the baby as she returned home from her father's house without the dowry money which he demanded time and again. They were first admitted to Sadar Hospital and later shifted to Dhaka in critical condition. A case was filed.

Robbery at Rajbari

UNB, Rajbari
Robbers looted valuables from four shops of Pachuria bazaar in Sadar upazila on Friday midnight.
Locals said the gang numbering 12 raided the shops one after another and looted six tolas of gold and 50 tolas of silver from the jewelry shop of Manik Rajbongshi tying up its night guards.
Before leaving the place, they also looted cash worth Tk 1.50 lakh from the shop of Shawkat Hossain, Farid Hossain and Kala Shaha. A case was filed.

First ITI member from Moulvibazar

UNB, Moulvibazar
ASM Saleh, organising secretary of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation of Sylhet division, has been nominated member of International Theatre Institute.
Saleh, also the President of local Monu Theatre, has got the opportunity to be the first ITI member from the district.

Uplift work completed

UNB, Habiganj
Work on 1,126 uplift schemes in eight upazilas of Habiganj district has been completed utilising 5,081 metric tons (MTs) of wheat and rice.
District Relief and Rehabilitation office sources said 792 schemes were implemented under Test Relief (TR) programme while 334 schemes under rural infrastructure reform programme.

Obituary

UNB, Moulvibazar
Muhibur Rahman Chashi, chairman of Komolganj union, died of brain stroke in his house on December 28. He was 70.
Also former member of Komolganj Municipality and member of National Assembly (MNA) of the then Pakistan, Chashi was suffering from brain stroke for the last three months. His namaj-e-janaza was held at Eidgah maidan adjacent to Sofat Ali Aliya Madrasa.
At his death, Opposition Chief Whip principal MA Shaheed, BNP district unit president Sirajul Islam, Secretary Capt (ret'd) Sajjadur Rahman, Chairman in-Charge of Komolganj Municipality separately condoled his death and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.
They also conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Demolition of brothel Magura DC sued for violating court order

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Magura Mohammad Shafiqul Alam was sued on Thursday for violating an injunction order regarding eviction of Magura brothel.

Rabeya and Shilpi, on behalf of the sex-workers filed the case with the Assistant Judge's court (Sadar) in Magura.

In the case, they alleged that the DC with the help of some other government officials bulldozed their houses in Natun Bazaar area in the district town on December 25, violating the injunction order.

Advocate Obayedur Rhaman, Advocate Ila Chandra and AZM Nurul Amin engaged by the two different non-governmental organisations (NGOs) Ain O Shalish Kendro and Naripakkha respectively moved for the plaintiffs.

Senior Assistant Judge Nitai Chandra Shaha served the notice to DC and asked him to submit if there

is any objection regarding the case within February 27.

Over 400 sex workers had been engaged in their job in some houses on the disputed lands in the Natun Bazaar area.

Last year, on April 25 the Magura district administration served notice to the sex-workers to quit the houses built on government land.

Sex workers Rabeya, Shilpi and Rahima filed a case with Assistant Judge's court against the notice. On September 7, 2002, the court issued an injunction order and asked to solve the matter after proper rehabilitation of sex workers.

But the district administration bulldozed the houses of the brothel turning the sex-workers jobless on December 25, 2002.

Despite repeated attempts, the DC could not be reached. But a high official of the local administration on condition of anonymity said, "It was only a part of the unauthorised structure demolition drive and not

violation of injunction order."

When asked about the legality of the demolition of the brothel where there is an injunction order, he said, "The part of the brothel on government land has been demolished only, but other part belonging to Zahangir Master, Anjuman Ara and Sandhya still remain untouched where the sex-workers have been engaged in their job."

Meanwhile, a mixed reaction has been prevailing over the demolition of Magura brothel in the Natun Bazaar area, by the district administration on December 25.

It's totally an inhuman action to evict the brothel without proper step to rehabilitate the sex workers", said Fakhru Islam a human rights activist in Magura while Saiful Islam a businessman of Natun Bazaar welcomed the demolition of the brothel.

Over 400 sex workers had been living in some houses built by some local unscrupulous people on

government land. Different organisations in Magura tried to evict the brothel from the renowned business centre.

This year on April 25, the district administration served notice to the sex workers to leave the houses built on public land. Challenging the notice, Rahima, Rabeya and Shilpi, on behalf of the sex workers, filed a case with Assistant Judge's Court.

The court issued a temporary injunction order in this regard and ordered to solve the matter after proper rehabilitation of the sex workers.

But district administration bulldozed the brothel recently turning the sex workers jobless. Advocate Shahina Akhter said "As there has been a court order of temporary injunction, the eviction of the brothel is completely illegal".



State Minister for Education A N M Ehsanul Hoque visiting the Nilphamari Government College centre of degree examination on Saturday where he expelled 21 examinees for cheating in examination.

Attack on motorcade of Khaleda Three accused granted bail

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

On the first date of hearing of the case relating to attack on the motorcade of the then opposition leader and now Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, three accused Shafiqul Islam Taroon, Rezaul Karim and Masudur Rahman Bepari alias fool Masud who appeared before the court were granted bail.

The time extension petition of 21 accused including former minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, AFM Bahauddin Nasim, Khaled Hossain Yad, Kajal Krisna Dey, Shakilur Rahman Shohag, Alhaj Ferdous

Jamader who are in different jail while some others are on bail by order of the High Court division have been granted for appearing later on.

Arrest warrant and order of attachment of property of 25 accused commissioner Agor Bepari, ex-commissioner Motaleb Gharami, Monowar Hossain, Sekander Munshi, Mosaraf Hossain and others who are still absconding, have been issued by the court of first class magistrate MA Hakim here on a December 19, court sources said.

The date of next hearing is January 29, 2003.

Court inspector Matiuur Rahman stood for the government, while Advocate Sujit Chattergy Bappi, Advocate Emran, Advocate Saidur Rahman, among 30 advocates, defended for the accused.

Some miscreants removed the pontoon of ferry and sprayed bullets on the motorcade of the then opposition leader and now Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at Kazirtek ferryghat near Madaripur town when she was going to Baniarchar in Gopalganj district on June 17, 2001. Khandoker Mashukur Rahman was the complainant of the case.



PHOTO: STAR

A farmer at village Khorda-kasundi in Sadar upazila, Magura takes care of Guzi crops (one kind of oil seed). Cultivation of this type of crops has gained popularity among the growers in this district.

Kachua UNO faces show cause notice

UNB, Bagerhat

Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Kachua was served with show cause notice by a local court Saturday for appointing principal in a madrasah ignoring the court injunction.

The Upazila Assistant Judge Court issued the notice to UNO Nurul Alam following an appeal filed by Abdus Samad, teacher of Mokhiya Salihia Senior Madrasah, contesting the appointment of a new principal on December 20 last.

As a case over the appointment of principal of the madrasah is pending before the court the injunction stayed the new appointment until the disposal of the case.

The court asked the UNO to show cause within seven days as to why the appointment of principal of the Mokhiya Salihia Senior Madrasah will not be declared void.

Three houses gutted, animals burnt alive

UNB, Brahmanbaria

Three dwelling houses were burnt to ashes while many domestic animals roasted alive in a devastating fire at Tangarpara in Sadar upazila on Wednesday.

Locals said two cows, two goats and many poultry birds were charred and huge paddy damaged when the fire originated at the house of Ibrahim.

The extent of damage was estimated at Tk 2 lakh but reason behind the fire could not be known immediately.

Hearing screaming, local people rushed to the spot and brought the flame under control.

Erosion renders lakhs homeless in Habiganj, Moulvibazar

UNB, Sylhet

Unabated erosion by the Kushiara River rendered lakhs of people homeless in Habiganj and Moulvibazar districts in the last 50 years.

The erosion of the river began in 1946 and it has so far devoured thousands of houses, educational institutions, bazaars, religious institutions, post offices and vast forest areas.

Water Development Board (WDB) took some measures to check the unabated erosion and rehabilitate the affected people some years back but these plans

could not be implemented due to various reasons.

The people of Nobiganj, Jogonathpur upazilas of Habiganj upazila and Moulavibazar Sadar upazila whose homes and lands were devoured by the river have been passing their days in sub-human condition as they are not getting any help from the government or any other non-government organisations.

Locals alleged that as the government did not take any initiative to save the age-old educational institution of Nobiganj upazila Digholbak High School it has recently been washed away by the river.

The erosion has also taken a serious turn in Bibiana-Dighalbak Gas filed area threatening its existence.

WDB office sources said a project was taken up at Dighalbak union to save the area from erosion in 1998 but it was not implemented due to mysterious reasons.

Local leaders and elite urged the government to take immediate steps to check erosion of the river. They also demanded of the government to take necessary steps to rehabilitate the erosion-affected homeless people.

UP election

Four contesting from jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four people have been contesting in the upcoming union parishad (UP) election for chairmanship from jail.

UNB from Narsingdi reports: Of them, Zahed Ali Sarkar is the brother of former Baghab UP chairman of Shibpur upazila and Abdul Awal Talukdar is the brother of ex-chairman of Charnodhua UP.

Zahed Ali Sarkar is in jail in connection with the murder case of his brother former chairman Joinal Abedin Sarkar.

Abdul Awal Talukdar was arrested during the ongoing clean heart operation two months before.

Another report from Jhalakati says: Two people have been contesting in the UP election for the chairman posts of Nabagram and Amua unions from jail.

Two couples contesting from Jhalakati

UNB, Jhalakati

Two couples have become candidates of the union parishad (UP) election in Jhalakati.

They are Abdul Hakim and his wife Selina Begum of Amua union and Mohammad Harun-ur-Rashid and his wife Minara Begum of Patisalghata union.

BSTI bans nine companies

UNB, Pabna

Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution (BSTI) has banned marketing of the products of nine companies as they failed to ensure guarantee of the quality of their goods.

BSTI, following the report of its surveillance team in a notice also instructed the buyers of the locality not to use the products of those companies.

The survey was conducted under the initiative of Rajshahi CM Department on December 18.

The products are: 'ghee,' (butter oil) of Shyamal Doi Bhandar, mustard oil of Pollanpur Ali Oil Mill, biscuits of Modern Bakery, butter oil of Special Butter Company, packet tea of Moti Tea House, ghee of Paradise Sweets, bread of Azadi Bakery, mustard oil of Mintu-Mofiz Oil Mill and edible oil of Ekota Oil Mill.

Rehabilitation work goes on

UNB, Shariatpur

Work on post-flood rehabilitation and other programmes of the Department Public Health Engineering (DPHE) in Shariatpur is nearing completion.

DPHE has installed 991 deep and 131 shallow tubewells and reinstalled 269 shallow tubewells and sold 1,405 sanitary latrines in six upazilas during the current fiscal year. It also distributed 3,491 sanitary latrines free of cost among the poor people under the programme.