

One awarded life-term for killing 3 yr-old girl in Hobiganj

From Staff Correspondent
 SYLHET, Nov 27: The District and Sessions Judge of Hobiganj while passing his judgement in a murder case found one person guilty and sentenced him to suffer imprisonment for life on Thursday last. The court also acquitted another accused in the same case.

The prosecution story in brief is that, on the morning of April 18, 1991, Shafique Miah and his son Abdul Maleque called Rozina, 3, daughter of one his neighbours at village Ramnagar, in Hobiganj sadar, out of their house and hit her with a sharp Dao causing her instantaneous death. The victim's mother, Maimunnessa was also injured badly when she came to rescue her daughter. The brutal murder occurred as a sequel to previous enmity. A case was immediately registered with the police by the brother of Maimunnessa. Police after holding investigations submitted chargesheet against the accused persons. The court after examining all the records and witnesses found the principle accused guilty and sentenced him to suffer life-term imprisonment and to pay a fine of Taka five thousand in default to which to suffer imprisonment for two years more. The court acquitted the Abdul Malek of the charges brought against him.

Kidnapped child recovered

MANIKGANJ, Nov 27: A baby, kidnapped by a child lifter on Friday morning, was recovered from Shimulia village in Shibhalaya thana in the afternoon, reports UNB.

Police said, villagers recovered the six-month old Sajib, son of Shamsul Islam of Majidpur village in Savar thana while he was being sold to an unidentified man by a woman, identified as Sheuli.

Police also arrested Sheuli with the help of the villagers and sent her to Manikganj court.

Police said, Sheuli, 16, daughter of Tamiz Uddin of Faridpur district town, kidnapped the child after making friendship with Sajib's mother. Sheuli has been living in the same Majidpur village for sometime and had a relation with a local electrician.

Sajib was handed over to his parents.

Sundari timbers worth Tk 2 lakh seized, 10 held

PATUAKHALI, Nov 27: Mirzaganj police arrested 10 people and recovered timbers worth about Tk two lakh from four trawlers in river Payra on Monday, reports UNB.

Police said, while patrolling in the area they challenged the Swarupkahti bound trawlers and seized the timbers. The unauthorised Sundari timbers were being brought from the Sundarbans. They also seized the trawlers.

Four separate cases have been filed with the police.

Local people alleged that a section of traders with the help of some officials of the Forest Department are collecting timbers from the Sundarbans area illegally through their paid agents almost every day and are selling those to various parts of the country.

Ten under-trial prisoners hurt in Cox's Bazar

COX'S BAZAR, Nov 27: Ten under-trial prisoners were injured, two of them seriously, in a clash with convicts at the local court hajat Saturday, reports UNB.

The clash erupted when some convicts demanded money from the under-trial prisoners, police said.

Of the injured, Nesar Ahmed, 50, and Nurul Kabir, 35, were taken to sadar hospital.

Minor girl violated

BRAHMANBARIA, Nov 27: A minor girl was violated by a young man of Mourail area in sadar thana, police and hospital sources said, reports UNB.

According to a delayed report, the miscreant Amin Mia, 20, took the five-year old girl to a field and violated her on Nov 7. She was recovered by the villagers in a serious condition. Later, she was admitted to Brahmanbaria sadar hospital.

A case was filed with the police and the miscreant remained absconding since the incident.

Local people demanded of the authorities to arrest the miscreant without further delay and give exemplary punishment.



CHANDPUR: Concentration of water hyacinths in Dakatia river seriously affect navigation on Chandpur-Faridganj route. — Star photo

68 per cent people suffer from goitre Use of iodised salt needs popularity

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Nov 27: Goitre disease is reportedly increasing in 16 districts of Khulna and Barisal divisions largely due to little use of iodised salt. According to a survey report, symptoms of this disease is found common in 68 per cent of the people of these two divisions. Detailed information says that 20 per cent children, 19 per cent youths, 16 per cent adults and 13 per cent old men and women carry the symptom of this disease. The survey reports also say, most of these people are not familiar with use of iodised salt nor its effects on health.

The survey was conducted recently by a Non-Government Organisation (NGO) committed to health care.

The report also said that habit of taking carbohydrates among masses is increasing while that of consuming vegetable and local fish is gradually decreasing.

These people still prefer using ordinary salt. Iodised salt and its utility is unknown to them. Health problem added by malnutrition is becoming worse in these areas, said the survey report.

According to source of the local health department, more

than 10 per cent people of the country now suffer from goitre. Pregnant women have every chance to undergo abortion and give birth to dead or crippled child due to lack of iodine in the body.

According to health education, iodised salt has no substitute to develop uniform health and help form immunity against attack by goitre.

In 1989, government passed law to produce iodised salt and banned producing ordinary salt. But it is yet to be implemented. Iodised salt is available in certain selected shops in the markets and the

supply is too inadequate. On the other hand ordinary salt is available in plenty. Besides smuggling of Indian salt has flooded the local markets, sold at much cheaper rates.

Difference of price between iodised salt and ordinary salt per kg allures common consumers to prefer the ordinary salt. Iodised salt is sold at Taka 11.00 per kg while the ordinary salt is sold between Taka six and eight per kilogram.

It is learnt there are a total of 150 salt producing factories in Khulna and Barisal divisions. One hundred and fourteen of them are listed for production of iodised salt. Instead, it is reported only 20 to 25 factories are producing iodised salt. Rest are get to go into productions.

Prohibition of producing ordinary salt except iodised salt in the factories and its supply in massive quantity in the markets at cheaper price, is the only way to get over the situation, the report also suggested.

2000 tubewells remain out of order in greater Faridpur

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Nov 27: About two thousand tubewells have been lying out of order for a long time in greater Faridpur district. No steps are being taken to repair these tubewells which are the only source of drinking water in rural areas.

Owing to acute paucity of drinking water in the rural areas of the district, people have no alternative but to take water from rivers, canals and ponds etc resulting in wide spread intestinal diseases among the rural people.

According to public Health and Engineering Department, there are 40 thousand 6 hundred 46 shallow tube-wells and 4 hundred 58 deep tube-wells in five districts namely, Faridpur, Rajbari, Shariatpur, Madaripur, and Gopalganj of greater Faridpur.

The source also said that one of the disordered shallow tubewells there are 304 in Faridpur, 321 in Shariatpur, 476 in Gopalganj, 302 in Madaripur and 325 in Rajbari. Measures should immediately be taken to repair these tubewells in the greater interest of the people suffering from scarcity of drinking water.

High prices of construction materials in Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, Nov 27: High prices of land and construction materials have been causing acute housing problem in the district town for a long time, says UNB.

The population of the town is about 65,000 but the construction of new buildings, residential quarters cannot meet the growing demand of the town dwellers.

Government and semi-government officials, teachers, businessmen, lawyers and students are the worst sufferers.

Many new offices are being set up in the district. But none has its own office building or residential quarters. Government or private entrepreneurs took no initiatives to construct residential quarters to solve the problem.

Prices of bricks, cement and rods have recorded a further rise affecting the overall construction works in the district.

Jubo League activist hacked to death

CHITTAGONG, Nov 27: A Jubo League activist was hacked to death by unidentified miscreants near Fulkatali bazar in Raozan thana Saturday police said, reports UNB.

Mohammad Shafi, 28, son of UP member, Oli Ahmed of Chikbayer village in Raozan thana, was called out of a tea stall in the bazar by the miscreants who took him to a nearby pond and chopped him to death in the afternoon.

He might have been killed because of inner conflict in Jubo League, police said. The body was sent to Chittagong General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The victim's father filed a case with the local police against seven local Jubo League activists.

Ensure best use of rural resources

DAUDKANDI (Comilla), Nov 27: Shipping Minister M K Anwar Saturday underscored the need for ensuring best utilisation of government resources for uplift of rural areas, says BSS.

Addressing a meeting of union parishad chairmen and government officials here, the minister said, desired development can be achieved through implementation of section-wise planned development programmes.

Anwar said, village is the focal-point of all development programmes initiated by the present government. He said, the government laid utmost emphasis on poverty alleviation, human resources development and eradication of illiteracy.

Sluice gates badly needed

PATUAKHALI, Nov 27: At least 10,000 acres of land in Kakrabunia and Majidbaria unions in Mirzaganj thana of the district are being affected badly for want of two sluice gates, says UNB.

Local farmers said, the normal flow of the canals of Kalagasia and Badyapasha has been obstructed due to construction of WAPDA road. As a result, during the rainy season vast tract of land go under water hampering crop production adversely.

They said, it is necessary to construct two sluice gates in Kalagasia and Bisyapasha canals to protect crops particularly aus and aman of the surrounding areas.

'Many of the parents dislike education for their children'

From Ratan Chowdhury

SHERPUR, Nov 27: Despite launching of Food for Education Programme by the government a large number of children living in remote villages aged between seven and twelve years in five police stations of the district remain engaged in different petty jobs instead of going to schools. As a result of this drop out of the students from schools continue to increase especially in remote primary schools in the district.

Poverty stricken farmers instead of sending their children to schools prefer to engage them in some sort of income oriented works like as labourers, cattle grazing hotel and guest house boys or rickshawpullers. These children are compelled to be engaged in different works rendering physical labour in exchange of poor remuneration.

Most of the farmers in the district either marginal or landless cannot afford educational expenditure for their children. Many of them dislike education for their children because they are illiterate. As they say, fathers themselves

encourage their children to be involved in any kind of job for handful of rice or for petty earning. Most of the farmers are burdened with five to eight children. Facing over burden of living cost farmers engage their children in any kind of work from childhood. In this consequence such children work as farm labourers and earn as much as possible for their poverty stricken family members.

During crop harvesting season a large number of farm labourers go to distant places in search of work where they could get some more wages.

Hence primary schools in the remote areas of the district are facing acute shortage of students and the problem is intensifying everyday.

Besides, government has not taken any plan to educate the farmers about education, under the banner of Food for Education. There are fifty-two unions in five thanas of the district. Among from fifty-two unions government has geared up only four unions for the education programme.

560 mt of wheat allotted for development works in Barisal district

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Nov 27: About 560 metric tons of wheat has been sanctioned by the government for implementing 385 development, including other projects in the district during the current season.

The amount of wheat has been sanctioned under Test Relief Programme to be used for various projects the sources said.

District relief and rehabilitation office sources said, these projects include repair and reconstruction of roads bridges, levelling of playgrounds in educational institutions, clearing of bushes and water hyacinths from derelict ponds including repair works of educational and religious institutions.

According to relief and rehabilitation office, of the total allocations of wheat in different thana areas of the district Barisal sadar will receive 60 m/tons of wheat for 42 projects in Hizla 76 m/tons for 28 projects, in Bakerganj 78

m/tons for 48 projects, in Mouladi 47 m/tons for 29 projects, in Muhendiganj 65 m/tons for 32 projects, in Babuganj 40 m/tons for 24 projects, in Uzirpur 58 m/tons for 36 projects, in Banaripara 40 m/tons for 76 projects, in Gournadi 50 m/tons for 28 projects, in Agailjhara 45 m/tons for 20 projects, while 30 metric tons of wheat have also been allocated for 21 projects in Barisal, Bakerganj and Banaripara pourasava areas.

Ferry service threatened

GAIBANDHA, Nov 27: Railway ferry service between Teestamak ghat and Bahadurabad ghat may be suspended at any time due to increase in water level in Brahmaputra river, says BSS.

Hundreds of small and large shoals have appeared paralysing the normal movement of ferry boats.

'We must ensure political stability for overall economic development'

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 27: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman has said that, it is not possible to change the lot of common people without ensuring the economic development and prosperity which depends on maintaining political stability. He was addressing a number of meetings in Jaintapur and Gowainghat thanas Friday.

Finance minister said, the government which came to power after a long movement against the autocratic rule and a fair election in 1992 had launched a new era of development throughout the country. Irrespective of party affiliations, cross section of people should help to continue the same, he added. The negative programmes like, hartal, strike, rail and road blockades

stand on the way of development adding, it is not to be desired to continue such programmes which clearly creates obstacles for development efforts. All should help strengthening the democratic institutions with a view to ensure nation building spree in the country, he added.

The minister also assured of taking all necessary measures to develop the communication in Jaintapur. He said, the historical Rajbari of Jaintapur would be brought under the control of the ministry of sports culture and a tourist spot would be set up here.

The meeting held at the historic Rajbari at the thana headquarters of Jaintapur, arranged by the thana unit of BNP was presided over by Advocate Nurul Haque while it

was also addressed among others by central organisation secretary Abul Hameed Chowdhury, District BNP President, MA Haque and Secretary, Abdul Kabir Chowdhury. The minister then visited Khasia village near the thana headquarters where he was welcomed by the tribal people.

The minister later addressed a big public meeting at the Gowainghat High School premises of Gowainghat thana headquarters. He called upon the people to come forward under the leadership of Begum Khaleda Zia with a view to help the path of development launched by the government adding politics of violence should be resisted by the people themselves for their greater interest.



SYLHET: The installation ceremony of Lions Club of Sylhet Green and Leo Club of Sylhet Green was held recently at a local hotel. The photo shows the new office bearers of the clubs. — Star photo

This kind of initiative deserves admiration

From Atiar Rahman

JESSORE, Nov 27: A medicine bank with basic difference from other banks has begun to function here recently. It is a product of new concept in area of services and operation.

Some local distinguished persons, decided to set up the medicine bank as private institution keeping in view the welfare of suffering mankind.

Obviously, crisis of medicine in hospitals has become a common feature causing immense sufferings to poor patients.

Patients are given attention and treatment if medicines, are provided as prescribed by doctors from outside the hospitals. Those who fail to do so are deprived of the facility.

There are so many cases of patients suffering in hospitals for days together without care from authorities, having failed to supply prescribed medicines from the local markets. Those patients who have no guardian or relatives to look after can not procure medicine from markets. These patients are left to fight with death. This situation is prevailing in each and every hospital of the country.

Medicine Bank is an attempt to mitigate miseries of this group of patients. It is purely a service oriented organisation, meant specially for them.

According to bank authorities, these patients are entitled for medicines from this bank for their treatment until recovery.

The Medicine Bank has been introduced based on consideration of humanitarian grounds. It is the first of its kind in the district.

Syed Mohammad Ali Kacha deserves admiration for such initiative. He is a dedicated social worker. His services to patients in Jessore General Hospital is known to all. He remains there most of his time enquiring about the condition of the patients, visit beds. He also meets with attending doctors and try to procure medicines for the poor either paying from his own pocket or by raising fund. He is said to be more active in hospital works than the nurses. He is popularly known as *Kacha Bhal*.

Kacha Bhal cooperated with Professor Sharif Hossain and Professor Nargis Begum to start the Medicine Bank with

commitment to serve poor patients in local hospital.

The bank went into operation from July this year, formally opened by Post and Telecommunication Minister, Tariqul Islam.

Civil Surgeon, Jessore, is the ex-officio chairman of the executive committee of the Medicine Bank with six other members including five elected and a consultant nominated from Jessore General Hospital. Member Secretary of the bank is appointed from among the elected members. The present Member Secretary is Professor Nargis Begum.

When contacted, the Civil Surgeon of Jessore, Dr. Amlad Hossain told The Daily Star, the bank has a steady record on progress of its activities.

It started with a donations of Tk 5000 from Masudur Rahman Milon of Benapole. The bank's fund has been raised to Taka four lakh, within a span of five months. He also informed that both medicine and blood are being supplied to patients from the bank free of cost.

To get help from the bank, the patients are to apply in writing to the bank management along with a written recommendation from nurse and the concerned consultant.

Besides the bank has made provision to extend supply of medicines to any one in the district who need to save human life in an emergency.

Looking back over performance of the bank during last 5 months, the Civil Surgeon informed that a total of 22 blood bags have been collected from two separate blood donating programmes. He further said that 12 bags of blood were donated by a local Puja committee in last Puja and another 10 bags from Rustic Society members. It was also learnt from him that the bank was planning to make arrangements for preservations of blood. At present it is being preserved under supervision of Jessore General Hospital.



The Secretary of the Medicine Bank, Professor Nargis Begum is giving required medicines to a patient at the Jessore sadar hospital. — Star photo



BARISAL: Professor Anwara Begum handing over certificate to one of the participants of the six-day long training course on 'primary mental health' at the Babuganj health complex recently. — Star photo