

News snaps

3 sentenced to life term

JHALAKATI, Feb 1: Three people were sentenced to life term imprisonment on Wednesday for forcing a girl to sex trading, court sources here said, reports UNB.

The prosecution story, in brief, was that the accused Kader Miah, his wife Sitara Begum and brother-in-law Mohammad Chan Miah in the name of giving job on April 28, 1997 brought Julekha, 12, of old college road to Dhaka and later forced her to sex trading keeping in different hotels in Dhaka, Comilla and Barisal. Police later rescued her on July '97 along with three other teen-aged girls from a hotel in Barisal and sent Julekha to her mother. Julekha's mother Lally Begum filed a case against the accused. She also in another complaint, accused them for abducting her elder daughter who remained still untraced. Additional District and Sessions Judge SM Abdur Rouf after examining the witnesses and records awarded the punishment under the Women and Child Repression Control Court-2.

Move to rehabilitate erosion-hit men

BHOLA, Feb 1: Commerce and Industries Minister Toafeel Ahmed said the government has adopted a project namely "as-rayan" to rehabilitate the people affected by river erosion, reports BSS.

The project is aimed at creating employment opportunities along with ensuring shelter of the affected people, he said while visiting several erosion-prone areas of the district. He, however, urged the people to face any possible disaster with courage so that they would not be dependent on government assistance alone. During visits at Rajapur, Purba and Pashchim Ilsha, Bheruria and Dakkhin Dighaldi the minister also distributed warm clothes among the distressed people.

Gas pipe line work progressing

NARSINGDI, Feb 1: The construction work of Narsingdi-Siddhirganj gas transmission pipe line under Third Natural Gas Development Project is progressing fast, reports UNB.

The under construction 41-km long and 20 inches diameter pipe line will be able to supply 250 million cubic feet gas per day, according to official sources. A total of Tk 308.57 crore will be spent in the project with the financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank. Meanwhile, work on 26-km long and 20 inches diameter Monohardi-Narsingdi gas transmission pipe line has already been completed and commissioned on June 14 last year. Besides, after the completion of the installation of Narsingdi-Siddhirganj pipe line a gas transmission network will be established to supply gas in the mills and factories in greater Dhaka region.

Smuggled Indian goods seized

FENI, Feb 1: Smuggled Indian goods worth Tk 2.21 crore were seized from different parts of the district in last January, reports UNB.

According to official sources, BDR jawans seized Indian goods including saree, clothes, cosmetics, phensidi, sugar and timber raiding Modhurgram, Korerat Mohammad Ali bazar and Muhuriganj areas. They said the goods seized only in the month is almost half of the total goods seized in the last year which stood at Tk 4.51 crore. Three people were arrested in this connection. Official sources said the smugglers were active during the last month with the advent of Eid-ul-Fitr.

1 killed in Satkhira road mishap

SATKHIRA, Feb 1: One person was killed and another was injured in a road accident near Bakal bridge under sadar thana of the district on Tuesday, reports BSS.

Police sources said, a Satkhira bound truck ran over two motor cycles riders from the opposite direction. Rezaul Islam, 25, died on the spot. Robiul Islam Robi was injured seriously. He was admitted into Satkhira Sadar Hospital. The body of Rezaul Islam was sent to sadar hospital morgue for autopsy. A case has been lodged with sadar thana. The driver managed to escape with the truck.

Discussion on shishu mela

MADARIPUR, Feb 1: A day-long shishu mela was held here at the office premises on December 28, reports BSS.

The shishu mela was inaugurated by Abdul Khaleq Mia, TNO sadar thana. Ten stalls were set up at the mela. About 200 primary school teachers and 400 students from different areas of the sadar thana participated in the shishu mela. A cultural function and a discussion were held on this occasion.

Many candidates for a few posts

KUSHTIA, Feb 1: Three hundred and nine candidates have come out successful in the written test for 54 posts of assistant teacher of primary school now lying vacant in the district, reports BSS.

A total of 4,912 candidates recently appeared at the written test conducted by the district primary education department. Now the successful candidates will have to face viva, an official source said.

Devastating fire in Gaibandha

GAIBANDHA, Feb 1: A devastating fire that broke out at village Paschchim Kuptala under Gaibandha sadar thana on January 21, in which property worth about Taka two lakh were reduced to ashes.

In the evening the fire originated from the kitchen of Abul Hossain and soon the fire engulfed the adjacent areas. The fire destroyed all the belongings of six families. The victims are now residing under the open sky.

Warm clothes distributed

COMILLA, Feb 1: Warm clothes were distributed among the cold-stricken distressed by the Comilla Ansar and VDP on January 25, reports BSS.

About three hundred cold-hit people received the warm clothes. District adjutant of Ansar and VDP A B M Ruhul Amin distributed the warm clothes. Engineers Institute of Bangladesh, Comilla unit also distributed warm clothes among the cold-hit distressed. Comilla unit chairman Engineer Md Mohsin, honorary secretary Naieem Ahmed Khan and Engineer Abdur Razzak distributed the warm-clothes.

Tk 3.09 lakh distributed among poor men

JHENIDAH, Feb 1: District Administration distributed Tk 3.09 lakh among the 3090 distressed people of the district on the occasion of holy Eid-ul-Fitr, reports UNB.

Official sources said the recipients who got Tk 100 each were selected by the competent authorities. The amount was distributed from the relief fund of the Prime Minister, the sources added.

Wheat farming programme

SUNAMGONJ, Feb 1: About 3000 hectares have been brought under wheat cultivation in 10 thanas of Sunamgonj district in the current season, reports BSS.

An official source said the target of wheat production has been fixed at 6000 tonnes.

Poor people get warm clothes

KISHOREGANJ, Feb 1: Deputy Commissioner's office has distributed warm clothes among about two thousand poor people of the district in the last few days.

According to official sources, the clothes were collected from elite and general public of the district. The distribution ceremony was participated by the Deputy Commissioner, AMM Farhad, Police Super Chowdhury Ahsanul Kabir, ADM Subhash Chandra Sarkar, TNO of sadar thana Ashok Madhob Roy and journalists of the district. Severe cold wave paralysed the district recently.

Manpower shortage in Agri Dept

CHAPAI NAWABGANJ, Feb 1: A total of 22 posts of officers and employees of Agriculture Extension Department has been lying vacant in Chapai Nawabganj district.

According to the concerned office sources, the vacant posts are, as on January 1 Training Officer 4, Subject Matter Officer-2, Assistant Agriculture Extension Officer - 2, Junior Agriculture Extension Officer - 1, Upper Division Clerk-1, Plant Protection Instructor-1, LD Clerk-1, Fitter-1, OBM Operator-1, Assistant Mechanic-5, Spray Mechanic-1 and MLSS-1.

Training course

MEHERPUR, Feb 1: A week long training course jointly sponsored by the Livestock Department and a local non-government organisation (NGO) was held recently at sadar thana livestock office, reports BSS.

Fifty farmers of the thana were imparted training on the modern method of cultivation of Para-Napier grass. Resource persons of the livestock department conducted the training programme.



GAIBANDHA: This old traditional method of irrigation is still popular among poor farmers in the district as they are unable to afford mechanical pumps due to abject poverty.

— Star photo

Eid celebrated all over

Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated on Friday in all district headquarters of the country with due religious fervour and solemnity, report agencies.

In Rajshahi the main Eid congregation was held at Shah Mukhdum eidghah maidan led by Hazrat Moulana Alhaj Shalimuddin.

The other congregations were held at Malopara Shahi Masjid, Sasitala Jame Mosque, Shahed Bazar Boro Masjid, Tikapara Masjid, Police Line maidan and Haji Kasimuddin maidan.

The overnight rain disrupted holding of Eid congregation at different eidghah maidans for which congregations were held at different mosques of the city on the day.

Special prayers were offered after congregation for the continued peace, progress and national development and solidarity of Muslim Ummah.

Improved diet were served among the jail inmates, hospitals and orphanage of the city on the day to mark the occasion.

In Khulna holy Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated with traditional religious gaiety and fervour.

Muslims all over the city area and its adjoining areas celebrated the holy festival and offered prayers in different mosques and eidghahs. Muslims both old and young attired in their best attended the Eid congregation and visited their near and dear ones.

The main Eid congregation was held at the local circuit house ground at 8-30 am. State Minister for Relief and Disaster Management Talukder Abdul Khalaque, Whip of Jatiyo Sangsad S M Mostafa Rashidi Shuja, Mayor of Khulna city Shaikh Tayebur Rahman, former Speaker of Jatiyo Sangsad Shaikh Razzak Ali, Vice-Chancellor of Khulna University S M

Nurul Islam were among the city elite offered their prayers at the main congregation.

Special prayer was offered for continued peace, progress and prosperity of the nation and also for the entire Muslim Ummah.

Eid prayers were also held in different mosques in the city.

The congregation sites were decorated with colourful festoons and flags.

Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet and Sylhet pourashava chairman attended the main congregation.

Reports of Eid celebration from other districts are still pouring in.

4 killed in separate incidents in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Feb 1: Armed miscreants picked up two persons from their houses on Monday night and gunned down in a nearby field.

The victims are Zahurul, 32, son of Razzak Gazi and Golap, 33, son of Kata Shaha of village Mazila under Patkabari union of Sadar thana. Police source and inmates of the houses said, a group of 10 armed miscreants gheraoed the houses of Razzak and Kata at dead of night and picked up the victims from their beds and shot them to death in a nearby field.

Police recovered the bodies on Tuesday and sent them to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy.

Cause of their murder was stated to be strain relation between Purba Bandar Communists Party and Biplobi Communist Party. Nobody has yet been arrested in this connection.

A case has been registered with Kushtia police station in this connection.

In another incident, Hashedul alias Hashu, 23, of village Natun Amdaha under Pearpur union of Daulatpur thana was killed by armed miscreants on January 25 night.

Family sources said, a group of armed terrorists called the victim from his house at dead of night and took him to nearby field and shot him dead and left him at the wheat field of village Badamtali.

Police recovered the body the next day and sent it to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy.

A case has been registered with Daulatpur police station in this connection.

In another incident, a young boy Kubad Ali was crushed under the wheels of a sugarcane-loaded trolley near Sherpur bazar in Daulatpur thana on Sunday last.

Eye witnesses said, the victim Kubad was trying to take sugarcane from the trolley and the slipped his grip and crushed under the wheels of the vehicle. Police recovered the body and sent it to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy. The victim is the son of Suk Chand Ali of village Sherpur.

Char Bhadrashan health complex beset with manifold problems

FARIDPUR, Feb 1: The 31-bed thana health complex in Char Bhadrashan is beset with manifold problems including shortage of doctors, medicines and other logistic supports, reports UNB.

Official sources said eight posts of physicians out of nine remained vacant for long causing tremendous problems for the patients most of whom are from remote areas.

Only one doctor who is also to discharge his administrative duties cannot cope with the heavy rush of the patients. So, most of the patients have to go back without treatment.

The only X-ray machine in the hospital remained out of

order for long. Oxygen could not be supplied to the serious patients timely as it has to bring from the distant headquarters.

Patients alleged that they have to purchase life saving drugs from outside market at higher prices. The hospital can

supply only pain killer tablets to the patients.

They further alleged that they are being supplied with low quality food which is also inadequate against their need. The atmosphere of the thana hospital is unhygienic. There are no bed covers on the beds and a small number of pillows and blankets are there which are mostly dirty. Latrines and urinals are also in bad conditions.

Patients here have been suffering from short supply of water. Five tubewells out of six went out of order for two and a half years.

The local leaders urged the authorities concerned to fill up the vacant posts of physicians.

— Star photo

'Efforts on to ensure equal uplift of all areas'

BHOLA, Feb 1: Minister for Commerce and Industries Toafeel Ahmed said here on Wednesday that the signing of the peace accord on Chittagong Hill Tracts had widened the scope of trade and foreign investment in the country, reports BSS.

The minister said that government was keen to ensure equal development of all parts of the country.

Addressing two separate rallies at Bhola sadar and Daulatthan thanas the minister said the peace accord had brightened the image of Bangladesh abroad. He sought cooperation of all in implementing the peace accord and urged the people to remain alert against the propaganda of the vested quarters about the peace agreement.

The minister said that relentless efforts of the present government to boost trade and investment had started yielding benefits.

He said 21 per cent growth had been achieved in the export trade. The minister said that the government had taken several programmes to boost exports. The programmes, he said, included the identification of the priority export sectors and providing various incentives for their development, creation of new international market for Bangladeshi products,

2 bus dacoities Valubles worth Tk 3.5 lakh looted in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Feb 1: Armed dacoits in separate raids attacked the passengers of two buses and looted valuables worth Tk 3.5 lakh on January 25 and 26, reports UNB.

Passengers said goods worth Tk 3 lakh were looted by about seven bandits who in the guise of passengers boarded the Kushtia-bound bus from Khulna on January 26.

They said the gang took control of the bus at gun point when it reached Garaganj, 12 km off the town, and decamped with the booty at Laxmipur bazar.

On the previous day, an armed gang numbering about seven looted goods worth Tk 50,000 from the passengers of the Dhaka-bound bus coming from Jessore.

Sources said the gang, also in the guise of passengers, took control of the bus at Barobazar at gun point and beat the helper, supervisor and passengers indiscriminately.

They decamped with the booty including Tk 30,000 cash at Raghunathpur, 22 km off the town.

Meanwhile, police arrested four people, including a UP member, from Baparipara of the town for their alleged involvement in the dacoity in a rice boiling shop at Chaklapara in the town on January 26. They were identified as An-

1,000 mutation cases pending with Noakhali land offices

NOAKHALI, Feb 1: Some 1000 mutation cases have been lying pending with the six thana land offices of the district, reports UNB.

Land owners said in the absence of timely settlement of the cases they are facing manifold problems in buying or selling lands for the last six months.

In the last one year some 1500 mutation cases were filed where only 500 of them have been settled and the rest are lying pending for months to gether.

The land owners are facing problems to ensure their ownership over the land and they cannot apply for agricultural loan to boost production.

The government is also being deprived of huge revenue due to the inordinate delay in finalisation of the cases, said the land owners.

50 injured as 2 trains collide at Kamarpara

From Our Correspondent GAIBANDHA, Feb 1: At least 50 passengers sustained injuries, 10 of them critically when two trains collided head-on at Kamarpara Railway Station on January 26.

According to Railway source, Lalmonirhat bound Padmarag Express train was proceeding toward Kamarpara from Gaibandha at about 10-30 am.

At that time one goods Train was engaged in shunting on main track. Loco master of Padmarag train Abdur Rahim run the train toward station avoiding signal barrier. The train, however, entered the same track where the goods train was standing.

The locomotive power of Padmarag dashed the goods train head-on with a bang. Due to impact of the collision 50 passengers of Padmarag sustained injuries, 10 of them got bone fracture while jumped from the train. Front part of both the locomotives partially damaged. Train communication in this section was affected for several hours.

Salam Murder Newly elected UP chairman surrenders

TANGAIL, Feb 1: A newly elected Union Parishad (UP) chairman, accused in a murder case, surrendered to police soon after taking oath of office on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Sayedul Islam Dudu, chairman of Faldia Union Parishad in Bhuapur thana, took oath along with other chairmen and members of different union parishads under the thana and straight went to the local police station with some of his supporters.

He was sent to jail after a magistrate rejected his bail prayer.

Dudu and 16 others were charged with killing one Abdus Salam. The later was injured in a clash on December 13 during a post-election victory procession and died in a hospital on December 16.

Of the accused, 14 had earlier surrendered to police and 10 of them were granted bail. Two of the accused were absconding.

200 children affected by cold disease

BHERAMARA, Feb 1: More than two hundred children have been attacked by cold related diseases in Kushtia district recently, reports BSS.

Kushtia General Hospital sources said, a number of minor children affected with diarrhoea and pneumonia had been admitted to the hospital during the last few days.

According to doctors, due to infection by rota-virus, these cold related diseases spread in the chilly weather.

Separate incidents cost 3 in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Feb 1: Three people were killed in the district in separate incidents on Monday and Tuesday, reports UNB.

According to police sources, Rezaul was crushed under the wheels of a truck at Mithabari on Sathira-Khulna road on Monday. On the same day, Bishwanath was run over by a minibus at Bankal Bridge on Satkhira-Kalganj road.

Abul Hossain was killed when a bomb exploded in his house at Krishnanagar in the district on Tuesday.

The bodies were sent to the Sadar Hospital for autopsy. Separate cases were filed with police.

Another report from Rangpur adds: A UP member was killed by his rivals at village Raharpur in Pirganj thana on Friday.

Witnesses said, the deceased, identified as Shah Alam, 35, member of Shanerhat UP, was forcibly taken to the house of one Abdul Jalil and mercilessly beaten up. He was rushed to the thana health complex where he succumbed.

Police said there was a dispute between Shah Alam and Abul Jalil and Abdus Salam of the same village over Union Parishad election.

A case has been registered with the police.

Bumper output of wheat likely in N-dists

From Our Correspondent NATORE, Feb 1: Favourable weather and availability of seed and fertiliser have made a good cultivation of wheat in the northern region of Bangladesh this season.

According to experts in the Agricultural Extension Department, a bumper quantity of wheat is likely to be produced in this region if no calamity occurs during the next few weeks.

Official sources said, about 3.40 lakh hectares of land of this region had been brought under wheat cultivation this year.

A long period of cold wave, dense fog and other favourable weather condition in this season attributed to good wheat cultivation.

In Magura dist 3,373 criminal cases recorded last year

MAGURA, Feb 1: At least 3,373 criminal cases have been filed with different thana courts of the district during the last year, police said, reports UNB.

Court sources said, some 2667 cases have been filed with the Nalishi Adalat and rest 706 cases with other different thana courts.

The sources said, criminal activities like rioting, murder, terrorism, violence against women and torture for dowry were marked alarming rise in the last two years.

A total of 355 dowry related cases were filed with the Magura Nalishi Adalat-ka area under the Dowry Prohibition Act-4 in the last year. At least 29 stealing cases, 61 of rioting, 62 of cheating and 92 other

cases were also recorded during the same period.

With the Sadar thana, 7 dacoity, 66 stealing, 11 murder, 130 rioting, 32 terrorism and toll collection, 25 violence against women, 10 emnity cases have been filed.

Besides, four arms 10 drugs, 9 smuggling, 41 other cases have been filed in the same thana during the period in the same year.

In Salikha thana 115 cases, in Sirpur thana 121 cases and in Mohammadpur thana 123 cases have been also filed.

According to police sources, in 1996 some 380 cases were recorded in sadar thana, 137 cases in Sirpur thana, 128 cases in Mohammadpur thana and 120 cases in Shalikhtha thana.

Magura Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

Warm clothes distributed

MAGURA, Feb 1: Magura district administration and a non government organisation named Amra Kichhu Kari distributed winter clothes among the cold-stricken people of Magura town and its adjoining areas recently.

The local district administration sources said, they collected winter clothes from the rich and middle class people of the town with the assistance of Rover Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Guides. They distributed these winter clothes among the cold-stricken poor people.

Meanwhile, Amra Kichhu Kari collected winter clothes from their donors and distributed those among 160 distressed people at Lakshmikan-dar village of the sadar thana in the district.

2 killed in road accident

Two persons were killed and at least 10 others injured in a bus accident on Magura-Jessore via Arpara highway recently, police and family sources said.

A Magura-bound bus fell into a ditch at Shatokhali under Shalikhtha thana when the driver lost control when giving side to a bus coming from the opposite direction.

The victims of the accident are Dulal, 25, of village Khamarpara and Shahid, 26, whose address could not be known immediately.

Kushtia General Hospital sources said, a number of minor children affected with diarrhoea and pneumonia had been admitted to the hospital during the last few days.

According to doctors, due to infection by rota-virus, these cold related diseases spread in the chilly weather.

Training programme

One month long training programme on "Bee Rearing" concluded at Simakhali High School premises in Shalikhtha thana of the district.

The opening ceremony was held on December 20. Sheikh Abdur Rauf, Thana Nirbahi Of-

ficer (TNO), Shalikhtha was the chief guest in the inaugural ceremony while Md A Razzak, Deputy Director (DD), Magura BSCIC presided. Twenty trainees received training.

Among others, the Headmaster of Simakhali High School and the local leaders spoke on the occasion.

Farmers' training camp

The farmers' training camp on vegetables cultivation on their house yard, making and using of green manure, producing and preserving high yielding varieties (HYV) of seeds was organised by the district agriculture department in their office premises recently.

About 90 agriculturists took part in the training programme.

Meanwhile, about 200 farmers including women took part in a farmers' rally at village Araisat and Atharokhada Union Parishad recently. Deputy Director of Magura District Agriculture Department spoke on the occasion.

Conference

A conference of Bangladesh Hindu, Bouddha, Christian Oikya Parishad, Magura district branch, was held in Sayed Ator Ali Pathagar premises here on January 14.

Sumangal Thero, member of Bangladesh Hindu, Bouddha, Christian Oikya Parishad president and Advocate Biren Sikdar MP, Magura were chief and special guests while Nandulal Sikdar Banshi presided over.

Dr Nim Chandra Bhoumik, General Secretary of the Parishad, Altaf Hossain, General Secretary, Magura district Awami League, Advocate Sujit Kumar, Advocate Dipak Roychowdhury spoke on the occasion.



MAGURA: Authorities of the sadar hospital recently launched a cleanliness drive to create people's awareness about cleanliness for better health. Photo shows a health worker doing propaganda for making the campaign a success.

Sec 144 in, around Gobindaganj College

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Feb 1: Gobindaganj thana administration imposed section 144 in and around Gobindaganj Mohila College and adjacent market for indefinite period to avoid probable fierce clash between two rival groups on January 21.

Governing body of Gobindaganj Mohila College decided to lay foundation stone of a new building at the college campus.

Accordingly they arranged a public meeting at college campus on January 21. On the same date and time Gobindaganj All-party Oikay Jote called a counter meeting at the same venue. Accordingly both the supporters groups began publicity in their respective favour.

Since February 19 procession, counter procession, chasing and counter chasing continued between both the factions. On that issue some stray clash also took place in the area.

Facing deterioration of law and order situation TNO Gobindaganj clamped section 144 on the night of February 20 and deployed riot police to control the situation.

According to the leaders of All-Party Oikay Jote, President of Gobindaganj Mohila College M A Mottaleb is involved in various irregularities and corruption. The leaders of the jote have been demanding invest-

gation and justice of allegation brought against Mottaleb since long. In this situation the president arranged laying of foundation stone of college building despite severe protest. They, however, called a counter protest meeting at the same venue on the plea of