

SNAPS

Girl killed in attack over land dispute**UNB, Noakhali**

Agiri was killed and three other people were injured in an attack by some hoodlums at Shyampur village in Sadar upazila on Friday.

Witnesses said a gang led by Kefaitullah swooped on the house of Mohibul Haq following rivalry over land and looted the valuables after beating up his daughter Hasina and son Mahbub and two other relatives. Hasina succumbed to her injuries when she was taken to Noakhali General Hospital.

Listed criminal gunned down**UNB, Faridpur**

A listed criminal was gunned down by unknown assailants in the town on Friday night.

Police said Nur Mohammad Hiru alias Hiru Kashai, 35, was the second-in-command of notorious 'Babu Kashai bahini' and one of the five most wanted criminals of the locality. Witnesses said three men came close to Hiru Kashai who was sitting in a rickshaw at Mujib Sarak at about 9:30pm and shot him from point-blank range. He died on the spot.

PBS to expand power network**UNB, Bagerhat**

A total of 505 villages in eight upazilas of Bagerhat and Khulna districts have been brought under power supply network by local Palli Bidyut Samity (PBS) so far.

At present, 58,883 subscribers of these villages are getting electricity, though PBS is able to supply only half of the total demand. Official sources said 100 km electric line is being installed in the district at a cost of Tk 7.50 crore in the current fiscal year. PBS has also taken steps to supply electricity to 66,000 more subscribers.

Work on police investigation centre underway**UNB, Patuakhali**

The work on a police investigation centre and a bungalow began at Kathaitoli area of Mirzaganj upazila at a cost of Tk 98.33 lakh.

Public Works Department and Zila Parishad are implementing the project. Besides, LGED is constructing a union parishad building at Madhabkhali union.



PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN

A tribal woman weaves a shawl at her home in Kuakata, Patuakhali. Most of the Rakhaine families earn a living by selling shawls, a major attraction for tourists.

Arms looting in SW region on the rise

Raiders take away 150 firearms in seven years

UNB, Bagerhat

Arms looting from various places, including police and Ansar camps, factories, banks and launches, is on the rise in trouble-torn southwestern region.

Looting of 20 rifles and 600 rounds of bullet from Ansars at Daulotpur Jute Mills in Khulna on Thursday night is the latest incident.

On March 11, criminals swooped on police at Sheikhpura in the town and took away a shotgun and bullets. In another raid, a single barrel gun was looted from the security men posted at Kushtia Textile Mills on January 21.

According to a statistics, about 150 firearms and huge quantity of ammunition were looted in eight districts during the last seven years in the region.

Though the snatching incidents are taking place one after another, attempts to recover the arms and ammunition proved futile.

Cadres of various outlawed groups are mainly involved in the looting incidents in the terror-stricken region. They swoop on the on-duty police and Ansars at different establishments, including police outposts and Ansar camps, and take away the arms and ammunition.

Official sources said the criminal gangs are much stronger in number than the police force.

They said there are 15 to 20 personnel in each Ansar and police camp and the criminals in large numbers can easily overpower them in their attack.

According to report, at least 24 firearms found missing in Khulna Collectorate malkhana on May 9, 1998.

Nineteen arms were looted from Dattapara police outpost in Madaripur on July 1, 2000, 12 arms from Afil Jute Mill under Abhoynagar thana in Jessore in September 1999, eight arms from rail police on August 24, 1997 and seven arms from Radhuli police outpost in Khulna on August 22, 1996.

In an attack on a launch at Rampal in Bagerhat, the raiders took away five rifles from Ansars on May 5, 1998 and one firearm from Sonali Bank branch at Chitalmari in Bagerhat on December 30, 1997.

Khulna DIG of police KM Enayetullah Dewan said they recovered some arms in separate raids during the period.

Housewife stabbed to death**UNB, Meherpur**

A pregnant housewife was stabbed to death by unidentified assailants at Amjhupi in Sadar upazila on Friday.

Police said hoodlums stabbed Amena Khaton, 27, mother of three children, to death and left the body at Islamnagar, about two kilometers away from her house. Her father alleged that her husband, a drug-addict, killed her.

Jute production target set at 67,000 bales**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj**

The Agricultural Extension Department has undertaken a programme to bring 6,080 hectares of lands in Gopalganj district under intensive jute cultivation with a production target of 66,880 bales.

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) will supply HYV jute seeds to the farmers.

Jute will be cultivated in 1100 hectares in Sadar, in 3,860 hectares in Muktudpur, in 930 hectares in Kasiani, in 55 hectares in Kotalipara and in 135 hectares in Tungipara upazilas.

BNP factions clash in C'nawabganj: One killed**UNB, Chapainawabganj**

A young man died in an explosion during a fierce clash between rival groups of BNP at Sonapatti village in Sadar upazila on Friday night.

Witnesses said the clash erupted following an altercation between Charbaghdanga union BNP president Enamul Haque and general secretary Rafiqul Islam Bulbul.

During the hour-long clash, supporters of Bulbul, also the UP chairman, attacked the house of Belaluddin, cousin of Enamul, and hurled home-made bombs. Belal died on the spot and 20 others were injured.

Critically injured Alauddin, Sumera Begum, Abdur Rakib, Taslima Khatun and Hasan Ali were admitted to Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital.

Acid attack victim gets 2 rickshaw vans**UNB, Panchagarh**

A young housewife, who lost her left eye and ear in an acid attack, received two rickshaw vans and materials to build a tin-shed house from Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) last week.

Ruksana Begum, manager of ASF, handed over the van and materials to Anita Bala and her husband Sajal at their house at Brahmanpara village in Debiganj upazila on April 19.

Local hoodlums threw acid on Anita Bala, 23, and her daughter Shyamoli, 6, and son Shyamol, 4, on February 17, 2002 after failing to violate her.

Police arrested three people - Rabindranath alias Rabi, Hasabul Islam alias Minto and Nokul - for their involvement in acid attack.

Accused in rape case arrested**UNB, Panchagarh**

A fugitive, wanted in a rape case, was arrested from Debiganj upazila on Wednesday.

Police said they arrested Dulal who along with his accomplices abducted and violated a teenage girl, a student of class five, in Binoypur village under Debiganj upazila last year.

Her father filed a case against eight people.

Police framed chargesheet against four people and also arrested Zaher Ali, Ayesha Begum and Abdus Sattar.

Smuggled Indian drugs pose health hazards**UNB, Jessore**

Indian substandard medicines are being smuggled into Bangladesh through different borders of Jessore, Satkhira and Chuadanga districts of the southwestern region.

The date-expired and low quality medicines are causing new complications to its users, instead of curing the disease.

Local CID police launched a drive on a Khulna-bound commuter train coming from Benapole and seized huge quantity of Indian medicine worth about Tk one lakh recently.

Police in Chuadanga also recovered contraband medicines from a bus

and arrested a man, Abdur Razzak of Faridpur.

Satkhira police recovered huge quantity of medicine worth Tk 50,000 from Kalaroa upazila.

Satkhira and Chuadanga police said the medicines they seized were meant for cow fattening.

Local drug officials remained silent on the issue, creating doubt on the their sincerity to combat the menace.

A secret syndicate at Benapole is active behind the scene. It is learnt that physicians in rural areas of the border districts prescribe Indian medicines due to its low price.

One gets 3-yr term for trying to kidnap schoolgirl**UNB, Brahmanbaria**

The Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression sentenced a man to three years' rigorous imprisonment on Saturday for trying to kidnap and violate a schoolgirl.

Judge Mohammad Rashidul Hasan Patwari convicted Zakir for trying to kidnap the girl, a student of class VIII in Chandri village of Sadar Upazila.

According to prosecution, Zakir along with his accomplices made an attempt to kidnap the girl while she was returning home from school on November 16, 2000.