

NEWS SNAPS

Housewife falls victim of dowry

UNB, Pabna
A housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband for dowry at Motigachha upazila in Atgharia upazila on Monday.

Police said Saidul Islam killed his wife Tahmina Khatun as she refused to bring him Tk 10,000 from her father as dowry. Saidul was absconding. A case was filed.

Husband kills wife

UNB, Mymensingh
One person named Abdul Kuddus beat his wife Selina Akhter, 40, to death for dowry at Shangramkeli in Nandail upazila on Monday.

Police recovered the body of Selina, but could not arrest her husband.

Bandits kill teenage girl

UNB, Patuakhli
Armed robbers killed a teenage girl after abduction at Jhina village in Baulfal upazila on Monday.

Locals said armed bandits swooped on the houses of Shamsul Haque Munshi and Razzak Munshi, and looted cash and valuables worth Tk 30,000.

They also picked up Rubina, 15, niece of Shamsul Haque Munshi. Local people found her dead the next morning.

UP member killed in road mishap

UNB, Sylhet
A union parishad (UP) member was crushed under the wheels of a tractor at Tukur Bazaar in Companyganj upazila on Tuesday.

Police said Dulal Ahmed, 35, member of local union parishad, met the tragic end of his life when the tractor hit his motorcycle from behind in the afternoon. A case was filed.

Body recovered

UNB, Munshiganj
Police recovered the body of an old man from a canal in Dingabhangra area in Sadar upazila on Tuesday.
On information, police recovered the floating body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Alleged Indian pirates abduct 20 fishermen from Sundarbans

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

Alleged Indian pirates belonging to an organised gang called Mujibar-Kalu Bahini kidnapped 20 Bangladeshi fishermen at gunpoint from Chaltabari area of the Sundarbans Saturday afternoon and have threatened to kill all their hostages unless a ransom of Tk 20 lakh is paid in full by Tuesday noon.

Sources quoting eyewitnesses said that about 100 Bangladeshi fishermen were catching fish fries and crabs from Chaltabari canal when the Indian pirates arrived in two large engine boats and looted money, fish fries and crabs from them.

Before leaving, the pirates kidnapped 20 fishermen at gunpoint and demanded a ransom of Tk 20 lakh along with rice, diesel and cigarettes. They said the ransom should reach them by Tuesday noon at Panir Khal along Talpatty Island near the Bay of Bengal or else all the

hostages would be killed. The pirates then left the spot firing blank shots.

Nine of the hostages were identified as Manik, 20, Noor Islam, 25, Phantu, 20, Babu, 24, Shamsu, 30, Jamal, 28, Monirul, 19, Mujibar, 24, and Rahim, 30.

Local fishermen told police that raids by Indian pirates in the creeks and canals of the Sundarbans particularly in the Talpatty Island area have been rampant over the last two months. On December 20 and 24 last year, Indian pirates of Kalu Bahini entered Bangladesh territorial waters from the Bay of Bengal and kidnapped seventy-four Bangladeshi fishermen from around the Talpatty island.

These kidnapped men, hailing from Khoutakata and Rajeshwar unions of Swarankhola upazila, are yet to be released as their families and friends have so far failed to pay the ransom, police said.

BCL activist killed by JCD men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

An activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) was stabbed to death in the city on January 6.

Five activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) swooped on Akbar Sultan, 18, a second year student of MC College, on the campus at around 10-30 am and stabbed in the abdomen and legs.

Akbar was admitted to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at 8 pm.

Cop arrested on charge of torturing wife

UNB, Bagerhat

A policeman was arrested on charge of torturing his wife at Kashipur in Rampal upazila on Tuesday.

The arrested was identified as constable Zillur Rahman. Zillur, who came home on leave from his workplace in Chittagong, was arrested as his father-in-law filed a case against him on July 7 under the Woman and Child Repression Act.

He was sent to jail after the court rejected his bail prayer.

3 UP chairmen held in M'bazar

UNB, Moulvibazar

Three union parishad (UP) chairmen were arrested from their houses in Rajnagar upazila on Sunday night.

The arrested chairmen were identified as M Abdul Quader Mottaleb of Tangra union, Chhatir Miah of Munshibazar union and Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury Maya of Kamarchak union. They are supporters of Awami League.



A group of farmers of Mithapukur upazila in Rangpur district working in a field where they cultivated various winter crops locally known as *rabi* crops. *Rabi* crops cultivation is going on in full swing in the entire district now.

Khulna BNP activist murdered in Jessore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

BNP activist Shaikh Monirul Islam Zahid, 44, an employee of a jute trading company at Daulatpur, was murdered Saturday midnight in Ghop area of Jessore Sadar thana.

The killers hastily buried the body at Ghop graveyard on the same night, it was alleged.

Zahid is the son of Shaikh Ibrahim Hossain of Sonadanga area in Khulna city. He was cashier of Daulatpur Jute Trading Company.

He left home on Saturday morning for office but did not return home till midnight.

On Sunday morning, manager of

the company Ayub Ali Howlader went to Zahid's house, handed over some personal belongings of Zahid to his father and left the place quickly.

On receipt of information, the family members went to Jessore on Sunday afternoon and identified Zahid's photo taken by railway police.

It is learnt that the body was found lying on the rail line passing through Ghope area. Railway police recovered it and took a photo before handing it over to some persons who identified themselves as Zahid's relatives. The body might have been buried by them.

With permission from the Deputy Commissioner of Jessore, the body was later exhumed and brought to Khulna Monday morning.

Shaikh Ibrahim Hossain filed a case with Daulatpur thana on Monday night accusing manager Ayub Ali Howlader. Police arrested Ayub from his house.

The slain BNP activist's father alleged that police did not arrange autopsy of the body despite an order from a magistrate of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court (CMM's) court.

In the case, the complainant said that the body bore some deep cut marks done by sharp weapons.

14 chargesheeted in Rampal triple murder case

UNB, Bagerhat

Police submitted charge sheet against 14 people in the sensational triple murder case of Rampal upazila here last week after six months of investigation.

The charge-sheeted accused are: Selim Sarder, his father Razzak Sarder, brother Shaheed Sarder; Altaf Hossain, Enamul Haq, Jinnath Sheikh, Jahangir Howlader, Shukur Gazi, Tjjarat Gazi, Nazrul Fakir, Jahid Sarder, Hemayet Kazi, Aslam Mir and Faruq Hossain. Police have so far arrested four people.

According to the prosecution, local BNP leader Asiad Sheikh, schoolboy Raziq and hawker Arab Ali were killed and 20 others injured in front of a school at Gouromva bazaar in Rampal upazila on July 3, 2002, when armed men opened fire on them.



PHOTO: ABDUL MATIN FAKIR

Dr Cornelis Arend Spronk, an eminent physician from Holland examines a patient before plastic surgery at a camp in Faridpur General Hospital. The renowned surgeon recently visited Faridpur at the initiative of Md Shamim, a Bangladeshi expatriate in Holland and the founder of Faridpur Welfare Foundation which organised the camp in joint collaboration with Bangladesh Medical Association, Faridpur.

10 die of diarrhoea in 2 months in Mymensingh

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Diarrhoea has claimed 10 lives in Mymensingh district in the months of November and December last year.

The deaths included a mother and her three-year-old daughter. Amona Begum, 35, mother of six children and wife of Md Rafiqul Islam of village Char Anandipur in Sadar upazila died on December 27 while her daughter Sumi, 3, died at Surja Kanta (SK) Hospital here on December 30.

Eight others died in four upazilas last November and December.

The victims were Halema, 2, daughter of Md Abul Kalam, of village Achargoan and Fazila Khatun, 40, wife of Hafiz Uddin of Kachuri in Nandail upazila, Aachhia Khatun, 30, wife of Golam Mustafa and her daughter Aklima, 5, of village Dhakir Kanda in Phulpur upazila, Nargis, 12, daughter of Echhab Ali of village Balibagail and Feroja Begum, 35, wife of Nabab Ali of village Gopinathpur in Phulbaria, Md Ali, 45, son of late Eesmat Ali

Sheikh of village Bharadoba and Khodja Khatun, 40, wife of Shamsuddin of Rampur in Bhaluka upazila.

However, a total of 9,882 persons were attacked with diarrhoea in November and December according to official sources.

1,150 MTs of rice for uplift work in Sherpur

UNB, Sherpur

The government under its test relief (TR) and food-for-works programme (FWP) has allocated over 1,150 metric tons (MTs) of rice for the district.

Officials said over 582 metric tons of rice have been allocated for rural infrastructure development under the test relief programme in five upazilas and two municipalities.

In November, 129 were attacked in Sadar upazila, 804 in Iswargaonj, 1848 in Gouripur, 701 in Nandail, 689 in Phulpur, 836 in Haheaghat, 110 in Dhubaura, 360 in Trishal, 283 in Bhaluka, 656 in Gofargoan, 777 in Phulbaria while 1165 in Muktagacha.

According to SK Hospital sources a total of 52 diarrhoea patients were admitted at SK Hospital from December 25 till December 31.

Most of the affected patients were children.

Dr Nasiruddin Mahmud of Disease Control and Surveillance team told The Daily Star that rural people who use water of ponds, canals and rivers in winter season are getting affected by the disease. Lack of consciousness about diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases is also a problem to check such disease, added Dr Mahmud.

Dr Md Elias, Deputy Civil Surgeon (Civil Surgeon, In-charge) informed that a total of 158 medical teams including three in Mymensingh town are performing their duties all 12 upazilas of the district.

Pry textbooks distribution begins

UNB, Panchagarh

Some 1,029,643 sets of textbooks will be distributed among primary school students of Panchagarh district for the current academic year.

This was disclosed at a function organised marking the opening of textbook distribution here on January 2.

Deputy Commissioner of the district Aftab Hasan inaugurated the book distribution programme.

Class-wise breakup of the textbooks: Class I - 47,800 sets, class II - 39,318, class III - 16,800, class IV - 13,800 and class V - 11,925 sets.

Students of class I and II will receive full new sets of textbooks while the rest will get only half of their books new.