

NEWS SNAPS

Teenage worker's body recovered

UNB, Comilla

A domestic help allegedly committed suicide in the Munsefbari area of Comilla town Monday.

Police said Rumi, 17, of Meherpur district was working in the house of Ali Ahmed Mojumder since December last and her body was found hanging in the bathroom in the morning. On information police recovered the body after breaking open the door of the bathroom. The body was handed over to her guardians after autopsy. A case was filed.

One with arms arrested

UNB, Gazipur

Police arrested a man along with arms from village Bagbari of Sadar upazila Sunday.

Acting on a secret information police raided the house of Abdul Barek and recovered one pistol, one revolver, one shooter gun and one magazine from his possession. He was sent to jail hjajat. A case was filed.

Children's fair in Rangamati

UNB, Rangamati

A three-day children's fair began at Old Court building premises of Rangamati district on Tuesday morning.

Zila Parishad chairman Dr Maniklal Dewan inaugurated the fair jointly organised by United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), district administration and district information office under "Say Yes to Children" programme.

Two murderers to die in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

Acourt here Monday awarded death penalty to two persons in a sensational murder case.

The convicts are Rakhal Chandra Raha and Nepal Chandra Raha.

According to prosecution, they chopped to death Dinesh Chandra Dutta of village Hossainpur in Devidwar upazila on February 26, 1999 when he went to a pond for washing his face early in the morning.

After examining records and witnesses, Additional District and Sessions Judge Khan Mohammad Abdul Mannan found them guilty and handed down the capital punishment.

Price-hike of vegetables in Madaripur

UNB, Madaripur

The prices of vegetables have shot up abnormally in the markets of Madaripur district causing concern among the common consumers.

Each kilogram (kg) of bean is being sold at Tk 10 against Tk 7, cauliflower at Tk 12 against the previous price of Tk 5 to 6, each kg of potato is on sale at Tk 13 against Tk 6 and tomato at Tk 12 against Tk 6.

Besides, the prices of cabbage, egg, beef, chicken and fish have also been increased. Each kilogram of white broiler is being sold at Tk 75 against the previous price of Tk 60 and beef at Tk 85 against Tk 75.

A trader said the prices have increased as the production of vegetables has been decreased due to sweeping cold spell and fog.

Cold wave tells on poultry in 16 northern districts

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Some 20,000 chickens perished in 16 northern districts this winter. The production of chicken eggs and milk of cow have also fallen sharply.

The deaths were reported from the rural areas situated in extreme north of the region, sources in the livestock department said.

An ideal hen usually lays 25 eggs per month, but in this winter, the production rate has come down to 15 eggs per month, poultry farm owners said.

The condition of poultry farms in rural areas is much more worse than those of urban areas. This is because poor people in rural areas find it difficult to maintain required temperature inside the farms.

An expert at the district livestock office confirmed the reports.

However, he claimed that the present production rate of eggs is

not more than 20 per cent below the normal rate.

He further informed that there are about 20,000 poultry farms in the region. The farm owners should maintain a temperature of 60 to 70 degree Fahrenheit (100 degrees Fahrenheit is equivalent to 37 degrees Celsius) inside their farms during winter.

However, prices of eggs of chicken in the markets here have gone up to Tk 42 per dozen. Even two weeks ago eggs were available in the markets at Tk 36 per dozen.

Low temperature of the winter has worried the cattle farm owners in Rajshahi city. The cows are not giving them the usual quantity of milk.

Ramen Ghosh, a cattle farm owner in the Laxmipur area in the city told this correspondent that he has three milch cows. They used to give him a daily 15 litres of milk. "But

for the last several weeks, they (cows) are not giving more than 10 litres of milk a day".

A livestock expert of the government preferring anonymity informed The Daily Star that the average daily production of milk in the region has gone down by 15 per cent.

He also informed that the cows under the cattle-fattening project are now consuming more food than usual.

When asked about the reason behind low production of hens and cows, the expert told the birds and the animals spend much of their energy to protect themselves from cold in the winter. As a result their normal production has come down.

At present, milk is on sale at Tk 24 per kg in stead of Tk 20 per kg a month ago.

One killed by miscreants in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A man was killed by miscreants at village Banna in Chowhali upazila in Sirajganj district on January 19 night.

The victim was identified as Borhanuddin Mondal, 54, son of Israt Mondal of the aforesaid village.

Police said some unknown miscreants kidnapped him near his house on January 18 night. He was killed on the next day. The dead body was the kept at a crop field. As per secret information police recovered the body on January 20 from the place. Many cut marks were found in the body. The cause of murder could not be known.

Pro-BNP candidates bag five seats in Magura municipality

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

The candidates backed by ruling BNP bagged five, out of nine posts of ward commissioners, while the opposition Awami League (AL)-backed candidates bagged three posts of ward commissioners and an independent candidate won one post of ward commissioner in Magura municipality elections.

The victorious ward commissioners are: Abdul Gani Biswas (BNP) in Ward 1, Md Sakhawat Hossain (AL) in Ward 2, Meer Shahidul Islam (AL) in Ward 3, Md Sarwar Molla (BNP) in

Ward 4, Zahidul Islam (BNP) in Ward 5, Md Kutubuddin (BNP) in Ward 6, Faruk Ahmed (BNP) in Ward 7, Tapan Kumar Roy (AL) in Ward 8, Md Abul Asad (Independent) in Ward 9.

The three women commissioners elected from three reserve seats are Sabetara Begum, Mosammat Suraya Ahmed and Minoti Rani Datta. All the elected women commissioners are independent candidates.

The elected chairman of Magura Poursava is AL-backed candidate Abdul Gafur.

25 injured as villagers clash in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

At least 25 people were injured, six of them seriously, in a clash between two rival groups of villagers at village Parwarkul in Mohammadpur upazila recently.

Locals said two rival groups one led by Ismayeel Mridha and the other by Abdul Majid Fakir clashed over fishing in a disputed water-body (beel).

The seriously injured, identified as Baki, 30, Hashem Sheikh, 50, Motaleb Mian, 45, Beloka Bibi, 40, Majid Fakir, 55, Tota Mian, 52 and Banu Bibi, 40 were admitted to Magura Sadar and Mohammadpur hospitals.

Electioneering in Mymensingh



PHOTO FEATURE: AMINUL ISLAM

Now is the season of union parishad elections. Hectic campaign is going on all over the country. Here is the election scenario of Mymensingh. (Top left) Shahida Akhtar, a candidate for women's reserve seat at Mollickbari union in Bhaluka upazila strives to woo some female voters, while (right) Md Noor Uddin, a new comer in the polls race, promises something to a group of male voters in the same union. (Bottom left) In another union a manufacturer of megaphone doing a brisk business of his products in this election season, while (right) a local printing press in the district town where posters and festoons are on display to attract attention of the candidates.

Seminar at Netrakona told Strong local govt a prerequisite for development

JAHANGIR ALAM, Netrakona

Speakers at a seminar in Netrakona on Sunday underscored the need for strengthening the local government.

They were speaking at a seminar on Sunday at the office of Sabolombi Unnyan Samity, a development organisation, here. The seminar was organised on the occasion of visit by a group of local government assistance group. Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, member secretary of the group presided over the seminar.

Leaders of the group said strengthening of local government is an essential prerequisite for development in local areas. Because of lack of necessary initiatives, local government has become a less important organisation. The discussants demanded adoption of resolutions and various programmes in this regard with a view to strengthening the economic foundation of

local government.

The leaders further said all the activities aimed at betterment of the country are done in the capital. But they informed each and every area has its own resources and particular notions. Local initiatives should be taken for proper utilisation of local resources. A vast manpower of the country live below poverty level. Therefore the local government should be recast anew suiting to the needs of modern age. It should be turned into an organisation which can assist poor and women, they told.

Prominent among the speakers were Shaheen Anam, coordinator of the Fund for People project, Dr Tofail Ahmed, member of the assistance group and teacher of Chittagong University, Dr Ahmed Kamal, professor of Dhaka University, Khondker Shakhwat Ali, research fellow of PPRC, Salahuddin Ahmed, managing director of Palli Karma Sahyak Foundation, Begum Rokeya, execu-

tive director of Sabolombi Unnyan Samity and others.

The speakers felt the need for training of all elected representatives so that they can be aware about their duties and responsibilities.

A report on a survey of the union parishad election campaign in Netrakona district was read out in the seminar. The guests also replied to various questions of participants.

Leaders of different social, cultural, political organisations, newsmen, teachers, grass root organisers, NGO workers, chairmen and members of various union parishads in Sadar Upazila of Netrakona took part there.

Following the seminar a rally was held demanding more effective local government.

In the afternoon a press conference was held at the district press club where the visiting delegates exchanged views with local journalists.

Youth found dead in Cox's Bazar hotel

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Cox's Bazar sadar thana police recovered a body of a young man from a hotel room in the resort town. The body was identified as Abul Khair, 34, son of Mesba in Katgor area of Chittagong Bandar thana.

According to police, two young men Abul Khair and Abdul Haq, 35, rented Room No 25 of Balaka hotel at Laldighirpar in Cox's Bazar town

on Sunday Noon. At 8:30 PM hotel boy found the body with blood in the room. Then door of the room was open. Hotel boy informed the manager about the incident.

Police recovered the body and sent to local morgue for post-mortem. Roommate of the dead man Abdul Haq fled after the incident. Throat of the dead body was cut off. None was arrested in this connection. Police yet to find motive and clue of the murder.



PHOTO: STAR

A primary school student receives a set of text books from the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Moulvibazar, M Mukhlesur Rahman at a function held recently at Mostafapur Government Primary School here while other officials look on.