

SNAPS

Acid attack on three of a family

BSS, Natore

Three members of a family sustained acid burns at village Talmo under Barigram Upazila in the district on Tuesday.

According to police, some unidentified miscreants threw acid on Siraj Udder, 45, his wife Parvin Akter, 38 and their daughter Sima, 6. Police suspected that the incident was a sequel to previous enmity. The injured are now undergoing treatment at Natore Modern Hospital. A case was filed with Barigram Police Station.

Football player gunned down

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenaidah

Football player Hafizur Rahman was gunned down at Verakhali village under Harinakundu upazila on Sunday night.

Police suspected that the killers might be members of any extremist party.

2 'outlaws' held in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two alleged members of outlawed New Biplobi Communist Party were arrested from Hari Khali and Kothamari villages with a pipe gun Sunday night.

They are Ashim Dhali and Solaiman Ghazi, according to Officer-in Charge of Paikgacha thana Golan Mohammad. They were wanted in murder cases, the OC said.

Trader killed for not paying toll

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Small trader Abul Kalam of Nabinagar village under Chuadanga sadar thana, abducted from his house Saturday evening, was chopped and gunned down in Khalpari area of Jhenaidah town on the same night for not paying toll, police said.

The body was recovered by police on Sunday from the spot.

Idle environment office in Sylhet

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

The divisional environment office set up in Sylhet seven months ago is yet to start functioning properly due to lack of required manpower and basic facilities.

Besides required manpower, it lacks a laboratory, office equipment, transport and other facilities, sources at the office said.

The office was started on November 16 last year at a rented floor at the Sylhet Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCI) building.

It was set up as the highest number of gas and oil related establishments are located in the Sylhet division, a hilly and earth quake prone area.

Its activities include monitoring the environmental in drilling zones and the impact of brick kilns, testing drinking and surface water, ensuring environment friendly atmosphere in industrial units, stopping use of hydraulic horns and emission of black smoke by vehicles, stopping use of polythene bag and hill cutting and to create awareness about environment.

The number of sanctioned staff is nine but only three are working at the office with a Deputy Director (DD) as its head. The two others are a Lower Division Assistant and a Peon.

The posts of Assistant Director, Senior Chemist, Junior Chemist, Upper Division Assistant and Laboratory Assistant are vacant from the very beginning.

The only Inspector, who was posted here two months ago, had been sent abroad for training. An Office Assistant was posted as a cashier but he has applied for transfer as he has no experience in the work, the sources said.

The DD, who is to look after work in all the four districts in the division, has no vehicle.

3 commit suicide in two days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Three persons committed suicide in the district in two days, police said.

Zakir Hossain, 18, son of Ishak Dwean of Bot Bottail village under the Sadar upazila committed suicide by taking poison over family feud on Tuesday night.

Zohura Khtun, 55, wife of one Abdul Jalil and mother of nine ended her life by taking poison on Wednesday at Fulbaria village in Mirpur upazila following an altercation with her husband. She was taken to local hospital where she died.

On the same day, Ahsma Khtun, 25, mother of one child, committed suicide by taking poison at Talbaria village in the same upazila. The reason for her suicide could not be known, police said..

Flood hits 10 unions of Nilphamari

Boy drowns, 300 families affected

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Water level in the Teesta river crossed the danger mark at Teesta Barrage point at Dalia on Monday, bursting its bank and flooding 10 unions of the district.

A minor boy drowned and at least 300 families have left their homes for safer places with their cattle and belongings.

Onrush of water from the upstream and torrential rain triggered the floods.

It is learnt that the unusual rise in

water level is due to onrush of water from upstream as India has opened all the sluice gates of 'Gagaldoba Barrage' at the beginning of the rainy season.

Onrush of water had raised the water level close to red mark the previous day, and Monday's four-hour long rain triggered the flood, inundating 10 unions of three upazilas.

The affected unions are East Chatnai, West Chatnai, Tepakharibari, Khalisa Chapani, Tharsinha, Dauabari, Sholmari, Kaimari, Baish Pukur and Nohali.

Hundreds of hectares of Aman seed beds and Boro paddy fields have gone under water.

A large number of villagers, including women and children, have been passing their days without food and safe water. Scarcity of medicines and fodder is also prevailing in the area.

The affected people demanded immediate supply of relief materials from the district administration.

An official at Teesta Barrage Project said the barrage will be under threat if heavy rain continues.

Fishy food procurement

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

"I can not say the rice is of low quality but some stone chips are mixed with those".

So said a food department official about the rice procured so far after a delayed start due to internal squabbles in ruling BNP over selecting the suppliers from among party men.

The IRRI-Boro procurement in the district started on May 14 instead of April 20, as the ruling party delayed in preparing a list of 168 suppliers in the four upazilas, the food department official said seeking anonymity.

The procurement target is 5,325

MT and the list sought 5,147 MT allotments against the 168 suppliers, other sources claimed.

The seven-page list was handed down to officials at a meeting on May 14 by the district BNP organising secretary after it was okayed by a party lawmaker, who is also advisor to the district procurement committee. The May 14 meeting was held as the committee's May 8 meeting was not "favourable" to the ruling party, the sources claimed.

Even after the go-ahead, food officials were not hassle-free. The district food controller (DCF) was harassed twice last month for declining to issue

WASCs (weight quality stock certificates) to the suppliers, raising questions on quality, the sources claimed.

When contacted, DCF Md Bodruddoza however said there is no irregularity in the ongoing rice procurement drive.

Asked about the alleged harassment, he requested this correspondent not to ask any more question.

The BNP leaders however denied their involvement in the food grains supply and expressed ignorance about any wrongdoing in the procurement drive.

Death anniversary of Jahanara Imam tomorrow

CU CORRESPONDENT

The ninth death anniversary of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam will be observed in Chittagong tomorrow.

A discussion, recitation session and cultural function will be held on the Central Shaheed Minar premises at 3.00pm on the day.

Different cultural organisations, including Prama and Udichi, will perform.

Social scientist Dr Anupam Sen, Resident Editor of Prothom Alo Abul Momen and former president of CUJ Md Idris will take part in the discussion.

Pirates kidnap three near Sundarbans

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Armed pirates looted about Tk three lakh in cash and valuables and abducted three persons for Tk three lakh ransom from a village near the Sundarbans Saturday night.

Police said, a gang of about 20 came in a trawler and swooped on houses of Ahad Gazi, Naimuddin Gazi, Noor Box Moral and Shahidul Islam in Chandimukho village in Shyamnagar upazila.

After the looting, they kidnapped on gun point Abdur Rashid, son of Ahad Gazi; Abdul Majid, son of Naimuddin and Zahangier Hossain, son of Zafar Gazi for Tk three lakh ransom.

The pirates asked for payment of the ransom within a week.



Disaster from illegal hill cutting looms... Two children stand at the foot of Chashma hill in Chittagong city where a landslide injured two people on Sunday night. Rains may cause more landslides, but the authorities are not taking any action against hill cutting.

Wife 'killed' for dowry

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A newly married housewife was tortured to death by her husband at Kishamat village under the Sadar upazila recently.

Police and local people said Peyari Begum, 20, daughter of late Abdul Bari of Topadhan village, was married to Haroon, 26, of a village in the same upazila about a year back.

A dowry of Tk 20,000 was settled, of which Tk 15,000 was paid during the marriage and Tk 5,000 was paid later.

After a few months, Haroon and members of his family put pressure on Peyari Begum to bring more Tk 10,000 from her poor mother.

Peyari protested and refused to go to her poor mother for money, police said quoting local people.

So regular torture on her started. On Tuesday, Haroon severely tortured her. She died at night. Haroon hanged the body with a tree and told neighbours that she committed suicide.

But the neighbours did not believe it. They caught him while he was trying to escape and handed him over to the Kotwali police, witnesses said.

Investigation is going on, police said.

Student 'murder' sparks protest at AM College

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Students of Geography and Environment Department at Government Ananda Mohan College brought out a silent procession in the town on Monday protesting the alleged killing of Aysna Akhtar Taslima, a preliminary student of the department.

The processionists paraded the thoroughfares of the town.

Earlier, the students also formed a human chain on the campus. Dr Md Azizur Rahman, principal of the college, its vice-principal Prof Md. Abdul Mannan and teachers of the college took part in the human chain.

Later the students submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner demanding punishment of the killers. They also held a rally in front of the DC's office.

Student leaders Mahub Jahan Shaheen, Arefin Mahamud Papul, Lutfur Rahman Rubel, Rasel Chowdhury, Abu Sayeed Farhan, Anuradha Das Shyama and Emrose Khaleed Hira addressed a rally.

Taslima succumbed to burn injuries on June 12 at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital after a month long fight for life.

Taslima's family alleged that Taslima's in-laws set fire to her body at her husband's house in the district town on May 15. They lodged a murder case.

Tk 21cr budget for RHDC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Rangamati Hill District Council (RHDC) has announced a proposed budget of Tk 20.9 crore for fiscal 2003-4.

RHDC Chairman Maniklal Dewan announced the budget at a press conference at his office on Monday.

Of the amount, Tk 20 crore is expected as government allocation and Tk 90 lakh will be earned by the

Council as revenue, he said.

The amount is Tk six crore less than the budget for the current financial year.

Of the current fiscal's budget, the RHDC spent only Tk nine crore and six lakh including a government allocation of Tk eight crore and twenty lakh till June.

In the proposed budget, the highest priority has been given to the education sector as in previous years.

Accused escapes police, caught by people

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

An accused in a murder case who escaped police custody during treatment at a hospital was caught by people.

Arif Hossain, 25, son of Forkan Hossain of Haripur in the Sadar upazila was arrested on May 11 last year on charge of murder.

He escaped while being treated at the Kushtia General Hospital. Four police constables were suspended after he escaped.

On Saturday, people caught Arif from Haripur bazaar and handed him over to police.

Ctg city area without power for five days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

People of Chandonagar area under Bayezid thana in the city have been living without power supply since Friday.

Power supply to this area under PDB Jalalabad grid No. 16 was snapped following a transformer blast.

But no initiative was taken in the last five days to restore the power supply despite repeated requests by the residents.

Contacted, an official at the PDB Jalalabad Sub-station said that the transformer burst because of a huge number of illegal connections.

However, the repair work could not be done as heavy rain continues for the last few days, he added.

Fugitive arrested

after 15 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A fugitive convicted of killing JSD leader and freedom fighter Haripada Roy was arrested from Tupamari Bazar under Sadar Thana on Monday 15 years after the murder.

Local people caught Mokbul Hossain and handed over him to Sadar Thana police.

On September 1, 1988, the then District and Sessions Judge Ali Asgar Khan sentenced Mokbul Hossain, Bashir, Soleman and Sirajuddin to life imprisonment.

But all of them were absconding except Sirajuddin.