

NEWS SNAPS

Woman allegedly commits suicide

UNB, Chandpur
A young housewife allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at village Uspur in Haziganj upazila on Monday.
Family sources said Taslima, 35, wife of Rafiqul Islam, took her life following a family feud. The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Rapist convicted

UNB, Brahmanbaria
A court here has sentenced a man to life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) in a rape case.
The convict is Farid Miah. He raped a little girl of village Khagalia in Nasirganj upazila on February 2, 1999. The judge handed down the verdict on Tuesday.

Girl allegedly raped

NB, Jessore
A girl of Sagordari Madrasa was allegedly raped at village Chingra in Keshabpur upazila here on Thursday night.
Police said one person named Jahangir of the village abducted the 14-year-old girl, a student of class IX, at gunpoint at 9pm. At that time she was returning home from a religious function at Chingra Bazaar.
Jahangir took her to a bush and raped her whole night.
Next morning local people rescued the girl in an unconscious state and sent her to upazila health complex.
A case was filed with police.

Training centre for handicapped

UNB, Brahmanbaria
A training and rehabilitation centre for handicapped women has been constructed here at a cost of 2.39 crore taka.
Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujaheed on Wednesday inaugurated the centre constructed by Public Works Department.

Armed robbery at Pangsha

BSS, Rajbari
Armed robbers looted cash and valuables worth 45,000 taka from a house at Kalikapur union in Pangsha area on Thursday midnight.
Police sources said five to seven robbers raided the house of Paritosh Kumer Biswas and looted the valuables, including one colour television and 25,000 taka.



PHOTO: STAR
Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman inaugurates a newly constructed modern shopping complex at Moulvibazar. Among others, M Nasser Rahman, member of parliament (MP) and son of the minister (1st from left) was present at the ceremony which was held in the divisional city recently.

10 hurt as 2 AL factions clash in Comilla

UNB, Comilla
Ten people were injured in a clash between two factions of Awami League (AL) during the triennial conference of its district unit here on Monday.
Witnesses said the clash ensued when senior party leaders refused to select Chitta Ranjan Bhoumik number one organising secretary of its new committee.
Outraged by the refusal, Ranjan's supporters fought a pitched battle with their rivals. They blasted crackers and fired shots on Laksam Road in the town.
Later, the party leaders formed a 67-member executive committee with Advocate Rustom Ali as president and Abul Kashem as secretary and Advocate Abdur Rouf as number one organising secretary.

Newborn found dead

UNB, Gazipur
An unidentified newborn baby was found dead at Chandni Bazaar in Sadar upazila on Tuesday.
Police recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.
The baby boy is believed to have been killed.

Experts reveal at workshop in Bogra 26 killed, 13,000 others affected by HIV so far

UNB, Rajshahi
About 26 people were killed and 13,000 others affected by HIV/AIDS so far all over Bangladesh.
Experts revealed this at a workshop on HIV/AIDS in Bogra on Sunday.
The daylong workshop titled "Orientation of Journalists on HIV/AIDS" was organised by Centre for Communication and Development (CCD) in collaboration with CARE, Bangladesh.
Some 30 journalists from Bogra, Sirajganj and Joypurhat districts took part in the workshop.
Experts laid emphasis on the role of mass media in creating mass awareness among the people about the deadly disease.
CCD vice-chairman and teacher of Mass Communication and Journalism Department of Rajshahi University Dulal Chandra Biswas was the facilitator of the workshop.

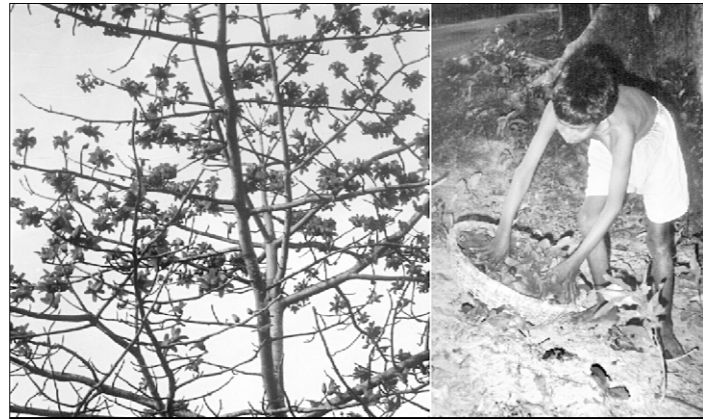


PHOTO: STAR
(Left) Shimul is in full bloom with the advent of spring. (Right) A boy picks Shimul flowers to make fun.

Woman gunned down

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong
One woman was gunned down and another person critically injured by a gang of robbers in Banskhali upazila in the early hours of Monday.
The incident occurred at around 2:30am at Baish Majheepara of Katharia union. An armed gang of about 10 to 15 persons was attempting to enter the house of one person named Mafiz Baidya when they faced resistance from the inhabitants.
They fired indiscriminately to escape the mob and flee the spot. One bullet hit Dilwara Begum, 35, leaving her spot dead and another person named Samial Haq, 25, injured.
Dilwara's husband Mozaffar Ahmad filed a murder case.

Housewife allegedly beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura
A nine-month pregnant housewife was allegedly beaten to death by her husband in Sadar upazila, Magura on February 15.
The victim was identified as Shahana, 20, wife of village Abalpur in Sadar upazila.
Father of the victim Shaheb Ali complained that his son-in-law Alamgir beat his daughter to death over family feud. He went into hiding leaving the body at Magura Sadar Hospital compound.
Police recovered the body with several injuries and sent it for autopsy.

Killer gets life term

UNB, Chandpur
A court here on Monday found a man guilty of murder and sentenced him to life term in jail.
The District and Sessions Judge Court, Chandpur also fined convict Osman Gani 1,000 taka, in default, to suffer two months more rigorous imprisonment (RI) Osman strangled his nephew Billal, 9, at village Bhati Chhinaiya in Kachua upazila on September 13, 1998.

Sohel murder in Sirajganj

Culprits yet to be nabbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police failed to nab the killers of union parishad (UP) chairman candidate Anwar Sadat Sohel in Sirajganj after 35 days of the incident.
Now the killers are threatening Sohel's family members over telephone to withdraw the murder case.
Unidentified miscreants killed Sohel, 27, one of six chairman candidates of Number 7 Habibullah Nagar Union of Shahajadpur in Ullapara on January 23.
People who went out of their houses for Fazr prayers recovered his body from village Balshabari beside Dhaka-Pabna highway with marks of stab injuries behind his head and back. The killers cut one finger and smashed his left leg.
Ashraf Islam Rubel, brother of Sohel, filed a murder case with Ullapara Police Station on the same day.
Police on January 28 arrested Nasim, a rent-a car trader and interrogated him during his two-day remand.
Rezaul Karim, investigation officer (IO), told this correspondent that Nasim disclosed names of two killer suspects belonging to a certain group.
"We shall be able to arrest the suspected killers soon," IO told The Daily Star adding that massive drive would be carried out after completion of UP election on March 6. At present police concentrate on election, he further said.
Supporters of late Sohel have demanded of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) to postpone the election scheduled on February 19, but their demand was not fulfilled.
Sohel came out of a meeting at a



Anwar Sadat Sohel

nearby house at 12:30am on the fateful night and met Nasim at 1:00 am at Ullapara Railway Station. Afterwards, a van-puller dropped Sohel at his home at 2:00am.
Relatives believe some people might have been waiting at the entrance of his house, kidnapped and killed him.

Gas cylinder loaded truck seized: 3 held

UNB, Jessore
Police seized a truck, carrying gas cylinders, and arrested three people from a transport agency here on Monday night.
Police raided Sonargaon Transport Agency and arrested them, including manager of the Agency, for their alleged bid to smuggle gas to India.

Cow dung as fuel gains popularity

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Cow dung as fuel has gained popularity in both the rural and urban areas of Magura district.
This is due to price-hike of firewood, liquid petroleum (LP) gas and kerosene.
Although cow dung has been used as fuel in rural areas for years together, it is now being used in urban areas also.
Sources in the Livestock Department here informed that there are 2,80,000 cattlehead in four upazilas.
They further informed, each cow leaves at least 5 kg of dung every day.
About 10,000 people including women and children use cow dung as fuel.

Man imprisoned for possessing illegal firearms

UNB, Rajbari

A man was sentenced to 17 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) by a special court here on Tuesday.
He was convicted for possessing illegal firearms.
Judge Chandan Kumar Sinha sentenced Faysal alias Lokman Ali to 10 and seven years' of RI on different counts of offence in the case.
Police arrested Faysal and Kiamuddin from Daulatdia ferryghat along with a shutter-gun and one bullet.
The judge found Faysal guilty and acquitted Kiamuddin.

Envoy says

Ample scope of education for Bangladeshi students in Russia

UNB, Sirajganj
Russian Ambassador in Bangladesh Nikolai G Shevehenko said there is ample scope of education for Bangladeshi students in Russia.
The Russian envoy said this while distributing Abdul Hamid Memorial Scholarship to 10 meritorious students of different educational institutions of Sirajganj town

on Monday.
Prizes were also given to a number of philanthropic organisations in recognition to their social work.
The envoy said a good number of Bangladeshis who obtained Russian degrees are now playing important role in national development. He hoped that Bangladeshi students would continue to go to Russia for higher education.

Life term for child trafficker

UNB, Naogaon
A man was sentenced to life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) by a court here on Sunday in a child trafficking case.
The lifer is Shafiqul Islam, 35, of village Darikuri in Adamdighi upazila of Bogra.
Shafiqul kidnapped two little boys from village Nalgara in Sadar upazila to smuggle them to India on June 22, 1997.
Another accused in the case was acquitted for lack of evidence. In another verdict, two men were

sentenced to seven years' RI by the court on Sunday for their attempt to kill a woman.
The court also fined Sekandar Ali alias Sekan and his brother-in-law Alam Tk 2,000 each, in default, to suffer six months more RI.
Sekandar of village Bhadrasena in Manda upazila set fire to his first wife Sajeda with the help of Alam, brother of Sekandar's second wife, on July 10, 1997.
Two more accused -- Mokbul and Monekka in the case were acquitted by the judge.



Artistes of Uzial Shilpigoshthi render folk songs at a book fair in Kishoreganj. The week-long fair was organised by the district administration to mark the International Mother Language Day on February 21.