

NEWS SNAPS

Girl killed by assailants

UNB, Kushita
A little girl was killed by some unknown assailants in the Arupara area of the town early Sunday.
Family sources said Shirana Begum went to the bathroom Saturday late night leaving her 11 months old daughter Oishi alone. But on return from the bathroom she found her missing. Later her body was recovered from a marshy field adjacent to their house. It is suspected that she was killed following a family enmity.

Moulvibazar blast: BCL activist held

UNB, Moulvibazar
A Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activist was arrested here on Monday night for his alleged involvement in Saturday's bomb blast. Police said they arrested BCL worker Shipul from Shantibag area according to the statement of the two injured night guards arrested immediately after the blast.
The two night guards, Shaheed Miah and Ilias, were injured when a powerful bomb exploded in an under-construction building in the town Saturday night.

Raid on Kishoreganj AL leader's house

UNB, Kishoreganj
Joint forces Tuesday raided the house of Syed Wahidul Islam, senior vice-president of Kishoreganj district Awami League, in the Kharampatti area.
Family sources of Wahidul Islam, brother of former acting President Syed Nazrul Islam, said the joint forces left their house after enquiring about their male house inmates as no man was present during the raid. They also took away a photograph of his son Syed Ashfaqul Islam Titu.

New governor of Apex Bangladesh District-5

UNB, Patuakhali
Dr SA Noor of Jhalakati Club was unanimously selected as governor of Apex Bangladesh District-5. Delegates from different clubs of Apex Bangladesh District-5 selected him at its 18th conference held at Patuakhali Latif High School auditorium Friday.
Deputy Commissioner Proshanta Bhushan Barua was present as the chief guest in the conference with the outgoing governor of Apex District-5 KM Enayet Hossain in the chair. Over 100 members from different districts took part in the conference.

RAKUB's bid to boost farm output

UNB, Rajshahi
Rajshahi Krishi Unnyan Bank (RAKUB) has taken up a massive loan disbursement programme in the district for the current fiscal, aiming to give a boost to farm output.

Officials said the bank has a target to disburse Tk 26.80 crore among the farmers. It has already disbursed Tk 10.62 crore through its 14 branches among 4,781 farmers in the first six months of the current fiscal.

Of the total distributed loan, Tk 7.53 crore was disbursed for crop production, Tk 55,000 for pisciculture, Tk 81 lakh for livestock, Tk 1.88 lakh for agricultural equipment, Tk 2.49 lakh for cottage industries and Tk 1.77 crore for other sectors.

During the period, the bank also collected its outstanding loan amounting to Tk 10.48 crore from its 4,366 borrowers against its yearly target of Tk 22.81 crore.

Embezzlement UP chairman fined in Sherpur

UNB, Sherpur
The chairman of Betmari-Ghughurakandi Union Parishad (UP) in Sadar upazila has been fined for embezzlement of seven metric tons (MTs) of rice.
Official sources said the district administration allocated the rice for the distressed people under the government's VGF programme, but chairman Akhteruzzaman misappropriated the rice.
The chairman was found guilty of misappropriation after investigation.
Later, the Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) asked the chairman to pay Tk 1.5 lakh, an amount that is double than the price of the embezzled rice, by December 31. But the chairman did not pay the money.

UP polls campaign gains momentum in Moulvibazar

RAJAT KANTI GOSWAMI,
Moulvibazar

The campaign for the ensuing Union Parishad (UP) election has gained momentum in Moulvibazar. All the candidates have been striving hard to woo the voters. They have been arranging tea parties at their respective areas and visiting door to door for the purpose.

Major political parties including BNP and Awami League (AL) have fielded their candidates. Some of the candidates contesting for the post of chairman are powerful leaders of political parties at upazila or district level. So each and every candidate for the post of chairman are using their political slogans in their posters. Even many of them have printed the pictures of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and former Prime Minister and Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina.

Some AL supported chairman candidates are hiding themselves fearing arrest as three UP chairmen who are local AL leaders have been arrested earlier under Section 54. The arrested UP chairmen are Abdul Gaffar Maya of Kamarchak UP, Md Satir Miah of Munshibazar UP and Abdul Kadir Motaleb of Tengra UP in Rajnagar upazila.

Moulvibazar district election office sources said a total of 285 candidates will contest in 65 UPs for the post of chairmen while 2496 candidates will fight for membership in general wards and 644 candidates for member in women's reserve seats.

There are 67 UPs in six upazilas here. There are 12 UPs each in Sadar and Baralekha, nine UPs each in Srimongal and Kamalgonj, eight UPs in Rajnagar and 17 UPs in Kulaura upazila.

However, election will be held in 65 UPs while election in Brahminbazar UP of Kulaura and Adampur UP in Kamalgonj will be held later on as the period of the existing councils in the two UPs did not expire as yet.

In Kamalgonj upazila 32 chairman candidates will vie for eight posts in eight UPs, 87 candidates will contest for 24 reserved seats for women and 315 member candidates will contend for 72 posts in the general wards.

In Rajnagar upazila 41 chairman candidates will contest for eight posts of eight UPs. Seventy seven member candidates will contest for 24 reserved seats for women and 322 member candidates will fight for 72 seats in the general wards.

In Moulvibazar Sadar upazila

50 chairman candidates will contest for 12 posts in 12 UPs while 121 member candidates will wrest for 36 reserved seats for women and 440 member candidates will contest for 108 seats in the general wards.

In Baralekha upazila 53 chairman candidates will fight for 12 seats in 12 UPs while 107 member candidates will fight for 36 reserved seats for women and 443 member candidates will contend for 108 seats of general wards.

In Srimongal upazila 41 chairman candidates will contest for nine posts in nine UPs while 99 member candidates will contest for 27 reserved seats of women and 348 member candidates will fight for 81 seats of general wards.

In Kulaura, the biggest upazila of the district 68 chairmen candidates will contest for 16 posts in 16 UPs while 153 member candidates will vie for 48 reserved seats for women and 628 member candidates will fight for 144 seats of general wards.

District Election office source added that nomination papers of 14 chairman candidates, 45 women member candidates and 76 general member candidates have been cancelled during scrutiny.

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

A total of 30 persons were killed between in Magura district last year.

On January 2, an outlaw was killed by his rivals at village Moshakhali in Shalika upazila. He was identified as Majidul, 35.

On the night of January 10, another notorious outlawed party leader Nazrul, 40, was beaten to death by angry villagers at Chowgachchi in Sreepur upazila, when he went there to demand toll from a villager.

On the night of February 20, a madrasa teacher identified as Zahurul Islam was stabbed to death by his younger brother, Azad 22, in a row over monetary issue in Doarpar area in Maguratawn.

On March 8, Shaheb Ali 50, an activist of BNP was chopped to death in a clash between two factions of BNP at village Koatbagh in Shalika upazila.

Agnin on the night of April 10, a timber trader Rejaul Islam 35, of village Rujani was chopped to death while he was returning from his working place at the Mohammadpur upazila headquarters.

On April 8, a house wife identified as Phooli Begum, 25, of village Bishrupur in Sadar upazila was strangled allegedly by her husband. On the same day Golam Rosul, 32, of village chargoalpara was hacked to death in a clash between two rival groups of villagers.

On May 19, a cruel mother at village Ghullia in Mohammadpur upazila killed her 37-day-old baby Dukha Mia.

On May 21, a BNP activist Mohammad Ali, 50, was stabbed to death in a clash between the activists of Awami League (AL) and BNP at village Zunari in Shalika upazila.

On May 30, Moazzem, 40, of village Goalbari in Sadar upazila was hacked to death by his rivals over previous enmity.

On June 6, Kased Ali, 40, of village Char Goyeshpur in Sreepur upazila was

shot dead by some outlawed party activists.

On June 15, an unidentified woman of about 25 years old was killed allegedly by some unidentified miscreants after gangrape at village Ghoramara in Sadar upazila.

On the night of July 4, outlawed party activists kidnapped Shamela Begum, 25, of village Gayshpur in Sreepur upazila. After a while she was shot dead at a nearby bridge.

On the some morning, an unidentified man of 40-year-old was allegedly strangled at a jute field at village Balladanga of Sadar upazila.

On July 5, a college girl named Zahida Khatun, 18, was strangled after being gangraped by criminals at a jute field at village Dariapur in Sreepur upazila.

On July 8, Reshma Khatun, 30, a field worker of an insurance company was allegedly strangled and later poison was poured into her mouth at village Gopalgram in Shalika upazila.

On July 11, Montajuddin, 40, son of Hossain Kazi of Stadiumpara in the town was beaten to death by his rivals in a row over monetary issue.

On July 12, Abdul Kader, 40, of village Dhonpara in Sadar upazila was beaten to death by his son following an altercation over family feud.

On July 19, a baby girl Zermin, 7, was allegedly killed by her step-mother at village Monokhali in Shalika upazila.

Rometcha Khatun 32, second wife of Akter Hossain of the aforementioned village kicked the victim to death.

On July 23, a youngman identified as Fatik, 30, of village Banga in Sadar

upazila was allegedly killed by his friends in Jhenidah town.

On November 8, a villager identified as Chittaranjan Biswas, 50, of village Goalbari in Sreepur upazila was stabbed to death by some unknown miscreants when he was returning home from Langolband bazaar after selling a goat.

On November 10, Harun, son of Raihanuddin of village Jagdal in Sadar upazila was stabbed to death by some unknown miscreants.

Besides, eight other people in four upazilas in Magura district were also killed during the same period in separate incidents.

In 2000, a total of 20 persons were killed while in the year of 1999, as many as 19 persons were killed.



Some farm labourers of Gaibandha travelling on rooftop of a bus bound for Rajshahi. This winter agriculture workers are going to other districts in greater number in search of jobs. They will sell labour during the ongoing winter crops cultivation season.

CARE's HIV awareness campaign in Ctg

Z A M KHAIRUZZAMAN,
back from Chittagong

The rapid spread of HIV/AIDS has resulted in a grave situation all over the world.

According to WHO's most recent projection, South and South-East Asia will be the region most affected in the next few years, since the infection is spreading more rapidly here than other parts of the world.

In a developing country like Bangladesh where there are poverty, discrimination, sexual inequality, inadequate health and social service, rapid urbanisation and a large migrant labour force, which is prone to environmental disasters and surrounded by growing regional HIV/AIDS epidemic, a potentially serious development crisis will follow if the HIV epidemic is permitted to go unchecked.

An international development organisation named CARE-Bangladesh has come forward with a HIV/AIDS prevention project called SHAKTI (Stopping HIV/AIDS through Knowledge and Training Initiatives).

The goal of the project is to increase adoption of sustainable safer behaviour among the high risk people in order to reduce transmission of HIV/AIDS.

Its purpose is to implement and promote effective HIV/AIDS interventions to sustain safer behaviour among selected population, Sex Workers (SWs), Injecting Drug Users (IDUs), Transgender (Hijra), males who have sex with males, transport workers, HIV positive and others.

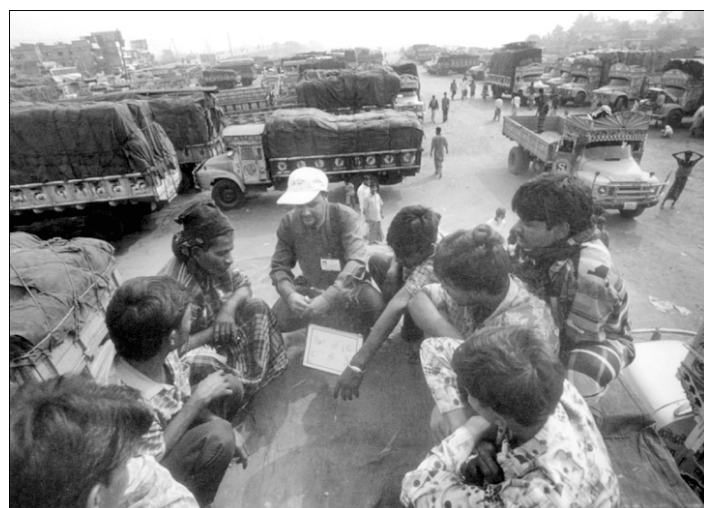
The port city of Chittagong is a

centre of a large migrant labour force. Hundreds of thousands of people work here as port workers, transport workers and ghat (terminal) workers.

CARE-Bangladesh has identified these workers as a vulnerable population. This is because many of these workers often practice high-risk behaviours and therefore are at risk to HIV and other sexually trans-

help them understand HIV and how to protect themselves against it and to work with them to advance their own rights. The project aims to reach thousands of truck drivers, their helpers, dock-workers and ghat workers.

With this aim in view CARE-Bangladesh has established some Drop-in-Centres (DICs) in Chittagong. These are considered



A CARE staffer having discussion with a group of transport workers at a terminal in Chittagong. CARE-Bangladesh has been extending Outreach Services in the truck terminal area in Chittagong to educate transport workers on STD/ HIV issues.

mitted diseases. Generally, they do not seek examination or treatment for these diseases, and constitute a great risk of spreading HIV into the population at large. CARE-Bangladesh aims at restoring the dignity of the worker community, to

be safe places to take rest for sometime, seek referral services to Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and other ailments. DIC is the place where workers come to meet with their friends, to take rest, to play indoor games. This place is

also used as a venue for group education session and a centre for management of STDs and other common diseases. There is a full-time physician in the DIC of the port area who regularly advises to the port workers. The DIC is situated in the dock workers union office. No rent is taken from the CARE authorities and the union leaders play an active role in combating the menace. HIV prevalence has been found to be nil among the port workers here.

Another DIC provides free services to the needy people in the transport workers union office here. The programme is being conducted through partnership with the port and transport workers associations with an objective to make it more acceptable to the community members. Dock labour union and transport workers union are the implementing agencies. Trained peer Out Reach workers work on six days a week in the Majhi ghat area and the truck terminal area in the port city to educate other fellow workers about safer sex practices. They refer the STD patients to the clinic to have treatment and sell condom among the workers. They are mainly responsible to provide information to the workers and refer them to the clinic of the DIC. They also demonstrate the proper use of condom in the field.

So far it has produced positive results, said Abul Kashem, general secretary (GS) of the Chattagram Jatyio Dock Sramik League. Hundreds of workers are being benefitted by this programme, he added.

LGED takes up Tk 48.69 lakh project in Paba Upazila

BSS, Rajshahi

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) will construct 18 bridge-culverts on the link roads of different villages in Paba upazila in Rajshahi.

A total of Tk 48,69,648 will be spent for this work. All the necessary processing, including tender has been completed and the construction work will be completed within this fiscal, official sources said.

The culvert on Choroktola Road will be built at a cost of Tk 2,48,500, the culverts on Horhogram-Rajshahi by-pass road, Pukuria Railway Road, Vallukpukur Road and Koipakaria Road at a cost of Tk 2,48,500 each. The culverts on Bujkai-Pukuria road and on Horian Teultola road at a cost of Tk

1,15,958 each and the 36-foot bridge on Boghata-Mohananda Khali Khal at Tk 15,53,500. The culvert on Kaliaparha Boiragi canal at a cost of Tk 3,77,211 and on Dadpur Burhighat canal at a cost of Tk 2,43,447 and on Dadpur Chakparha road at a cost of Tk 2,43,850.

Moreover, the culverts on Horian Dohorah at a cost of Tk 2,18,679, on Dadpur Shulakala canal at Tk 1,41,538, on Mathora Road at Tk 1,24,887, on Bhugroil-Thujkail Road at Tk 1,17,441 on Barailparha Road at Tk 92,439 and another culvert at a cost of Tk 33,750 will be constructed.

On completion of the project, people will get easy communication and water sewerage facilities.

Outlawed party activists regrouping

ABU AHMED, Satkhira

The activists of outlawed parties have started regrouping themselves ahead of the Union Parishad (UP) elections in Satkhira and the adjoining districts.

The outlawed parties are Purbo Bangla Communist Party (PBCP), Biplobi Communist Party (BCP), Sramjibi Mukti Andolon, New PCB, Sarbohara Party and other armed cadres of outlawed parties in Tala upazila of Satkhira district.

Sources close to outlawed parties said, during election many candidates hire armed cadres from these groups to influence the voting process. In the last parliamentary and union parishad elections, armed activists of outlawed parties were very active in village areas.

According to local people, in the violence prone Satkhira districts armed cadres of the outlawed parties actually do not have any political ideology which they had earlier.

Most of them are engaged in violent activities.

According to police, in the last five to six years many splits developed among the outlawed parties and many fled their respective areas following crackdown of the ongoing joint operation.

But they are now trying to return to their places ahead of the union parishad elections with the help of local influential who are going to contest the election, police said.

A source close to these outlawed party activists informed that several meetings of different outlawed parties and groups were held in several remote areas of Satkhira and other adjoining districts. They also formed several committees.

In the process at least three different groups have been united. They discussed about their work in the upcoming UP election.

Local people and candidates are worried for such activities of the members of outlawed parties.