

News snaps

Abducted girl rescued

NARAYANGANJ, Mar 2: Police rescued an abducted school girl and arrested Babu, 19, and Salahuddin, 20, alleged abductors from Keraniganj thana area of Munshigonj district on Sunday, reports UNB.

Witnesses said, a class seven student Rahima Akter Zharna daughter of Jalaluddin of WAPDA bridge area of Fatullah Thana was abducted by her distant cousin Babu and two of his accomplices on Saturday noon on her way to school. Acting on a tip-off, police rescued the victim and arrested the two abductors. A case was filed with the police.

2 jailed for possessing arms

JHENIDAH, Mar 2: An man and his son of Shalakupha thana of the district were awarded 10 years rigorous imprisonment each on Friday for possessing unauthorised firearms, reports UNB.

The prosecution case, in brief, was that acting on a tip-off, police raided the house of Khorshed Ali on May 19, 1996 and recovered a home-made gun loaded with live bullets. A gang of armed men who had been staying at the house managed to flee sensing the police presence. Police filed a case and submitted charge-sheet against five people in this connection. Additional District and Sessions Judge Sheikh Saiful Islam after examining the witnesses and records awarded the punishment to Khorshed Ali, 80, and his son Shomsher Ali acquitting three others.

Cheat arrested

KHULNA, Mar 2: Sadar thana police arrested one Abdul Alim, 28, on charge of cheating the people identifying himself as detective branch man on Thursday, reports UNB.

According to police, Alim demanded Tk 40,000 from the proprietor of Dhiraal & Co Abul Hashem Mirza identifying himself as a police of detective branch. The employees of the company informed the police secretly about his suspicious movement. Later police rushed to the spot and rounded him up. The cheat later confessed his guilt to the police. A case has been filed in this connection.

Students urged to build character

JAMALPUR, Mar 2: State Minister for Land Alhaj Rashed Mosharraf said scouting plays a vital role in character building of the youths, reports UNB.

He said this while addressing the inaugural function of the annual sports competitions-98 of Zila School as chief guest here on Wednesday. He urged the teachers and the guardians to refrain the students from juvenile delinquency. The Minister asked the students to involve in sports and cultural activities side by side with classroom learning which will help them build their moral character and sound health. Deputy Commissioner Aechhut Goswami and local elite were present on the occasion, said an official handout.

Urs Sharif

ENAYETPUR (Sirajganj), Mar 2: The Akheri Munajat was held after end of three-day annual Urs of renowned Islamic priest Shah Sufi Khawaja Mohammad Yunus Ali Enayetpuri here on Sunday, reports BSS.

More than five lakh ashekan and well-wishers from different parts of the country attended the Urs Sharif. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Syed Abul Hossain MP, and Mirza Azam, MP were, among others, present on the occasion. During his two-day stay at the Urs, the foreign minister exchanged pleasantries with the musallis.

Science fair concludes

MADARIPUR, Mar 2: A three-day long science and technology fair concluded here on Government Nazimuddin University College premises recently, reports BSS.

Prof Khaleeda Khanom, Whip, Jatiya Sangsad inaugurated the fair as the chief guest. Farhad Rahman, Deputy Commissioner, Madaripur presided over the inaugural function. A total of 60 stalls were set up displaying various scientific invention.

Sanction for park

BARISAL, Mar 2: The government has sanctioned Tk. 78,85,000 in the current fiscal year for conversion of Durga Sagar Dighi area here into a national park, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the work of the project to be implemented includes plantation of rare species of plants on the dighi and fish cultivation. The dighi area comprises a total of 45.42 acres including a 27.38 acres water body. Work on the project will be started soon and is expected to be completed by June 2000, the source said.

Birth anniversary

BANDARBAN, Mar 2: A day long function marking the 110th birth anniversary of Thakur Anukul Chandra was held at the Bandarban Model Government Primary School premises on Friday, reports BSS.

The programmes included a discussion meeting on the life and teachings of Thakur Anukul Chandra. Rakhal Chandra Dey, president of the Thakur Anukul Chandra Birth Anniversary Committee in Bandarban presided over the discussion.

Bodies recovered

NARSINGDI, Mar 2: Police recovered the bodies of two missing people from a pond near the district railway station on Tuesday, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Abdul Bashed, 45, son of Kaimuddin of Mainjerkanj village, and Ahamad Ali, 50, son of Abdul Majid of Charsubudshi village in Roypur thana. Police said the deceased, who were missing since February 19, had long been involved in anti-social activities from a shanty built near the railway station. A UD case was filed with Sadar thana in this connection.

Sugar mill exceeds output target

RANGPUR, Mar 2: The Shympur Sugar Mill has exceeded the target of sugar production by 512 tonnes in 81 working days, according to mill sources, reports BSS.

The mill had a target to produce a total of 5,320 tonnes of sugar in the current season by crushing 70,000 tonnes of sugarcane. The mill has so far, produced 5,832 tonnes of sugar by crushing 72,810 tonnes of sugarcane in 81 working days upto February 9. The mill is continuing further crushing to produce more sugar, a spokesman of the mill said.

Uplift work progressing

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 2: Seventy per cent work of 53 development projects of Kishoreganj pourasava, undertaken in 1996-97 fiscal year, has been completed, reports BSS.

Taka 1.20 crore was allocated for the implementation of the projects. According to pourasava sources, the projects included repair and re-construction of streets, development of drainage and other civic amenities. The rest work of the project is expected to be completed soon.

Rich people asked to work for poor men

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 2: Deputy Speaker advocate Abdul Hamid has said the rich should come forward for the welfare of the poor and distress of the society, reports BSS.

He was addressing as the chief guest at a blanket distributing programme organised by the Red Crescent Society at local Tennis club ground in the district recently. Senior officials of the district administration and local elite attended the function.

2 killed in road mishap

COMILLA, Mar 2: Two people were killed and two others injured in a road accident at Zagarjhuli in Sadar thana on Saturday morning, reports UNB.

Police identified the dead as day labourers Khokon Mia, 45, and Babul Mia, 30, of Durgapur village in Sadar thana. Police said the mishap occurred when a speeding private car rolled down on a tractor carrying earth from the spot. The injured Zakir Mia and Zulfu Mia were admitted to Comilla Combined Military Hospital in critical condition. Police seized the car, but the driver fled the scene.

2 women die in separate incidents

SYLHET, Mar 2: Two women died in two separate incidents in the district, police said, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, Sakina Bibi, 70, of Jaintapur thana died on the spot when a Tamabil bound truck at Sariaghat ran over her on Friday. Meanwhile, Rehana Begum, 16, of Teghari village in Biswanath thana allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself at the bathroom on Thursday. Family feud was said to be reason behind the suicide. Both the bodies were sent to the Osmani Medical College Hospital for post-mortem. Two separate cases were filed with the police.

Discussion meeting

NOAKHALI, Mar 2: The three-day science fair at the Zila School auditorium here concluded, reports UNB.

Deputy Commissioner KMD Abul Kalam formally inaugurated the fair to mark the 21st National Science and Technology week. On the occasion, a discussion meeting on Science and Technology on Poverty Alleviation was also held. A total of 15 stalls were set up at the fair. Among others, Noakhali Government Girls School, Government SA College, Sonapur College, Jui Science Club, Badherhat Science Club participated in the fair. Everyday a huge number of cross section of the people visited the fair.

**Unabated river erosion
15,000 homeless people
yet to be rehabilitated**

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Mar 2: At least 15,000 people who have been rendered homeless due to continuous erosion of the river Ganges in Daulatpur thana have been passing their days in great distress for the last 10 years, officials sources said.

The affected families are yet to be rehabilitated. The erosion of the river Ganges is going on unabated and has separated two villages namely Mohammadpur and Talpatti in Daulatpur thana from the mainland of Bangladesh.

The Union Parishad buildings of Ramkrishnapur and Chilmari are on the verge of collapse. No step has been taken to protect them so far. Land office, Family Planning Centre, five mosques and five educational institutions of Chilmari

union have been derailed by the river Ganges last year.

Huge tracts of cultivable land of 10 villages including Bazumara, Jotashahi, Chakrampur, Udaynagar and Sahirmadi have gone under the river bed. About 20 thousand acres of cultivable land and houses situation in 12 villages of Ramkrishnapur have also been eroded. Two thousand families of these two unions are living on high land of the flood protection embankment under the open sky.

Government has not taken any step to mitigate the sufferings of the affected people so far. They have not yet received any relief materials either from the government or the Red Crescent Society. About 10,000 people finding no other means of

living have taken the job of smuggling as the two villages have been cut-off from the mainland and have become the vantage point of smuggling. The smugglers include about two thousand minor boys who have left their schools and taken to smuggling to feed their families. No effort was made to rehabilitate these poor people.

Moreover, due to acute poverty and malnutrition the shelterless people including children have been suffering from various diseases including diarrhoea, TB and ulcer. Young people of these families are now involved in various anti-social activities for want of job opportunities. The homeless people have urged the concerned authorities to take immediate steps for their rehabilitation without delay.



KHULNA: The annual conference of Glasco Wellcome Bangladesh Limited was recently held at Zia Hall here. Managing Director Syed Fazlul Haque opened the conference. A total of 128 members of field force from all over the country, line managers and members of the central marketing participated. Photo shows (from left to right): MA Quayoom, National Sales Manager (standing), AHM Zaker, Production Director, Syed Fazlul Haque, Managing Director, Hasan Ferdousi, Marketing Director and M Azizul Haque, Marketing Manager.

Sharp fall in water level

15 river routes inoperative in Pabna district

PABNA, Mar 2: Sharp fall in the water levels in greater Pabna district left some 15 river routes inoperative affecting the commercial activities adversely, reports UNB.

Water Board and BIWTA

sources said innumerable shoals and chars have emerged through the 150-mile river routes due to the recession of water flow from the upstream which forced the closure of the inland water transport routes.

Some 13 routes are still operating in the region, the sources said, but are facing threat of closure if the situation deteriorates further.

Small river ports and business centres which sprang up beside the rivers wear a desolate look with the closure of the routes.

Navigability in the rivers Jamuna, Baral, Hurasagar, Ratnai, Chardratarguman, Atrai, Chiknai, Nageswari and Karota have reduced substantially with the emergence of shoals and chars.

The channels have divided into several parts creating obstacles in smooth movement of river vessels and drying up of some subsidiary channels.

A source informed that 10,000 shoals and chars have emerged across the 130 mile-long river routes from Kaunia in Rangpur to Bherakola of the district.

Local people said nearly 3 lakh professionals dependent on the rivers for their livelihood are facing tough days with the siltation of river beds and emergence of shoals.

The boatmen who used to earn their breads by transporting passengers through the river routes are facing the toughest time as they have not developed expertise in any other profession.

Fishermen are also in serious problem as their catches in some places have reduced to a great extent.

Irrigation in the district is also being hampered due to the problem, said the farmers.

Murders on rise in S-districts

BENAPOLE, Mar 2: People of the southern districts are passing their days in extreme insecurity following the alarming deterioration of law and order situation, reports UNB.

The people are at the mercy of armed hoodlums particularly the underground activists who have created a reign of terror in the region since long. In broad day light they often swoop on the houses and kill the innocent people indiscriminately and loot their belongings.

According to an unofficial estimation, 52 people were killed only in the month of last January by them.

Of the total, 16 murders were committed in Jhenidah, 10 in Jessore, four in Khulna, two in Bagerhat, four in Satkhira, two in Magura, two in Narail, nine in Kushtia and three in Meherpur.

Meanwhile, frequent armed clashes in day light are on in Jhenidah, Kushtia and Chuadanga districts among the under ground inter-party and intra-party cadres since long over establishing supremacy in the region.

Husband to die for killing wife

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Mar 2: One Mannan Gazi was awarded death sentence by hanging for killing his wife, mother of 3 sons in the court of Abdul Kuddus Mia, 2nd Additional Judge, Special Court of woman and Child Protection Act '95 under Section 10(1) on Monday.

The case story in brief is, Mannan Gazi, 50, of Kashabar village under Bakerganj thana of Barisal married to Saleha Begum, 38, after independence. Since then Mannan demanded dowry to her parents, but failed.

On 1st September 1996 in the morning Saleha Begum was beaten up mercilessly by Mannan and his relatives. Seriously injured Saleha was admitted to Bakerganj Thana Health Complex. Later she was taken to Barisal Medical College Hospital where she succumbed to her injuries.

Later a case was filed and police charge sheeted after proper investigation.

The judge examining 12 witnesses gave the judgement acquitting four other accused Manjbar Gazi, Manik Gazi, Shefali Begum and Firoja Begum.

Another school girl abducted

SAVAR, Mar 2: A school girl was abducted from village Nirkral in Banagram union of the thana by a gang of miscreants on Friday night, reports UNB.

Police and family sources said the victim, identified as Sultana Akhtar, 14, a student of Class IX of Chakulia High School, was standing just outside their home at 8 pm when the gang took her away on gun point.

The miscreants, reportedly led by Ashan Mia, Zakir, Faruq and Monir, exploded crackers to create panic as the inmates of the house came out hearing the hue and cry of the girl, the sources said.

No arrest was reported in this connection. A case was filed with the police.

Meanwhile, a robbery was committed at Savar Bazar river ghat on Thursday night. A gang of six to seven dacoits decamped with diesel and kerosene oil worth about Tk 2.50 lakh in a trowler anchored at the ghat at about 2 am.

The boat carried the oil from Fatullah, but the goods could not be stored to the godown as no labourer was available at night.

Local people said the robbers tied up the boatman and took away the goods which include 10,000 litres of diesel and 50 drums of kerosene. They left the boatman on the bank of the river before fleeing with the trowler.

Training course for newsmen

From A Correspondent

FENI, Mar 2: A week long training course titled "Grassroots newsmen training" organised by Mass Line Media Centre (MMC) began February 28 at the local District Council auditorium recently.

Presided over by the secretary of Feni District Council Kazi Golam Mostafa the Executive Director of MMC Kamrul Hassan Monju also delivered speech on the occasion. Journalists of Feni, a Wadud, Mahbulul Alam, Abu Taher, Abdur Rahim, Golam Mostafa, Shah Karim Mahmud, Nurul Karim Mahmud, Tipu Sultan, Osman Harun Mahmud and Asaduzzaman Dara were present at the opening session.

A number of 16 participants from different thanas of Feni are participating in this training. They are Masuda Akhter, Nazma Akhter, Bibi Fatema, Shilpi Rani Das, Shahida Akhter, Shipra Rani Devi, Kajsar Mahmud, Mosharraf Hossain, Mizanur Rahman, Sarwarul Patwary, Abul Kalam, Mohiuddin, Imam Gazzali, Shilpi, Narul Amin Khokon, Abu Tayeb and Md. Ismail.

Body recovered

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Mar 2: The dead body of an old man was recovered by Kotwali police from the river Kumer. The body was identified as Nur Mohammad's body on February 13.

According to police source, one Rashida Akhter on receipt of information came to Kotwali thana from Dhaka and identified the body as that of her husband. The victim served at River Research Institute as the model technician, she said.

She added, her husband left Dhaka for Faridpur on December 16 and since then he had been missing.

Father, son get 10-year jail term

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Mar 2: Father and son were awarded 10 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) for giving shelter to miscreants who possessed arms.

The judgement was given by the Additional District and Sessions Judge-2 of Jhenidah, according to court sources.

The case in brief is, on a tip-off police raided the house of Khorshed Molla at village Kamanna under Saikupa thana on May 19 in 1995. Some armed miscreants were reportedly staying there. But the miscreants fled the scene sensing police presence. Police then arrested the houseowner Khorshed Molla, 80, and his son Shomsher Molla.

A case was recorded in Saikupa thana against five persons in this connection. Three other accused persons were released as no charge was brought against them. They were Sukmal, Ranjit and Reaz.

Khas land for freedom fighters demanded

From our correspondent

KUSHTIA, Mar 2: Colonel (Retd) Sawkat Ali MP, and chairman of central committee of MuktiJoddha Sanghati Parishad has demanded distribution of khas land among landless freedom fighters.

He was speaking as chief guest in a meeting at Mirpur organised by MuktiJoddha Sanghati Parishad, Mirpur thana at thana parishad ground with Marfat Ali Master in chair.

TNO of Mirpur thana Rezaul Kader was special guest. The meeting was also addressed, among others, by Advocate Shamsul Huda, Khondakar Zulfikar Ali Arzoo, Shahab Ali, Rabindra Nath Sen, Amirul Islam Mukul, Advocate Ashraf Ali, Nazimuddin Light and Abdul Jalil.

**No bldg for classes
Chowgacha Govt Pry School may close down**

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Mar 2: Nagar Borni Government Free Primary School of Chowgacha thana in the district has been facing closure following lack of building for classes.

Negligence and indifference of local thana education office, has triggered this situation.

According to school source, the only building, constructed in early sixties under development programme, has been abandoned for safety and security of students and teachers a few years ago.

It is in dilapidated condition. The building may collapse at any moment.

As a result drop-out of students are on increase. Similarly new admission has also been drastically fallen. Refusal by guardians to send their wards to the school has brought this situation.

Five years ago the number of students of this school was 700

and the number of teachers were seven including the headmaster.

At present number of students has been reduced to only 300. There are three teachers. The post of headmaster is vacant since long.

One of the founders of this school and chairman of local high school, Abdur Rashid told The Daily Star, they have requested to the local authorities to take up this school for construction of a new building but all in vain. If this state of affairs goes on, the school has no chance of survival, he said.

Incidentally, Nogar Borni Government Free Primary School was the biggest one out of 59 others schools in the thana five years ago.

He alleged that malpractice and bribes are an accepted way to get things done in the local education office.

Adolescents submit memo to Thakurgaon DC

THAKURGAON, Mar 2: Adolescent Day was observed here recently by two local NGOs on behalf of 'Bangladesh Adolescent Forum', reports BSS.

The two NGOs, Uttara Development Programme (UDP) and Social Welfare Organisation (SWO) organised a colourful procession of large number of drop-out adolescents from different areas.

The processionists, after parading different streets of the town, handed over a 9-point memorandum to the deputy commissioner.

In the memorandum, they demanded formulation of life-based education and technical training for the illiterate and drop-out adolescents, arrangement of solemnising marriages in Bangladesh with due registration, fixing up of Taka 30 as registration fee for any amount of dimhoher, arranging proper educational and marriage in due time for the house-maids, ensuring education for garments and industrial adolescent workers, and establishment of a full-fledged police station for the women.

Before submitting the memorandum, a brief meeting was held in front of DC office where Khademul Islam, president SWO, Akhtar Hossain Raja, General Secretary press club and Firoza Begum, a NGO worker spoke.

Jasim Palli Mela opens

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Mar 2: A fortnight long Jasim Palli Mela '98 to mark the 95th birth anniversary of Palli Kabi Jasimuddin began on February 28 at Jasim Udyan in front of the poet's house at Ambikapur at the outskirts of the town.

The mela, organised by Jasim Foundation will be inaugurated by Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Minister for Forest and Environment as chief guest while Obaidul Kader, State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs and the Poet's widow Begum Momtaz Jasimuddin was present as special guests on the occasion.

Satkhira Newsletter

From Our Correspondent

3 motor cycle lifters caught

SATKHIRA, Mar 2: Three motor cycle lifters were caught red-handed by one union parishad member of Fingri Union Parishad in sadar thana recently.

The arrested persons are: Akbar Ali, son of Azad Par and Abdul Majid, son of Kawsar Ali Gazi, both of village Fultala under Shyamnagar thana and Samjed Ali, son of Echer Ali of village Fingri under sadar thana of the district.

According to police sources, on the day of incident they came to Fingri village for selling a 125 cc motor cycle and on suspicion local people with the help of Samsur Rahman, one UP member, caught them red-handed and handed them over to sadar thana police. After interrogation they told the police that they stole the motor cycle from the house of Saurur Rahman of village Burigoalini under Shyamnagar thana of the district.

Son, mother get life term

Two persons including son and his mother have been convicted and sentenced to life term imprisonment with a fine of Taka 5,000, in default, to suffer another six months' RI for killing his wife on Nov 11.

The convicts are: Rafiqul Islam and his mother Mariam Bibi, both of village Chayghara under sadar thana of the district.

The prosecution story in brief is that on October 2, 1991, Rafiqul Islam with the help of his mother Mariam Bibi beat his wife Ferdousi Parvin mercilessly. As a result she died on the spot. Then the killers tried to suppress the killing by pouring liquid pesticides into the deceased's mouth. They informed the neighbours, Parvin committed suicide by taking poison.

Wife-killer gets life term

One persons has been convicted and sentenced to suffer life imprisonment for killing his wife.

The convict is Rabin Mondal of village Purba Kulia under Debhata thana of Satkhira district.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Sk Rawnaquil Islam after examining witnesses and relevant papers found him guilty and announced the punishment in a judgement recently. The court also fined the accused Tk 5,000, in default to suffer one year RI more.

The prosecution story is, the convict Rabin Mondal killed his wife Tanamika Mondal, 18, on April 8, 1994. A case was lodged with Debhata police station. After investigation police submitted chargesheet against him.

New model for poverty alleviation introduced

From Our Correspondent

LALMONIRHAT, Mar 2: A new model for poverty alleviation has been introduced in the rural areas of the country through the inauguration of IFADEP-1 project at Aditmari and Kaliganj thanas of the district on February 25 last.

Project Director Kazi Mahabub Ullah, Representative of European Commission Elizabeth Visar, Additional District Magistrate of Lalmonirhat, Thana Nirbahi Officer, elected chairmen of the Union Parishad, local officers of different NGOs and a large number of people were present at the opening occasion.

The project officials reviewed different aspects of the programme. The credit expert of the project Salauddin Mahmud Zakaria explained how the project stands out among the milieu of other credit NGOs. Zakaria said a constant urge for loan recovery haunts the credits sanctioned by other NGOs and the credit money is restricted to be used to meet only non-personal and non-domestic needs. But the said project is an exception to this as there will be no such urge for loan recovery behind the credits and the beneficiaries will be free to use the credit money for personal or domestic needs and that makes the difference.

Elaborating on IFADEP and its sub-project called Safe Deposit the chief guest of the occasion, Project Director and Joint Secretary of the government Mahabub Ullah said the exceptional project is being implemented jointly by the government of Bangladesh and the EC which initially will work for four years. Further extension will be subject to evaluation.

IFADEP-1 introduced in Lalmonirhat and Kaliganj Thana is a tentative project to be implemented among VGD card holders under the supervision of Directorate of Women Affairs. Five per cent of the poorest women in the country are among the target group. The total expenditure of the project is Tk 110 crore of which GOB will provide Tk 32 lakh. The rest will be given by EC in form of cash and wheat for relief. IFADEP-1 is working with DW and other NGOs in two specialised fields — to improve the standard of life of poor and distressed women and to create income generating scopes for them.



FARIDPUR: Faridpur