

SNAPS

Mohanam Jagga begins

UNB, Gopalganj

Mohanam Jagga, annual religious festival of Hindu community, began at Sarbojonin Kali Mandir here on Friday night.

About 8,000 members of the community took part in the festival on the day. A fair of various commodities has also been organised at the Mandir premises.

Man 'stabbed to death'

UNB, Jessore

Aman was stabbed to death allegedly by his brother-in-law at Hatbila Jamtala village in Sadar upazila on Saturday night.

Police said Abdul Molla, 45, was stabbed indiscriminately by his brother-in-law (wife's brother) Firoz following a family feud. He died on way to hospital. A case was filed.

Tree fair begins

UNB, Comilla

A weeklong tree fair began at the local Town Hall premises Saturday.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain inaugurated the fair as chief guest.

Thirty stalls have been set up in the fair jointly organised by Forest Department and district administration.

Bus dacoity

UNB, Madaripur

Armed robbers looted valuables worth over Tk one lakh from the passengers of a bus after stabbing its helper at Senkhali in Rajoir upazila on Thursday night.

Police said the robbers swooped on the Kotalipara-bound bus after putting barricade on the road at 9pm and stabbed the helper Abdur Rahim indiscriminately. They also beat the passengers.

Youth with revolver arrested

UNB, Gazipur

Police arrested a youth along with a revolver and two rounds of bullet from the slum near Bank Maidan in Tongi Monday.

The arrested was identified as Imran Hossain Russell, 27, hailing from Khilkhet in Dhaka.



PHOTOS: STAR

A homestead at Rajpur village in Sadar upazila of Lalmonirhat district, like hundreds, inundated by Teesta water (left); and flood victims in search of shelter reach a high land at Balashi in Gaibandha (right).

Diarrhoea claims one in Nilphamari

Flood situation worsens in Sirajganj

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases have broken out in flood-affected areas in Nilphamari, claiming one child.

In Sirajganj, the flood situation deteriorated yesterday.

Our Nilphamari Correspondent reported that as floodwater started receding, diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases broke out in the affected areas of the district.

Seven year-old Lucky Akhtar died from diarrhoea at Jharsinghisor village under Dimla upazila, sources at the district health department control room said yesterday.

Unofficial sources said around 1000 people have been attacked with water-borne diseases in different flood-affected areas.

The control room said 64 medical teams are working in the affected areas. Each team consists of seven health workers, headed by a medical assistant.

A special mobile medical team is also in action.

Fourteen diarrhoea patients are being treated at six upazila health complexes and 200 others have been released after treatment, the control room said.

According to Rangpur Flood Control Room, the Teesta was

flowing 37 cms below the danger mark on Tuesday.

The Disaster Management and Relief Ministry has allocated 50 metric tons (MTs) of rice for the flood victims. But these are yet to reach the affected areas as the official process is yet to be completed.

Our Sirajganj correspondent reported that flood and erosion in six upazilas of Sirajganj district have taken a serious turn due to rain and onrush of water from the upstream.

Water levels in Jamuna, Korotoa, Boral and Ganiari rivers rose yesterday, inundating more 20 villages.

Sources at the district relief and rehabilitation office said about three and a half lakh people in

Sirajganj Sadar, Belkuchi, Kazipur, Chowhali, Shahjadpur and Ullapara upazilas have been affected by flood.

Of them, 20,000 are marooned in char areas where about 4,500 houses have gone under water.

According to the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), more than 1,500 tube wells have gone under water, creating a crisis of drinking water in the affected areas.

The district administration has sanctioned 40 metric tons of rice for the flood affected people.

Sources in the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) said 18,600 hectares of *aus*, *aman*, vegetable, maize and sugarcane fields have gone under water.

Citizen's body to make list of illegal hill-cutters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A citizens' body Hill Cutting Resistance Movement Preparedness Committee at its meeting on Monday decided to make a list of unscrupulous people involved in illegal hill-cutting.

Speakers at the meeting held at its Mehedibag office said illegal hill-cutting creates serious water-logging, causes landslides killing people and is destroying the ecological balance.

The illegal act is going on in connivance with a section of corrupt officials and influential political leaders, they said.

The meeting also decided to submit memoranda to the Department of Environment (DoE), district administration, police and Chittagong

Development Authority (CDA) to take measures in this regard.

It also demanded compensation for deaths by landslides due to illegal hill-cutting.

Presided over by former CPA Chief Engineer Sultan Mahmud, the meeting was addressed by, among others, environmentalist Md. Musa, social worker Baktear Noor Siddique, and journalists Mohammad Idris, Rafiqul Bahar and Samir Barua.

Meanwhile, two persons were held while cutting a hill illegally at South Khulshi in the city on Monday. The arrested persons are Shah Alam and Humayun Kabir alias Hemayet.

A case was filed with Khulshi police against the two and one Md Ali, who allegedly engaged them.

Rivalry in AL

Section 144 at Muktagachha

BSS, Mymensingh

The district administration imposed Section 144 at the Muktagachha Poura Muktangan on Monday to avert clash between two rival groups of Awami League (AL).

The two groups announced their decision to hold meetings at the same venue at the same time on Monday in protest against earlier attack on a party worker.

Both the groups accused each other for the attack.

Additional policemen were deployed in and around the venue.

One faction led by Abdus Samad Master and Abdul hai and another led by Rasheda Mohiuddin and Abdul Malek Sarkar brought out separate processions in the Mymensingh town Monday afternoon.

Mymensingh district AL expelled 10 party leaders including Abdus Samad Master last week.

Night coach dacoity in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Robbers looted Tk 5 lakh in cash and valuables from passengers of a night coach coming from Dhaka near the Sadhur Bridge on the Barisal-Dhaka highway in the early hours of Monday.

The gang also stabbed the supervisor of the coach and beat up its driver and six passengers.

Some of the victims said seven robbers got into the bus when the driver stopped it at a filling station near the bridge.

The passengers alleged that the driver might be linked with the robbery.

The supervisor--Kashem, 30--was admitted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

JSD leader Sachhu murder case

Prime suspect Kajol says charge against him 'false'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

June 30.

Having been released on bail, BNP leader Kajol Mazmadar has said he was not involved in the murder of JSD leader Mahmud Hossain Sachhu.

Kajol is the prime accused in the murder case.

He is joint organising secretary of Kushtia district BNP and joint convener of Jatiyatabadi Sechchasebok Dal, Kushtia.

He has been falsely implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to tarnish his image, he claimed at a press conference, held at a restaurant in the town recently.

He demanded proper investigation into the murder.

Kajol was released on bail on

Sachhu, joint convener of district JSD and chairman of Haripur Union Parisahd, was fatally injured when attacked by three armed men at his office in the town on July 11, 2000.

He died at the Bagabandhu Medical University Hospital in Dhaka.

Sachhu's father Mosharrof Hossain filed a case accusing 17 people including some Awami League and BNP men.

Police submitted charge sheet accusing 11 of them, including Kajol Mazmadar as the prime suspect.

It is alleged that the government recently took a move to drop Kajol's name from the case, saying it was filed during Awami League government with a political motive.

20 hurt as villagers clash over land dispute

BSS, Natore

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between rival groups at Chamari village under Singra upazil over possession a disputed land on Sunday.

Police said, Paresh Fakir took possession of some disputed land at Chamari village. His neighbour Haran Ali claimed the land and attacked him.

Both the groups used sharp weapons in the clash.

Of the injured, Nurul Islam, Sultan, Akhlina, Abdus Salam, Saleha were admitted to Natore Hospital in critical conditions. The rest are being treated at Singra Health Complex.

A case was filed with Singra police.

Padma bridge demanded at Daulatdia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A rally held on the Reporters Unity Club premises here on Monday demanded construction of the proposed Padma bridge at Daulatdia-Saturia points.

Presided over by Reporters Unity President Arif Islam, the rally was attended by Poura Chairman Hasibul Hasan Lablu as chief guest.

Among others, Dr Mustafizur Rahman Shamin, Advocate Himidul Haque, Abdul Hye Mia, Munshi Harun-or-Rashid, Shahana Parvin.

Businessman released after ransom payment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

An abducted businessman has been released after payment of ransom at a village in Kumarkhila upazila.

Police said, jewellery shop-owner Mahadeb Shah of Adabaria village was abducted allegedly by a gang belonging to outlawed New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP) on June 28. They demanded Tk 2 lakh ransom.

Mahadeb was found on July 3 on a roadside field with his hand and legs tied.

Sources said he was released after payment of Tk one lakh but his family sources remained tightlipped.