

News snaps

Wild life on verge of extinction

MADRIPUR, Jan 7: Several species of wild life are on the verge of extinction in greater Faridpur district due to indiscriminate use of insecticides, destruction of forest and unabated hunting of birds, reports UNB.

According to specialists, the already extinct species include porcupine, fox and jungle cat. Lizards (golden *guli* and black *guli*) are being caught at random for exporting their skins violating the government ban. Massive use of pesticides on cropland is the main reason behind gradual extinction particular species of fish, frogs and birds. Mongoose and other rare animals of the same species have already vanished following the destruction of forest. The affected districts are Madaripur, Faridpur, Rajbari, Gopalganj and Sharifpur.

No hostels for female students

BARGUNA, Jan 7: The female students of the district have been facing acute problems to prosecute their studies for want of hostels facilities, reports UNB.

According to official sources, there are about 2000 girl students studying in two colleges and two girls high schools including one government school in the town. Female students from far flung areas have been enrolled in the schools and colleges in the town in absence of institutions in their respective areas. Many female students who have no relatives in the town have been facing residential problems and are being forced to discontinue their studies. Female students living in different areas of the town have been facing troubles to reach their respective institutions in time due to traffic jam and other related inconveniences.

Man hacked to death

JHALAKATI, Jan 7: A middle-aged man was hacked to death reportedly by his brothers over land dispute at Galua Durgapur village in Rajapur thana early Monday, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Abul Mannan, 40. His wife Mahinur Akhter, 32, also suffered severe injuries when the attackers chopped them indiscriminately. Police said Mannan's brothers - Abdul Majid and Abdus Sattar - entered his house at dead of night and attacked them with knives when they were sleeping. Mahinur was admitted to Rajapur health centre. A case was filed with local police against Abdul Majid, Abdus Sattar and Babul, brother-in-law of Majid.

Couple die of food poisoning

MEHERPUR, Jan 7: A couple died of food poisoning and five people fell sick at Polashipara village in Gangni thana of the district today, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said all the victims fell sick soon after taking dinner with fish on Sunday. Rahela Khatun, 45, died of poisoning at her house this morning, 12 hours after taking meal, while her husband Sultan Biswas, 60, later died at Gangni Health Complex. Rest of the victims, admitted to the health complex, were identified as Liakat, 35, Morzina, 16, and Beauty, 9, family members of the deceased, and their servant Imrul, 24, and a minor girl of neighbouring house Rekha, 5. The condition of Liakat was stated to be critical.

PIB DG visits Moulvibazar Press Club

MOULVIBAZAR, Jan 7: Director General of the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) Dr Sheikh Abdus Salam visited Moulvibazar Press Club recently, reports BSS.

The PIB DG exchanged views with the working journalists of Moulvibazar. An informal meeting was held in this connection at press club building with Azizul Haque, Vice President of the club in the chair. General Secretary of the Press club MA Salam, Syed Abu Zafar Ahmed, Rajat Kanti Goswami, Abdul Hamid Mahbub and Ratan Kanfi Chaklader took part in the discussion. Dr Sheikh Abdus Salam, said that a PIB training course for the working journalists of Moulvibazar will be held in the near future.

Uplift schemes progressing

MEHERPUR, Jan 7: Work on 20 rural infrastructure development schemes at a cost of Tk 49 lakh in new thana Mujibnagar of the district are progressing fast, reports BSS.

According to Local Government Engineering Department sources 50 per cent work has already been completed and the rest work is expected to be completed by June next. The work includes Ratahan-Mujibnagar road, culverts and bridges. After the implementation of the schemes road communication in the district will be improved to a great extent.

Indian goods seized

SATKHIRA, Jan 7: Members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized various kinds of Indian goods during in five days, reports BSS.

The BDR members of 21 battalion of Satkhira raided several border areas of the district and seized the Indian goods smuggled into Bangladesh. According to BDR sources, the goods include salt, sugar, sarees, apple, cuminsseeds, pomegranate, injection, bicycle, trout fish, grass carp fish, mustard oil, nylon net, milk powder, potato and 183 bottles of phenisidyl syrup. The goods were deposited with the Satkhira Customs.

Cultural programme concludes

KISHOREGANJ, Jan 7: A fifteen day-long cultural and sports programme under the auspices of Moinul Smriti Sangsad concluded here on December 29, reports BSS.

The concluding day's function was attended by former law, justice and parliamentary affairs minister Habibul Islam Bhuiyan as the chief guest. The function was attended, among others, by M Abdul Latif, Prof Jalal Ahmed, Prof MA Kabir, Md Akkas Ali, and Abu Khaled Pathan.

The chief guest distributed prizes among the competitors.

Seminar on Vested Property Law

TANGAIL, Jan 7: A seminar on 'vested property law and its influence: Problems and solution' was held at local public library auditorium on December 30, reports BSS.

Dr Kazi Md Akbar Hossain, a researcher, a university research corporation, Bangladeshi presented the main paper on the occasion.

Among others, advocate A Rashid, advocate Tara Pada Day, advocate Kamal Nath Sen, advocate Sabi Roy, advocate Almugir Khan, Prof Nazir Hossain, Khushi Kabir, Aroma Ghulha and Shamsul Huda discussed on the paper. Association for Land reform and Development and 'Nizara Kari' are the two NGOs sponsored the seminar presided over by Principal Sekander Hayet. The seminar stressed the need for repeal of the law.

IU hall to be named after Bangabandhu

KUSHTIA, Jan 7: Two new halls of Islamic University will be named after Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman and Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib, reports BSS.

The decision was taken on December 31, in a Syndicate meeting presided over by Vice-Chancellor Prof Mohammad Kaysuddin. Out of 10 Syndicate members eight were present in the meeting.

Boy killed in road accident

SATKHIRA, Jan 7: A teen-aged boy was crushed under the wheels of a speedy truck at Noornagar in Kaliganj thana on Saturday evening, reports UNB.

Police said the victim identified as Abdul Quader, 14, of Pirojpur in Kaliganj thana while crossing the road was run over by the vehicle killing him on the spot.

Police seized the truck but the driver managed to escape.

The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was lodged with the police.

Jhenidah Press Club executives

JHENIDAH, Jan 7: A 15-member new executive committee of the local Press Club was formed in an election held at its premises on Tuesday, reports UNB.

MA Ansari and Zahid Hossain Biplob have been elected as president and secretary respectively. Other office bearers are: Vice-president - M Quamruzzaman, joint secretary - Mahmud Hasan, sports secretary - Almugir Kabir, library secretary - Habibul Bashar, office secretary - Azad Rahman and members - Tayeb Ali Joardar, Nazrul Islam, Islamuddin, Mustafa Mazed, Saiful Mabub, Mizanur Rahman, Abdul Mannan and Nizamuddin Joardar. District Election Officer Khandakar Mizanur Rahman conducted the election.

Water-logging hampers Boro farming

SYLHET, Jan 7: Boro crop can not be cultivated on 1,200 acres of land in different *haor* areas of three unions in Chhatai thana for long due to water-logging, reports UNB.

According to an estimate, farmers of 50 villages of the surrounding *haor* areas can produce crops worth about Tk 2 lakh if water outlet facilities are arranged by the administration. The farmers said for the last several years they have been demanding of the authorities to take necessary steps to remove water-logging from their cultivable land. But no step has yet been taken in this regard. They urged the higher authorities to take immediate measures to construct link canals for safe water outlet to help remove their long suffering.



PABNA: Purabi Maitra, a leader of Nari Forum delivering his presidential speech at a women's rally held recently at Ananda Govinda Public Library auditorium in the town. Mohila Parisad, Jatiya Mohila Unayan Sangsada, Shikha-Sangskriti Charcha Kendra and Nari Forum jointly organised the rally. — Star photo

Cold wave claims 35 in Rajshahi, 1 in Faridpur

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 7: Cold wave

has claimed at least 35 people in the district during the last 16 days.

The dead are mostly old and children.

The bone-biting cold wave

has continued to sweep all over the northern region of the country paralysing normal life. Incidence of winter related diseases have increased due to cold wave.

On the other hand, prospect of Rabi crop cultivation like mustard, lentil and winter vegetables turned bleak due to continuous dense fog and bitter cold. Pest attack, especially of viral and fungal have increased, BADC sources said.

Our Faridpur Correspondent adds: Dense fog across the district since January 4 has paralysed normal activities of the people causing untold sufferings to the people.

Day labourers suffered most.

Launches and engine boats

could hardly ply in different water routes in the river Padma. A few buses plying between Dhaka and Faridpur.

The transports are too late to reach their destinations due to this foggy weather.

As a result the national dailies have been reaching Faridpur town at 3 pm instead of 8:30 am for the last few days. Even the sun was not visible for days together as it was covered with fog all day long.

Moreover, cold wave that

has been sweeping across the district has claimed the life of

an old man on Alimuzzaman bridge in the town on the night of January 5. His identity could not be known immediately.

Crimes rising alarmingly

MADRIPUR, Jan 7: Crimes are on alarming rise in the town causing concern among the peace-loving people, reports UNB.

The dwellers alleged that in the recent months theft, robbery, hijacking, murder, rape, prostitution and gambling have increased in an alarming proportion.

An organised gang of hoodlums are engaged in a various anti-social activities with the connivance of an influential quarter.

Guardians also expressed concern over the sudden rise of gay girls in the town. The teen-aged gay girls are seen roaming around the streets enticing the youths.

Besides, the rate of divorce has also increased in the district due to poverty in the rural areas. The divorces, mostly young and poor, are resorting to anti-social activities for their mere survival.

Local leaders have urged the authorities to combat the rising crimes in the town to ensure peace and security of the dwellers.

Dense fog: 100 launches running behind schedule

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Jan 7: Nearly one hundred passenger launches from Capital Dhaka and other parts of the southern districts reached here at least 8 to 10 hours behind schedule on Monday.

As a result, thousands of passengers on board these launches suffered much due to shortage of food and drinking water.

Besides, nearly 20 night coaches in different southern routes were also running behind schedule by at least 3 to 4 hours.

Meanwhile dense fog covered the southern districts from midnight till noon Monday with chilling cold paralysing normal life for thousands of people in this region.

2 killed in Sylhet road accidents

SYLHET, Jan 7: Two people were killed in two separate road accidents on Wednesday in the district, reports UNB.

Police said a van-puller named Bachan Mia was hit by a microbus at Dayamir bazar on Dhaka-Sylhet highway. He was rushed to a health centre where the attending doctor declared him dead.

Meanwhile, another man identified as Abdus Shobhan who died on the spot when ran over by a truck at Islampur in Companiganj thana on Sylhet Companiganj road.

Thick fog disrupts ferry services

LALMONIRHAT, Jan 7: A ferry carrying the passengers of Ekota inter-city express from Dhaka to Dinajpur was delayed by about 8 hours on Saturday night due to thick fog at Kawamari Char on river Jumuna. reports UNB.

According to Railway sources, the ferry, MV Sonargaon, began its journey for Balashi ghat from Bahadurabad but was stranded at the char around 1:30 pm because of heavy fog. It was anchored at the spot for eight hours.

The passengers experienced untold sufferings during the unscheduled stoppage at Kawamari Char.

The Ekota Express reached Dinajpur at 5:45 pm on Sunday instead of its scheduled arrival at 7:50 am.

Another report from Pabna adds: Thick fog disrupted ferry services on two routes of the Padma and Jamuna causing heavy traffic congestion at Aricha, Daulatdia and No-

takholo ferry ghats.

A long queue of vehicles stretching over five kilometres were seen on the Dhaka-Adhaka highway on Sunday morning as ferries could not ply for 42 hours early on Friday and Saturday.

But, BIWTC officials

said the situation showed signs of improvement after 883 vehicles were ferried up to 6 pm on Sunday.

About 2,500 vehicles remained stranded at the three ghats till 6 pm Sunday. These included 1270 at Aricha, 525 at Notakhola and 215 at Daulatdia, and about 500 more waiting outside the terminals, officials said.

A total of 24 ferries, including 10 Ro-Ro vessels, are carrying vehicles from the three ghats.

The congestion may ease further as the authorities continued dredging the river channels for smooth navigation.

Barisal Newsletter

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Jan 7: One person was chopped to death and his wife seriously injured by some unidentified armed miscreants at village Galua under Rajapur thana in Jhalakati district Sunday night.

Police said, a group of armed miscreants broke open the house of Abdul Mannan, 25, and chopped him to death on the spot. His wife Mahinor, 20, was also seriously injured. Police recovered the dead body of Abdul Mannan on Monday morning and sent to Barisal Medical College Hospital.

Another incident of clash occurred at village Nabipur of Nilganj union under the same thana at about 11 in the morning between Kamal and Mahiuddin over a trifling matter resulting in injury of 5 persons.

Seriously injured Nasir Jamadar, 30, Yusuf Jamadar, 60, and Delwar Hossain, 30, were admitted to Kalapara Thana Health Complex with critical condition.

Another incident of clash occurred at village Charpara under Mithanganj union under a disputed land at about 10 in the morning that left at least 15 persons injured.

Seriously injured Nasir Jamadar, 30, Yusuf Jamadar, 60, and Delwar Hossain, 30, were admitted to Kalapara Thana Health Complex.

200 incidents of crimes last year

More than 200 incidents of rape, suicide, acid throwing, abduction and women and child repressions were occurred in Barisal division during last year ending 31st December '97.

Of the total, a survey report revealed, 55 women including teenaged and underaged children became victim of rape incidents in different times. 39 were killed after rape mostly by strangulation, 12 women of different ages became the victims of acid throwing, 17 people including children were abducted, 80 women and children became the prey of various types of repressions during times, last year, in different places of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bholia, Barguna, Jhalakati and Pirojpur districts under this division.

PDB realises Tk 4cr outstanding bill

Power Development Board (PDB) Barisal zone has realised Tk 4 crore 20 lakh till December 30, '97 last under the declaration of surchargeless outstanding electricity bills payment from the consumers of Barisal district.

According to official sources, power sell and distribution division-1 collected 1 crore 70 lakh taka from Babuganj, Uzirpur and Gournadi thana area including a portion of Barisal town area from nearly 14 thousand power consumers while the division-2 collected nearly Tk 2 crore from 18 thousand consumers of Jhalakati, Rajapur, Nalchity, Kathalia and rest portion of the town area. More than 10 crore taka is still outstanding.

At least 20 persons were injured in two separate clashes between rival groups in Kalapara thana in Patuakhali district recently.

According to witnesses, supporters of two groups led by Nasir Jamadar and Delwar

Truck owners are reportedly compelling their drivers to carry more than the capacity specified by the authorities for a truck.

High speed and overtaking are frequent on this route as no action is taken against those responsible for violating the traffic rules.

Local