

News snaps

Newly elected UP chairman killed

From Our Correspondent
RANGPUR, Feb 4: Shah Alam, 35, an elected member of Shanerhat Union Parishad under Pirgonj thana of the district was brutally killed on Jan 23 last by unknown assailants. Eyewitnesses said, on the fateful night some miscreants at around midnight called him out of his house and dragged him to a lonely place and severed his hands and legs and left him on the spot in a critical condition. However at about 4 am after few hours of the incident, he succumbed to injuries on way a local health complex. The police registered a case. No arrest has so far been reported, the victim's family source said.

Rivals clash leaves 30 hurt

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Feb 4: At least 30 people were injured and 12 houses, 8 shops damaged in a series of clashes between two groups of armed youths at Amanatganj area in the town on Tuesday. According to local eyewitnesses and police, two groups of armed youths of Amanatganj area were locked in clashes over their supremacy in the area since Monday night. During the clashes three houses were totally damaged and two were set on fire. No case was filed till writing of this report. Tense situation is prevailing in the area.

Faulty sluice gates hamper farming

PATUAKHALI, Feb 4: Unplanned construction of sluice gates in different parts of the district has created serious problems for crop cultivation, reports UNB. Local people said faulty and unplanned construction of sluice gates has caused heavy crop loss in eight unions of the districts. They said about five lakh people of Duatola, Bamna, Bukabunia, Halia, Gulishahali, Tikita, Amargachia and Raihanpur unions have been affected badly. The sluice gates are responsible for water logging in some parts of cropland while these are creating scarcity of water in other parts, the farmers alleged. They said crops of over 38,000 hectares of land were badly damaged due to the problem. Many of them were rendered destitute due to heavy crop loss during the last few years. Local farmers staged a token hunger strike recently at Chalabhangia sluice gate area protesting the unplanned construction. They have threatened to go for action programme if their demands were not met immediately.

Khas land for landless people

CHUADANGA, Feb 4: Nine hundred acres of khas lands have so far been distributed among the landless people of our thanas of the district, reports BSS. The four thanas of the district are Chuadanga sadar, Alamdanga, Damrughuda and Jibannagar. Of the total land 101 acres have been distributed in Chuadanga sadar thana, 117 acres in Alamdanga thana, 616 acres in Damrughuda thana and 66 acres in Jibannagar thana. The khas lands were distributed among about 3000 landless people of the district.

Mymensingh Dist Bar Assoc executives

MYMENSINGH, Feb 4: A 15-member executive committee of Mymensingh District Bar Association has been elected with A H M Khalequezzaman and Abdul Matin as its president and general secretary respectively, reports BSS. The other elected office bearers and members are: Vice-Presidents — Kazi Mosharraf Hussain and Shamsul Haque, Assistant Secretaries — Miah Hussain, Abdul Haque (I) and Shamsul Huda, Auditor — Saifuddin Ahmed Saiful, members — Ali Haider Khan, Abu Hanif Khan, Fazlul Haque, Golam Sarwar Helal, Kaiser Ahmed, Enamul Haque (2) and Maksud Hossain Masum. A total of 523 voters out of 550 cast their votes in the election.

Anti-smuggling drive

From Our Correspondent
SATKHIRA, Feb 4: The anti-smuggling drive has been geared up in different border areas of Satkhira district. BDR personnel of 21 Rifles Battalion recovered huge quantity of Indian clothes worth Taka 16 lakh from village Rampur under Sharsaha thana in Jessore district on January 70. Local BDR sources said, acting on a secret information BDR jawans raided the place of occurrence and recovered huge Indian shirt, blouse, T-shirt pieces, and sarars.

2 youths killed in Natore road accident

From Our Correspondent
NATORE, Feb 4: Two young men were killed in road accident at Tebaria area on Natore bypass road recently, police sources said. The victims are identified as Sabuj, 23, and Rana, 25 of Station Bargachha area of the town. Police said, the accident occurred when a Rajshahi bound goods loaded truck ran over the motor-cycle. As a result the victims died on the spot. A case was lodged with Natore police in this connection.

Loan for youths

TANGAIL, Feb 4: Youth Development Department has taken up an ambitious project to develop economic condition of the youths of Nagarpur thana of the district, reports BSS. Under this programme the youths of the area will be provided with interest free loans to invest in small scale production sectors. Official sources said that Taka two crore has been earmarked for the thana in this head. Taka six lakh has already been disbursed among 135 loanees of the area, official sources added. Trained youths are getting preference in receiving loan for their economic condition.

Businessman robbed

From Our Correspondent
BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 4: A group of armed dacoits robbed of Tk 22 thousand from a businessman Md Ichal Mia near village Dharmandol under Nasirnagar thana of the district on December 12. Md Ichal Mia, an inhabitant, and trader of Shingha village under Lakal thana of Habiganj district, was going to Madabpur bazar through Nasirnagar in the district. On way several dacoits attacked him at Monmori near Dharmandol village under Nasirnagar thana and robbed of Tk 22 thousand from his possession. Later, the group of dacoits escaped the scene.

Extortionist's eyes gauged out

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Feb 4: Angry people gouged out eyes of an alleged extortionist named Ramen Das, 35, on the evening of January 28 at Shindurdanga under Rupsha thana. Police said five other extortionists including two young women were also roughed up on the same evening at village Narnia under the same police station by the same mob. The alleged extortionists later rescued by the police are all FIR-named accused of 'Montu murder case', police said.

4 alleged criminals arrested

From Our Correspondent
KUSHTIA, Feb 4: Mirpur police in a raid arrested four accused persons including one regional leader of Purbabangla Communist Party recently. According to the direction of Kushtia Police Super Md Malik Khosru, the officer-in-charge, Mirpur police station along with his forces conducted a raid in village Sarupdaha and arrested Badaruddin Badu, 40, son of Sarkar Ali and Serajul Islam, son of Azahar. A number of cases are pending against them in Mirpur police station on charge of murder, abduction and hijacking. On the other hand S I Abdul Khaleque and Aminur Rahman of Mirpur police station arrested Shahiduddin Hadi, son of Katubuddin of village Atigram and another accused Shamsul, Shahiduddin Hadi is a convicted accused on charge of dowry. All the accused persons have been produced before the court.

1,95,557 babies immunised in Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, Feb 4: A total of 1,95,557 children have been immunised in the second round of the fourth National Immunisation Programme observed here recently, reports BSS. The target was fixed to immunise a total of 217970 children in the district. 95 per cent of the target has been achieved for ensuring a sound and healthy life for the future generation by eradicating polio from the country.

Indian smuggled goods recovered

From Our Correspondent
JHENIDAH, Feb 4: The jawans of Bangladesh rifles, Chuadanga recovered smuggled Indian cloths worth about Taka 30 lakh from a godown of Abdali at Kaliganj town in Jhenidah district recently according to Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sources. Having a secret information a contingent of BDR raided a godown of fish at about 3 in the morning and recovered 30 bundles of clothes. A case was filed with Kaliganj thana in this connection, but none was arrested so far.

Relief goods distributed

MYMENSINGH, Feb 4: A total of 18,330 pieces of relief commodities, received from the Prime Minister's Relief Store, have been distributed by the district administration with the help and cooperation of public representatives among the cold-hit poor and distressed of Mymensingh district, reports BSS.

The relief commodities included blankets, sarars, blouse, shirts, pants, old clothes, gajees, jackets, mufflers, sweaters, half-pants, children garments, readymade garments, socks and caps.

The district administration also distributed 200 pieces of chaddar valued Taka twenty six thousand and 400 pieces of blankets received from the relief department among the poor and distressed of 12 thanas under the district.

Besides, Taka six lakh and fifty seven thousand, received from Prime Minister's Relief Fund, have already been distributed in cash among the poor people of 12 thanas and Taka nine thousand and five hundred distributed among the poor people of 19 wards under five pourashavas of the district.

OMS of rice launched in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Feb 4: Open Market Sale (OMS) of rice has been launched here with the opening of only two sales centres in the district headquarters, reports UNB.

The centres were opened on January 28 at Old Collectorate building and Saikupa Academy building premises. Two metric tons of rice have been allocated for the centres which will remain open from 8 am to 5 pm everyday except the holidays.

No sales centres have been set up in six thana headquarters, it is learnt. Open Market Sale of rice has been launched to enable the common people to purchase the rice at a fair price. Per person will get three kgs of rice at a time at the rate of Tk 12.50.

Official sources said two more centres will be opened in the district soon and the rest thanas will be covered subsequently.

Another report from Khulna says: The government controlled-OMS has begun in the municipality area to facilitate the common people to purchase rice at a fair price.

Rice is being sold at the rate of Tk 12.50 through Baikali, Khalishpur, Daulatpur, New Market and Rupsha points from 9 am to 5 pm after the OMS has been launched throughout the country since January 28.

After visiting the centres, it is found that per day selling target of one ton rice through each centre has been completed within few hours due to long queue of people.

No passenger shed at Kishoreganj bus stand

From Our Correspondent
KISHOREGANJ, Feb 4: Hundreds of passengers of the district and out side the district have been suffering a lot for lack of passenger shed and public toilet at the local bus stand in Kishoreganj.

Passengers from far-flung areas of the district wait at the bus stand for travelling to their destinations. They come to go to Dhaka, Bhairab, Sylhet and other places of the country. They have to wait for bus under open sky. Passengers have to suffer very much for lack of public toilet. The sufferings of patients know no bounds.

Some regular passengers complained and said this is only bus stand for people of the district. But people have to wait for bus under the open sky and suffer in rains. All the buses from here go to Dhaka, Bhairab, and other places.

So the stand has a great importance. The concerned authority is aware about the problem but do not take any step to solve the problem.

General public and sufferers demand to erect much needed passenger shed with all modern amenities at Amtali Bus Stand immediately to mitigate the suffering of the passengers. Two months before the stand was transferred to Amtali at Hoi-bonagar. The place is out of the town so a shed is crying need.

Potato farmers deprived in Narail

NARAIL, Feb 4: Potato farmers are being deprived of fair price of their produce due to fall in price in the local markets, reports UNB.

Local farmers said high cost of seeds, fertilizers and other necessary inputs have already enhanced the cost of production, but they are now being forced to sell the crop at throw away prices due to huge supply in the market.

About 125 hectares of land were brought under potato cultivation with a production target of 1500 metric tons. But the farmers exceeded the target by producing 2,000 metric tons of potato.

At present potato is being sold at Tk 5 per kg in the town and at Tk 4 per kg in the rural areas.

Farmers said most of them are burdened with bank loans. They have already lost their interest in cultivating cash crops like potato, jute and paddy due to the high production cost.



LALMONIRHAT: Many shoals have emerged on the Teesta river bed near Teesta Barrage at Doarvi hampering navigation due to sharp fall in water level. About 30 ferry boats have stopped plying along the river. Ten ghats such as Sindurna ghat, Haldibari ghat, daubari ghat, Votemari ghat, Nohali ghat, Barirati ghat, Kaimari ghat, Mohipur ghat, Khuniagas ghat and Kaunia ghat have already worn a deserted look. — Star photo

Cold wave hits hard IRRI-Boro farming in Rangpur dist

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Feb 4: Severe cold wave and deep fog which persisted across the district for over one month caused a massive damage to the IRRI-Boro seed beds and standing vegetables.

A spokesman of the Agriculture Extension Department said, farmers of the district prepared over five thousand acres of IRRI-Boro seed bed to cultivate over three lakh and fifty thousand acres of land during the current winter season, due to unprecedented cold wave about 50 per cent seed beds have partially or completely damaged. The affected farmers are now in a quandary. They are unable to procure IRRI-Boro seedlings from outside the district.

On the other hand, the production of vegetables has hampered badly following damages of the vegetable plants due to deep fog and severe cold wave, farmers alleged.

In the markets across the district, supply of winter vegetables and fruits has drastically decreased comparing to previous years. These are now being sold at exorbitant prices, beyond the purchasing capacity of common consumers.

Prices of Aman rice and paddy, in the meantime have increased all over the district due to short fall of production and lack of drying facilities of boiled paddy. This a process of paddy crushing in the husking mills.

During the current winter season, most of the days the sky remained over cast by deep fog and the sunlight was hardly visible causing a great hamper to dry up boiled paddy, it was told by the millers.

The cold wave also caused outbreak of poultry diseases in the district.

The peak period for the cultivation of IRRI-Boro paddy which is being expired very fast. Most of the farmers hardly managed required IRRI-Boro seedlings due to its non-availability and high prices. A large area remained uncultivated, according to agriculturists. There were apprehension, a vast area of IRRI-Boro cultivable land would go uncultivated in the district during the current season.

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Govt being deprived of revenue from launch ghats in Narsingdi

NARSINGDI, Feb 4: The government is being deprived of revenue from various launch and ferry ghats of the district due to violation of rules by the concerned people in leasing out these outlets, reports UNB.

Some 25 ferry ghats in different areas along the rivers Meghna and Shitalakhya in three thanas of the district are being managed by BIWTA along with thana and union councils.

Communications among different thana headquarters, char areas and important rural markets are being maintained through these ghats.

BIWTA manages Narsingdi Launch Terminal and Ghorashal Launch ghat. The rest are being managed locally either by thana parishad or by union parishad.

The ghats are: Karimpur, Srinagar, Panchabati, Bisnandi, Gopali, Char Madhua, Paratoli, Nilkhyia, Salimganj, Bancharampur, Barikandi, Ghaghotia, Monipura, Alakola, Palash fertilizer, Ghorashal, Jamalpur, Char Singdur, Raniganj, Danga, Bholabo, Kaliganj and Changanj.

Local people alleged that union parishads sometimes lease out the ghats to the influential people ignoring rules and procedures and without approval of the concerned authorities.

In some cases local musclemen control the ghats. There are also allegations of leasing out the ghats to the relatives of UP chairmen violating the rules and regulations.

The local leaders demanded that the irregularities should be stopped immediately and the ghats should be leased out maintaining the proper procedures.



Christian Service Society (CSS), a voluntary organisation of Khulna recently celebrated its Silver Jubilee Festival. A recognition ceremony for the founder and its chairman Paul Munshi was held at Zia Hall in Khulna. City Mayor Shaikh Tayabur Rahman was present as the chief guest while Managing Editor of CSS Mark Munshi presided over the function.

229 persons committed suicide in Gopalganj last year

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Feb 4: A total number of 229 persons including women, children and young men committed suicide in the district from January 1 to December 31 last year, according to police sources.

A total of 72 persons committed suicide in Gopalganj sadar thana, of which 43 persons took poison, 15 persons were hanged and 14 persons died through other means.

A total of 46 persons committed suicide in Kotalipara thana, out of which 27 persons took poison, 10 persons were hanged and 9 persons died through other means, according to Kotalipara thana police sources.

A total of 22 persons committed suicide in Tungipara thana, out of which 14 persons took poison, 6 persons were hanged and 2 persons died by other means, according to Tungipara thana police sources.

A total of 36 persons committed suicide in Mukshudpur thana, out of which 27 persons took poison, 5 persons were hanged and 4 persons committed suicide by other means, according to Mukshudpur thana police sources.

A total of 53 persons committed suicide in Kasiani thana, out of which 32 persons took poison, 13 persons were hanged and 8 persons committed suicide through other offences, according to Kasiani thana police sources.

The victims include a good number of children old men and women and young men.

Police records say that chronic abdomen pain was responsible for maximum suicide incident which is considered to be number one reason for the suicides.

Police records also show that about four fifth of the total suicide cases took place largely due to poverty, discord between married couple, failure in love affairs and physical torture carried out by guardians.

A woman of Malati Rani Das, aged about 70 of village Raganathpur under Gopalganj Sadar thana told The Daily Star correspondent that she had attempted to commit suicide because her only son did not provide her with food and clothing.

A senior police officer of the district when asked to give his view on increasing number of suicide cases in Gopalganj said, dowry was one of the major reasons of higher number of such incidents. He further said, this is a social problem. In many incidents the cases of suicide are not mentioned as parents tend to hide facts.

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Faridpur-Rajbari section

Restoration of train service demanded

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Feb 4: The train service between Rajbari and Faridpur introduced nearly 100 years ago has been suspended without any prior notice.

As a result it has created extreme hardship to the passengers and great inconveniences for carrying goods especially rice and jute. Besides, the concerned authorities are in great trouble in sending answer sheets of different public examinations beginning from SSC to Master courses from Faridpur to Dhaka due to the withdrawal of the rail service.

In view of these troubles people are demanding immediate restoration of the regular

railway services between Faridpur and Rajbari. Passengers from Faridpur district who are willing to travel by train to other parts of the country have to avail of another connecting train from Rajbari.

At present the railway property in the aforesaid line worth thousands of crores of taka have been lying uncared. Miscreants are stealing the property regularly. There is no one to look after these valuable goods.

The authorities concerned should take measures to reintroduce the railway service between Rajbari and Faridpur immediately in the interest of the people of the district.

Meherpur Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

Rivals clash leaves 3 hurt

MEHERPUR, Feb 4: Three persons were seriously injured in a family feud recently at village Juginda under Gangni thana.

It is reported that Milton married Ratna, 16, daughter of Sudhin Sarkar a few years back. But Milton fell in love with another girl and trouble started and difference between Milton and Ratna increased. Later Ratna divorced Milton. But Milton threatened for kidnapping her and waiting for opportunity. On the day Milton came to the office of Sudhin Sarkar and locked up in a quarrel with him. At this time, son of Sudhin Sarkar attacked Milton with a sharp weapon and Milton also overpowered Milton. As a result three of them were seriously injured. They have been admitted in Gangni Thana Health Complex. Later condition of Milton and Ratna deteriorated. They have been sent to Kushtia General Hospital. Both the parties have filed cases with Gangni police station.

Local people alleged no department officials are taking any step in this direction as they are being paid sufficiently.

Local have submitted the names of those who are doing all these mischiefs but nobody is taking any action against it.

Erratic power supply

Frequent power failure, load shedding and fluctuation of voltage have made life miserable in the district town and its adjoining areas. Students are the worst sufferers.

Production in mills, factories and other industrial units has been seriously hampered due to erratic power supply causing increase in prices of rice, flour and other essentials.

Supply of electricity remains suspended for 5 to 7 hours everyday and sometimes power goes off for hours together. Power failure during Iyer and Shehri time caused untold sufferings to the fasting people. Frequent fluctuation of voltage has damaged many TV set, refrigerators, cassette players, fax machine and shallow tubewells, it is learnt.

One young person was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus near Chandbill on Meherpur-Chuadanga road on Sunday last. He was identified as Pappu 12 and died on the spot.

Eyewitnesses said, the speeding bus 'Gangni Enterprise' when entering into Meherpur town with a high speed tried to overtake another vehicle and Pappu was going by the side of the road. Then he became the victim of road accident.

Local people barricaded the road for some time in protest. A case has been registered with Meherpur police station in this connection. None has been arrested. Body has been sent to Meherpur sadar hospital for autopsy.

When this news spread local people in a procession went there and gheraoed the bank in order to rescue the UP member, but the bank officials reattacked them injuring 10. The seriously injured are Asim, Sengum, Shakeg, Fakubala, Sahatan, and Alauddin and they have been admitted to Gangni Thana Health Complex.

To protest this incident a procession was brought out on the next day by the members of Palli Unnayan Samity and went to TNO and handed over a memorandum to him for onward transmissions of it to Regional Manager of the concerned bank.

Post-poll clash leaves 11 hurt

Bloody post-poll clash that ensued between BNP and Awami League activists in Terail village of Bamundi union of Gangni thana led to the injury of 11 persons recently. It prompted the villagers to leave the village in fear of further clash. About 50 persons were injured in the clash, of them 11 have been admitted in Gangni Thana Health Complex.

Meanwhile, tobacco crop belonging to Hazrat Ali of village Terail have been damaged by unknown persons, but BNP activists suspected that Awami League activists have done this mischief. With this altercation a bloody clash took place. On the other hand Awami League activists blamed BNP activists, for violating a woman and to suppress the BNP activists themselves damaged the tobacco and accused the Awami League activists of doing so. The BNP activists who sustained serious injury are Momena, 20, Khadiza, 40, Zobeda 45, Kalam member, 30, Momena, 15, Hazrat Ali, 45, and Mozammel Huse. Among the Awami League activists sustaining injury are Selim, 25, Anarul, 22, Rokonzaman, 15, and Akhtaruzzaman, 22. In apprehension of further clash villagers are leaving their houses.

A woman of Malati Rani Das, aged about 70 of village Raganathpur under Gopalganj Sadar thana told The Daily Star correspondent that she had attempted to commit suicide because her only son did not provide her with food and clothing.

A senior police officer of the district when asked to give his view on increasing number of suicide cases in Gopalganj said, dowry was one of the major reasons of higher number of such incidents. He further said, this is a social problem. In many incidents the cases of suicide are not mentioned as parents tend to hide facts.

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ting financial benefit out of that, it has also been alleged.

The local mastans are also not being deprived of the dividend. Meanwhile, both the sides of roads belonging to Zila Farisad, Roads and Highways namely Meherpur-Chuadanga, Meherpur-Kushtia, Meherpur-Mujibnagar road, Meherpur-Kathuli road which were full with trees are being cut down indiscriminately under the cover of darkness and being sold out to the nearby brick field owners.

Local people alleged no department officials are taking any step in this direction as they are being paid sufficiently.

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Crushed under wheels of bus

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