

SNAPS

Seminar for trained youths

UNB, Barguna
A daylong seminar for trained male and female youths was held at the upazila officers' club auditorium here on Thursday.

About 100 youths who were imparted training on various occupations like pisciculture, cattle rearing, computer and weaving participated in the seminar arranged by the Youth Development Department.

95 uplift schemes

underway
UNB, Pirojpur
Ninety five development schemes are being implemented in Pirojpur Pouroshava area at a cost of Tk 4 lakh.

Of the total, 12 schemes are being implemented with the financial assistance of ADB and rest with the own fund of the municipality.

Move to supply arsenic-free water

UNB, Madaripur
Two hundred ten tubewells are being installed in Shibchar upazila of Madaripur district at a cost of 90 lakh to ensure supply of arsenic-free drinking water.

The Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) is implementing the project with the financial assistance of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Work for baby home going on

UNB, Khulna
The construction work of a baby home is progressing fast here at a cost of Tk 2.75 crore.

Public Works Department is implementing the project, which will accommodate 100 distressed children. Whip of Jatiya Sangsad Md Ashraf Hossain visited the construction site on Saturday.

UP complex completed

UNB, Patuakhali
The construction work of Choto Deghai Union Parishad complex in Sadar upazila has been completed costing Tk 27 lakh.

The Local Government Engineering Department has implemented the scheme under the Union Parishad Complex Construction and Link Road Development Project.

10 cops murdered in greater Khulna in last 16 months

5,000 outlaws with modern arms active in SW districts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Ten cops including three sub-inspectors were killed in 17 armed attacks in the last 16 months in greater Khulna district.

None of the killers has so far been arrested. So, law enforcers apprehend further attacks by miscreants, particularly armed cadres of outlawed parties.

Armed attacks on policemen increased after Tapan, a top leader of Purba Banglar Communist party (PBCP), escaped from police custody at Khulna Judge Court on January 26 last year.

SI Altaf Hossain of Fakirhat thana was killed on June 17 last year while he was on duty. On February 4

this year, constables Abdul Motaleb and Fazlul Huq were killed near Itagacha police camp under Satkira Sadar thana.

Constable Shaheb Ali of Khalishpur thana was beaten to death in Housing Estate area on February 26.

On March 1 this year, Traffic Sergeant Ariful Islam of KMP was killed in a bomb attack near Khulna circuit house ground. Constables Ramesh and Shariful Islam of KMP were killed on the night of March 11 at Shaikh Para under Sonadanga thana.

On the night of last April 27, constables Shah Alam and Abul Kalam were killed near Fakirhat bus stand and on the night of May 12,

Subedar Ashraf Hossain was killed in a bomb attack at KDA avenue under Sonadanga thana.

According to sources, over 5,000 outlaws are in possession of illegal firearms in the south-western districts, while there are 62,151 policemen in 4,197 camps for ensuring security to over 1.5 crore people in the area.

The outlaws have modern arms, while most of the arms of police are outdated.

At least five outlawed parties are active in the SW districts, the sources said.

'Rapists' go scot-free, victim runs for life in Satkhira

Local MP challenges allegation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The misery of a gangraped woman evoked protests by political leaders, NGOs and human rights activists but the law enforcers are still unmoved.

Failing to get justice and protection by law enforcers, the 32-year-old victim fled her Hijaldi village home in Kolaroa upazila and took refuge in a remote village in Manirampur upazila of Jessore to save herself, her son and daughter.

She was abducted from her house and gangraped on the night of August 26 last year, the victim told a group of journalists who visited her recently.

Opposition Leader in Parliament and Awami League President Skeikh Hasina visited her at Satkhira Sagar Hospital on August 30 last year and demanded arrest of the culprits.

But on September 21, local member of parliament Habibul Islam Habib at a public gathering on Kumira Women College premises termed the incident a "false propaganda" to discredit BNP. "If any one

can prove that she was raped, I will resign from parliament", he had said.

On November 7, last year, police got the medical test report, which said the woman was raped. Police submitted charge sheet against the four accused on November 21. But they are yet to be arrested due to "political pressure" by ruling party leaders, it is alleged.

"We are scared. All the accused are at large and are threatening to

abduct me, my son and daughter and kill us if I do not withdraw the case filed against them," she told the journalists.

"I have no other alternative but to leave my village to save the life of my son and daughter" she said.

She named the alleged rapists as Amirul Baddi, son of Rahman Baddi; Asaduzzaman son of Omar Ali; Moazam, son of Nazer Ali and Hasan, son of Enayed Ali of village Hijaldi.



PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN
A boatload of Sundari trees seized by the Forest Department in Chandpai Range in the Sundarbans on May 27. This is a very small fraction of trees stolen by armed miscreants every day. Over half of the world's largest mangrove forest remains unprotected due to lack of adequate forest guards and patrol boats. The guards carry obsolete weapons to face criminals with sophisticated firearms, officials say.

Teesta bridge unguarded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

The Teesta railway bridge is now unguarded following withdrawal of four policemen on May 27.

The policemen were withdrawn after two drug smugglers were arrested with a huge quantity of drugs while crossing the bridge at night, local people claimed.

As there is no security men, overloaded trucks beyond its capacity are crossing the over 100 year old bridge, they said.

It was never left unguarded. Either police or Ansars were posted for 24 hours to guard the bridge, sources said.

The bridge is a vital communication link between Rangpur and the rest of the country.

Besides possible pilferage and acts of sabotage, any major accident may occur any moment in absence of security men, they said.

Rare venomous krait snake found in Sunderbans

BSS, Khulna

A group of IUCN researchers recently found an extremely venomous (neurotoxic) Black Krait (Bungarus Niger) snake from Dudhmukhi area in the Sunderbans forest.

The length of the Krait was 84 centimeter. Bio-diversity researchers Anisuzzaman Khan, M Sajedul Islam and Sharmin Sultana collected this rare but deadly snake.

Snake experts said Kraits are available in eastern slop of the Himalayan range and Garo hills. They said Kraits (Bungarus), cobras (naja), mamabs (dendroaspis), taipans (oxyuranus), coral snakes (micrurus) and sea snakes are some of the deadliest species in the world.

They said Black Kraits are very dangerous as they can open their mouths almost 180 degrees with their fangs extended straight.

A Krait can strike with any portion of its body and its attack is highly unpredictable.

Neuro-medicine experts at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University said neurotoxic venom causes quick death of the victim.

Businessman murder in Sylhet

Killers yet to be nabbed, victim's family threatened

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The killers of young businessman Shahed Ahmed are threatening to kidnap his two minor children if the murder case is not withdrawn, his family members alleged.

The sensational murder whipped

up mass protests in the city but the killers are yet to be arrested.

Angry city dwellers brought out a procession and held a rally in the city recently and submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner for arrest of the killers.

Shahed was stabbed to death on May 24 in Kalbakhani area in the city while he was returning home. Sources said he was killed by an organized gang.

Three persons were arrested but the killers are yet to be nabbed, police said.

501 katha Ctg port land recovered

BSS, Chittagong

The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has recovered 501 kathas of its land worth about Tk 70 crore from illegal occupants.

The lands were recovered in a five-month special eviction drive under a magistrate court.

An amount of Tk 33 lakh was also realised by the court as fine during the drive, according to a CPA press release.

The CPA lands include 124 kathas at Firingee Bazar and Yakubnagar, 16 kathas in Sadarghat, 250 kathas in Maddyam

Halishahar, 31 kathas and 80 kathas in the Port's East Colony areas. Four hundred illegal structures were also demolished during the drive.

The court also realised Tk 33 lakh fine by punishing 160 different types of local and foreign vessels for polluting the environment, dumping waste, anchoring at port prohibited areas and also for violating port rules.

The CPA magistracy through its 40 mobile courts conducted the eviction drive and also settled 300 cases.

3 accused in murder case held with arms at Raozan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested three criminals with arms in Raozan in the early hours of Saturday.

They are Fazlul Haq, Khalil Uddin and Alam. Police said they are accused in a murder case filed with Hathazari thana.

Raozan police raided Noazishpur area at around 2.15 am and nabbed the three. They also recovered one double-barrel gun and two single-barrel guns from their possession.

865 arsenic patients in 4 Chuadanga UZs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chnadanga

Severe arsenic contamination of tube well water has created alarm in the district where 865 arsenic-attacked patients have been identified in three of the four upazilas.

The three upazilas are Chuadanga Sadar, Almadanga and Damurhuda. Survey is going on in Jibannagar upazila, officials at the district Public Health and Engineering Department (DPHE) said.

Of the patients, 86 are in Chnadanga Sadar, 555 in

Alamdanga and 224 in Damurhuda upazilas.

Of the 77,500 tube wells tested out of total 80,548 in the district, water of 27,317 have been found arsenic-contaminated.

The arsenic-affected tube wells are 3,123 in Sadar, 15,225 in Almadanga and 7,469 in Damurhuda upazilas.

DPHE has sealed all these tube wells and is implementing a massive programme to face the situation. These include digging of 'ring wells', preservation of rainwater and motivating people, the officials said.

Bhomra port Hunger strike for reopening

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Satkhira unit of Greater Khulna Development Action Co-ordination Committee and Satkhira Chamber of Commerce and Industries jointly staged a mass hunger strike at Satkhira town on Saturday to protest the closure of Bhomra land port.

Addressing a rally at the venue, Dr Aftabuzzaman, ex-minister, Shaikh Ashraful Haq, chairman of Satkhira Poursava urged the authorities to reopen the land port by June 12.

Girls rescued from traffickers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Police rescued two girls while they were being trafficked to India through bordering village Kaikhali in Shyamnagar upazila and arrested two women traffickers.

Acting on a tip-off, police rescued Masuda Khatun, 20 and Rohela Khatun, 18, from a house in the village recently.

Mojibor Rahman Sarwar.

Chairman of Bangladesh Commerce Bank ATM Alamgir and Ward Commissioner Jahanara Hossain also spoke.

The state minister urged BCC officials and employees to enhance civic facilities to citizens. He asked them to implement development programmes in time and to streamline the administration to increase its revenue income.



PHOTO: STAR
Lux-Anandadhara Miss Photogenic, Portasha, handing over a gift box to a housewife in Gopalganj for using Lux products. She visited at least 20 houses in the town and presented gifts to housewives recently. Asiatic Invents Marketing Limited organised the programme.

334 'suicides' in 45 days in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Incidents of alleged suicide are alarming in the eight upazilas of the district.

According to police records, 334 people committed "suicide" in 45 days from April 1 to May 15 in the district.

The victims included 133 housewives, 43 male students and 20 girl students.

Of the dead, 28 including 15 women were in Rangpur Sadar upazila, 32 including 17 women in

Pirgacha, 31 including 14 women in Kaunia, 40 including 18 women in Gangachara, 35 including 19 women in Taragonj upazila, 48 including 25 women in Badargonj, 55 including 25 women in Mithapukur and 65 including 30 women in Pirgonj upazila.

Demand for dowry, family feuds, unemployment and love affair were the main reasons behind the incidents, police said.

Most of the incidents took place in rural areas, they said.



PHOTO: STAR
Fund shortage has stalled construction of Megharam bridge on the Ratnai river under Moghalhat union in Lalmonirhat district. The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) started the work in 2000 during Awami League rule with a budget of Tk 1.06 crore.

9x3

Barisal City Corpn to be expanded by 20sq km

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operative Ziaul Haq Zia has said a special project will be launched to expand Barisal City Corporation (BCC) area by 20 Square kilometers.

He was addressing as chief guest a reception in Barisal city, accorded to him by Barisal Mayor