

SNAPS

Storm kills one in Patuakhali

UNB, Patuakhali
A man was killed and 200 thatched houses were damaged as a nor'wester lashed the district on Monday. Sources said Eshak Chowdhury, 40, died on the spot when a tree fell on him during the storm at Bilbilash village in Bauful upazila. Many trees were uprooted and crops on vast tracts of land damaged. The homeless poor people have passing their days in great distress.

Prisoner dies at Sylhet

UNB, Sylhet
An under-trial prisoner of Habiganj district jail died at Osmani Medical College Hospital on Monday. Sources said Shebul Lasker, 25, of Mohobborpur village of Baniachang upazila was seriously injured following a clash with another prisoner in the jail on April 17. He succumbed to his injuries while he was undergoing treatment at the hospital.

8 shops gutted in Jhalakathi

UNB, Jhalakathi
Eight shops were gutted in a devastating fire at Launch Ghat in the town on Monday night. An electrical short circuit sparked off the fire at about 1.30am, causing an estimated loss of about Tk 6 lakh. Three people were also injured trying to extinguish the blaze. Firefighters brought the fire under control after hours of frantic efforts.



PHOTO: STAR

Construction work on Fenchuganj bridge over the river Kushiara has been going on at a snail's pace for long. Buses, trucks and other vehicles using the Sylhet-Fenchuganj-Moulvibazar road now depend on age-old ferries to cross the river and they have to wait in long queues before getting berths in the ferries.

Demand for phone connections high in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Demand for telephone connections in Moulvibazar town has shot up following the reduction in installation charge, but the local exchanges do not have the capacity to meet such a huge demand.

At least 2,000 applications for new telephone connections have been submitted to the BTTB (Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board) office while it can provide only six more connections.

The BTTB officials said they have informed the higher authorities of the crisis as applications are piling up. But no steps have been

taken so far to resolve the crisis.

Some applicants are lobbying the district BNP leaders for the landline connection.

Moulvibazar town has two telephone exchanges with a capacity of 3550 lines. Now only six lines are on offer although new customers are coming on to the system everyday, the officials said.

Crisis for telephone connections in Moulvibazar district town is more acute than in three other district towns in Sylhet division.

In Sylhet town, 7500 new telephone have been installed and work on installation of 3000 new lines each in Habiganj and

Sunumganj towns is underway. But there is no initiative to increase telephone lines in Moulvibazar district town.

The Assistant Divisional Engineer (ADE) of Moulvibazar BTTB office told the journalists that the capacity of two telephone exchanges can be increased to provide one thousand more lines by adding on some equipment to the exchanges.

And such proposal have been sent to the higher authority of the BTTB, he added.

Khidirpara Union Muktijoddha Command formed

BSS, Dhaka

A seven-member Khidirpara Union Muktijoddha Unit Command was formed with Humayun Kabir Kajol and Shahnoor Islam as commander and deputy commander at a meeting of freedom fighters at Basudia village recently.

The assistant commanders are Awlad Hossain Swapan, Haji Idris Hossain and Deeder Hossain Matbar and the members are Yusuf Hossain Sarder and Anwar Hossain.

The meeting was held as per directive of the Liberation War Affairs Ministry and at the call of Louhajang Thana Command. It also finalised the list of genuine freedom fighters.

Eminent journalist and freedom fighter Shahjahan Mian chaired the meeting and newly elected UP chairman Shah Newaz Mridha was present as chief guest.

Former member of Muktijoddha Central Command Council Nasiruddin Ahmed, Louhajang Thana Commander Mir Mosharrif Hossain, ex-UP chairman Abul Kalam, BNP leaders Nurul Islam Azad and Anwar Hossain and industrialist Siraj Mridha attended the meeting conducted by former UP chairman Idris Hossain.

Housewife killed for dowry

UNB, Barisal

A young housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband and in-laws for dowry in suburban Kshipur area on Tuesday.

Police said Dipa Rani Das, 18, was beaten up by her husband Sanjay Raha, his elder brother Nantu Raha and Nantu's wife Baby Raha for dowry. Dipa died on the spot.

Police arrested Sanjay and Baby after victim's mother filed a case.

2 chairman candidates jailed in Faridpur

UNB, Faridpur

A speedy trial court on Sunday sentenced two chairman candidates to two years' imprisonment in UP polls-related violence case.

Anwar Hossain Dhali and Dr Abdul Khaleque Hawlader were also fined Tk 1,000 each. They will have to suffer one month RI more if they fail to pay.

Magistrate Mahbubur Rahman Faruquee gave the verdict. This is the first judgement in a poll violence case filed under speedy trial act in the district.

Dhali and Hawlader were the chairman candidates for Diara Narkelbaria UP under Sadarpur upazila. The polling was held on February 4.

Harun-ar-Rashid, OC of Sadarpur thana, submitted chargesheet against Dhali, Hawlader, Delwar Hossain Dhali and Moslem Morol in a case filed by the presiding officer of Hakiatpur primary school polling centre.

Delwar Hossain Dhali and Moslem Morol were acquitted of the charge.

Two get 17-year term each in arms cases

UNB, Pabna

Two people were sentenced to 17 years' rigorous imprisonment each in separate arms cases.

In the first case, Judge Atiqur Rahman handed down the verdict on Momin on April 23.

According to the prosecution, local people caught Momin and Din Mohammad when the two snatched money from an NGO officer at gunpoint at Jamtala in Sadar upazila on February 17, 2001.

The arrested were handed over to police along with a pipe gun and

one bullet.

In another case, a special tribunal sentenced Shamsul Huq to 17 years' RI on Saturday.

The court also fined the convict Tk 1,000 in another count. He will have to suffer six months' more RI if he fails to pay.

Police arrested Shamsul from Goyeshpur in Sadar upazila on June 19, 2001 and recovered a revolver and six bullets from him.

After examining the records and witnesses, Judge Shafiqur Rahman found him guilty and awarded the punishment.

BNP, AL clash in Sirajganj: 22 injured

UNB, Sirajganj

At least 22 people were injured in a clash between BNP and Awami League activists in Kazipur upazila on Tuesday.

Witnesses said the clash took place at about 3.00pm when BNP supporters prevented Awami League activists from taking out a procession from the upazila parishad premises.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Husband gets life term for killing wife

UNB, Habiganj

A court here Sunday convicted a man and sentenced him to life term imprisonment for killing his wife.

The court also fined the convict, Akkas Mia, Tk 5000. He will have to suffer one year's RI more if he fails to pay.

According to prosecution, Akkas Mia of Muriak village in Lakhai upazila beat his wife Sakia Khatun to death following a family feud on July 11, 2000.

District and Sessions Judge A K M Istiaq Hossain handed down the verdict.

Fund crisis hits work on Jhalakathi embankment

UNB, Jhalakathi

Construction of the 477-meter town protection embankment could not be completed yet because of fund shortage.

At present, the total estimated cost of the project shot up to Tk 7.88 crore from the original estimate of Tk 4 crore.

The project was taken up in 2000 following a large portion of the town disappeared in the river Sugandha.

Work on 131-meter embankment was completed in 2000 and on 71-meter embankment in 2001. The project work was scheduled to

complete by 2002 but it came to a halt.

The embankment is now protecting a small section of the town, leaving the major portion vulnerable to erosion as the project was left incomplete.

A source in Water Development Board said the project cost would not have escalated if the embankment was completed on schedule.

Businessman stabbed, robbed of Tk 20,000 in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

Terrorists stabbed a young businessman and looted Tk 20,000 from him in the town on Wednesday night.

Police said the gang was demanding toll from Jalauddin Shipon, owner of the Shipon Super Market, for the last few days, but he refused to pay.

The muggers looted the money after stabbing him indiscriminately.

Shipon was rushed to the Comilla Medical College Hospital.

Burimari phone exchange goes out of order

UNB, Lalmonirhat

Burimari digital telephone exchange went out of order within six months of its installation.

Considering the importance of local Land Customs Station, the government converted the exchange into digital in November last year.

But the exchange became inoperative on April 21.



PHOTO: STAR

A daylong training workshop on 'Money Laundering Prevention Act 2002' was held at the regional office of Janata Bank in Moulvibazar recently.