

Journalist hacked to death

BARISAL, Nov 13: A journalist of a local weekly newspaper was hacked to death over land dispute at Padma village in Barguna sadar thana recently, police said, reports UNB.

Mahbubul Alam, 30, journalist of weekly Saikat Sangbad of Barguna, was killed allegedly by a group of villagers in broad daylight at about 11 am.

Barguna police said, the victim was attacked when he went to a disputed land with his elder brother who won a case over the land recently.

Five others were also injured during the clash. They were given first aid.

The body was sent to Barguna sadar hospital for autopsy. A case was filed with local police in this connection.

4,000 tubewells remain out of order in southern dists

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Nov 13: About four thousand tubewells have gone out of order and choked up in eleven southern districts of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Barguna, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Faridpur, Madaripur, Saratpur, Gopalganj and Rajbari due to absence of necessary repair and maintenance works.

According to Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) there are 82,531 shallow and 27,771 deep tubewells in these districts. Of the total 3,060 shallow and 706 deep tubewells have gone out of order since a long period.

The official sources informed, number of choked up tubewells both, shallow and deep are 611 in Barisal, Patuakhali 201, Bhola 183, Jhalakathi 346, Pirojpur 495, Barguna 205, Faridpur 304, Saratpur 321, Gopalganj 476, Madaripur 302, and in Rajbari 325. While unofficial sources quoted the number of choked up tubewells in these district more than five thousand.

Aman output target in Bhola may fail

BHOLA, Nov 13: Aman production is likely to fall short of target in the current season due to unprecedented drought in seven thanas of the district, reports UNB.

According to Agriculture Extension Department, the target was fixed at 2.86 lakh tons. But after the transplantation the drought gripped the district for the two months.

A total of 1.56 lakh hectares of land have been brought under transplanted aman cultivation of which 1.04 lakh hectares were brought under local variety and the rest under High Yielding Variety.

The paddy plants are growing yellowish due to lack of necessary rain water jeopardising the prospect.

One gets 3 yrs RI for producing spirit illegally

From Our Correspondent

PATUAHALI, Nov 13: Additional District and Sessions Judge S M Abdur Rouf recently sentenced a woman, Malati Rani Das to three years rigorous imprisonment and fined Taka five hundred in default to suffer three months more rigorous imprisonment for producing and storing spirit.

The prosecution story in brief is that, Moklar Ali, an inspector of district narcotics control department with the help of sadar thana police raided the house of the accused Malati Rani Das in village Badura of Awlapur union under Patuakhali sadar thana and recovered six litres of spirit and equipment from her possession.

Over 10,000 cases await trial in Barisal

BARISAL, Nov 13: Over 10,000 cases are awaiting trial in 19 different courts of the district, reports UNB.

Court sources said, the cases remained pending at different courts of district and additional assistant judges as thana magistrates posts are lying vacant.

The cases remain pending at the assistant judges court of Gourmadi, Agailghara, Muladi, Uzirpur, Banaripara, Mehendiganj and Hizla thanas including two additional assistant judges courts in sadar thana.

Overload of work is also one of the reasons for delaying the trial of the cases.

Besides nearly 700 cases are pending under appeal while 400 more with the "Artharin Adalat".

18 killed in separate incidents

Nov 13: Eighteen people were killed and six seriously injured in separate incidents in five districts within last seven days, according to UNB reports.

Two persons were shot dead and another was injured by unknown gunmen at Badamtoli village in Sadar thana of Jhenidah district early Friday.

The dead were identified as Amanat, 35, of Alamkhali in Magura district and Munshi Wahiduzzaman, 45, of Kodalia in Jhenidah.

The injured, Kajol, 18, of Bakari village in Sadar thana, was admitted to Jhenidah General Hospital.

Police and witnesses said, armed miscreants in a gang of about 30 men, attacked a Jatra pandit at about 3.30 am and took Amanat and Wahiduzzaman near the pandit forcefully. They were later shot and killed on the spot.

Kajol, a passerby received bullet injuries while he was passing through the area.

Police suspects that Amanat, a leader of Biplobi Communist Party (Haque) was killed as a sequel to party conflict.

The bodies were sent to the morgue for autopsy and a case was filed with Sadar thana.

Another report says: A college student was stabbed to death by some unidentified miscreants near Dhophagata in Jhenidah town on Tuesday.

police said. The miscreants called out Nayan, 22, from his residence after sundown and took him to a place near Dhophagata bridge and stabbed him mercilessly. The victim succumbed on way to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital.

Past enmity was said to be the reason behind the murder. A case was filed with the police.

In the same district: A unidentified young man was killed in a road accident near Dhophagata bridge here on the Jhenidah-Magura road (Tuesday).

Police said, the accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound bus of Shyamoli Paribahan hit a pedestrian from behind at about 10.15 am. He died instantly. The body was sent to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital.

Police seized the bus in Magura but its driver fled away.

At least 10 people were killed and 40 others wounded in 10 accidents on the Jhenidah-Magura road last month, police said.

A report from Kushtia says: A school student was killed and two others were seriously injured in a road mishap near G K pump house in Bheramara thana on Tuesday.

The incident occurred when a speeding truck knocked down the bicycle riding by Mamun, 16 with his two companions — Sumon, 18, and Manju 23. Mamun died on the spot.

Sumon was rushed to Kushtia General Hospital and Manju to Bheramara Health Complex.

The driver and helper managed to escape with the vehicle. A case has been registered with Bheramara police.

Another report from Sirajganj adds: Three people including a minor girl were killed and two others injured in three separate accidents in the district during the last 24 hours.

An unidentified labourer, 36, died on the spot while two others were injured when two trucks collided on Bogra Nagarbari road at Delua in Ullapara thana this morning.

The injured received first aid at Purnimagati Health Complex.

In the other accident Ramjan Ali, 18, was crushed under the wheels of a running train at Lahiri Mohanpur station on Thursday night. The train-Rajshahi bound Padma Express, was coming from Sirajganj.

On the same day in Shahjadpur thana, Nargis, a two year old baby, Sanowar Hossain of Bachara village was killed allegedly by neighbours as a sequel to old enmity.

Separate cases were filed with the local thanas.

A report from Jamalpur says: Two minor boys and a girl drowned in a pond at Namas-

para village of Bakshiganj union in sadar thana last week.

The dead were identified as Jewel, 4, son of Nuruzzaman, General Secretary of Awami League, Bashiganj unit, Bellal, 3, son of Sawdagar Ali and Bina, 3, daughter of Suruj Ali.

Police and family sources said, the children slipped and fell into the pond while they were playing by the side of the pond.

Later, the villagers recovered the bodies.

Another report from Brahmanbaria says: Seven members of a family, including three children, died of food poisoning at Kunda village in Nasirganj thana in four consecutive days.

The victims are Jahera Khatun, 35, Shaheda Khatun, 43, her daughter Nehera Begum 14, grand sons — Shahajahan, 8, and Ali Amin, 3, and Nephews — Ali Chan, 5 and Saber Chan, 3. Condition of two others — Sheuly (7), and Raushan Bani (25) are stated to be critical.

On Sunday Shaheda Khatun and eight other members of her family fell sick after having their meals. The took bread and curry of water-lily.

Shahed died on her way to Brahmanbaria Hospital, her daughter Nehera and grand sons — Shahajahan and Ali Amin died on Monday, and her nephews on Tuesday.

AUB meeting held at BAU

AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh), Nov 13: A meeting of the standing committee of the vice-chancellors was held under the auspices of the Association of the Universities in Bangladesh (AUB) at the administration building of the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), says a BAU press release.

Vice-Chancellor of the Rajshahi University and AUB Chairman Professor Dr M Yousuf Ali presided over the meeting.

The meeting discussed various issues relating to teachers and officers upgradation, restructuring and promotion rules, selection grade, allowances, T.A. D.A. book allowances and house rent.

Leaders of the Inter-University Officers Federation called on the vice-chancellors of the universities and freely exchanged views in respect of their demands which was not resolved for the last 17 years.

New digital exchange for Barisal soon

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Nov 13: To meet the growing demand of telephone connections in the divisional headquarters of Barisal a digital telephone exchange will soon be installed.

The digital telephone exchange will be set up by January '95, — a T&T source said.

The Barisal telephone exchange at present operates with 2,800 lines including two container exchanging of 600 lines each.

Mother, son found slaughtered

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 13: A mother and her son of Kaledil village in Royganj thana, who were earlier reported missing, have been slaughtered by unknown assailants, reports UNB.

Police recovered the bodies of Majeda Khatun, 30, wife of Farman Ali, and her son Masud, 13, from a beel of Ichhamati Char in Sadar thana of the district on Monday evening.

Bravo!

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Nov 13: Monowara Begum a housewife of village Dohatala under Tulshirchar union of the district has proved her courage by saving her from an attack by rapist recently.

Monjurul Haque, son of Akteruzzaman of the same village broke open the house of Monowara Begum midnight. He then proposed to have sex with her. But Monowara refused the proposal. When the miscreant tried to force her, she cut off Haque's penis with a sharp blade leaving him critically injured.

Later the victim was admitted to the Jamalpur General Hospital.

Dacoits caught red handed by bridal party

JHENIDAH, Nov 13: A bridal party caught three dacoits red handed at Pakhima in Harinakunda thana on Sunday, says UNB.

The dacoits — Babukha, Amirul and Mukul — identified as activists of a local terrorist gang styled "Atiar Group".

The bridal party while going to Vina of the same thana was attacked by the gang of 12 dacoits at Pakhima. When challenged the dacoits started fleeing the scene and after a chase the three dacoits were caught.

Some country made weapons, including knife and dao were recovered from their possession. Later, they were handed over to Harinakunda police.

Committee formed to publish history of greater Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Nov 13: A meeting of the 'brihattara Sylhet' (thas pronayan parishad) (council for preparation of the history of greater Sylhet) was held recently at Moulvibazar pourasava auditorium.

The meeting was presided over by Senior Journalist of Moulvibazar Radhika Mohan Goswami and it was attended by Registrar of Shahjalal University Professor Abdul Aziz, Principal Abul Basar and former minister Dewan Farid Gazi.

The meeting was addressed among others by Moulvibazar Pourasava Chairman Syed Mohtosin Ali, Principal Rasamoya Mohanta.

Notes from Satkhira

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Nov 13: The National Youth Day '94 was observed here highlighting the motto of building a self reliant youth force. The theme of the day was emancipation of the nation and self reliant youth force.

A colourful rally, participated by officials, police, BNCC teachers, students, newsmen and elite of the town, led by the Deputy Commissioner, paraded the main streets of the town, carrying banners and leaflets.

After the rally, a discussion on the theme was held at the sadar thana parishad auditorium with M A Mukhtar Additional Deputy Commissioner, Satkhira in the chair.

Mujibur Rahman Deputy Commissioner, Satkhira and Anisur Rahman, Police Super were present as chief and special guests respectively on the occasion while Prof Abdul Karim, Matru Rahman and Abdul Aziz spoke.

The speakers called upon the youths to build up their life as worthy citizens of the country to shoulder future responsibility. The youths need work to save themselves from moral degradation, unrest, antisocial activities and heinous crimes being committed both in urban and rural areas of the country.

Puja celebrated

Members of the Hindu community in the town and elsewhere in the district celebrated Shyama Puja, one of their secret festival with religious fervour and enthusiasm.

Congregation, discussion, cultural function and Puja were among the programmes held at the mandaps of the town and other places of the district.

Sarkarpara, Shyama Puja Uddhapan Parishad of Satkhira town held a day long musical soiree and Kati Puja at the Mandir premises.

According to reports reaching here Shyama Puja is being celebrated in different places of Kalaroa, Talia, Debhatia, Assasuni, Kaligonj and Shyamnagar thanas of the district.

Newsprint crisis

The newsprint crisis has seriously affected the newspaper and publication industry of the district. Publication of one daily and two weeklies of the town came to a halt due to this situation. Newsprint crisis caused price hike of the newspapers. The number of newspaper readers may fall if the price of the newspaper goes up further.

The 3'x36" size newsprint which was sold at Taka 260 is now selling at Taka 600 per ream.

The white paper of same size which was sold at Taka 760 is now selling at Taka 1200 per ream.

One awarded life-term

Alauddin Sardar District and Session Judge, Satkhira in a judgement recently convicted one Rejaul Momin of village Shetpur under Assasuni thana and sentenced him to suffer life-term on charge of murdering his wife. The court also fined Taka 2000 in default to serve two years more.

According to the prosecution, the convict, Momin murdered his wife, Jahanaara Khatun, 20, with sharp Dao in village Ghona under Tala thana at dead of night on March 4, 1991. A case was lodged with Tala thana and after investigation police submitted charge sheet against him.



SYLHET: A mourning procession was brought out in the district to protest the killing of Enamul Haque Munna, Secretary, Sylhet town unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal. — Star photo

Boro paddy cultivation target may fail in greater M'singh

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 13: Cultivation of boro paddy taken up by the Agriculture Extension Department in the five districts of greater Mymensingh region may not reach its target due to various problems.

Abnormal and high prices of different inputs, shortage of bullocks, high prices of fuel, faulty system of irrigation equipment and short supply of the high yielding varieties of seeds are likely to affect the activities of the scheme.

According to an official source, a massive programme has been taken in the five districts of the region during the current Rabi season to bring a total of 4,89,263 hectares of land under Boro cultivation.

The total area includes 74,662 hectares in seven thanas under Jamalpur, 1,18,503 hectares in eleven thanas of Mymensingh, 51,716 hectares in five thanas of Sherpur, 1,08,844 hectares in 11 thanas of Netrakona and 1,40,538 hectares in 13 thanas of Kishoreganj districts.

The target of paddy production has been fixed at 14,60,959 metric tons this year from the districts, the source added.

Abnormal increase in the prices of different inputs have affected poor farmers. The

supply of different high yielding varieties of seeds is also scanty in the government godowns. It is alleged. But the seeds are available in the open markets at abnormally high rates, the source also alleged.

The government has also withdrawn the rental system for supplying the irrigation equipment to the farmers. These are now being sold by the BADC. High prices of fuel have also seriously hit the farmers, it is alleged.

One more Bangla daily launches publication from Patuakhali

From Our Correspondent

PATUAHALI, Nov 13: A local Bangla daily 'Dainik Ganodabi' launched its publication from the Patuakhali town Tuesday. The daily was inaugurated at a function held at New Market here at around 10.30 am. Minister for Religious Affairs Keramat Ali was the chief guest. Editor of the paper Md Golam Kibria was present on the occasion. Two other local Bangla dailies are being published from Patuakhali.

Abnormal rise in the prices of different kinds of chemical fertilisers has also affected poor and marginal farmers.

Disbursement of the special agricultural loans is also not satisfactory, it is alleged. Though sufficient amount of money has been sanctioned by different nationalised commercial banks for distribution including the Bangladesh Krishi Bank, the disbursement rate is quite below the target, according to an official source.

Small farmers are being deprived of the loans while a section of influential people and the village middlemen were getting the loans. It is alleged. Even most of the poor farmers have to seek loans through these selected groups for obtaining loans from the banks. It is alleged.

The interested farmers did not get loans on the plea of not submitting sufficient documents and papers.

Besides, pesticides are sold in the open markets at much higher price. The prices of paddy, rice, wheat and flour shot up abnormally affecting the poor people.

The poor and marginal farmers urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps immediately in these matters.

Forcible occupation of land

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Nov 13: One Fazlul Karim, a popular 'Kabiraj' is now begging door to door leading a miserable life in Islampur thana headquarters of the district.

His family members have also joined him begging door to door for food and shelter. It is alleged that 60 dicta of land he owned was reportedly forcibly occupied by his neighbours recently.

It is learnt that he had submitted a written allegation against his neighbours to the district administration.

In this connection the Assistant Commissioner, land, investigated into the matter and submitted a report to the higher authority in favour of Fazlul Karim, Kabiraj. But no action has yet been taken.



Fazlul Karim with his family members in Jamalpur. — Star photo



Due to drastic fall in water level in the rivers of northern region fishermen do not get abundant fish. — Star photo

Erosion of rivers

Bishkhali, Paira continue to engulf fresh areas

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Nov 13: Continuous erosion of Bishkhali and Paira rivers of Borguna has engulfed a huge area of crop land, dwelling houses, bazars, shops and other establishments, rendering at least twenty five thousand people homeless.

Due to continuous erosion, cyclone shelters in Patuakhali, Golbunia launchghat a secondary school and a masjid may not survive erosion of river Paira.

A toilet, ferryghat, few shops and a bazar and many dwelling houses have already been devoured in the river Paira in last ten days. Embankment of Amtali is also threatened by erosion.

Local people urged to the authority of the Water Development Board (WDB) to take immediate measures to control erosion of Bishkhali and Paira rivers.

Landless people are on rise in Dinajpur

From Our Correspondent

DINAJPUR, Nov 13: The number of landless and unemployed people are gradually rising in all the thirteen thanas of the district.

Out of total population numbering twenty lakh, fifty per cent depend on agriculture, ten per cent on different occupations and the rest forty per cent are totally unemployed. But of the cultivators sixty per cent have a few acres of land and the rest thirty per cent can be classified as land owners.

Cultivable land in proportion to the population being meagre shortfall in output of foodgrains is a regular feature. Besides, hundreds of acres of cultivable land are eroded by the rivers Punarbhaba, Kanchan, Atrai and Mahananda every year. As a result, the number of landless people are increasing alarmingly.

The farmers having a few acres of land cannot cope with the prices of agricultural inputs. They cannot buy fertilizers, seeds, pesticides and even bullocks for cultivation due to poverty. They are deprived of irrigation facilities. Above all they even do not get fair price for their produce. Consequently they are forced to sell off their land.

The educated unemployed persons are also on rise. Since there are no mills and factories in the district unemployment is the main problem of the district.

Besides, poor farmers are facing critical situation due to high price of all chemicals, fertilizers throughout the district. It is learnt that per bag of urea is being sold at Taka 360 as against Taka 240 a few weeks ago. A bag of TSP is sold at Taka 400 against Taka 270.

The farmers alleged that fertilizer dealers are not given memo.

Smuggled goods worth Tk 9 lakh recovered

BARHAMABARIA, Nov 13: Bangladesh Rifles men seized smuggled Indian goods worth about Tk 9 lakh in a day long raid from different areas of the district, reports UNB.

The 23 battalion of BDR raided the inter-city Upabati Express at Brahmanbaria railway station and recovered Indian motor parts worth Tk 8 lakh.

In another raid, BDR also recovered smuggled goods worth Tk one lakh from different parts of the district.

Encouraging response achieved in using sanitary latrines

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 13: Encouraging response have been achieved in using low-cost sanitary latrines in the rural areas of the district.

It is gathered that the rural people in general using unhygienic latrines for years. In average, only nine per cent villagers were acquainted with sanitary latrines. Due to massive motivation and publicity, rural people are being interested to use low cost sanitary latrines.

Earlier, the Directorate of Public Health Engineering