

NEWS SNAPS

College girl killed in road mishap

UNB, Barisal
A college girl was killed in a road accident in Muladi upazila here on Monday. Witness said Shaon, a student of Tejgaon College, Dhaka died on the spot when the bus carrying him hit a roadside tree at 10 in the morning.

SSC examinee commits suicide

UNB, Barisal
A Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinee allegedly committed suicide at Polytechnic Road of Barisal town on Sunday. Locals said Shima, 15, committed suicide by hanging herself following a family feud.

Two snatchers arrested

UNB, Patuakhali
Two snatchers were arrested from town Patuakhali on Saturday. Police said they caught Md Sumon, 25, and Jasim, 26, red-handed when they were fleeing with a gold chain of a woman. A case was filed.

SI closed in Mymensingh

UNB, Mymensingh

A Sub-Inspector of Mymensingh Kotwali thana has been closed to police lines here for negligence of duty.

Teenage housewife Kamrun Nahar Kakon, 15, a resident of Goalkandi area of the town died at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital on April 3 and it was suspected that she was killed by the inmates of her in-laws.

When her parents came to the thana for filing a murder case against her husband and in-laws Si Abu Salam Mia refused to take the case.

Brick kilns pose a threat to environment in Panchagarh

BSS, Panchagarh

Indiscriminate felling of trees by brick kiln owners has been threatening the environment.

This phenomenon has posed a threat to public health also.

The owners burn bricks by using firewood as fuel.

As a result, a large number of fruit bearing trees are vanishing fast.

There is a tendency among rural people to sell their fruit bearing trees to brick kiln owners. But they do not know its adverse impact on environment.

Owners of brick kilns have been using firewood in their brick fields violating a ban imposed by the government on it. They are violating the law of the land under the very nose of the law enforcing agency personnel.

As per Brick Burning Control Act

1992, one may be sentenced to suffer 10-years rigorous imprisonment (RI) or may be fined Tk 50,000 for violating the law.

According to the Act, a brick kiln can be set up on minimum 1.5 acres of land but many brick field owners use three to five acres of land for setting up a brickfield.

According to rules, kiln owners are bound to install minimum 50 feet high chimney with filter in every kiln for emission of smokes.

However, most of kiln owners use lower chimneys, giving rise to air pollution.

A circular from the Land Ministry in 1990 said Deputy Commissioners can only allow unfertile and fallow land for setting up of brick kilns, but in Panchagarh many brick fields have been set up on arable lands.

Some brick kiln owners, however, said to BSS that crisis of coal had forced them to use firewood in kilns. Crisis of coal has been prevailing in the area for a long time, they added.

The brick kiln owners did not take approval from the Environment Department.

There are many brick kilns at Satkhamer, Vallaypara and Balampur under Atowari and Boda upazilas. Owners of the kilns use firewood while burning bricks.

Local people have demanded of the authorities concerned to take proper steps to stop the illegal practice.

Local people complained also that kiln owners used to buy trees from villagers taking advantage of their poverty. They do so in connivance with a section of dishonest government officials.



(Left-right) Two workers are seen working at a brick kiln in Magura, while black smoke comes out of its chimney polluting the environment.

PHOTO: STAR

Faridpur Medical College staff in financial hardship

UNB, Faridpur

Some 143 employees of Faridpur Medical College are passing their days in great financial hardship, as they are not getting their salary for last six months.

The employees demanded withdrawal of the proposal by Establishment Ministry to bring the class four employees under master roll.

The demand came from a press conference organised by the employees at the local press club on Sunday.

The employees said that no salary was paid to them since October 2002 by the authority. They did not get bonus in last two Eid festivals.

The employees have been working since 1992 at the medical college after approval of ECNEC. Five medical colleges in Bogra, Dinajpur, Faridpur, Khulna and Comilla started functioning in 1992.

According to a recent circular of the Establishment Ministry all the regular employees of five medical colleges would be re-employed on daily wage basis, they said.

Two students die in separate incidents

UNB, Jhalakati

Two students died in separate incidents in Nalchhiti upazila on Saturday and Sunday.

The dead were identified as Mizan, 12, son of Abdul Quddus Master and Mohammad Shamim, 15, son of Altaf Hossain.

Mizan, a student of class V, died from snakebite at his house at village Kokila on Sunday.

Shamim, a Dakhil examinee, drowned in the Sugandha River while taking bath on Saturday. His body was recovered on Monday.

Output falls short of target in Joypurhat Sugar Mill

UNB, Joypurhat

Joypurhat Sugar Mill may incur a loss of Tk 6 crore as the target of sugar production was not achieved in the current season.

A target was set to produce 18,600 metric tons (MTs) of sugar by crushing 2 lakh MTs of sugarcane, but only 13,705 MTs of sugar have been produced against the target.

The average rate of sugar collection from sugarcane was 6.87 per cent against the target of 7.6 per cent.

The mill incurred a loss of Tk 4 crore in the last sugarcane-crushing season, mill sources said.

Narayanganj jewellers protest extortion

UNB, Narayanganj

Karlr Bazaar Jewellery shop owners brought out a procession and laid siege to the local police station on Monday in protest against extortion by the miscreants.

The shop owners alleged that a gang led by culprit Mamun is engaged in collecting tolls from them since long and they perpetrate torture on them when they refuse to oblige them.

They alleged that after repeated complaints police failed to take action.

Judge's house gutted

UNB, Narayanganj

The paternal house of an Additional District Judge gutted in a fire at village Bara Fousa in Arahazar upazila on Sunday night.

Locals and Monwara Begum, sister of judge Abdur Rashid, now working in Dinajpur, alleged that the fire was set by their rivals including Mohsin, Shahjahan, Toimur as a sequel to previous enmity.



PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN

A bridge is under construction on the river which is passing through Patuakhali town. But its work goes on at snail's pace.

No progress in Radharam murder case

UNB, Thakurgaon

Seven months after the commission of the crime, none was arrested or any progress made in the sensational Radharam murder case.

Radharam Barman of village Sukhanpuri in Sadar upazila was found hanging from a tree on August 14, 2002, two days after he filed a case for raping his daughter.

A murder case was filed on the basis of severe injury marks found on the body of the Radharam.

Police are trying to weaken the case at the instance of local influential people and so far they failed to submit charge sheets of any of the rape or murder case.

Investigation officer SI Nur Mohammad had also been sent on forced retirement recently putting the case virtually in abeyance.

Villagers said there has been a conflict between Radharam and Shashi Mohon Barman over the marriage between Radharam's daughter and Shashi's son Dilip Chandra Barman.

Dilip developed an illicit relation with the daughter of Radharam and later he was forced to marry her in village arbitration, which his father refused to accept. Later she was sent to her father's house.

Locals said Dilip along with his accomplices recently raped her when she came out of her father's house at dead of night to respond to the call of nature and Radharam filed the rape case against the culprits for which he had to give his life.