

SNAPS

Sewing machines distributed

BSS, Rajshahi
The Rajshahi unit of National Womens Association (NWA), has distributed 22 sewing machines among desitute women and female organisations.

Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, MP, handed over the machines at a function on the NWA office premises on Monday as chief guest.

NWA, Rajshahi chapter Chairman Rehena Zaman presided over the function.

VGf rice distributed

BSS, Laxmipur
The government has distributed 380 metric tons (MTs) of rice among the poor and destitute in four upazilas here ahead of Eid.

Official sources said the rice was distributed among 3,800 families under the Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme.

Each family got 10 kgs of rice. Of the total allocation, 155 tons were distributed in Sadar upazila, 105 tons in Raipur, 55 in tons Ramganj and 65 tons in Ramgati upazila.

College building work begins

BSS, Rajshahi
Work on the academic building of Hazi Jomir Uddin Safina Women's College, Rajshahi began on Monday.

Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, MP, inaugurated work on the four-storey building which will be constructed at cost of Tk 40 lakh.

Principal Mohammad Hossain presided over the function.

Clashes leave 50 hurt in Chandpur

UNB, Chandpur

At least 50 people were injured in a series of clashes at Afazmollah Bazaar in Shakhipur upazila of Shariatpur district on the Eid day.

Locals said the clash first erupted at about 11:00am between two groups of people after the Eid prayers over a trifling matter.

The feuding groups were again locked in clash at about 2:00pm.

Four of the 10 seriously injured people were admitted to Shariatpur Sadar Hospital while six others to Chandpur Sadar Hospital from where one Sattar Mollah was shifted to Dhaka Pangu Hospital.

Both the groups used lethal weapons during the clashes.

Absconding accused arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Gournadi police arrested Habul Peyada, Commander of Habul Bahini and a Jubo League leader on Monday.

Police and locals told this correspondent that the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Gournadi Police Station, Mannan Sarder and Sub-inspector (SI) Shammim along with Mamun and Jafar raided Barodulari village under Gournadi and caught the much-wanted absconding accused of many cases on Monday morning with sharp weapons.

There are at least eight criminal cases including Sarog murder case, rape case, illegal arms case and that of illegal toll collection against Habul and his associates.

Killing of schoolboy Kajol by Hasina's motorcade

I was asked to file case against Hasina, victim's father says

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Md Nazimuddin, father of schoolboy Kajol killed by Sheikh Hasina's motorcade on November 17, has alleged that the state minister who visited his house after the incident tried to influence him to file a case against the opposition leader.

Nazimuddin, a leader of West Chatna union AL, also alleged that he is under pressure from some local BNP leaders to file a case against Sheikh Hasina. But he declined to disclose their names.

"I want justice, not politicisation of the incident", he said in reply to a question by this correspondent at the press conference, arranged by the district AL at its office on November 24 to "condemn the ruling party move to politicise the accidental death of Kajol".

"Filing of a case against Hasina would be a politically motivated act", he said.

He however thanked State Minister for Education Ehsanul Haq Milon and Relief Minister Kamal Ibne Yusuf for visiting his house and consoling his bereaved family.

He said the state tried to influence him to file a case against Sheikh Hasina. "For any accident by a vehicle of our motorcade the senior most minister would be held responsible", he quoted the state minister as telling him during the visit.

The mishap took place during Hasina's three-day visit to the monga-affected areas of Nilphamari.

District AL Joint Convener Advocate Jonab Ali told the press conference that an UD (unnatural death) case was filed with a police

station in Rangpur, where Kajol died at a hospital.

A regular case not be filed if the cause of the death can not be ascertained and the offender not identified, Jonab Ali, a senior lawyer said.

At this stage, Dimla upazila AL President Aftabuddin Sarkar rose to say that in 1978 the then president Ziur Rahman visited Dimla by helicopter. During the visit, one person was killed by a vehicle in the motorcade but "we did not hold Ziur Rahman responsible for the death".

Jonab Ali began the press conference by reading a written statement alleging that he BNP government was trying to politicise Kajol's death to hide its failure to save the poor people from monga and terrorism.

Launch sinks 6 hours after hitting a hidden shoal

BSS, Barisal

A passenger launch on BarisalBhola route sank in the Pangashia river six hours after it hit a hidden shoal on Tuesday night.

Police said, the Bhola-bound passenger launch ML Sagar King which was coming from Barisal grounded at Char Pangashia at about 8:30 pm and sank in the river after six hours.

However, all the passengers swam to safety.

The accident took place due to thick fog and lack of proper signaling system, according to police.

The launch could not be salvaged as yet and it might create problem for other water vessels plying through the river, the Launch Owners Association sources said.

Matiranga pourasava election on Dec 30

BSS, Khagrachari

Election in the newly declared Matiranga Pourasava in Khagrachhari district will be held on December 30.

According to the election schedule announced on Saturday, the last date for submission of nomination papers is December 6.

Scrutiny of the nomination papers will be held on December 7 and the last date of withdrawal is December 13.

The Maturanga was declared a Pourasava on November 29 last year.

Tk 342cr project to benefit small farmers in 16 N dists

Training on high-value crop production, loan disbursement begin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A seven-year programme involving Tk 341.91 crore has been undertaken in the 16 northern districts for cultivation of high-value crops (HVC) for poverty alleviation.

The programme styled Northwest Crop Diversification Project (NCDP) is being implemented in 60 upazilas of Rajshahi division for production of HVCs, fruits and vegetables, official sources said.

Marginal farmers are being given loan on nominal interest under the programme.

State Minister for Agriculture Mirza

Faqrul Islam Alamgir inaugurated the loan disbursement programme recently.

Out of the total cost, Tk 236.36 crore is being provided by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Of the rest amount, Tk 49.62 crore is being given by the government and Tk 55.93 crore will be mobilised from the beneficiaries, sources said.

The Department of Agriculture Extension is the main supervising agency. It is implementing the project in cooperation with Local Government Engineering Department, Department of Agriculture Marketing, Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank, and BRAC,

Proshika, GKF and RDRS.

About 3.70 lakh tons of HVCs and fruits worth about Tk 150 crore are expected to be produced and two lakh families of the farmers will be benefited directly after implementation of the project.

Some 1.6 lakh farmers will be trained on modern production technology under the project.

Besides, 16 markets at districts and 60 at upazilas will be set up for marketing of the produce.

The project, when implemented, will create jobs in the agriculture sector, empower poor farmers and build capacity of NGOs, the sources said.

Road mishaps kill 6 in Gopalganj, Satkhira

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Six people were killed and 35 injured in road accidents in Gopalganj and Satkhira on Tuesday.

Our Gopalganj correspondent reported that four persons were killed and 35 injured, 15 of them seriously, when a Khulna-bound bus from Dhaka collided head on with a local bus on Gopalganj Takerhat road at Hariduspur in the Sadar upazila at night.

The Khulna-bound bus (Khulna Metro-Ja 11-0046) belonged to Sunderban Paribahan.

Two of the passengers died on the

spot and two others died while being taken to hospital.

They are bus driver Jahagir, 30, of Hariduspur village, Lulu, 55, of Gopinathpur, Aziz, 25, of Matla village, all from Gopalganj Sadar, and Swapon, 19, of Paranpur in Kashiani upazilla in Gopalganj district.

The 15 seriously injured passengers have been admitted to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital. They include

Shahidul Alam, Swapon, Fayek, Basher Molla, Farid Molla, Tajul, Alim and Mahabul.

Police seized the bus and filed a case. Our Satkhira correspondent

reported that Nazrul Islam, 49, an official of Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB), Satkhira, was killed when a pickup hit his motorbike near Jhiler Danga intersection on the Satkhira-Khulna road. He was going to Khulna.

In another incident, Abdul Khaleq of Jugipukuria village in Tala upazila was killed when a Khulna-bound truck knocked him down in front of Patkelghata College on Satkhira-Khulna road.

Two cases have been filed with Dumuria and Tala thanas.



PHOTO: STAR

Nilphamari Awami League (AL) organised a press conference at its office on Monday where Nazimuddin (cross marked on shoulder), father of Kajol, alleged that ruling BNP men put pressure on him to file a case against Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Hasina.

Shrimp enclosure occupied, looted by BNP men in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Two shrimp enclosures covering about 100 bighas of land have been forcibly occupied in Assassumi upazila, one of those by local BNP activists.

According to a case filed with Assassumi thana, ruling BNP activists occupied a 40-bigha shrimp enclosure owned by one Bimal Dhali at Bamandanga village.

Police said, Bimal Dhali had been cultivating shrimp there for the last 10 years. On November 24, a gang of 30 to 35 armed hoodlums allegedly led by Bardal union BNP activists Asadul Haq, Fazlul Haq and Hossain Ali beat the staff, drove them away at gun point and occupied it.

They looted shrimps worth Tk one lakh, it was alleged in the case filed by

Bimal Dhali. But police took no action till filing of the report yesterday.

In another incident, miscreants occupied a shrimp enclosure covering about 60 bighas of land at Kakrabunia village in the upazila on November 21.

Quoting local people police said, Fazlur Rahman had been cultivating shrimp in the enclosure for the last eight years.

The armed miscreants drove the staff and took possession of the lands and looted shrimps worth about Tk 50,000.

Police said Fazlur Rahman had a dispute with Mohsin Mallik over possession of the lands for long. Police arrested one Mazed from the spot after Fazlur Rahman filed a case with Assassumi thana.

No clue to expatriate's murder in one and a half months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police could neither arrest any of the killers of expatriate Mourash Miah in Sunamganj nor find any clue about one month and a half after the murder while the victim's family alleged that the killers were moving freely in the area.

Local people held a rally at Sriramshi Bazar on November 13 demanding arrest of the killers and protesting alleged police inaction.

Mourash came home at Sriramshi Sathal in Jagannathpur upazila from the USA in August. He was gunned down while returning home from Sathal bazaar on October 17 evening.

His nephew Delwar Hossain Bulbul filed a case with police, alleging that previous enmity was behind the murder.

But police claimed that several attempts in different places including Sylhet city to arrest the killers failed.

Community clinics built and locked

Two-thirds in Patuakhali not opened since construction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Two-thirds community clinics out of 122 in seven upazilas of the district are locked for long for want of manpower and other facilities.

The clinics were handed over to the authorities concerned after construction during the Awami League government. There are 32 such clinics in the Sadar upazila, 29 in Bouphal, 21 in Golaclipa, 19 in Kalapara, 12 in Dasminda and nine in

Mirganjon upazila. On the other hand, construction of another 49 clinics are held up for shortage of funds.

Sources in the district health department said the clinics have been set up under a comprehensive programme to render health service to rural people. Each clinic wax to cater to the needs of 6000 people.

The sources said only one-third of the clinics have been opened, but those are not functioning properly due to lack of doctors, medicine and other facilities.



PHOTO: STAR

A reminder of the health ministry? This community clinic at Dakuva village in Galachipa upazila in far away Patuakhali district was constructed during the tenure of the previous Awami League government and locked locked since then due to lack of health workers and other facilities.



PHOTO: STAR

A girl student of Khan Bahadur Awlad Hossain Khan High School receiving a prize from the ADC (General), Manikganj on conclusion of a literary and cultural competition, held at the local Shishu Academy recently.

Trader murder One to die, 2 to suffer life term RI in Naogaon

BSS, Naogaon

A court here sentenced one person to death and two others to life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) for killing Motiur Rahman, a businessman at Dhekra village under Badalgachhi upazila four years ago.

District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Shawkat Ali delivered the judgement in a crowded courtroom here on Monday in presence of Pulok Chandra Bhowmik who was given capital punishment.

The court fined two other convicts Tk 20,000 each, in default, to suffer two years more RI.

Bulbul Islam, 35, son of late Dalim Hossain of village Sohasha under Badalgachi and Abu Sayeed, 35, son of

420 more villages brought under power supply network

BSS, Barisal

Palli Bidyut Samity-2, Barisal has so far brought 420 out of 527 villages under its supply network since its establishment in 1985.

Official sources said the Samity has given power connection to 61,900 subscribers by installing 2,194 kilometers of transmission line in six upazilas here and brought down the system loss to 8.5 per cent.

Of the total subscribers, 52,602 are domestic users and 7,148 commercial users. The Samity also provided electricity connection to 192 power pumps for irrigation purpose.

It realised Tk. 12,70,65,879 as service charge from subscribers which was 99.31 per cent of the total outstanding bills.