

NEWS SNAPS

Housewife allegedly killed by husband

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

A housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband and his family members in Sreepur upazila on Monday.

The victim was Shahana Begum, 32, wife of Abu Torab of village Khanbari in the aforesaid upazila.

The victim's family members alleged that Shahana, mother of three children was beaten up severely by her husband and his family members following an altercation over family feuds.

Police arrested killer husband Torab and father-in-law Ibrahim Mia.

Drug trafficker convicted in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A drug trafficker was convicted in Khulna.

Mofizur Rahman, the drug trafficker was awarded life term imprisonment. He was fined 10,000 taka, in default, to suffer six months more rigorous imprisonment (RI) for keeping 96 bottles of phensidyl.

The judgement was pronounced on Sunday by Additional District Judge Didar Ali Fakir. The bottles of phensidyl were recovered from the accused on November 3 in 2001. A case was recorded with Khulna thana on the same day, while chargesheet of the case was submitted on April 29 last year.

CI sheets for insolvent freedom fighters

BSS, Khulna

Whip Ashraf Hossain gave away the allotment letters of 129 bindles of corrugated sheet among the family members of 85 insolvent and 'Shaheed' martyred freedom fighters of Khalishpur, Daulatpur and Khanjahan Alithanas.

Representatives of insolvent and martyred freedom fighters' families received the letters at a function in Khalishpur Industrial area here on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion, the Whip said the present government is working for the welfare of insolvent freedom fighters along with those of martyred families. He also called upon the concerned persons for proper use of distributed corrugated sheets.

Jamalpur BNP leader hurt by rivals

BSS, Japampur

A BNP leader was wounded, house of another leader and 20 other shops were ransacked by rival groups in Maderganj upazila of Jamalpur on Sunday evening.

President of Maderganj Thana BNP Advocate Manjur Kader Babul Khan was attacked by some unruly people of rival fraction of the same party at Balizuri Bazaar, according to witnesses.

The attackers chopped the thana BNP president with lethal weapon and took away his motor bike.

He was rushed to Maderganj Health Complex.

As a sequel, the followers of wounded Babul Khan ransacked the house of Shahan Master, a BNP leader and 20 shops at Talukder market.

992 farmers in Magura face certificate cases, flee houses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

A total of 992 farmers in four upazilas of Magura have fled their houses after being accused in certificate cases.

Official sources said, in the entire district, 992 certificate cases have been lodged by the Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) authorities, against unrealised loan amounting to 1,09,35,865 taka.

In Sadar upazila, 738 certificate cases have been lodged against the loan of 25,72,908 taka, in Sreepur upazila, 81 certificate

cases lodged against the loan of 29,14,950 taka, in Mohammadpur, 71 cases against 23,48,662 taka and in Shalikhah upazila, 102 certificate cases have been lodged against the unrealised loan of 30,99,345 taka.

Most of the farmers borrowed loans for agricultural work. Unfortunately they could not achieve their production target due to price-hike of seeds, pesticide and fertiliser, they said to The Daily Star.

"I took 2,000 taka only which now

stands at 7,500 taka including interest", said Shiekh Jamil, an accused of a certificate case to this correspondent. Fearing arrest, he had to flee home.

Another accused of certificate case at village Niznanduali in Sadar upazila said to this correspondent, "I took 6,000 taka as agri-loan which I was compelled to spend for my daughter's treatment".

As the accused farmers have fled from their houses, their family members face acute economic hardship.

UP polls in Manikganj Supporters of defeated candidate go on rampage

UNB, Manikganj

Over 20 people were injured as supporters of a defeated chairman candidate attacked 100 houses at Baliati union in Saturaia upazila on Sunday.

About 50 supporters of Abdus Sobhan, a pro-BNP chairman candidate swooped on the houses following his defeat in Saturday's Union Parishad polls, witnesses said.

The attackers prevented the injured from going to hospital for treatment.

The victims took shelter in local police station where doctors were called in for their treatment.

A case was filed.

Peaceful polls in 9 Manikganj unions

BSS, Manikganj

Union Parishad (UP) elections to nine union parishads of Saturaia upazila in Manikganj were held peacefully on February 16.

The chairmen-elect are-Baraid union-Abdul Kuddus Khan Majilish, Dighulia-Abdul Wahab Khokon, Baliati-Md Serajul Huq, Saturaia-Abul Bashar Sarker, Daragram-Md. Elahi Box, Hargaj-Anwar Hossain Khan, Fakurhati-Md. Afazuddin, Dhankora-Abdur Rouf and Tili-Abul Kalam Master.

Election Commission Secretary Md Zakaria visited some polling centres.

Victory for AL candidates in Nilphamari Bar Association polls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Awami League (AL) candidates won the Nilphamari district Bar Association election defeating the four-party alliance candidates.

Former president of district Awami League advocate Anwar Hossain was elected the new president defeating four-party alliance supported advocate Abdul Latif, district Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami. Advocate Abdul Wahab, backed by Awami League was elected the general secretary (GS) defeating the present public prosecutor (PP) advocate Mohsin.



(Left) Amena Khatun, Headmistress of Government Biddyamoyee Girls' High School, Mymensingh handing over a gift to Delwar Hossain Khan, local member of parliament (MP). The gift was presented to him on the occasion of the annual sports competition of the school where he attended as the chief guest. (Right) A colourful march past by the students of the school before start of the annual meet.

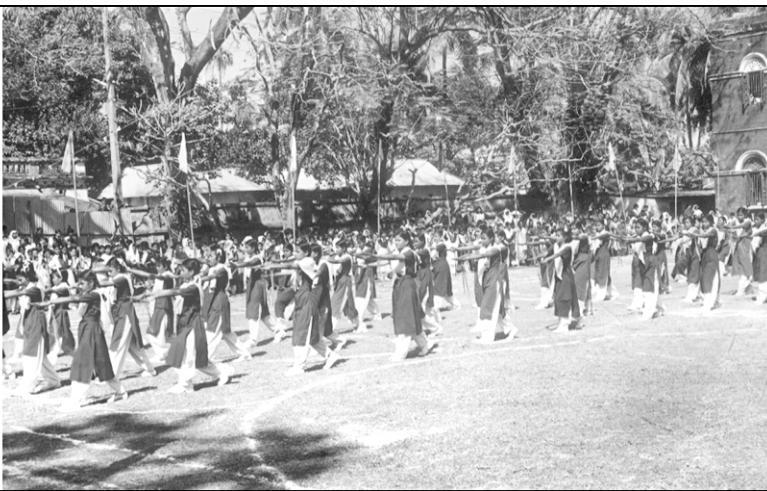


PHOTO: STAR

40 hurt in separate clashes in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

At least 40 persons were injured in two separate clashes at Rishidha and Dubil in Sholonga police station and at village Ekdala in Sadar police station.

According to police and eye witnesses, the clash erupted when the villagers at Rishidha assaulted Jahangir Hossain of Dubil. Then the supporters of Jahangir attacked them. Both the groups used lethal weapons during the clash. About 25

persons were critically injured. Ayeenuddin, 30, Nasiruddin, 32, and Ibrahim, 45, of Rishidha and Jahangir of Dubil were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital.

In another incident a group of villagers at village Ekdala locked in a clash. About 15 persons were critically injured. Two were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital.

Two separate cases were lodged with Sholonga and Sadar police stations.

Jaldhaka municipality chairman faces no-confidence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Anwarul Kabir Chowdhury, chairman of Jaldhaka municipality faces no-confidence from all the nine ward commissioners and three women commissioners of the municipality.

They raised allegations against the chairman at a joint press conference at the local press club recently.

They pointed out that during the recent army operation a foreign-

made revolver was confiscated from his house. Since then Chowdhury remains absconding.

As he is the joint convenor of the district BNP, the district administration did not take any action against him despite lodging written complaint to the deputy commissioner (DC), Nilphamari.

However, Chowdhury was reelected the new municipality chairman.



PHOTO: STAR

Some children at village Laxmipur in Sadar upazila, Magura fishing from the Fatki River which has dried up. The river needs immediate dredging.

Three killers awarded life term imprisonment in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Three killers were sentenced to life term imprisonment by a court in Satkhira.

The court fined 10,000 taka each, in default, to suffer one year more rigorous imprisonment (RI). The convicts are Kiron Sarkar, son of Bhin Sarkar, Bhadra Kumar Bachhar, son of Ramesh Kanti and Baburam Sarkar, son of Akhil Sarkar, all of village Harihar Nagar in Tala upazila.

The prosecution story in brief is that the accused persons killed Pachu Sarkar, son of Priyanath Sarkar of village Kalagachhi in Tala upazila on June 14, 1996. A case was lodged with Tala thana.

After investigation police submitted chargesheet against the accused persons.

Crisis of insecticides hampers boro farming in Habiganj

BSS, Habiganj

Acute crisis of Furadon brand insecticides has been hampering the cultivation of high yielding Boro paddy in Habiganj.

The current Boro cultivation has already been affected and delayed due to recent severe cold wave, according to farmers.

The farmers who are now very busy in planting Boro seedling have been hard-hit by the price-hike of TSP and Potash fertilisers and diesel.

Non-availability of Furadon granules insecticide has further

aggravated the plights of the farmers.

Furadon granules insecticide is very much effective to control mazra and other insects harmful to Boro paddy, the farmers said.

It also helps increase production, they said.

The farmers complain that there is no insecticide in the markets for the last few months. Some insecticide traders told BSS that Padma Oil Company which is the distributor of Furadon has been failing to supply insecticides to meet the demand of farmers.