

One to die for killing pregnant wife

From Our Correspondent
 NATORE, Feb 23: District and Sessions Judge A K M Fazlul Karim awarded one Afazuddin of Gouripur village of the district to death penalty for killing his pregnant wife. The prosecution story in brief is that Afazuddin son of one Rajab Ali of village Gouripur under sadar thana married Sukhita Nesa daughter of one Abdul Gani Mondal of village Krishnapur under Shungra thana nine years before. Afazuddin used to torture his wife often for realisation of dowry. On October 4, 1992, Afazuddin beat his pregnant wife severely and she died on the spot.

After the incident, Jahiruddin Mondal, elder brother of the victim registered a case against five persons. Police after investigation submitted chargesheet against Afazuddin only.

The Judge after examination of witnesses and records found Afazuddin guilty and awarded death sentence to Afaz. Public Prosecutor, Advocate Nizam Uddin, appeared on behalf of the state while Advocate Amz Hossain defended the accused persons. establishment of session Judge Court here.

Housewife beaten to death for dowry

MANIKGANJ, Feb 23: A young housewife was brutally killed allegedly by her husband for dowry on Saturday at Mehedipur village in Shibhalaya thana. Police sources said, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Rekha Khatun, 16 of Poyla village in the same thana of the district.

Villagers said Rekha got married with Hashem Sheikh five years back and since then she was being tortured by her husband for dowry money.

On the fateful day, Hashem picked up a quarrel with Rekha when she failed to bring dowry money from her parents. At one stage, Hashem along with his elder brother and mother started beating her mercilessly, said the villagers. She died on the spot. The body was sent to sadar hospital morgue for post-mortem. A case has been lodged. Hashem Sheikh, was arrested.

One gets 7 years RI for violating minor girl

From Our Correspondent
 SATHKHIRA, Feb 23: Sudhendu Kumar Biswas, Additional District and Session Judge of Sathkhira convicted one Lablu of village Machhkhola under sadar thana of the district one charge of violating chastity of an unmarried girl and sentenced him to suffer rigorous imprisonment for seven years and a fine of Taka 10,000 in default for another one year recently.

The prosecution story in brief is that the victim Yasmin Begum (16) daughter of Amir Ali of village Machhkhola under sadar thana went to bring back home their goat from the razing field on July 10, 1990. The accused Lablu of the same village forcibly took her in a sugar cane field where he violated her chastity. After hearing her shouting the villagers rescued her.

Lalmonirhat JCD worker loses left hand in clash

LALMONIRHAT, Feb 23: A JCD worker lost his hand when a group of Chhatra League activists allegedly attacked him with lethal weapons at Patgram Bazar here today, reports UNB.

Party sources said the attackers cut off the left hand of Shaheen, who passed the HSC examination from the Patgram College this year. He was rushed to the Lalmonirhat Hospital this evening.

The incident was reportedly a sequel to Wednesday's clash at the same place where the JCD workers beat up Jewel of the Chhatra League following exchange of heated words. Jewel was admitted to the Patgram Health Complex with head injuries.

Two shops and a restaurant at the Bazar area were ransacked during the two incidents. A tense situation was prevailing in the area.



GOPALGANJ: The local Nandan Shilpi Ghosti arranged a cultural function at the cultural Shaheed Minar in observance of the Ekushey February. — Star photo

Jessore region produces Tk 68cr cotton seeds

JESSORE, Feb 23: Over 8,75,000 maunds of quality cotton seeds worth about Taka 68 crore have been produced in the Jessore region of Bangladesh Cotton Development Board (BCDB) comprising the districts of Jessore, Jhenidah, Magura, Kushtia, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Satkhira, reports BSS.

Over thirtytwo thousand hectares of land of these districts were brought under seed cotton cultivation during the current season. Fine quality Deltapine-90 varieties of seed cotton were produced in these areas. Prospect of cotton cultivation in these areas is bright and profitable. More and more farmers are coming forward to cultivate cotton as their products find an easy market at the rate of Taka 775-800/- per maund presently it sells.

Talking to BSS correspondent Tauhidur Rahman, the Deputy Director of BCDB, Jessore region, Abu Taher said that seed cotton was cultivated on 9305 hectares of land under 16 units of Jessore zone, 3200 hectares under 14 units of Jhenidah zone, 11204 hectares under 14 units in Chuadanga zone and 8700 hectares under 11 units of Kushtia zone.

He said, finest quality seed cotton has been harvested from these units during current season as the quality and variety were superior due to cultivation of Deltapine-90 and JA-92 varieties of high yielding cotton seed. More areas will be brought under cotton cultivation next year, he hoped. It is learnt that BCDB disbursed an amount of Taka 22 lakhs as loan among the cultivators for procurement of HYV seed, fertilisers, pesticides and other cost.

Meanwhile, BTMC and BCDB opened 55 procurement centres in the areas to procure cotton from the growers at the rate of Taka 775 per maund. Besides, private gingers are also procuring seed cotton from these areas through their agents even at higher rate.

Another report says: Benapole Land Customs earned a record revenue of Taka 177 crore during the seven months from July '93 as import duty VAT and supplementary duties on imported commodities from India.

The monthwise breakup of revenue collection was: July-93 Taka 25,33,81,000/-, August-93 Taka 23,28,05,000/-, September-93 Taka 24,15,24,000/-.

October '93 Tk 24,05,07,000/-, November '93 Tk 28,30,94,000/-, December '93 Tk 21,73,61,000/- and January Tk 30 crore. The revenue earning was Taka 124 crore during the corresponding previous seven months.

The principal imported items were capital machineries, chemicals, dyes and colour, cotton yarn, fresh fruits, medicines, accessories of garment industries and raw materials of different industries.

The export items were jute and jute goods, tea, hilsha fish, molasses, printed books and electric metres. It may be mentioned here that revenue collection from this station has increased with the establishment of a separate collectorate of customs VAT and excise at Jessore with the jurisdiction of the districts of Jessore, Jhenidah, Magura, Faridpur, Kushtia, Chuadanga and Meherpur. More revenue collection would be possible when Benapole will be given status of a separated land port at present storage of import and export commodities at Benapole check post is being controlled by Mongla Port Authority.

Shortage in bullock affects cultivation

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Feb 23: Cultivation in the district has been adversely affected by acute shortage of bullock.

According to sources, a vast area of cultivable land remains unused every year. About 60 to 70 per cent farmers of the district have no bullock to till their lands.

The farmers sometimes are seen to plough their land on share basis, sources said.

Officials of the Livestock Department have attributed the reason of the shortage to mass-scale deaths of cattle by the natural calamities.

Besides, cattle are very often stolen causing decrease in number of cattle.

Bus stand needed

Bus passengers have been facing problems due to absence of waiting sheds at different bus stands here.

Passengers who travel regularly using these bus stands complain that they are forced to wait for hours together under open sky at these bus stands.

Women and children pas-

sengers are the worst sufferers.

Local people have called upon the authorities concerned to take immediate measures to construction sheds for bus passengers.

Shortage of phone lines

The existing number of telephone lines of the district is quite inadequate to meet the growing demand of over one lakh town dwellers.

According to the official sources, at present there are 400 phone connections at the town while large number of application for new connections have been lying pending with the local telephone office for a long time.

The demand for new phone lines has increased with the upgradation of the sub-division to a district, the sources added.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to take immediate scheme to enhance the capacity of the existing exchange for the benefit of the flourishing trade and commerce in the district.



KUSHTIA: Alhaj K M Abdul Khaleque MP speaking at the inaugural function of agricultural exhibition held here recently. — Star photo

Irrigation to 50,000 acres hampered for want of electricity

RAJBARI, Feb 23: Irrigation on about 50,000 acres of land in the district is being seriously hampered in the current boro season due to lack of electricity, reports UNB.

According to the farmers, electricity connections in about 100 deep and shallow tubewells have already been snapped due to non-payment of bills amounting to Taka 20 lakh.

On the other hand, some 300 tubewells are not getting required electricity supply during the peak period.

Farmers said, if the situation continues, they would be forced to sustain heavy losses during the current dry season.

Power Development Board sources said during the peak hours 5 mw electricity is needed in the district. But at present only one and a half to two mw of electricity are available for distribution.

The insufficient power supply, frequent power failure and load shedding are also hampering production in mills and factories causing heavy losses every day.

Public life has also become miserable due to the erratic power supply.

LGED takes up 127 uplift schemes

Local Government Engineering Department has taken up 127 schemes under "Rural Development Project-4" during the current fiscal year.

Aid agencies CIDA and NORAD are providing financial help to the projects which will be implemented at a cost of Taka 3.26 crore.

The projects include: brick laying on 10.5 km link road from Ballaknadi to Pangsha via Narua, construction of three bridges, development of two water reservoirs and Narua growth centre infrastructure and tree planting.

With the completion of the schemes, road communication in the district will be improved to a great extent and about 600 distressed women will get job opportunities.

Speakers pay tributes to Gen Osmany

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Feb 23: People will remember General Osmany for ever as he sacrificed his life for the cause of the nation. This was expressed by the speakers at discussion meetings organised on the occasion of the death anniversary of late hero of the Liberation War.

The 10th death anniversary of General MAG Osmany, the Commander-in-Chief of the Liberation War was observed in Sylhet with due solemnity on Wednesday. The day's programmes include, ziarat of the major, offering of fateha, placing of floral wreaths at the major, Quran Khwani, milad mahfil, discussion meeting and iftar party.

The Osmany Museum, Sylhet arranged a Milad Mahfil, discussion meeting and iftar party to mark the day. Assistant Commander of the Liberation War Colonel M.R Chowdhury (Ret) attended those programmes.

The Sylhet district unit of MuktiJoddha Sangsad arranged a discussion meeting with Anwar Hossain Gora. Convenor, unit command in the chair. It was also addressed, among others, by Shamsuzzoha Mirza Jamal Pasha, Abdul Karim Manojir and Abdul Ahad.

The discussion meeting held at the Osmany Museum was presided over by Aatur Rahman Chowdhury while it

was also addressed among others by Abdul Hai Khan, Secretary, District Bar Association, Monir Uddin Chowdhury, Md. Ohidul Islam Tofa, Advocate Naushad Ahmed Chowdhury, Abdul Malek Khan, Sufian Ahmed Chowdhury, Mujibur Rahman Shahin, Abdul Mannan, Nazmuddin Advocate and Assistant Keeper of the museum SM Jalal Uddin.

The district unit of Jatiya Janata Party who took up day long programmes in observance of the day. The discussion meeting was presided over by the President of the district unit, Abdul Matin Chowdhury in the chair. It was addressed by Advocate Devtosh Chowdhury, Khondoker Mobashwir Ali Advocate, Abdul Hamid Advocate, Professor Shafulkar Rahman, Abul Fazal, Dewan Alawal Chowdhury Advocate, Shah Mohammad Azmal Ali, Faruque Hossain, Elead Hossain, Sirajul Islam Advocate and Kabir Ali Advocate.

The Greater Sylhet Ganodabi Parishad also took day long programme in observance of the day. It includes Ziarat of the major of the late leader, discussion meeting and special prayers at the places of worship. President of the organisation Alhaj Mobashwir Ali presided over the discussion meeting.

District roundup

JHENAIDAH

7 killed, 23 hurt in road accidents

Feb 23: Seven people were killed and 23 others were injured in three separate road accidents in the district during the last five days, reports UNB.

The deceased were Abul Kasem (20), Jibon Biswas (40), Haji Ahmed Ali (60), Minirul Islam (15), Sagar (16) and Shilpi (11).

According to police, on Tuesday evening two passengers of a baby-taxi died on the spot and six bus passengers were injured when the Kushtia bound bus hit the baby taxi from opposite direction. The injured were rushed to Sadar hospital where three of them succumbed.

On the following day, a man was killed and 20 others were injured in another mishap on the same road near Jhenaidah Cadet College. Witnesses said a Jhenaidah bound bus rammed with a paddy loaded standing truck beside the road.

The last accident occurred on Friday when a speedy Jessore bound jeep ran over a girl Shilpi who was trying to cross the road at Ranghatpur in Kaliganj thana on Jhenaidah-Jessore road.

The driver fled away from the spot. Three separate cases were lodged with the police.

CHANDPUR

Cricket match concludes

Feb 23: Final cricket match of Beximco Jatiya Juba Cricket tournament-'93 of zone 'Ka' was held with much enthusiasm at Chandpur stadium on Saturday, reports UNB.

In the match, Chittagang Zia Juba Dal emerged as champion by defeating Barisal Zia Juba Dal with 20 runs. Chittagang team earned 173 by 10 wickets while Barisal team scored 150 runs by 10 wickets.

Later Deputy Commissioner and President of the District Sports Association Golam Kibria gave away championship trophy to captain of Chittagang team and runners up trophy, Mashur Rahman Manju of Barisal team was adjudged as the man of the match.

In all, seven teams took part in the tournament that began on February 13. Thousands of people enjoyed the match.

NETRAKONA

Mosquito menace alarming

Feb 23: Mosquito menace has been vexing public life here for the last few days, says BSS.

Road side drains filled with filth and garbage, uncleared dustbins and derelict ponds around the town are the breeding centres of mosquitoes.

The residents alleged that garbage are being dumped here and there by the scavengers due to lack of adequate dustbins resulting in abnormal rise of mosquito menace.

Another report adds: The annual prize giving ceremony of Netrakona Government Girls High School was held at the school's play ground recently. Shamsunnahar, wife of the Deputy Commissioner, Netrakona attended the function as chief guest and gave away prizes among the meritorious students.

Amina Khatun, headmistress of the school presided over the function.

SAVAR

Kutcha latrines threaten public health

Feb 23: Public health in Savar thana of Dhaka district is being threatened due to massive use of kutcha latrine in almost all villages, reports UNB.

Most of the people are using kutcha latrines out of their ignorance about the health hazard. Even the inhabitants of Savar poura area seldom use sanitary latrines.

Thousands of kutcha latrines have been set up on the banks of the rivers Bongshin, Gazkhali, Buriganga and canals and ponds in the rural areas of the thana causing outbreak of water-borne diseases like diarrhoea and dysentery every now and then.

It is alleged that the officials of thana Health Department are not taking any initiative to make the people conscious of the health problem created by using kutcha latrines.

Local people urged the concerned authorities to look into the matter and take necessary steps in this regard.

FENI

Plan to develop livestock, poultry taken up

Feb 23: District Livestock Directorate has taken up a programme in five thanas during this current fiscal year to develop livestock and poultry, reports UNB.

A total of 29 dairy farms with 154 cows which produce 1000 litres of milk every day was set up and about 217 poultry farms were also established under this programme during the last seven months.

During the period 1.27 lakh cattle and 11.10 lakh poultry birds were vaccinated, 26,000 cattle and 46,000 poultry birds were given treatment and 10,592 cows were inseminated.

Under this programme 748 workers received training on dairy and poultry farming.

A total of 19 acres of land has been brought under grass producing scheme for the cattle.

KISHOREGANJ

Lack of text books hamper edn in primary schools

Feb 23: Classes of primary schools of four thanas of the district could not be started till the first week of this month due to lack of supply of text books, reports UNB.

According to the district Primary Education Office, students of class I to V in Astagram, Nikli, Mithail, and Itna did not get the text books due to negligence of the dealer responsible for supply of the books.

The supplier failed to supply the books to the thana headquarters within the specified date of January 15.

Mentionable that a programme was taken to distribute 3,35,400 sets of text books among the primary students of 13 thanas of the district free of cost.

SHERPUR

Eye camp held, free medicines distributed

Feb 23: A week-long eye-camp was held at Sherpur S M School recently under the joint auspices of the local Rotary Club and B N S B Mymensingh, reports BSS.

It was inaugurated by Ataurrahman, DC Sherpur. The function was presided over by Dr. Shahadat Hossain, Secretary of local Rotary Club.

Eye specialists from Dhaka performed operation and treatments of the eye patients.

The patients were given spectacles and medicines free of cost. Another report adds: A seven member committee of Nakla Press Club was recently formed with Harun-ur-Rashid (Dainik Jahan) and Hazrat Ali (Dainik Dinkal) as its president and general secretary respectively.

The other office-bearers of the committee are: Fuad Hossain (Weekly Chaiti Khabar) vice president, Kamruzzaman Mukul (Azkar Kagaj) joint secretary, Shahjahan (Dainik Insaaf) treasurer.

RAJSHAHI

Law, order situation reviewed

Feb 23: A meeting on law and order situation of the district was held at local circuit house Sunday with State Minister for Establishment Barrister Aminul Haq in the chair, reports BSS.

The state minister was apprised in the meeting of the law and order situation of the district is now normal.

Addressing the meeting the State Minister asked the law enforcing personnel to stop movement of the cattle carts whose wheel were not bend with rubber on the pucca roads to save the roads. He also urged the officials to work for implementation of Compulsory Primary Education Programme along with performing their normal duties.

Azizur Rahman, MP was present at the meeting.

Later, addressing a meeting of the leaders and workers of BNP at Huzrapur under Godagary thana of the district, Haq said, dreams of the martyrs of language movement would be meaningful if we could make the country self-reliant in all aspect.

He paid rich tribute to the martyrs of language movement and called upon the BNP workers to integrate themselves in all nation building activities.



SYLHET: Special prayer is being offered at the mazar of Jen M A G Osmany on the occasion of the 10th death anniversary of the late leader. — Star photo