

SNAPS

Two killed in explosion

BSS, Naogaon

A grandmother and her grandson died in a boiler explosion at Khorda Narayanpur village under Mohadevpur upazila on Friday.

Quoting eye witnesses, police said a boiler made of drum-sheet suddenly burst while paddy was being boiled. Splinters hit Kanchan Bewa (63) and her minor grandson Abdur Rahman, killing them on the spot.

The victims hailed from Koibortypara village under Manda upazila. A case has been filed with Mohadevpur police station.

Park now a den of criminals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The lone Probeen Park (park for elderly people) in the town is now a haven for drug addicts and criminals.

People do not dare to go to the park as gangs of criminals virtually occupy it after sunset for their anti-social activities, locals alleged.

They also tease girls who pass by the park, said Aungshu Chakma, who lives near the park. Locally made liquor, hemp, phensidyl, heroin are sold at the park and adjoining areas even in daytime.

"We asked police and the municipal authorities several but they did nothing," said Nur Islam, another resident of the area.

BDR seize timber

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized some 10,000 cubic feet of illegally felled valuable timber from Barobindur Ghat in Baghaichhori upazila in the early hours of Saturday.

Those were handed over to the local forest department office. None was arrested during the seizure, done on a tip-off.

Sources said the trees were extracted illegally from nearby Katchalong reserve forest.

Students fail due to natural calamity!

24 educational institutions face cancellation of MPOs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

The education ministry has issued show cause notices on 24 educational institutions in the district for the second time to explain why their MPOs (monthly pay orders) will not be cancelled for poor performance of students in the last public examinations.

Such letters were issued last year also, when the institutions replied that poor performance was due to 'natural calamities'. Their explanations were accepted and they were given one year time to improve performance of students.

Of the 24 institutions, five are

high schools and 19 are Madrassahs.

These are Satpara Girls High School and Tiani Moniram High School in Pargacha upazila, Gurjipara Girls High School in Pirgonj, Chengmari High School and Osmanpur High School in Badarganj, Mekura Islamia Senior Fajil Madrasah, Uttam Jafarganj Fajil Madrasah and Aviram Karimia Aleem Madrasah in Rangpur Sadar, Osmanpur BU Senior Fajil Madrasah, Moinakuri DS Aleem Madrasah, Bakshigonj Aleem Madrasah and Damudarpur AU Aleem Madrasah in Badarganj,

Lalchandpur Khiron Ulum Senior Fajil Madrasah, Maubhasha Senior Fajil Madrasah, Paikan Akbaria Yousufia Fajil Madrasah, Kulkandan Akhia Sharif Alia Madrasah and Southpara Islamia Dakhil Madrasah in Gangachara, Muradpur Rezzakia Aleem Madrasah in Mithapukur, Saidpur Forkania Fajil Madrasah and Kandikabila Para Mahila Aleem Madrasah in Pargacha, Okrabari Farukia Dakhil Madrasah and Nikirhat Saidpur Aleem Madrasah in Taragonj, Kashipur Rahmania Aleem Madrasah and Kabilsha Mobtul Ulum Dakhil Madrasah in Piroganj upazila.

Asthma onslaught in coastal areas

BSS, Dhaka

Hundreds of coastal people, especially children, need urgent help to get rid of major respiratory problem called asthma, doctors say.

Around nine percent of the people of Patuakhali, Bhola, Laxmipur, Noakhali, Feni and Cox's Bazar districts have become susceptible to asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases (COPD) due to heavy 'indoor pollution'.

Usually, people of big cities like Dhaka are exposed to asthma because of massive air pollution and industrial and automobile exhaust. But recently, coastal areas have marked a sharp rise in asthma cases due to growing number of lung infections, allergy and pneumo-

nia, sources said.

The average number of asthma cases in Dhaka and Chittagong cities remain around 4.1 per cent, while it crossed nine per cent in coastal areas this year, Dr Rahsidul Hassan, General Secretary of Asthma Association, told BSS.

Pneumonia was the only respiratory disease in these areas, but bronchiolitis and asthma are now included in the list. Asthma and COPD have become a great concern as around 55 per cent of such patients die, he said.

Dr Asif Muztaba Mahmood of the Institute of Diseases of Chest and Hospital (IDCH) said 'indoor pollution' is very high in coastal belt, while the outdoor pollution was minimal

compared to cities.

Referring to a study he said smoking, inhalation of smoke from cooking burners and fluctuation of temperature owing to cyclone and storms contribute significantly to the spread of child asthma in the areas.

Some doctors say childhood pneumonia, bronchitis and indiscriminate use of antibiotics are the main reasons for asthma.

Out of seven million asthmatics including four million children in Bangladesh, 4,000 die every year. Modern treatment, which is available in the country now, could prevent 80 per cent of deaths, sources said.

Contractor shot dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A contractor was gunned down by unidentified miscreants on the premises of Kushtia Primary Teachers Training Institute on Saturday.

The victim was identified as Nasir Uddin, 45, of Arap Pur in Jhenidha.

Police said, a gang of three armed men suspected to be outlaws came in a motorcycle and shot Nasir point blank while he was supervising construction of a wall of the institute.

Nashir died while being taken to Kushtia General Hospital. Police sent the body to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police however arrested three contractors of the town.

Police suspect the killing could be sequel to a row among contractors over construction work.

Refusal to marriage proposal

3 of a family beaten up, hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Three persons of a family were injured in an attack by some hoodlums allegedly belonging to ruling BNP's student front Jubo Dal on May 28 at Ramdevpur village under Rampal upazila in Bagerhat.

The injured, now undergoing treatment at Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH), are Mili Gain, 18, her brother James Gain and mother Namita Gain, 44.

According to a general diary filed



PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN

This is Monu barrage on the Monu river in Moulvibazar district. It was constructed in Sadar thana to irrigate lands. But in the ongoing dry season the barrage has become ineffective due to unilateral withdrawal of water in the upstream.

7 speakers, 12 in audience!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

There were seven speakers and 12 persons in the audience.

So began the function where State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdus Sattar Buiyan was present as chief guest to launch the government's tree plantation programme on Sunday. It was held at about noon at the Faruki park in the town, organised by the district administration.

The state minister became annoyed seeing the handful of people.

The deputy commissioner then brought people from nearby offices and the audience reached around 80.

Besides, the state minister, the speakers were Deputy Commissioner Muksed Ali, Regional Forest Officer Laskar Mahbubur Rahman, Mujibur Rahman, district BNP secretary Al-Haj Emranur Reza, party leader Hafizur Rahman Mulla and Kazi Nazrul Islam of Jamaa-e-Islami.

Meanwhile, a press release issued by the district forest office said it will distribute 20,000 saplings free of cost and sell another 93000 plant samplings along 25 kilometre road.

AL leader expelled from party

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Rangamati district Awami League Vice President Ashotosh Barua was expelled from the party on Sunday for anti-party activities, said a press release signed by AL district unit president Diponkor Talukder.

Refusal to marriage proposal

3 of a family beaten up, hospitalised

with Rampal thana, the armed attack came after a proposal by Jubo Dal leader Nasir Shaikh to marry Mili Gain was refused.

On the night of May 28, Nasir and four of his associates made an attempt to abduct the girl, the GD said. The attempt was foiled when Mili and other members of her family raised a hue and cry for help.

While fleeing, the Jubo Dal activists clubbed Mili, James and Namita and threatened them with death, the GD said.



A socio-religious meeting of Rabidas community at Kutipara in Gaibandha. It was presided over by veteran social worker Bazlur Rahman and attended by, among others, Master Kanailal Rabidas Mohanta, Director General of Bangladesh Guru Rabidas (Dham) Mission. The meeting was organised recently by the Gaibandha unit of Bangladesh Guru Rabidas (Dham) Mission.

Sonai river embankment, other issues

Indian team visits site, to submit report to JRC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A five-member team from the Indian River Research Institute visited the bordering areas of Satkhira on Sunday to examine the possibility of increasing water flow of the silted Sonai river.

They also visited the under-construction WAPDA embankment from Bhomra to Baikari border area in Bangladesh territory, construction of which was stopped by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF).

The team will stay in Bangladesh for four days and hold meetings with officials of the Ministry of Water Resource and

the Bangladesh River Research Institute.

The Indian team comprise MN Saha, Director, Ganges Flood Control Commission, SK Biswas, Superintendent, West Bengal Drainage Control Circle, RK Bose, SK Dardi, District Magistrate, 24 Pargana and engineer RNAich.

The team visited the Sonai river at Bhadiali and Keragachhi points.

Earlier, a team from Bangladesh River Research Institute, accompanied by an Indian team, visited the Indian side of Sonai river from Tuesday to Friday last.

The river has become silted due to lean flow of water from the upstream in Indian territory, which cause flood during the monsoon.

Both the teams will submit separate reports to the Joint River Commission.

The Bangladesh team consists of Saiful Islam, Joint Secretary Ministry of Water Resources, Mizanur Rahman, Deputy Director, Disaster Management, engineer Sherif Al Sarafat, engineer Abul Hashem and Nur Alam Talukder.

The Indian team left Satkhira for Jessore Sunday afternoon.

Acid attack on six in Magura, Sirajganj

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Six persons including a widow and a couple became victims of acid attack in Magura and Sirajganj in the last six days.

Our correspondent reported from Magura that a widow -- Kamola Rani, 33 -- suffered serious burn injuries when acid was thrown on her at Sreepur Uttarpara village in Sreepur upazila on May 27, allegedly over a land dispute. She was admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital.

A case has been lodged with

Sreepur thana. Police arrested one Chimoy Mitra of the same village.

In another incident, three persons identified as Asadul Biswas, 26, Phool Mian, 35 and Faruk Molla of Choupur village in Magura Sadar upazila were injured when acid was thrown on them during an altercation at a marriage ceremony at Baharbag village in the same upazila on Friday night.

Our Sirajganj correspondent reported that a young couple became victims of acid attack at

Moharajpur village under Shahjadpur upazila Saturday night.

The couple--Siddique Ali and Rubia Khatun -- were asleep at their house at Boro Moharapur village under Shahjadpur upazila at night when unidentified miscreants threw acid on them through the window.

Neighbours took them to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital where their condition is stated to be critical.

Police and family sources said land dispute could be behind the incident.

Condolence

Bangladesh Guru Rabidas (Dham) Mission branches in the country as well as its Dhaka head office expressed deep condolences on the demise of Sabita Ambedkar, wife of Dr B R Ambedkar, the legendary emancipator of oppressed and backward communities in the sub-continent. She passed away on May 29 at a Mumbai hospital.

In a condolence message, Master Kamailal Rabidas Mohanta, Director General of Bangladesh Guru (Dham) Mission, said "The Rabidas community of Bangladesh deeply mourns the demise of Sabita Ambedkar who was also a dedicated fighter for the cause of the oppressed and backward communities.

Ambulance for Rangamati people

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The University of Science and Technology, Chittagong (USTC) and the PHP Group jointly gave an ambulance to the Rangamati Hill District Council (RHDC) for use by the people of Rangamati.

USTC Vice-chancellor and former National Professor Dr. Nurul Islam and PHP Group Chairman Alhaj Mufti Mizanur Rahman handed over the ambulance to the RHDC chairman at a simple ceremony, held at the USTC auditorium recently.

Road accidents kill 4 in Rajshahi, Mymensingh

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Four persons were killed and 12 injured in road accidents in Mymensingh and Rajshahi on Friday.

Our Mymensingh correspondent reported that two men were killed when their motorcycle was hit by a pickup van and they were run over by a Jajero Jeep in front of Bhaluka Degree College on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway.

The victims are Helaluddin Mondal, 48, and Elias Uddin Mondal.

Helal was killed on the spot and Elias died at Bhaluka Upazila Health Complex, police said.

Police seized the jeep but the driver managed to flee.

In Rajshahi, two persons were

killed and 12 injured in three road accidents.

Kurban Ali, 33, of Surjapur village and Taser Mollah, 57, of Kandar village under Paba upazila were killed and eight others injured in a road accident. The injured persons were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

In another accident, two persons--Obolita Devnath, 60 and Abdul Gaffar, 28, were injured when

an ambulance of Charghat Health Complex knocked down their rickshaw at Kedur. They were also admitted to RMCH.

Two others--Samuil Islam, 4, and Mahbubur Rahman, 38, were injured when a truck hit them from behind at Shalbagan area under Boalia upazila.

Three separate cases were recorded with the respective police stations in these connections.

Robbery at court building

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

A robbery was committed at Madaripur Judge Court building Saturday night.

A gang of 10 to 12 tied night guards, unlocked nine rooms, broke open 27 steel Almiras and ransacked papers and documents. They broke open the collapsible gate of the Nejarat section and took away Tk 13,192.

A case has been filed with the Sadar thana.

Police arrested four persons. They are Ali Akbar Howlader, 30, Hossain, 30, Liakat Sardar, 25, and Dabiuddin.