

News snaps

Murderer gets life-term

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, July 5: One person was recently sentenced to life-term imprisonment on the charge of killing one Hasen Ali of the same village. The court also fined the accused Jalaluddin of village Bhati Jagatchar in Kular Taka 5,000 in default, to suffer one year RI more while six others were acquitted of the charge.

The persecution story in brief is that, in the morning of January 12, 1994, Hasen Ali came under attack by the accused with *ramdoo*, spear and *lathi* following which he died on the spot. There had been previous enmity between them over their lands. M Kader Newaz, Additional Sessions Judge, Third Court, Kishoreganj pronounced the verdict recently.

One killed by brother

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 5: One Nasir was killed by his own brother in village Patikabari under thana recently.

Police and eyewitnesses said that there was a long standing dispute between two brothers in connection with landed properties. On the fateful day an altercation took place between two brothers and at one stage Nasir was hit by a stick in the hands of his brother. Nasir died on the spot. On getting information police rushed there and sent the body to Kushtha General Hospital for autopsy. A case has been registered in Kushtha police station in this connection. None has yet been arrested.

Discussion meeting by BCL

NARSINGDI, July 5: A discussion meeting to mark the Silver Jubilee of the independence, organised by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Narsingdi unit, was held recently at local Mitali Cinema Hall, reports BSS.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Noor Uddin Khan was present at the function as the chief guest. Presided over by Abdul Basir Bhuiyan, President, Narsingdi district Chhatra League, the discussion was addressed, among others, by Enamul Huq Shamim, President Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Motaher Hossain Rizvi, member, central committee of BCL, Abdul Matin Sarkar, Chairman of Narsingdi *Paurashava* and Lokman Hossain, Secretary, Narsingdi district Chhatra League.

Char Jabbar Health Complex ailing

NOAKHALI, July 5: Patients of the Char Jabbar thana Health Complex in Sada thana are being deprived of proper medicare facilities as the 31-bed health centre is beset with manifold problems, reports UNB.

Patients said they have to depend on the nurses and health assistants for irregular attendance of doctors. Besides, high price of medicine, lack of diagnostic equipment in the health complex also multiplied their suffering. Patients have urged the authorities concerned to take necessary steps in this connection.

Boy commits suicide

SIRAJGANJ, July 5: A teen-aged boy allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at a guest house in the town on Monday, reports UNB.

Police said Monjurul Huq Biswas, 18, son of Nurul Islam Biswas, of village Vatpara in Moheshpur thana of Jessor district hired a room at Jewel Guest House at Station road in the town at 9 am. Later police recovered the body by breaking the door of the room. The cause behind the alleged suicide could not be known immediately. But police recovered some love letters from the pocket of his shirt. The body was sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Withdrawal of AC, magistrate demanded

MYMENSINGH, July 5: Local Bar Council members have given ultimatum to the administration to withdraw the Assistant Commissioner (AC) and first class magistrate Zulfiqar Haider, reports UNB.

The ultimatum was given following a meeting of the district bar council recently with its president AHM Khalequzzaman in the chair.

Girl violated

RANGPUR, July 5: A minor girl was violated by a miscreant at a village in Pirgachha thana here recently, reports UNB.

Villagers alleged that, one Saifali took a six-year-old girl Taposi to a jute field by promising to give her blackberry and repeatedly violated her there until her mother found her to the spot after hearing the shrill cries of the girl. Taposi was admitted to Pirgachha health complex in a critical condition.

5 alleged killers arrested

THAKURGAON, July 5: Police arrested three persons on charge of killing one Serajul Islam, 30, of village Malivita under Ranisankali thana recently, reports BSS.

It is alleged that Serajul Islam was beaten mercilessly and poison was poured into his mouth in the house of his father-in-law. Father of the deceased, Dabirul Islam filed a case against 6 persons at Thakurgaon police station on charge of murdering his son.

Discussion on life, works of Tagore, Nazrul

NETRAKONA, July 5: A discussion on the lives and works of Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam was held at local Muktiyoddha Sangsad office premises here recently, reports BSS.

The discussion was sponsored by Muktiyoddha Cultural Command, Netrakona district unit. Fazlur Rahman Khan, MP and Deputy Commissioner, Netrakona, Ali Akbar Hussain Akhand attended the meeting as chief guest and special guest respectively. Presided over by Golam Mustafa, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Golam Ershadur Rahman, Durgesh Chandra Pathranabish and Ali Asker Khan Pathan Santu.

Construction of dam demanded

MADRIPUR, July 5: The proposed Tk 2.5 crore town protection embankment project to protect the district headquarters from the erosion of Arial Kha river is yet to start, reports UNB.

The river has been eroding the town since long and residents fear that more parts of Shantinagar and Old town areas may be eroded by the river during the current rainy season. A large area of Old town, Mohishchar and Shantinagar areas, including Alia Madrasa building, government property and private houses were already washed away by the river. Local leaders demanded the authorities to construct the embankment without further delay.

More pvt schools needed in Pabna

PABNA, July 5: A large number of children of the district are being deprived of basic education in the absence of primary schools in most of the villages in nine thanas, reports UNB.

Some 673 villages, out 1,549, in 72 unions have no schools for which 58,724 school going age group children are being deprived of primary education hampering the universal primary education programme for all by the year 2000. Besides, school dropout rate of the students marked sharp rise due to poverty of the guardians and negligence of a section of education officers, local leaders alleged.

Killers of Montu yet to be nabbed

FAIRPUR, July 5: Tense situation has been prevailing in Nagarkanda thana of the district as police could not arrest the killers of Mohiuddin Montu, vice-president of Nagarkanda thana unit Jubo League, till Wednesday night, reports UNB.

Family sources said some unidentified miscreants called Montu, 28, and his younger brother Babul, 22, out of their house at Mirerkanda in the thana on Monday morning. They took them to a place and stabbed them indiscriminately. Montu died on the spot. Later, the body of Montu was recovered from a field near his house and Babul with stab injury was rushed to the Thana Health Complex.

Magistrate's death condoled

MANIKGANJ, July 5: The district administration and the Bar Association on Thursday condoled the death of magistrate Kamrunnahar who died Wednesday in a road accident, reports UNB.

The officials of district administration held a condolence meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's office in the morning to mourn the death of Kamrunnahar. DC A Razzak presided. District Bar Association held condolence meeting at its office with Bar President Advocate A Matin Biswas in the chair. The meeting prayed for the salvation of departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members.

5 extortions arrested

CHITTAGONG, July 5: Five alleged extortions were caught red-handed as they went to collect illegal toll from a garment factory at Jibon Bima Bhaban area on Saturday, police said, reports UNB.

Eyewitnesses said more than a dozen youths with fire arms stormed into Relax Fashion at Jubilee Road at noon and demanded Tk 50,000. They also assaulted its owner and some employees as they declined to give toll. Getting information, Kotwali police rushed to the house and arrested five of the outsiders. They were identified as Firoz, Gazi Mofazzel, Azhar Khan, Selim and Kabir Uddin. The rest of the gang members fled the scene with firearms.

National

Alleged corruption in some NGOs of Rajshahi

From Abdul Wadood

RAJSHAHI, July 5: Some non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are allegedly misappropriating money, food and other relief materials allocated for distressed women of the city.

It has been reported, agitation sparked in some NGOs over the issue.

Specific allegations have been raised and submitted to the local office of Women's Directorate, but no step has yet been taken to enquire into the matter or mitigate the sufferings of victims, it is alleged.

A case was recorded after a tense situation on the issue.

Many welfare organisations for distressed women have been established in the city. The associations are completely non-governmental though supervised by the Directorate of Women's Affairs.

The distressed women, who are victimised, have submitted separate memoranda to the Deputy Commissioner of Rajshahi and Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Commissioner for

alleged misappropriation of relief materials.

They alleged that their NGO authorities gave them 22-25 kg of wheat per head in place of 31 kg. They were compelled to pay an amount of Tk 190 as admission fee and monthly toll of Tk 70 instead of Tk 20 and Tk 10 respectively.

They further alleged that the carrying cost of wheat from godown to the office of the NGO are supposed to be paid by selling gunny bags, but the NGO authorities realised money from them in the name of carrying cost.

According to their allegations, they did not receive any financial benefit for their hard works. The NGO authorities also misappropriated money by selling handicrafts, they alleged.

The sufferers urged proper investigations into the matter by the concerned department of the government as well as by the donor agencies to stop corruption in NGOs and halt misappropriation of relief materials of distressed people.

the list if they raise any question.

They mentioned in their memorandum that the chairman of that particular NGO made a committee with her relatives and officials of the local office of the Women's Affairs.

According to the local police, the distressed women, requested the local commissioner to resolve the matter. A meeting was held on the issue. But it was spoilt when some musclemen attacked the meeting. The ward commissioner acknowledged the matter and said that he had filed a case complaining the incident of attack.

Similar allegations were also reported against some other non-governmental organisations.

The sufferers urged proper investigations into the matter by the concerned department of the government as well as by the donor agencies to stop corruption in NGOs and halt misappropriation of relief materials of distressed people.

Concern over rise in drug addicts

From Our Correspondent

MEHPUR, July 5: The number of drug addicted youths is increasing alarmingly in Mehpur town recently.

Even youths in rural areas of the district have started taking drugs of different items like opium, morphine, sedative tablets, *Mitra Sanjibanti Sura* and other types of medicine containing alcohol. According to an official survey in Mehpur town and its suburbs, the district town has been turned into open markets of drugs. All kinds of drugs and wines are available at drug stores, grocery stores and other shops.

Cigarettes containing *ganja* are also available in certain places.

The survey reveals that addicted teenagers are at present 10 per cent, but the number is increasing everyday. It is alleged that a well-organised gang has been smuggling those drug items from India and sell those here. It is also alleged that the drug addicted young men are being involved in various crimes.

On the other hand rectified spirit is being consumed as alcohol by most youths in the district town, causing moral degradation.

They were identified as Sultan, Masum and Totamia, activists of Jubo League, the youth front of ruling Awami League.

Sources said a gang of miscreants halted some business men and pedestrians at *Gendu Mistir* bridge on New Dhaka road at about 1 pm and snatched away money and valuables from them.

However, three Jubo League workers who were going through the same area caught the miscreants and compelled them to return the money and valuables.

Later, the angry snatchers attacked the Jubo League activists and stabbed them severely when they were returning home after the incident.

The injured were admitted to Sirajganj sadar hospital. A case was filed with the police.

Three Jubo Dal workers stabbed by snatchers

SIRAJGANJ, July 5: Three activists of Jubo League were severely stabbed by a gang of snatchers in the town on Tuesday midnight, reports UNB.

They were identified as Sultan, Masum and Totamia, activists of Jubo League, the youth front of ruling Awami League.

Sources said a gang of miscreants halted some business men and pedestrians at *Gendu Mistir* bridge on New Dhaka road at about 1 pm and snatched away money and valuables from them.

Later, the angry snatchers attacked the Jubo League activists and stabbed them severely when they were returning home after the incident.

The injured were admitted to Sirajganj sadar hospital. A case was filed with the police.

Unearth mystery of miracle mosque

SUNAMGANJ, July 5: A dome-shaped sand-brick building discovered at a small village here is believed by the local people as a miracle mosque. It appeared overnight following a severe earth quake 240 years ago, reports UNB.

The "Daba mosque" (underground) or "Mora mosque" (dead), as the villagers call it, is located at Gudigao village, just 7 km from the district headquarter.

It stands on 16 decimal of land owned by a villager and had been a deep jungle about 50 years ago. The design of the dome resembling that of the ancient mosque like *Masjid-al-Aqsa* and the *Imambara* inside are the only indications of a mosque.

But the owner of the land and other elderly villagers said they experienced supernatural manifestations involving the mosque and some of them even dreamt of saying prayers inside a mosque.

Residents of the surrounding localities and even from far-flung places visit the mosque with sweets and other offerings to seek blessings and redemption.

Ninety-year-old Safar Ali told UNB that 50 years ago the place was a dense jungle stalked by wild animals and spirits.

Razi Mia of the village said the owner of the mosque land experienced some supernatural manifestations which are beyond description.

Local leaders have demanded from the Archaeological department and the Ministry of Religious Affairs to unearth the mystery and renovate the mosque.

Six killed in separate incidents in Sylhet

Sylhet, July 5: Six people, including a minor boy, was killed and 10 others injured in separate incidents in the district during the last week, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Fakhrul Islam, 2, Siraj Mia, 24, Shukur Ali, Moktar Ali, 28, Abdul Jalil and Ismail Ali, 25.

Fakhrul Islam, son of Ahmad Ali of village Dewanbazar in Balaganj thana drowned in a pond adjacent to his house on Tuesday.

On the same day, Siraj Mia and Ahad, staff of a video club, were injured when a car knocked down their motorcycle at Renga Haziganj in the town. They were rushed to Osmani Medical College Hospital where Siraj succumbed to his injuries.

Shukur Ali, a labourer, and nine others were injured when a truck in which they were travelling rammed into a roadside tree near Sarishabari on Tamabil-Jafonga road on Monday.

In another incident, one Moktar Ali allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself at Taltala village in Balaganj thana on June 28.

Abdul Jalil, a stone quarry labourer, was killed when his boat collided with another one at Bhaslaganj in Komanganj thana on Saturday.

On the same day, police recovered the body of a labourer, Ismail Ali, from a boat at Rangamati in Sadar thana. Ismail, son of Jasimuddin of village Muslim Nagar in Goinghat thana, was missing since Friday.

Separate cases were filed in connection with the deaths.

Abducted girl rescued

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, July 5: Tala police rescued Bilkis Begum, 13, after four days of her abduction recently.

Police sources said, a group of miscreants led by Aminur Rahman, son of Ismail Sardar of village Khorda under Tala thana kidnapped Bilkis, daughter of Abdur Rakib Sardar of the same village.

She went to a corn field to bring cattle back home from where she was abducted by miscreants.

The victim's father filed a case with Tala police. Police made a frantic effort to rescue the girl. Finally they rescued her from a jute field where the kidnappers left her.

On the basis of the report 11 persons of the home were transferred. However, it could not be ascertained as yet whether any case were lodged against them.

The transferred employees are: Moazzem Hossain, Abdul Mannan, Md Shahjahan Ali, Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain, Laily Begum, Gita Rani Ghose, Kazi Shahjahan Begum Ful Khatun, Harun Sheikh, Jahana Begum and Abdul Azz.

It may be mentioned here that 396 inmates of the home have been leading a sub-human life.

Pearl industry yet to be established in Pabna

PABNA, July 5: Despite bright prospect of pearl production in the district the pearl industry is yet to be established here due to lack of proper initiative, reports UNB.

Different types of oysters including sweet, chumki, gara, churi moti and chandrika have been collected from about 10,000 waterbodies in the district every year.

Local leaders said gipsy and fishermen sell the pearls to the jewellers and traders at low prices after collecting pearls from different areas which are also being