

Two die in two separate road accidents in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent
KUSHTIA, Aug 13: Two persons were killed in two separate accidents on Friday, it was learnt.

According to a source, Ataul 38, bus driver was killed on the spot when he lost control of the steering and his bus fell into a road side ditch after heating a truck while coming from Pabna at about 4 am in Bheramara-Kushtia road.

In another accident in Kushtia-Jhenidah road Moksed in drunken condition jumped in front of a running truck and was crushed to death.

Two separate cases were filed with Kushtia police.

Four alleged dacoits caught red-handed

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Aug 13: Four alleged dacoits were caught by the patrol police while the miscreants were allegedly committing dacoity in Ishurdi Thana Parishad on Thursday. Eight other dacoits, however, managed to escape.

According to Ishurdi Police on the night of occurrence at about 4 am, a gang of 12 dacoits, all armed caught the night guards on duty, tied their hand and feet, entered into three adjacent office rooms including the office of the thana Nirbahi officer, Ishurdi by breaking the locks of all the three offices.

Police patrol team, on duty suspecting that something unusual was happening, reached there and succeeded in catching hold of four dacoits but failed to recover any arms from them. Other, however, fled.

The dacoits, it is further learnt, ransacked the offices, but would not take away anything.

Erosion takes serious turn in Lalmonirhat

LALMONIRHAT, Aug 13: Erosion of the river Teesta has taken a serious turn with the receding of its water level, reports UNB.

District administration said some 20 villages, including Dahagram and Angurpota of Patgram thana, are threatened by the river erosion.

Meanwhile, a vast tract of land of Khunia Gash and Rajpur unions went into the river rendering several thousand people shelterless.

The affected people have taken shelter on the embankments, road-side slums and in different educational institutions.

According to officials, about 500 houses, including school buildings, religious institutions have already been washed away.

Local Water Development Board officials said erosion takes serious turn during monsoon and meanwhile about 20 kilometre areas from Teesta railway junction at Sadar to Chandimari of Aditmari thana have been devoured.

The officials said Teesta Barrage has created problem as the river changed its course following the construction of the barrage.

Massive aman cultivation scheme undertaken in GK project area

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Aug 13: Agriculture Extension Department, Kushtia, has taken up an ambitious programme to bring 49,434 hectares of land under aman cultivation in six thanas of the district.

Expected production was estimated to be one lakh 21 thousand 5 hundred 85 metric tons of rice.

The source said, meanwhile, farmers have started sowing aman paddy, farmers complained that Poradash section of canal net work of GK Project was not functioning resulting in scarcity of irrigation water in these areas.

Seed crisis has been prevailing and its high price has deterred the farmers from taking up their expected target.

One imprisoned for forcing girl into prostitution

RAJBARI, Aug 13: A pimp of Daulatdia brothel was awarded 10 years imprisonment with a fine Tk 5,000 for engaging a minor girl in prostitution, reports UNB.

According to prosecution, Asubala, 40, picked up Nasima, 14, of Mymensingh in a false hope of giving a job in a garment factory and subsequently forced her to be a prostitute at Daulatdia.

Later, police recovered Nasima from the area on December 15, 1995 following a complaint from her parents who somehow came to know about the matter. Later a case was filed under Women and Child Repression Act.

Special Judge Mohammad Matur Rahman after examining the witnesses and records awarded the punishment on Tuesday.



SHERPUR: Roads in district headquarters under pourashava have suffered erosion. For want of proper maintenance the eroded parts of the roads further spread and developed cracks affecting traffic movement. The picture shows Nalitabari-Jhenagati road near district bus terminal area.
— Star photo by Ratan Chowdhury

Relics at Rajshahi Archive face gradual destruction

NATORE, Aug 13: For want of proper preservation system the rare documents and relics at the Shaheed Smriti Sangrahashala (Martyrs Memorial Museum) are in danger of being destroyed, reports UNB.

The museum's collection of documents and exhibits are not properly cared because of poor lighting facilities and absence of air condition system.

The museum situated on the Rajshahi University campus, is only one of its kind in the country, where some history of Bangladesh's Liberation War is kept.

The museum was conceived first as a forum to commemorate the participation and sacrifices of the teachers, students and employees of Rajshahi University in heroic liberation struggle of 1971.

Decision to set up the archive was taken at a meeting of February 21 Observance Committee held under the chairmanship of erstwhile RU Vice Chancellor Prof Syed Ali Ahsan on January 2, 1976.

The then Education Adviser to the government eminent litterateur Abul Fazal inaugurated the museum on March 3, 1976.

Though originally conceived as a local enterprise with modest collection of the momentous relics, photographs and archival materials gathered here now encompasses the entire Bangladesh and the time-span covered goes much beyond in 1971.

It's panorama of photographs traces the genesis of the Bangladesh Freedom Movement in 1971 to the February Language Movement in 1952.

Some very rare photographs on the popular political movements of 1967, 1969 and most importantly of the final phase of the Liberation War since the carnage of March 25, 1971 is in display.

In the archival section rare daries of some martyrs and intellectuals like Munir Chowdhury, Mofazzal Haider

Chowdhury, Rashidul Hasan and Serajuddin Hossain are kept in the martyrs museum.

The famous liberation posters by Quamrul Hassan, the first few issues of the war front bulletin, the facsimile copy of documents of surrender and personal effects on the unknown martyrs exhumed from the mass grave in and around the campus are also housed in the museum.

The museum also houses some fine specimen of paintings inspired by the Liberation War by some renowned painters like Aminul Islam, Quaiyum Chowdhury, Debash Chakrabarty, Mostafa Monwar, Hashem Khan, Rafiqun Nabi and Mostafa Aziz.

There are also a small library containing a few hundred books, booklets and pamphlets related to the Liberation War.

Monsur Ahmed, curator of the museum urged the authorities concerned to help enrich the museum by offering relics and rare documents.



KUSHTIA: Railway track is being used as holding of Bazar every morning near Court Railway Station. In this way Railway land is being grabbed gradually and some pucca constructions has been built on Railway land.
— Star photo

Dacoits frequently attack on people living in border areas in Khagrachhari

From CHT Correspondent

RANGAMATI (Khagrachhari), Aug 13: The people travelling through or living at the frontier belt of this region, have been doing so in extreme panic as the turbulent dacoities are being committed very frequently and unabatedly, local people alleged.

A gang of armed dacoits allegedly stopped a truck loaded with timber and a passengers carrying jeep at Jaliapara Jautho, Khamar area in Rangarh thana of the district yesterday, Wednesday, August 07 night and looted away cash and kinds worth about Taka one lakh. Rangarh thana police said.

The longclothed dacoits left for deep jungle after the plunder which took about two hours time, police quoted the victims as saying.

Earlier, in the midnight of day, August 5, Monday a dacoity was committed at Dewanpara frontier hamlet in Tabalchhari union parishad of Matiranga thana in the district allegedly by a gang of tribal armed bandits.

A gang of tribal armed bandits kicked up a row in the house of Abul Bashar of Dewanpara village in Dighinala thana of the district at 11 in the night of last Tuesday, August 06 and looted away

cash Taka 24 thousand as well as four cattleheads and chopped up Abul Bashar. Matiranga thana police quoted the villagers to have said.

Critically assaulted Bashar with multiple cut injuries is now fighting for life in Khagrachhari sadar hospital sources said.

A gang of tribal bandits has been committing robbery at the different places of the district, police quoted the villagers as saying.

Superintendent of police, Khagrachhari hill district visited the place of occurrence, police sources said.



PABNA: A partial view of flood affected Demra by the side of river Baral where flood-water was yet to recede.
— Star photo

Police officer, newsmen allegedly rape young woman

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, Aug 13: Khudza Aktar, 22, a guest house boarder was allegedly raped in Taz Mohel Guest House by Provision Sub Inspector Khalilur Rahman, and two other local newsmen, Abdul Hannan and Abul Hashem of Dainek Shakti and Bangla Bazar recently, according to police sources.

According to local people, Khudza Aktar of Jhenagati thana of the district was raped allegedly by a Sub Inspector and two other newsmen mentioned above in the guest house on July 26 last. The Manager of Taz Mohel Guest House filed a case on her behalf in Sadar thana.

When contacted, DIO, Tufazzal Haq, admitted the incident. The case is under investigation of ASP head quarters.

Local people alleged that an influential sector 13 trying to concert the matter and demanded immediate arrest.



SHERPUR: This century-old Rany Mohal of land lord Noiami Bari has been lying vacant for the last 20 years. The building was once used as an official residence of the district administrator.
— Star photo

Treatment at RMCH, orthopaedics unit seriously being hampered

From Abdul Wadood

RAJSHAH, Aug 13: Treatment has been seriously hampered for many days in orthopaedics unit of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH), the second largest of its kind in the country, due to shortage of physicians, nurses and medicare logistics, according to the hospital sources.

According to the RMCH sources, there is only one complete ward (Ward No-1) comprising 30 non-paying and six paying beds in the orthopaedics unit. There are, however, a few beds in Ward No-3 for the females and in ward No-9 for the children under this unit. But on average number of one hundred patients remain in these wards on beds, floors and sometimes in verandas. The sources informed it takes two to six weeks for a patient to recover from symptoms. As a result accommodation problem has become very crucial. Patients are to remain crowding side by side here and there on the floors creating unhealthy environment which breaks down the disinfection measures of the works and increases incidents of infection.

In comparison with the heavy rush of the patients, the doctors assigned for duty are not sufficient in number in this unit.

It is learnt that there are only four doctors, one each against the posts of Associate Professor, Junior Consultant (on deputation), Registrar and Assistant Registrar. There is no post of Professor in the staff pattern of this unit. A posts of Assistant Professor has been lying vacant for about two years.

According to the official sources, Dr. Abul Bashar Chowdhury was transferred as Assistant Professor to orthopaedics unit of RMCH

from Chittagong Medical College Hospital recently. He left Rajshahi just after joining and has been reportedly enjoying unauthorised leave since then.

The DG (Health) office did not respond nor take any effective step to solve the problem, sources in the hospital alleged. There is no post of Junior Consultant in the Staff structure of the orthopaedics unit though Dr. B.K. Dam, posted at Singra thana Health Complex in Natore has been working as junior consultant for many days on deputation. Patients are also admitted under his name, though it is not the rule, RMCH sources said.

Whatever may be, the staff pattern, the four doctors, along with a few internecine doctors are to manage about one hundred patients in the indoor wards. Besides, they are to deal with another one hundred

patients twice a week in the outdoor section of the unit.

Huge number of patients both in the outdoor and the indoor services of orthopaedics unit, complain of mismanagement and ill-treatment.

Short supply of medicines and other logistics has also become a major problem of the orthopaedics unit. The doctors on duty said that logistic supply has been improved a little but still then the supply was too inadequate to meet the demands. They are often to become undone for lack of very essential materials like ganze and bandages and the problem becomes very critical and embarrassing in case of poor patients who comprise of the major part of the total number of patients, doctors said.

Proper care and nursing can also not be given to the patients for comparatively smaller number of nurses.



JHENIDAH: Construction work of Salkupa Fire Station is going on. Out of estimated Taka one crore, allocation of Taka seventy thousand was received so far. The work is expected to be completed by the end of the year.
— Star photo

Unauthorised extraction of Sundarbans resources : Tiger population declining

From Abu Ahmed

SATKHIRA, Aug 13: The unauthorised extraction of the resources of the Sundarbans has been going on unabated every year. The government is being deprived of huge revenue from the world's largest mangrove forest reserve.

The Forest Department sources said that the government earns about Taka 20 crore every year from the Sundarbans. Some unscrupulous businessmen with the help of a section of corrupt officials and staff of the Forest Department are plundering the resources of the Sundarbans every day causing huge revenue losses.

The Forest Department authority reportedly are not taking any steps to check the plundering of the resources.

The experts preparing reports on Sundarban stressed the need for integrated resources management to help the forestry sector in playing due role in the process of poverty alleviation and income generation.

According to concerned official sources, deer tiger timber and patta snake fish and other resources of the Sundarbans are being plundered everyday. The government prohibited hunting of wild animals in the Sundarbans. But professional and non professional hunters, ignoring the law are often seen hunting animals indiscriminately.

According to sources, the number of Royal Bengal Tiger is decreasing fast. Sources said, the organised gangs of

the hunters are active to kill the tigers to collect skins, heads, nails, and teeth for smuggling into foreign nations.

According to sources, in October 1995, police recovered a tiger skin from a person at a village under sadar thana.

On August 17 and October 16, 1992 customs and police recovered three tiger and deer skins from a Dhaka bound coach. In July 1991 police recovered four tiger skins and on June 30, 1990 police personnel recovered eight skins and a huge number of teeth of the Royal Bengal Tigers from the Sundarbans. In the Sundarbans which are being snaggled by India in November 1989, the BDR personnel raided a boat plying in the river Ichchaman and recovered three skins of Royal Bengal Tigers.

It may be mentioned here that in a recent seminar on 'Sundarbans Reserved Forest'

Dacoity committed in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Aug 13: A dacoity was committed on Friday night at 12th mile point of Kushtia Bheramara road.

It was reported that dacoits barricaded the road at 9 pm and stopped the SB Paribahan and injured its supervisor. Dacoits numbering about 12 with arms looted valuables from the passengers, on gun point worth over Taka 50 thousand

experts viewed that Sundarban's unique eco-system is not only a cause of national pride but is equally an international heritage.

A British Survey team led by Lord Mountain came to Sundarbans in 1967, according to a source. After survey, the team at that time, disclosed that the number of Royal Bengal Tigers was limited to only 150. After eight years of the survey in 1975, another British survey team led by Henrich, in their reports revealed that the number of the Royal Bengal Tigers increased to 300.

In 1982, the Biology Department of Dhaka University and the Forest Department of the Sundarbans conducted a joint survey and revealed that the number of the tigers was 450. Due to indiscriminate hunting the population of Royal Bengal Tigers in the Sundarbans has come down to 350. The death rate of tigers is higher than the birth rate in the past few years due to environmental degradation in the forest, experts said.

Besides, honey, a natural gift produced abundantly in the Sundarbans that can earn a lot of money, is being exploited by unauthorised people and sold in different markets in the country.

According to reports, the number of deer is two lakh, half of which is female. It was reported that a project costing about Taka two crore was taken up in 1981-82 to preserve wildlife.