

Upazila roundup

MAGURA

Woman arrested for killing step son

Dec 9 : Police arrested Zamena Khatun on charge of murdering her step son in village Satrujitpur of Sadar upazila here Friday, reports UNB.

According to police, a conflict was prevailing between the victim Mohammad Alauddin (30), son of Golam Mostafa and his step mother Zamena Khatun for long.

On the fateful day, at one stage of their hostility, the woman and her relatives suddenly attacked Alauddin and started beating him. Alauddin died on the spot.

The body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed in this connection and further investigation is going on.

MYMENSINGH

Newsman dead

Dec 9 : Alokemoy Naha, a noted singer of Tagore songs and also a lawyer, politician and journalist, died of heart attack on Sunday. He was 51, reports UNB.

Naha, suffering from cardiac problem, died at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital at 4.45 am where he was rushed earlier in the morning.

He left behind his wife Sumita Naha, a renowned singer of Tagore songs, and two daughters.

As soon as the news of his death spread in the town, leaders of political parties, students and social organisations visited his residence to pay tributes.

A big mourning procession was brought out from his residence with his body. CPB leaders Saifuddin Ahmed Manik and Shamsuddoha MP were among the mourners in the procession.

Late Alokemoy Naha, former singer of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, had a chequered career.

He was District Correspondent of Daily Sangbad and Pakistan Times for a long time. He held many other offices, including Vice President of district CPB and TUC Mymensingh, former Vice President of District CPB and TUC Mymensingh, former Vice President and Secretary of Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity, former Vice President and Secretary of Mymensingh Press Club, former Vice President of District Bar and former Vice Chairman of Mymensingh Municipality.

He was arrested on several occasions and kept in custody on political grounds.

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Presided over by Arabpur UP Chairman, the public meeting was also addressed by local BNP, Juba and Chhatra Dal leaders.

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JESSORE

Govt firm to uproot evils from society

Dec 9 : Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs Tariqul Islam emphasised the need for unity of nationalist forces to stabilise democratic atmosphere and expedite socio-economic development, reports BSS.

Addressing a public meeting here on Saturday at Arabpur Union Parishad premises under Sadar Upazila of Jessore District Social Welfare Minister said that vested quarters had become active to jeopardise the congenial condition of the society and fish in the troubled water.

He called for rallying under the banner of Bangladesh Nationalist Party so as to make the society free from all sorts of uncertainly insecurity and disturbance.

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Tomato, a winter vegetable has started appearing in the markets. Photo shows a trader waiting for the customers at a wholesale market in Norsingdi. — Star photo

Malpractice by operators alleged

Phone service irregular in Maulvi Bazar

MAULVIBAZAR, Dec 9 : The telephone subscribers of the district have been facing untold sufferings due to the malpractice of the local staff of the Telephone Department.

Some of the telephone operators have understanding with a class of dishonest subscribers who get their internal and overseas phone connections easily, it is alleged.

The general subscribers do not get their connection after several reminders. The phone operators use to give lame excuses for the non-availability of the connection, it is informed.

The subscribers, in case of emergency, are not given connection after a lot of request. On the other hand, the dishonest subscribers easily get it. They do not have to pay the charged even. One of these kind of subscribers who did not want to be identified told that they used to pay monthly payments to the operators and that is why they are given connections as early as possible. The subscriber also informed that he pays a nominal bill and monthly payments.

The subscribers who pay monthly payments use the phone frequently and keep the

From Our Correspondent

line engaged for long time. The monthly payments also help them keep their phone always OK.

The general subscribers complained that their sets remain dead for maximum time. Though the operators make it operative, it works for few hours only.

The dishonest subscribers use to earn money through their phone as it work as an exchange. Some local travelling agents and jewellers are engaged in this kind of illegal earnings, it is alleged. They charge only Taka 400 for every overseas call.

It is reported that the phone operators have link with the Dhaka Exchange and they are accordingly paid. They have earlier mutually fixed the different rates. For internal illegal calls, the dishonest subscribers have to pay Taka 1500 for internal calls and Taka 10,000 for overseas calls, it is gathered.

A informed source disclosed that the government is deprived of thousands of Taka by the alleged corrupt telephone operators every year.

The concerned authorities have been urged to take necessary

action to mitigate the sufferings of the telephone subscribers.

Five killed

Five persons were killed in Sylhet during the last two weeks in separate incidents.

Abdur-Nur (60), a retired police constable of Sreemongol town was crushed to death under the wheels of a running train at Sreemongol Railway Station.

Shamsul Alam Sumar (13), son of Mr. Abdur Rob, Agricultural Officer, Maulvi-bazar district allegedly committed suicide recently.

The victim was a school student.

Lukee (7) son of Shaheed Mia of Nabiganj Bazar drowned in a pond behind their house.

Gonu Mia (65) of village Shadipur under Kulaura upazila was allegedly killed by some miscreants at Fanat ferry ghat recently.

Asgar Ali (60) of Ashigar village under Fenchuganj upazila was beaten to death by his son Monat Ali following a family dispute recently.

Cases have been registered with the police in these connections.

Adulterated foodstuff on sale in Dinajpur

DINAJPUR, Dec 9 : The sale of adulterated foodstuff throughout the district is rampant and causing health hazards.

With the increase of population, the towns, bazars, hats, stations, ghat and other commercial places have been developed to cope with the demand.

Most of the hotels of these busy places are dirty and unhealthy. The owners of these hotels keep their items open.

A very few owners have got licenses to continue their business, it is alleged.

A consumer of Dinajpur town told that is very hard to collect pure edible oil and mild from the market.

For more profit, they sellers mix low quality oils with the mustard, soybean oil it is alleged.

It is reported that an organised group of dishonest people

From Our Correspondent

are engaged in this kind of criminal activities who are reportedly patronised by some well placed people of the district.

The ignorant and innocent people buy these sort of adulterated items in their good faith. They are ultimately attacked by various diseases. The poor customers usually prefer the items which cost less.

Some people of the town complained that the employees of the Health Department are seen inactive. The law enforcing agency people are also in different regarding the matter.

pur, Nawabganj and Kaharal.

It is informed that most of the animals are dying without treatment. The employees of the Livestock Department are not visiting the villagers after repeated requests. The employees said that they had no programme now, it is alleged.

Some of the owners of the disease-hit cattle are treating their cows at their own costs. The medicines are not also available in the market. Due to the non-supply of vaccine and other necessary drugs, almost 80 per cent of cattle are dying, it is gathered.

One Khurshid Alam of Kaugan under Chhribander Upazila told this correspondent that over 100 are suffering from these disease but the Livestock Department employees expressed their inability to send any one of the staff to the affected areas.

Borguna lacks civic amenities

BORGUNA, Dec 9 : The district headquarters is lacking minimum civic amenities although the 50,000 dwellers have been subjected to pay enhanced urban taxes.

The problems facing the citizens include poor condition of roads, paucity of drinking water, absence of recreational facilities and bad drainage system.

The roads are narrow and garbages remain scattered for days together.

Street lights are hardly seen and most part of the town plunged into darkness after sunset.

Supply of drinking water is absent and no plan has been drawn up for setting up a water supply system. Service latrines are not cleaned which pollute the environment.

There has been influx of large number of government officials and families after the upgradation of the former Sub-division but facilities required by a district headquarters have not yet been provided.

Local elite alleged that their repeated appeal to the Pourashava authorities fell into deaf ears.

Public Library

The Public Library of the district located in a rented house, is being run by two bearers only.

There is no Librarian, no Cataloguer and no other staff for administration and maintenance work.

A good number of valuable books are found missing and no attempt has yet been made for recovery of the missing books.

A section of readers particularly those who belong to the upper class of the society and the government officials borrow valuable books but do not return them, it is alleged.

Local elite demanded steps for renovation and development of the library for the benefit of its real users.

Children's ward

The Sadar Hospital here is in dire need of a children's ward, local leaders and hospital sources said.

The hospital which has only two wards — one for male and the other for female patients — lack a Children's Ward and the child patients are accommodated in the crowded female ward.

Over 100 children come to the hospital everyday for treatment and 5 to 10 of them are admitted while the rest are sent back without treatment, the sources added.

UP polls campaign gaining momentum

RAJBARI, Dec 9 : The campaign for Union Parishads election is gaining momentum all over the district after the declaration of the date for the election.

The probable candidates have started visiting their respective areas to mobilise support in the ensuing polls. The supporters are gathering at the local restaurants after the sun set. The supporters, workers and relatives of the candidates are moving from door to door of the voters.

Besides the existing chairmen, new faces are also seen who are going to participate the elections.

The defeated candidates of the past polls are also participating in large numbers.

All the candidates are working seriously in their favour at the assurance that the election would be free and fair.

From Our Correspondent

Various kinds of banana are growing in plenty in Baliakhali, Pangsa, Goalundo and Rajbari Sadar upazilas. The sagar and sabri are the two main kinds of banana are grown in the district.

Banana cultivation is increasing in the district as it proved more profitable. Four thousand acres of land are now under banana cultivation, a source disclosed. It is further learnt that the farmers in the district are earning more than one crore taka annually from it.

A farmer informed this correspondent that they need Taka four thousand to cultivate one acre of land from here they can earn Taka 15 thousand at least. He further disclosed that if financial assistance is provided to the growers, the cultivation would increase further.

The growers of the district have urged the concerned authorities to provide financial assistance to the economically profitable farming.

Six hurt in clash

Six persons including a local MP were injured in a clash between the members of Biplabi Chhatra Maitri and Jayotabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Pangsa upazila on Sunday evening.

According to reports, Biplabi Chhatra Maitri brought out a procession where the JCD supporters attacked. Chasing and counter-chasing continued for hours together. At one stage the JCD supporters started pelting stones on the procession, in which the local MP and five others received injuries.

The police had to resort lathi charge to disperse the agitated students.

Women workshop

One-day workshop on the effort of women to resist death of child and mother was held at local BD Hall recently. Mr. Abul Bashir Ahmed Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner inaugurated it while Dr. AKM Shamsuddin, Civil Surgeon was on the chair. Those who spoke on the occasion were Dr. Pradip Karmaker, Dr. Shaikh Helal and Dr. SA Khan.

All the women members of 82 union parishads took part in the workshop.

BIP completed before schedule

BARISAL, Dec 9 : The Bholia Irrigation Project (BIP) has been completed at a cost of Taka 63.8 crore at least 4 years behind schedule, reports UNB.

But farmers in the area said they were yet to get any benefit out of the ambitious project.

Meanwhile, a huge tract of land in project area has been eroded by Meghna and Tetulia rivers. If it is not contained the entire command area may be washed away in the next ten years, farmers said.

Committee dissolved

Gaibandha District Unit of BNP was dissolved in an order issued by Joint Secretary General of BNP and Minister for Home Affairs Mr. Abdul Matin Chowdhury.

A 46-member convening committee was formed with Mr. Badrul Islam Saju as Convenor and Mr. Rezaul Huq Chowdhury and Mr. Muthur Rahman Tuku, Joint Convenors.

Dacoity

A dacoity was committed at the house of one Shahabuddin Montu of village Barkatpur under Palashbari Upazila, recently.

The miscreants looted away gold, TV set and other valuables worth about Taka 70,000.

A case was filed with Palashbari thana.

3 houses gutted

Property worth about Taka fifty thousand were gutted in a devastating fire at village Kanchipara under Fulchhari Upazila recently.

Three houses were burnt to ashes.

The fire originated from a oven when a five-year-old child was playing with fire.

Rabi crop farming

Agriculture Extension Department(AED) has taken up a plan to bring 1.24 lakh acres of land under rabi crop cultivation in four upazilas of the district during the current season.

He said 321 demonstration plots would be set up for practical training on modern methods of cultivation to increase production.

Essential HYV seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, agriculture inputs and cash loan will also be distributed among the farmers, under the crop diversification programme, he said.

Transport strike

PABNA : Transport strike has hampered the smooth supply of fuel at northern region. Photo shows consumers in a big queue with containers to purchase kerosene at a local depot.

Notes from Gaibandha

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Dec 9 : Two students were injured in a clash between the supporters of JCD and BCL of Sadullapur College recently.

On the day of the incident the college was opened after a vacation. The two groups of students began counter slogans and at one stage chasing and counter chasing started between the supporters of rival groups which ultimately turned into a clash. The college authority, was however compelled to close the institute for indefinite period.

Town uplift plan

The work on power development plan under 14-Town Development Project is going on in full swing at Gaibandha District Town.

The plan is being implemented under the financial assistance of World Bank. A fund of Taka six crore fifty lakh will spend for the implementation of the plan.

Under this plan electric poles and power supply line will be replaced.

Besides, about 77 additional transformers are being set up at different locations to improve power supply position.

Students rally

Students of Gaibandha Mohila College brought out a procession demanding the implementation of their 7-point demand.

Later, a rally was held at the college campus. Miss Alfaz Begum, Secretary of Saigabad, Lubna Yasmin and Hosne Ara Begum addressed the rally.

The demands include increase of teachers, restoration of hostel and setting up of a canteen. They also declared for greater movement if the demands are not realised immediately.

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