

News snaps

Obscene films degrading youths

SHERPUR, July 9: Indiscriminate show of violent and obscene foreign films has been causing social and moral degradation of the youths in the district, reports UNB.
Video shop owners and unscrupulous businessmen of the locality are allegedly offering shows of pornographic films on commercial basis. Guardians said these films have great impact on the youths who are being addicted to drugs and liquor and resorting to anti-social activities. Conscious people of the locality have urged the authorities to take immediate steps to stop the illegal show of such films.

Cash, valuables worth Tk 1 lakh looted

SAVAR, July 9: Dacoits stormed into a house at a village in Dhamrai thana early on Monday and looted cash and valuables worth about Tk one lakh, injuring four inmates of the house, reports UNB.
Police said the robbers broke into the house of one Afazuddin at village Rakhyth and stabbed the inmates while leaving the scene with the valuables at about 1 am. The injured were rushed to Manikganj Sadar Hospital. A case was filed.

43 shops gutted in Mirsarai

FENI, July 9: A devastating fire gutted 43 shops at Barayat-hat bazar in Mirsarai thana of Chittagong district at early hours on Monday, fire brigade sources said, reports UNB.
The extent of the damage was estimated at Tk 4 crore. Witnesses said the flame originating from a shop of the bazar at around 3 am soon engulfed the adjacent areas and burnt to ashes jewelry, grocery, medicine, stationery shops and rice godown. But the cause of fire could not be known.

Workshop on mother-child healthcare

MANIKGANJ, July 9: A one day training workshops on "Mother and Child Health Care and Family Planning" was held under the auspices of district public relation office at thana parishad auditorium of Sauria on Friday, reports BSS.
A total of 40 Union Parishad chairmen and members, Ansar and VDP members, primary school teachers, imams of mosques and local elites took part in the workshop.

Training for jobless youths

MADARIPUR, July 9: The Youth Development Directorate has imparted training to 110 unemployed educated youths, both male and female, during the last six months in Madaripur district, reports BSS.
An official source said all the trainees belong to low income group. They are being given training on tailoring, type writing and short hand. The training will provide self-employment opportunities to the rural poor.

2 jewellery shops looted

KUSHTIA, July 9: A dacoity was committed on Saturday night at Daulatpur bazar, reports BSS.
The dacoits broke open two jewellery shops and looted cash and gold worth of Taka 2 lakh. Three persons including night guard were injured. Police arrested three persons. A case has been filed with Daulatpur thana in this connection.

11 lakh saplings to be planted in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, July 9: Some 11 lakh saplings of different species will be planted in the district this year in observance of the national tree plantation drive.
Divisional Forest Office sources told BSS that Taka 23 lakh has been earmarked for the massive plantation of the saplings. Two lakh will be planted by the Forest Department itself while the rest nine lakh will be planted at nominal price to the tree lovers for encouraging them in the plantation.

Cigarette seized

CHITTAGONG, July 9: The Detective Branch (DB) of police seized 700 minicigars of cigarette worth about Tk 3.50 lakh after chasing a microbus on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar road recently, reports UNB.
Acting on a tip-off, a special squad of DB signalled the Chittagong-bound microbus from Cox's Bazar to halt near Kalurghat at about 8 am, but the microbus sped away. Police chased the microbus upto two kilometers and captured it as the driver fled the scene leaving the cigarette-laden micro and owner of the contraband, Sonamia. He was arrested.

Efforts on to ensure better health service

SATKHIRA, July 9: Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf has said, the present government is committed to ensure better health services to all the citizens, reports BSS.
The minister was speaking at the inaugural function in an upgrading ceremony of Satkhira Sadar Hospital recently. The inaugural function was presided over by Civil Surgeon of Satkhira Dr Abu Yusuf Mian. The function was addressed, among others, by Syed Kamal Bakht MP, Dr Mokhesur Rahman MP, Fazlur Rahman MP, Director, Health of Khulna division Dr Murad Ali, Deputy Commissioner Abdus Salam and Superintendent of Police Abu Bakkar Siddique.

Anti-social activities rise in Majdee Court

MAJDEE COURT, July 9: Anti-social activities along with indiscriminate sale of alcohol, ganja and phensidyl have increased sharply in many areas of the district, reports UNB.
There are certain points in Sonapur, Chowmuhani and Sonaimur bazars where sale of various drugs have been going on with impunity. Moreover, anti-social elements play gambling openly at these points creating social problems. Local elite have expressed their indignation for the inaction of the law enforcers.

Workshop on water supply in Comilla

COMILLA, July 9: A 2-day workshop on drinking water supply and sanitation concluded here recently at the Comilla Co-operative College auditorium, reports BSS.
Organised by Non-Government Organisation Forum (NGO Forum), the workshop was participated by 28 NGO workers and headmasters and teachers. Field Coordinator of the NGO Forum Abdus Salam inaugurated the workshop. Programme Officer Yasimul Islam presided over the inaugural session.

Afforestation drive in Ishwardi

ISHWARDI, July 9: Tree plantation drive launched by the Forest Department is in full swing in all the places of Ishwardi thana from June 24, reports BSS.
A discussion meeting on the significance of the tree plantation drive was held here to mark the occasion. Thana Nirbahi Officer, Ishwardi Brizon Kumar Boysha and Assistant Commissioner (land) Mustafzur Rahman Mridha, among others, participated in the discussion.

Cattle lifting rampant in Sherpur

SHERPUR, July 9: Rampant cattle lifting by an organised gang has created panic among the farmers of the district, reports UNB.
At least 120 cattle were lifted from different parts of Sadar, Nokla, Nalitabari, Sribordi and Jhenaihati thanas during the last six months, local farmers said. On many occasions, the cattle lifters demanded ransom money from the farmers. Most of the farmers are compelled to stay in cowsheds at night to protect their cows.

150 rats killed from a single shop

SAVAR, July 9: Some 150 rodents were killed in a single shop at Savar Bazar recently, according to local people, reports UNB.
They said the rats were found in one hole of the poultry feed shop. Staffers of the shop killed the rats. The tails of rodents have been kept at the thana agriculture office for show.

Arms recovered

GAIBANDHA, July 9: Detective Branch of Gaibandha police recovered a country made short gun, 13 rounds of ammunition and a set of police dress from a wooden box of ex-Union Parishad member Ensar Ali of Kuptyola union of the district recently, reports BSS.

Tree fair concludes

TANGAIL, July 9: A five-day tree fair, organised by Forest Department, concludes here on Saturday amid a widespread response, reports UNB.
Twenty-four stalls have been set up at the fair organised at Bindubasini Government High School ground to create mass awareness about tree plantation.

Rape incidents on rise

NOAKHALI, July 9: The incidents of rape marked rise in the district as the law enforcing agency failed to take proper action against the culprits, reports UNB.
Local people said some 55 minor girls and women were violated in the district in last five months. But in most of the cases police could not arrest the miscreants. During the period, 42 rape cases were filed with the police. Of these, 10 have been filed with Sudharam thana, 15 with Begumganj, four with Senbagh, five each with Chaikhil and Companiganj and three with Hatiya thanas.



The rural boys collecting firewood from a new forest created through countrywide Social Afforestation Campaign launched by the Forest Department. The newly-created forest is situated at Jahajmara in Hatiya. — Star photo by A K M Mohsin

Plan to rebuild Pabna Collectorate shelved

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, July 9: About 15 years ago the Public Works Department (PWD) declared 135-year-old Pabna Collectorate building and some other old buildings such as magistrate's court, Treasury building and English room or record room of the district town abandoned and unfit for use.
Despite PWD's unfit declaration all the abovementioned buildings including many other similar office buildings, are being used till now due to lack of alternative arrangements. Only, the Magistrate Court building, is not being used. Other courts have also been shifted to Pabna Zila Parishad buildings. But as the zila parishad building is not at all fit for use as court rooms the magistrate are doing duties facing many inconveniences.

The staffers of the courts, lawyers, their clerks including the litigant public are also facing untold congestions in the narrow rooms of zila parishad building.
However, the Collectorate and other old buildings were constructed in the year 1862. During the last 135 years, most of them became weak, got dilapidated. They faced many hazards owing to adverse climatic situations. During the Liberation War in 1971, the Collectorate Building was burnt by the Pakistani Army. The dilapidated building may collapse any moment. As a result many lives are at stake.
The number of magistrates,

other officials and employers have been rising to cope with the demand of time. All of them are compelled to work together in the same building although there is no more space at all for accommodating any new one.
Cracks have appeared on the roofs and walls of these buildings. As a result it is quite unfit for use during the rainy season.
The office records and papers are being damaged by rain. The bricks from the roofs and walls may fall down causing accidents.
The British government constructed the buildings for conducting their office work. The number of officials and staff has increased manifold nowadays.
All the buildings are one-storied.
The situation is so alarming that even the verandah of the Collectorate Building has been turned into many small rooms.
Many of the officials and employees are being compelled to work in a suffocating atmosphere.
The problem of accommodation has become more acute following the abolishment of Upazila System. Then the courts — both civil and criminal — were withdrawn from upazilas and brought back to the district headquarters.
When contacted, a high-level official of the district, on condition of anonymity told The Daily Star that the problem might be solved only by dis-

mantling all dilapidated buildings and constructing new multi-storied buildings. The schemes were submitted to the appropriate authorities a few years ago, but an unusual dilly-dally attitude is being shown by the authorities regarding the matter.
It was gathered from the official records that a comprehensive scheme was submitted to the government on behalf of the District Administration in April, 1989. Following this, a team of experts from Dhaka visited Pabna on May 7, 1990, to make an on the spot survey, prepare a detailed report and submit the same to the authorities concerned.
There after, when the then Prime Minister Sheikh A. K. M. Zia came to visit Pabna on February 18, 1993, the district officials apprised her of their problems. Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah, the then Minister for Works, who accompanied the former Prime Minister declared in a public meeting that Pabna Collectorate would be constructed anew soon.
Thereafter, a site selection committee was formed and the committee selected a site and sent the proposals before the higher authorities in April 1993.
It has been learnt from reliable sources that since then, the files have been moving from one place to another, but a final and concrete decision is yet to be taken.



KUSHTIA: Nine persons (standing) including five women were rescued from the clutch of traffickers at Daulatpur border in the district recently. Two traffickers (sitting) were also arrested. — Star photo

Barbaric!

SAVAR, July 9: An alleged extortionist lost his wrists of both the hands by the rival group at Ghoradia village here on Sunday, reports UNB.
Witnesses said the dreadful incident occurred as a sequel to clashes between the rival groups over the share of toll money.
On the fateful day, the rival group caught Harun, 18, in broad day light, confined him in a house and cut off his wrists with a sharp weapon and left the place stabbing him on his leg.
He was first admitted to a local clinic from where he was rushed to Paralysis Rehabilitation Centre in Savar following the deterioration of his condition.
A case has been filed with the police.

Launch terminals of Chandpur in bad shape

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, July 9: Launch terminals in most of the ghats of Chandpur are in a deplorable condition causing much inconvenience to the passengers.
According to the passengers, the existing launch terminals are beset with various problems. Lack of sitting arrangements, toilet and dilapidated condition of sheds are some of the problems worth mentioning.
There is no shed in many launch terminals situated in Ichuli, Dhalighat, Safarmali and Kanudi under Chandpur thana. Farajikandi, Shaitnal, Ekhlashpur under Matlab thana, Nilkamal, Haimchar,

Charbhairabi under Haimchar thana.
Passengers have complained, during rainy season passengers are to wait under trees and in other places.
They further alleged, in the absence of adequate sitting arrangement they are to loiter around the terminals. Women and children are the worst sufferers.
There is no pootion in most of the launch terminals for which passengers are suffering a lot.
It is also alleged that the terminals remain dirty and garbage are dumped around the terminal.

'Steps taken to protect forest resources'

KHULNA, July 9: Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury has said the government has taken various programmes to protect the forest resources of the Sundarbans and its animals, reports UNB.
The minister was inaugurating a workshop on "protection of animals of the Sundarbans" at Zia public hall on Sunday, jointly organised by Environment and Forest Ministry and Asian Development Bank (ADB).
Sajeda Chowdhury said the government has undertaken a development plan with the help of World Bank and the sanctuary of the forest is being expanded as per plan.
"Of the total forest of the country, the Sundarbans occupied 44 per cent and most of the revenue income in the forest sector come from this area," said the minister.

Environment and Forest Ministry Joint Secretary K M Ahsanul Haque, the function was addressed, among others, by ADB residential representative Bhanupol Horayanura and divisional commissioner.
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Some farmers said, they saw a truck entering into the field at midnight. They thought that patrol police were moving on the truck. The next morning six shallow tubewells of Shahjahan, Shukur Ali, Jalaluddin, Mosharruf Hossain and Dulal Shah were seen stolen.
To protect the shallow tubewells from the thieves the farmers have been guarding the fields.

She escaped from Kuwaiti brothel

NATORE, July 9: A young woman managed to flee away from an illegal brothel in Kuwait according to a case filed with Natore court in this connection on July 3, reports UNB.
According to the case filed with Baraigram thana magistrate court, Morjina Begum, 23, daughter of Mokbul Hossain in Baraigram thana of the district went to Kuwait on May 16 with the help of Hafizul Islam, an alleged fake manpower recruiting agent of the same locality.
Morjina was assured of a job in a nursing home in Kuwait city with high salary. Hafizul allegedly took Tk 75,000 from Marjina's father in this regard.
Marjina was taken to Kuwait and she was kept at a home in Kuwait city and was forced to work as sex worker. She somehow managed to flee from the brothel after 20 days of captivity. She returned home on June 9.
According to her statement, 11 young girls including Rina, Momena and Rahima of the same village have been kept in the brothel though they were assured of highly paid job.
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Electrification work progressing in Melandah

JAMALPUR, July 9: Rural electrification work of 140 kilometres long line in Melandah thana of Jamalpur district is going on in full swing, reports BSS.
State Minister for Land Alhaj Rashed Mosharruf inaugurated rural electrification connection in Melandah thana recently.
Local parliament member Mirja Azam, General Manager of Jamalpur Rural Electrification Samity were present on the occasion.
About five thousand families, mainly small industries and irrigation power pumps will be benefited with the availability of power.
Later, the state minister laid the foundation stone of Mahmoodpur College at Melandah to be built on 7 bighas of land.
On the occasion, the state minister said, the government was pledged to restore a congenial atmosphere in the educational institutions.
He urged all to work unitedly irrespective of their party affiliation to root-out the terrorism from educational institutions.

Padma devours vast tract of land in Faridpur

FARIDPUR, July 9: A vast tract of land with homesteads and standing crops in sadar and Charbhadrassan thanas of this district has been devoured by river Padma during the last few weeks, reports BSS.
According to an official source, about two thousand acres of land in Decree Char union under sadar thana with hundreds of homesteads and standing crops have been eroded during last few days by the Padma.
According to the source, similar alarming erosion has been continuing in Harirampur union of Charbhadrassan thana affecting a large number of people. The affected people in both the areas have taken shelter on the embankments.
Meanwhile, the district administration has distributed 2,500 metric tons of rice as gratuitous relief among the affected people.

Private tuition now a commercial practice

SHERPUR, July 9: Private tuition has become a commercial practice in the district town and five thanas in the district, reports UNB.
Local people alleged that teachers of both the government and private schools and colleges are engaged in private tuition to earn extra money.
The guardians alleged that the teachers hardly teach the students sincerely in the classrooms. So, students find it difficult to understand their lessons in the classes. As a result, guardians are compelled to keep private tutors.
Most of the school and college students usually employ their school teachers as private tutor for intensive studies to do well in the examinations.
Local science teachers get large number of students for coaching in batches. Teachers of English and Accounting also coach a good number of students in batches.
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Science students inform that it has become impossible to obtain good marks without having clear conception and thorough knowledge of the topics with the aid of private tutors.

15 JCD workers hurt in clash

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, July 9: At least 15 activist of JCD were injured, two of them seriously, in a clash between two rival groups at Betagi Bandar of Barguna district on Tuesday.
Police and witnesses said, two groups of JCD were locked in a clash centring over the formation of the JCD thana committee.
Al Mamun, 20 and Jasim Khan, 22, were admitted to Betagi thana health complex.

IUTA demands removal of VC

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 9: Islamic University Teacher's Association (IUTA) in an emergency meeting held on Monday also demanded immediate removal of Prof Enamul Huq, Vice-Chancellor of the university.
In a resolution adopted in the meeting the teachers association termed him corrupt and inefficient. The teachers association urged the chancellor to remove him from the post for the sake of bringing back peaceful academic atmosphere in the campus.
The meeting expressed their solidarity with the students who have been demanding the resignation of the Vice-Chancellor from June 26. They looked his office and residence and snapped telephone connection. They stopped plying of all kinds of transports to and from the university campus in support of their demand.
As a result all kinds of administrative works have remained stopped from June 27.
The meeting also viewed that the Vice-Chancellor without taking any positive steps to ease the situation left Kushtia on June 30. He did not hand over charge to anybody. The meeting also demanded judicial enquiry into all kinds of his corrupt practices. The meeting also decided that all administrative orders and appointments made on and from June 27, 1997 would be treated as null and void.
After the meeting the members of the teachers Association met the local newsmen in Kushtia Zilla Press Club on Monday night.
It may be mentioned that complete deadlock has been prevailing in the Islamic University from June 27 when BCL resorted to continuous strike in support of their demand for removal of Vice-Chancellor. Later JCD also joined them.

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Housewife beaten to death in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, July 9: A housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband at Solbarshia village in Belkuchi thana Tuesday, reports UNB.
Police said Fazila Khatun, 19, was beaten up by her husband Abdul Latif at midnight as she did not agree to her husband's second marriage. Fazila succumbed to her injuries before dawn.
Latif married Fazila three years ago.
The body was sent to Sirajganj General Hospital for autopsy.

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Jhenidah Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, July 9: About 2.19 lakh metric tonnes (mt) of aus paddy is likely to be produced in 10 south-eastern districts this season, according to Agriculture Extension Department (AED) sources.
A total of 33,500 hectares of land was brought under High Yielding Variety (HYV) and 1,52,000 hectares under local variety in Jhenidah, Jessore, Magura, Khulna, Narail, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Kushtia, Chuadanga and Meherpur districts.
AED authorities has taken initiatives to ensure supply of fertiliser, seeds, agricultural input and extend necessary assistance to make the programme a success.

Two wanted persons held
Kotchandpur thana police arrested two wanted persons and recovered firearms from their possession recently, according to police sources.
Police said, acting on a tip-off, a contingent of police led by Superintendent of Police (SP) Ataul Gani Badshah raided a sugarcane field at village Laxmipur in Kotchandpur thana. They arrested Alauddin of village Baharampur and Abdus Sattar of village Kushno in same thana. They recovered a one bore gun with 18 rounds of bullets. Both the arrested were wanted in many cases by police since long. They were allegedly involved in many anti-social activities in the locality, police said.

Tubewells stolen
Six shallow tubewells were stolen from the field of village Manoharpur in Kaliganj thana of the district recently, according to affected farmers.
Some farmers said, they saw a truck entering into the field at midnight. They thought that patrol police were moving on the truck. The next morning six shallow tubewells of Shahjahan, Shukur Ali, Jalaluddin, Mosharruf Hossain and Dulal Shah were seen stolen.
To protect the shallow tubewells from the thieves the farmers have been guarding the fields.

Eve teaser arrested
The local people of village Chaprail in Kaliganj thana of the district handed over a musclemam Jinnat Ali to police while he was allegedly teasing women in the town recently, according to local people.
Eve-witnesses said, Jinnat was teasing women and school and college going female students on the road.

One succumbs to injuries
Faruq Hossain, 17, a saw mill worker succumbs to his injuries at Jhenidah Sadar Hospital recently, according to hospital sources.
Police said, Faruq received severe injuries when he was working at his work place.
He was rushed to Kaliganj Thana Health Complex and then referred to Jhenidah Sadar hospital.
An unnatural death (UD) case was filed with Kaliganj Thana in this connection.

Tk 34 lakh uplift work completed
Jhenidah pourasabha has implemented five schemes at a cost of Taka 34 lakh under "Town Development Project" in current fiscal, according to pourasabha office sources.
Anisur Rahman Khoka, Chairman, Jhenidah Pourasabha said that the reconstruction work of three roads and construction work of two bridges were completed for better communication in the town.

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The guardians alleged that the teachers hardly teach the students sincerely in the classrooms. So, students find it difficult to understand their lessons in the classes. As a result, guardians are compelled to keep private tutors.
Most of the school and college students usually employ their school teachers as private tutor for intensive studies to do well in the examinations.
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Private coaching by the teachers in batches usually start before and after the school hours. Teachers receive handsome amount for private coaching. Private coaching is also practised in higher secondary and degree levels for securing good results in practical subjects.
Science students inform that it has become impossible to obtain good marks without having clear conception and thorough knowledge of the topics with the aid of private tutors.

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