

SNAPS

Body recovered

UNB, Chandpur

The body of a missing college student was recovered from a paddy field at village Koroiya in Kochua upazila on Wednesday.

Family sources said Fakhru Islam, 22, student of Victoria University College was called out of his home by some youths on Sunday but did not return.

Police recovered the body that bore marks of acid burn, and sent it to the morgue for autopsy. A case was filed.

Welfare body for newsmen

UNB, Kishoreganj

One welfare foundation for local newsmen was formed here for helping them in times of difficulty.

A 13-member committee of the foundation was constituted in a meeting with district Janakantha correspondent, advocate Shah Azizul Haque in the chair. Muhammad Mostafa Kamal of daily Matribhumi and Saif Uddin Lenin of Bhorer Kagoj were made pre-

sident and secretary of the committee.

Baishakhi fairs

UNB, Panchagarh

Four Baishakhi fairs began at different parts of Panchagarh on Monday amid much enthusiasm.

The ten-day long fairs began at Mirgarh Moyonuddin High School, Moldandighi Union Parishad office of Boda upazila, Notunhat Madrasa and Amlahar Degree College.

Sunamganj BCL leader gunned down

UNB, Sunamganj

A local leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) was gunned down by a youth in Sadar upazila on Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as Touhidur Rahman, 21, organising secretary of Chhatra League Sunamganj Government College Unit and a Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSC) examinee.

Police and witnesses said Rahul alias Rousseau called Touhid out of Choumuhani bazaar at about 4:30 pm and sprayed bullets on him.

He was rushed to the Sadar Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Rousseau, son of Rabiul Hasan, had gone into hiding soon after the incident. The motive behind the killing could not be known.

Students of schools and colleges in the town boycotted their classes protesting the killing of Touhid.

Victim's father, Shafiqur Rahman alias Modhu Mia, a freedom fighter, filed a case accusing Rousseau.

Alleged gambler killed

UNB, Rangpur

An alleged gambler was killed and two others sustained bullet wounds in police firing at village Shomnaran in Pirgachha upazila recently.

Police said they were forced to open fire when a mob tried to snatch their rifle.

Death threat to employees

BRTC buses stop plying on Rajshahi-Naogaon, Naogaon-Pabna routes

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Plying of state-controlled Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) buses on Rajshahi-Naogaon and Naogaon-Pabna via Rajshahi routes stopped following attack and death threats to BRTC employees.

A group of hired goons attacked two BRTC buses on the routes, forcibly dragged passengers out of the buses and kept two buses confined while drivers of

the buses were preparing to start for their destinations recently.

Masud Karim, local BRTC contractor told The Daily Star that the district motor owners and labourers' association hired the miscreants who threatened to kill them and destroy BRTC vehicles if they try to ply the buses along the routes.

Later at a meeting with BRTC officials in presence of Boalia thana officer-in-charge (OC), the association members demanded that BRTC buses should

abide by rules of the association which the local BRTC authority denied.

When contacted with Rajshahi Sarak Paribahan Group's joint secretary Nuzrul Islam Helal, he denied the allegations of attack and threats on BRTC staffers.

He confessed that workers stopped plying of government buses as local contractors were running BRTC buses illegally. "The BRTC authority should abide by rules of the association," he added.

Improving environment through partnership

ZAM KHAIRUZZAMAN, back from Mymensingh

Mymensingh is a secondary city in Bangladesh. It grows in a haphazard manner, while slums sprawl over a large area polluting its environment. So, the city needs to improve its atmosphere.

Improving the atmosphere of dirty slums is not an easy task. But Mymensingh Pourasabha (municipality) and Care Bangladesh, an international non-governmental organisation (NGO) made it possible.

Kalibari-Gudara Ghat slum beside the Brahmaputra River under Ward number 9 of the municipality has become a shining example of such partnership. The partnership helped attain remarkable success in improving the environment and also in providing basic amenities including healthcare facilities to poor slum dwellers.

This is why the Integrated Food Security Programme (IFSP), an innovative scheme of Care Bangladesh is getting popular here.

Strategic objectives of IFSP is to promote and protect household resources and assets, to promote health, hygiene and nutritional practices of vulnerable groups and promote effective and sustainable institutional support system. Supporting Household activities for Hygiene, Assets and Revenue (SHAHAR) is a component of IFSP.

The slum dwellers formed a committee named Community Resource Management Committee (CRMC) consisting of 17 members of various professions including three females to transmit people's demand to the municipality. SHAHAR helped CRMC to implement development initiatives. Abdul Quddus, president of CRMC told a group of visiting journalists that about one year ago life was very miserable for 1,981 people. They lived in sub-human condition. Because of intervention of Care-Bangladesh atmosphere of the slum improved a lot. Jahanara Begum, secretary of CRMC informed newsmen that the CRMC members also motivated slum

people to improve health. Previously they had no access to pure drinking water. Care installed three Tara pumps and helped solve crisis of drinking water. Not only that Care personnel helped them in treatment of usual physical discomforts like headache, fever, cough, diarrhoea along with national programmes like immunisation. Besides, family planning, reproductive health service, finding polio and AIDS cases, Care staffers help them to regain health of malnourished children and increase enrolment of girls and boys in school and madrassah, Jahanara told the newsmen.

Md Asad Uddin Khan, Assistant Project Officer, Urban Team, IFSP, Mymensingh Region informed the visiting journalists that in the last fiscal his organisation spent Tk 27,67,229 for development of the slum. Care constructed 655-metre pathway, 259-metre drain, eight latrine complex, 24 tubewell platforms, one box culvert and one cross drain. According to him there are about 492 households here. For 20-25 years the slum dwellers live on this khas land beside the river. The inhabitants are engaged in different occupations. There are rickshaw/van pullers, day labourers, masons, petty businessmen street vendors, domestic helps and beggars. Their monthly income varies from Tk 1,000 to 3,000.

While briefing the journalists about the programme, Arifa S Sharmin, Manager, External Relations of Care Bangladesh informed them that her organisation extended the required financial and technical support and Mymensingh Pourasava implemented the project. "We seek a world of hope, tolerance, and social justice, where poverty has been overcome and people live in dignity and security," she asserted.



PHOTO: STAR

Jahanara Begum, secretary of Community Resource Management Committee (CRMC) speaks with visiting journalists about their success in transmitting people's demands to local municipality. Care helped improve environment of Kalibari-Gudara Ghat slum in Mymensingh. Arifa S Sharmin, Manager, External Relations, Care is also seen.



Md Faizur Rahman Choudhury, National Commissioner (Cub Scouting), Bangladesh Scouts talks to a Cub while visiting Feni Zilla Cub Camporee at G A Academy in the district town from April 10 to 13. Three hundred cubs, both boys and girls, attended the camporee.

50 hurt, 3,000 houses ruined by nor'wester in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

At least 50 persons were injured and more than 3,000 houses including 15 educational institutes were damaged in a nor'wester that swept over 15 villages in Bagha upazila on Monday night.

The nor'wester coupled with hail-storm uprooted hundreds of trees, killed

many domestic animals and caused harm to mango orchards, sources in the district administration and witnesses said.

The worst affected areas are Kalidaskhali, Chalkrampur and Zotasi of Gargori union and two other villages Keshabpur and Chhatari.

Some 11,000 people of Gargori union

were passing their days under the open sky as no relief from the administration reached there.

Injured Badar Uddin Sheikh was shifted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) while others were treated at the upazila health complex.