

SNAPS

Housewife killed by 'husband'

UNB, Khulna
A housewife was poisoned to death allegedly by her husband at Boirdanga village in Botiaghata upazila on Saturday.
Family sources said Tonmoy poisoned his wife Choyonika, 22, as she refused to meet his dowry demand on Friday night. She was rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital where she died. Tonmoy went into hiding soon after the incident. A case was filed.

Rice for cyclone victims

UNB, Nogaon
The Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has allocated 50 tonnes of rice for the cyclone-hit people of Manda upazila.
Hundreds of houses and crops on vast areas were damaged in the upazila when a cyclone battered it on May 17.

Two stabbed by toll collectors

UNB, Manikganj
Two persons were stabbed by toll collectors in separate incidents in the town here on Sunday.
The victims are Parimal and Mohidul Islam. Both were admitted to the local hospital with Separate cases were filed with police.

Stolen BRTC machinery recovered, one held

UNB, Mymensingh
Police arrested a man and recovered two stolen engines of double-decker BRTC bus a huge quantity of spares of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) from Mollikbari area in Bhaluka upazila on Saturday.
Acting on a tip-off, police raided a hatchery, made the recovery and arrested its manager.
The machinery were stolen from Narayanganj one and a half months back, said police.



PHOTO: KM REZAUL HAQUE

Sheets of water all around...Floodwater from Brahmaputra has submerged part of the Fulchhari upazila market (left) and threatened Fulbari Upazila Nirbahi Officer's office (right) with extinction in Gaibandha. The photos were taken on Sunday.

Two die of diarrhoea in Nilphamari, flood worsens in Gaibandha

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Two children died of diarrhoea in Dimla upazila in Nilphamari district yesterday as waterborne diseases were spreading with gradual recession of floodwater.
In Gaibandha, the flood situation worsened as the Brahmaputra and Ghagat rivers continued to rise.
Quoting sources at the district flood control room, our Nilphamari correspondent reported that the two children died at Kismat Char village under Khaga Kharibari union in Dimla upazila. But the sources declined to give their names and other details, he reported.

Yesterday's deaths raised the death toll from diarrhoea to three in the district.
The district health department said about 200 people have been attacked with diarrhoea and other waterborne diseases but unofficial sources claimed the number is at least 3000.
The sources said East Chatani, West Chatnai, Khaga Kharibari, Tepakharibari, Khalisha Chapani, Jhugach Chapani, Dausabari and Golmunda under Dimla and Jaladhaka upazilas are most vulnerable as at least 10,000 people there are facing acute crisis of food and drinking water.
Sixty-four medical teams including a mobile team are working in the flood-hit areas.
The control room said 70 cattle died due to scarcity of fodder.
In Charlands of Teesta, at least 200 families are under open sky as their houses have been swept away

by strong current of water.
District administration has distributed 30 Tonnes of rice and Tk 30,000 to the flood affected people. But it is too inadequate to needs, some of the affected people told this correspondent.
No NGO is seen in the affected areas.
Our Gaibandha Correspondent reported that Brahmaputra was flowing 20 cms above the danger mark at Fulchhari point. The Ghagat was also flowing above the danger mark.
The Teesta however fell by 1.44 cms at Sundargaj point.
District relief and rehabilitation officials said 51 out of total 82 unions in the district have been flooded, the worst affected areas being Gaib-andha Sadar, Shaghata, Fulchhari and Sunderganj upazilas where about two lakh people are marooned.

Two kidnapped for toll in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Armed cadres allegedly belonging to Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) kidnapped two labourers from the construction site of an orphanage in Forermukh under Longdu upazila.
They were kidnapped as the contractor who engaged them did not pay toll, army sources in Longdu said.
A group of 10 to 12 armed men came to the construction site Friday evening and kidnapped Rana, 35, and Hossain, 28, at gunpoint.
Earlier, the gang had sent messages to the contractor for toll, sources said.
The army has launched a drive to rescue them.
Longdu police said they heard about the incident but no body lodged a written complaint.

Padma bridge at Daulatdia demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

The 'Daulatdia-Paturia Bridge Implementation Action Committee' has demanded construction of the proposed Padma Bridge at Daulatdia.
Five crore people of 11 districts will be benefitted if the bridge is built at Daulatdia instead of Mowa, leaders of the committee said at a meeting held at the Mgura municipality auditorium yesterday.
Presided over by Municipality Chairman and convener of the committee Abdul Gafur, the meeting was addressed by, among others, Md. Abdul Halim, Abu Nasir Bablu, Prof Sayeedur Rahman and Baharul Islam.
The speakers threatened of a greater movement if a decision to build the bridge at Daulatdia is not announced soon.

Man awarded 7 years RI in arms case

UNB, Jhalakati

A special tribunal here has sentenced a man him to seven years imprisonment in an arms case.
The convict is Shohrab Hossain, 30, of Lenuunia village in Kathalia upazila.
Police arrested Shohrab along with lethal weapons from his house on November 9, 2001.

PDB to have 'model company' to realise bills

BSS, Bogra

State Minister for Power Iqbal Hassan Mahmud said here that the government would soon take steps to establish a "Model Company" to realize electricity bills across the country.
"The Distribution Department of Power Development Board (PDB) would be turned into a Model Company for preparation and collection of bills in Dhaka city in the first phase," he told BSS on Sunday.
The company would start functioning this year. Its services would be extended later throughout the country.
The state minister said that

College girl rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A college girl kidnapped from Shyampur Rayer Bagh area in Dhaka on Sunday, police here said.
Police said some youths whisked the girl into a microbus when she was going to Mymensingh Government Ananda Mohan College on July 5 and fled away. She was a second year student of geography.
On information that the girl has been hauled in a house in Dhaka, a police team from Philbaria thana went to the city. They, along with a team from Dhaka Metropolitan Police raided the house at Shyampur Rayer Bagh on Sunday and rescued her.
Police also arrested two persons for their alleged involvement in the incident. They are Sajjad and Sattar, hailing from Alamdanga in Chuadanga district.

Fenchuganj Fertilizer crosses target

UNB, Sylhet

Like previous years, Fenchuganj Fertilizer Factory has surpassed its production target in fiscal 2002-2003.
During the period, the factory produced 91,290 metric tons (MTs) of fertilizer against the target of 80,000 MTs.
It also sold 91,040 MTs of fertilizer during the fiscal.

outstanding electricity bills of PDB stood at Tk 10,000 crore, including Tk 4,000 crore of Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (DESA).
He regretted that subscribers pay bill for mobile phone in advance but do not pay electricity bill in time.
The Sales and Distributions Department-1 and 2 of Bogra PDB has set an example by collecting Tk 5.40 crore outstanding bills last month, Executive Engineer Sarwar Hossain said.
With functioning of the Model Company, the minister hoped, the huge quantity of outstanding bills would be realised. This will also reduce corruption.

Norwegian envoy visits RAKUB projects

BSS, Rajshahi

Counselor of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Dhaka, Gunner Boe, visited the head office of Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) here on Saturday.
RAKUB sources said the governments of Bangladesh and Norway have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for financing Small Enterprises Development Credit Project (SECP), a five-year credit programme involving Tk 59.97 crore.
RAKUB has been implementing the programme while NORAD will provide technical assistance and soft loans to develop small entrepreneurship in northwestern Bangladesh.
The objective of the project is to offer loan facilities and training to 22,000 small entrepreneurs in Rajshahi division.
SECP has already started its operations in eight upazilas in Rajshahi district and so far disbursed Tk 28 lakh among 118 entrepreneurs.
The project will cover 50 upazilas of Rajshahi division. Norwegian envoy visited projects in three upzilas and held a meeting with RAKUB management.

Three of a family 'killed'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Bodies of three of a family with marks of torture and injury were recovered from Kaptai lake in the rubber garden area in Khedarmara union under Baghaichhori upazila Saturday night.
The victims have been identified as Abdur Rashid, his wife Shahida Begum and their 13-year-old daughter Shahena.
They were missing since they left home in Hossainpur village under Longdu upazila at about noon on July 6 in a boat for Rashid's father-in-law's house in Matiranga upazila in Khagrachori.
At about 10 on Saturday night, local people saw the three floating

bodies and inform nearby Patachhori army camp.
Army men recovered the bodies and handed over those to Baghaichhori police, who sent those to Rangamati hospital morgue for autopsy.
Police said the bodies bore marks of torture and injury by sharp weapons. They might have been killed by terrorists.
Angered by the killings, local people led by Kalapakuiya Union Parishad Chairman Abdur Rahman brought out a process at Longdu upazila headquarters on Sunday and submitted a memorandum to Upazila Nirbahee Officer for arrest and punishment of the killers.

Declare Gangachhara a distressed area, JP MP Mashiur demands

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Jatiya Party (Ershad) lawmaker Mashiur Rahman Ranga and all the 11 Union Parishad chairmen have demanded of the government to declare flood-hit Gangachhara upazila a distressed area.
Over 2.5 lakh people, 50,000 of the marooned, are facing acute crisis of food and drinking water, they said at a press conference at Rangpur Press Club on Sunday.
The whole upazila is flooded as the Bijoy Bundh has been partially

washed away due to negligence by the Water development Board, Mashiur Rahman said.
The marooned people are on rooftops, makeshift bamboo structures and boats with no supply of food and water. Many of them are starving, he said.
The floods destroyed hundreds of houses and inundated vast croplands, he said in a written statement.
He demanded adequate supply of relief for the affected people.

The UP chairmen who attended the press conference are Anwarul Islam of Gangachhara, Nurul Amin of Betgari, Rafikul Alam Dulal of Kalkond, Abdul Kader of Nohali, Waheduzzaman of Lakhitari, A Aziz Chowdhury of Barobeel, Mokarram Hossain Sujon of Alamolditor, Khalidur Rahman of Gajaghanta, Faruk Mia of Khaleya, Shamsul Alam of Mornia and Nurul Amin of Uttam.
Local BNP leader Abu Jafar Toffi also attended the press conference.

Teesta dam may vanish, WDB official says

ROVING CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

The entire Teesta flood control embankment will be washed away if the current spate of flooding continues for some days, an official of the Water Development Board said on Sunday.
The breach in the southern bank of Teesta that developed in Mornia area on July 11 has stretched up to about three kilometres, he told this correspondent.
Breaches have also developed at many points of the embankment at Bijoy, Mohipur and Mohisaur villages.
WDB dumped sandbags to protect the dam.

Crores of taka were spent for maintaining the dam in the last several years but the repair works were not done properly, the WDB official said seeking anonymity.
A former Union Council member, Mofazzal Hossain, said about 1100 families have become homeless in Alalchar, Mohisaur, Almas Bazar, Uchhagram and Bagdohra villages in Gangachhara and Gajaghanta areas as their homesteads have been eroded by the river. About 3000 people are marooned in the areas, he said.
This correspondent saw at least 1000 families marooned in Kalagachhi, Islichar, Iswarkul, Joyramaja Mohipur and Laxmitari areas, with no supply of food and drinking water. Most of the tube

wells there have go under water.
Many of them are on rooftops and boats.
"Flood water has washed away everything. We could not go to the bazaar on the southern bank of the river in last three days to purchase food", said Azizar Rahman from a rooftop at Islichar.
No official came to see their plight, he said.
When contacted, a relief official in the district said that 16 tonnes of rice and Tk 10,000 were distributed among the affected people in Gangachhara.
The local administration erected a flood shelter at a high land in Islichar and dug a ditch for drinking water.

2 rapists given life term in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

The Rangpur Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal has sentenced two persons to life term for kidnapping and raring a newly married girl.
Judge Molla Mostafa Kamal gave the punishment to Ali Hossain and Shahjalal of Thakurdas village in Kaunia upazila for kidnapping and raping a girl of the same village in April 1999.
The convicts will have to pay a fine of Tk 25,000 each, in default, their movable and immovable property will be confiscated, the verdict said.

Life term for keeping illegal firearm

A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A young man has been sentenced to life term imprisonment for possessing a sophisticated foreign revolver illegally.
Judge KG Mustafa of Special Tribunal-4 on Sunday handed down the punishment to Zakir Hossain Rafique of Rabibarial village in Bogra Sadar upazila, who was arrested on November 29, 1999 with a point 38 revolver and some bullets.

Death anniversary



The first death anniversary of Alhaj Ghulam Mustafa, a noted busin-essman of Chapa-inawabganj, will be held there today, says a press release.

A m i l a d mahfil will be held at Fakirpara Jame mosque in the town after Asr prayer. Friends, relatives and well-wishers have been requested to attend the programme.

Absconding accused arrested

UNB, Narayanganj

An accused --Ohidul--who fled from the District and Sessions Judge Court along with his 16 accomplices was arrested from Dewbhog area in the town on Sunday.

Man arrested for kidnapping sister-in-law

UNB, Khulna

A man --Billal Hossain--was arrested for kidnapping his minor sister-in-law from Shibbari area of the town on Saturday. He had demanded Tk 10,000 ransom.