

SNAPS

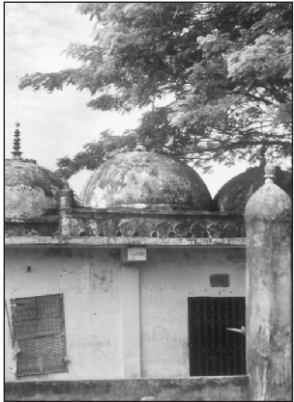


PHOTO: MOZAMMEL HAQUE

This is Burail Jame mosque in Bhangni union of Mithapukur upazila, Rangpur, situated about 25-kilometre off Rangpur town. The three-dome ancient mosque was built during the Mughal period over 100 years ago with an accommodation capacity for 50 devotees. It needs immediate repair and expansion.

Housewife, child allegedly commit suicide

UNB, Rangpur
A housewife with her two-year-old son allegedly committed suicide jumping under a train at College rail gate in Bodarganj Sadar upazila on Tuesday. Police said Purani Bala, 20, jumped under a Parbotipur bound train with her son Shumon when her husband Profulla Roy left her to her parents' house at Shankorpur Hindupara following a quarrel. Police recovered the body and sent it to the hospital morgue for autopsy. An unnatural death (UD) case was filed.

Woman strangled

UNB, Rangpur
One young woman was strangled on Tuesday allegedly by her husband over a family feud in Rangpur. The victim was Minara Begum, 25, of village Faridpur in Pirganj upazila. Police sent the body to morgue for autopsy. A case was filed.

Body recovered

UNB, Feni
The body of an unidentified man was recovered from a lake in Feni town on Saturday. Police recovered the floating body of the middle-aged man. They suspect that the man was chopped to death and then thrown into the lake. The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed.

50 pc drug traffickers are women in Khulna

BSS, Khulna

About 50 per cent (PC) drug traffickers are women in Khulna. Sixty four women were arrested last year in 62 cases under the Narcotics Control Act, according to official sources. Recently two women were sentenced to life-term in prison by Khulna district court for drug trafficking. Previously a section of women was found to be engaged in smuggling sarees and household items from neighbouring countries, mainly India. Some of them sold smuggled goods from door-to-door in the city and its suburbs. But in recent years women are mainly found to be engaged in drug trafficking. Khulna jail authority sources said that most of the under-trial women prisoners are charged with drug-connected cases. Although women of different age

groups are engaged in this illegal trade, most of them are over 40. Most women drug runners are either abandoned or divorced by their husbands. They live in shanties in the city. Poverty is one of the causes of their involvement in the trade, narcotics control officers said. Quick money, non-requirement of capital and less risk are among the causes, which attract women in this trade. Women can carry a few bottles of Phensidyl, some small packs of heroin under their clothes without fuelling doubt in the minds of others. Male law enforcers do not dare search or arrest a woman unless they make sure about possession of illegal drugs. Sexual harassment is very often leveled against male law enforcers. Female accused can obtain bail without much problem. Female traffickers with babies in their arms can draw people's sympathy.

Small and makeshift 'Pan Biri' shops owned by females also draw people's attention. Observing the very sight someone may ponder how hard a woman is struggling for her survival. But, in fact, the shops are nothing but drug selling centres and addicts and vendors know each other. Sometimes these women make door-to-door delivery whenever anti-drug drive is intensified. Most of these women come to this illegal trade as carrier. Initially they are engaged by dealers to carry drugs from one place to another. But as soon as they overcome the fear of arrest and jail they start their own business. In most cases they pay the price of drugs after selling the same. So, no capital other than courage is required to be a drug runner. Social resistance and awareness with intensified and continuous anti-drug raids may help improve the situation.

Rivals clash leaves one dead in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

One person was killed and 30 others injured, six of them critically in a clash between supporters of two community leaders at Jagdal in Sadar upazila, Magura in two days. Many villagers fled their homes fearing further clash and police harassment. The dead was identified as Zarip Molla 50, died at Magura Sadar Hospital, five critically injured Dudu Molla, 45, Mazed, 40, Sabur, 30, Motiar, 45, and Ahad, 30, were fighting for life in the

hospital. A long-standing rivalry was prevailing between Afazuddin and Masim Mollah. On Friday afternoon, supporters of Masim Mollah beat Dudu Molla of their rival group. It turned into a violent clash just after Faz'r prayers on Saturday. At around 10 am on Saturday Zarip Molla died. Both the groups used lethal weapons during the clash. They went on rampage after the death of Masim. At least 40 houses were destroyed. Feuding groups swooped on the houses of their rivals and looted valuables including

foodgrains, fruits and cattle, police and locals said. Police rushed to the spot and arrested Azizur 25, Daud 30, Nasim Molla 70, Asraf 28 and Soliman 25. No case was lodged till filing of this report at 7:45 pm on Sunday. Biswas Afzal Hossain, Superintendent of Police (SP), Magura, informed this correspondent that he had visited the spot and ordered deployment of police in the village. He also assured proper action against the culprits.

Boro production will fall short of target in Panchagarh

BSS, Panchagarh

The target of boro cultivation could not be achieved this year in Panchagarh. Boro was planted on 10,350 hectares of land this year against the target of 17,200 hectares. The production target was fixed at 90,000 metric tons (MTs) of paddy. The Deputy Director of Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) told BSS that the reason was massive cultivation of wheat in Panchagarh. Farmers cultivated wheat in most boro fields. He hoped that there would be a bumper production of wheat this year. This year boro transplantation was delayed because of unprecedented cold wave and dense fog causing seedling crisis, irrigation problems and price-hike of diesel. Dense fog and extreme cold hampered the germination of seeds. Even after germination, seedlings in a large area damaged due to extreme cold. Many farmers had to sow boro seeds for the second time. In the peak period of transplantation 150 out of 225 deep-tube-wells of the North Bangladesh Deep Tube-wells Project remained inoperative due to disconnection of electric lines disturbing irrigation to the fields. Only 75 tubewells functioned normally. The price of diesel has increased from Tk 17.65 to Tk 20.65 per litre.

Expansion of rubber gardens on

BSS, Chittagong

The work for creating new rubber gardens is going on in full swing, official sources said. State-owned Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation (BFIDC) has been implementing the Asian Development Bank (ADB) aided rubber garden expansion project at a cost of 2.37 crore taka. A total of 1,876 acres out of 2,055 acres of unused land in seven rubber gardens of Chittagong zone have been brought under rubber cultivation where over 17,50,000 saplings had been planted during the last two years. The garden-wise break up of expansion work is as follows: 750 acres of land in Haldia rubber garden, 450 acres of land in Kanchon Nagar rubber garden, 403 acres of land in Dabua rubber in Kanchon Nagar rubber garden, 403 acres of land in Dabua rubber garden, 150 acres of land in Datmara rubber garden, 150 acres of land in Tarakho rubber garden, 50 acres of land in Raozan rubber garden and 100 acres of land in Ramu rubber garden.

Clash over land: Youth dies in Naogaon

UNB, Naogaon

A youth, who received injuries in a clash, died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) on Thursday. Police said 11 villagers including Subhash, 23, were injured in a clash over a disputed land at village Hatash in Sadar upazila last week. Subhash was admitted to RMCH in a critical condition where he died. A murder case was filed.



PHOTO: STAR

Former Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition in Jatiyo Sangsad Sheikh Hasina addresses an unscheduled public meeting at Srirongal Railway Station while she was on way to Sylhet by train on April 10. She addressed another meeting at Kulaura station.

Students of Vocational Training Institute (VTI) parade the streets of Magura town in a procession demanding introduction of B Sc (Vocational). The processionists submitted a memorandum to the Education Minister through the Deputy Commissioner.

PHOTO: STAR