

News snaps

3 killed in Gaibandha road mishap

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, July 27: Three persons of a family were killed and two others sustained injuries in a road mishap on Bogra-Natore highway recently.

The ill-fated family members, inhabitants of village Shampur in Palashbari thana went to Rajshahi by a car for better treatment. On way home the car suddenly skidded off the road and turned turtle into the road side ditch at Jamaderpukur on Natore-Bogra highway after the driver had lost control over the wheel.

The car was completely damaged killing three persons namely Rasheda, 28, house wife, Sony daughter and Rowshan, 14, on the spot. Husband Montu and another unidentified person sustained injuries and removed to Bogra Mohammed Ali Hospital in a critical condition.

Dacoit arrested

NARAYANGANJ, July 27: Police on Saturday arrested a member of inter-district dacoit gang with sharp weapons and seized their truck at Postagola Shamsan Ghat area in Demra thana, reports UNB.

The arrested was identified as Babul, 30, of Baligaon in Louhajang thana in Munshiganj district. Police also recovered three sharp knives from his possession. According to the police, the gang numbering 13 tried to commit a dacoity creating barricade on the Dalika-Chittagong highway near Amij Uddin petrol pump in Swiddhirganj thana, at about 4.15 AM. Patrol police, on a tip-off, chased them and at one stage the gang opened fire on police at Jalkuri area from their running truck. When the police started retaliation other dacoits fled the scene leaving behind the truck and their accomplice Babul. Police seized the truck and managed to arrest Babul. A case was filed in this connection.

Timber seized

RANGAMATI, July 27: Officials of Chittagong Hill Tracts south forest division in a number of drives conducted during the last 15 days at Kaptai Lake area and Rangamati town recovered about 3,780 cubic feet of miscellaneous timbers including 2,500 cft of costly Teak worth about Taka 22 lakh, reports BSS.

Six persons allegedly engaged in smuggling the recovered timbers, extracted illegally from different reserved forests, were rounded up and 11 engine boats in Luiding two Russian trawlers were seized in this connection, sources said. The smugglers took advantage of the inclement weather accompanied by incessant rainfall and flash flood, Tapan Kumar Dey, Divisional Forest Officer of Chittagong Hill Tracts south forest division added. Twenty-two cases were lodged in these connections.

Non-formal edn programme progressing

MYMENSINGH, July 27: A total of 37,800 male and female of 1260 non formal education centers in four thanas are getting literacy knowledge under the government's literacy schemes, reports UNB.

Official sources said 28,350 people of Phulpur, Phulbaria and Ishwarganj thanas between 15-24 age groups are receiving the education. The programme is progressing fast with the help of total 13 NGOs through 945 non-formal educational centers under the government's non-formal educational programme-1.

A total of 945 teachers and 63 supervisors are working for the successful implementation of the programme. Meanwhile, a total of 9,450 people between 11-45 age groups are also receiving the facility through 315 non-formal educational centers with the help of six NGOs under the government's non-formal educational programme-2. Some 315 teachers and 21 supervisors are working in those centres, the sources added.

Alleged robber arrested

JHALAKHATI, July 27: Criminal Investigation Department police arrested an alleged robber from South Manshaha in Sadar thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The arrested Farid Howlader, 35, was wanted in connection several dacoity murder cases. It may be mentioned that a dacoity was committed at the house of Alif Shakhri at Ujjalkhan village in Kaokhal thana on the night of March 30, this year. The robbers took away valuables worth about Tk 22,500 leaving the house-owner seriously injured. Later he was rushed to Barisal Medical College Hospital where he succumbed after two days. Arrested Farid in a confessional statement admitted his involvement with the incident. Further interrogation is on.

RSS programme undertaken

NETRAKONA, July 27: Netrakona district social welfare department has undertaken a programme styled 'Rural Social Service (RSS)' in different rural areas of 10 thanas in the district, reports BSS.

An official source said that under the programme, district social welfare department has already disbursed Taka 2 crore 26 lakh among 5000 poor and unemployed youngmen and women of the thanas.

The amount was disbursed for enabling these youngmen and women to set up small and cottage industries, poultry farms, purchase rural transports and cultivate vegetables, the official source added.

River reexcavation work progressing

JESSORE, July 27: Re-excavation works of two rivers in Keshabpur thana of the district at a cost of Tk 5 crore are nearing completion, reports UNB.

Water Development Board has undertaken the 22.5 km river re-excavation programme under the Jessore-Khulna Drainage Rehabilitation Programme. About 70 per cent works of the project have already been implemented and the rest are expected to be completed by the end of the current year. Besides, re-excavation works of 20 small canals under the project, involving Tk 4.40 crore have already been completed, officials said.

Body recovered

SYLHET, July 27: The body of an unidentified woman was recovered by police from Tantipara area in the town on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Police said the body of the victim, aged about 35, bore no mark of injury. The body was sent to the Osmani Medical College Hospital morgue where autopsy was carried out before burying it at Manik Peer graveyard. A UD case was filed with the Kotwali police.

Man beaten to death

MAGURA, July 27: A man was beaten to death allegedly by his elder brothers at Mortuzapur village in Sripur thana on Friday night, reports UNB.

Family sources said two sons of Kadam Ali Molla named Sayeed and Zahid picked up a quarrel with their father and at one stage while they took an attempt to assault him their younger brother Shamim came to his rescue. Then the angry brothers became furious and started beating Shamim mercilessly causing his instantaneous death. The two cruel brothers before fleeing the scene hanged the body with a rope to prove that he committed suicide. The murder has created sensation in the locality. Police sent the body to hospital morgue for autopsy.

372 tubewells installed in Narsingdi

NARSINGDI, July 27: The Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) installed 324 new shallow tubewells and 48 Tara tubewells to ensure pure drinking water to the people of different areas of Narsingdi district in 1997-98 fiscal year, reports BSS.

An official source said besides, the PHED had re-sunk 122 shallow tubewells in the district. The PHED imparted training to 590 people on tubewell repairing and sanitation.

Bogra College Principal's house attacked

BOGRA, July 27: Some unidentified terrorists fired gunshots and exploded cocktail at the residence of the Principal of Bogra Government Asibul Huq College on Wednesday night, reports UNB.

According to police, the miscreants suddenly stormed the living room of the principal in an attempt to kill him. But luckily that he was not present in the room. The reason behind the attack could not be ascertained. High police officials visited the place of occurrence and deployed police at the residence to ensure the security of the principal.

Bridge construction work progressing

TANGAIL, July 27: Local Government Engineering Department Tangail is constructing and reconstructing two bridges at a total cost of Taka 72,42,004 under rural development project 14, reports BSS.

Officials sources said that under this programme a 42 metre bridge on Brahminshahan-Maizarchala is being reconstructed with Taka 32, 55,739 and a 51 metre long pucca bridge is being constructed on the Maheshkhali river on Basall-Kaulzani road.



MUNSHIGANJ: A flood affected char land in Sirajdikhan thana.

— Star photo

93 killed in Pabna in 20 years

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, July 27: A total of 93 persons were murdered in the district during the last 20 years. Thirty-two were political murders. This was gathered from a highly placed police source.

During the period from 1978, the above-mentioned murder cases were recorded. Of these murders, 500 were killed in day-light during clash between two opposing groups or by using fire-arms in most cases. Most of the other incidents occurred secretly either by professional killers hired by interested persons or groups. Many persons were called out from their residences and then killed at different place.

Banned ultra-leftist groups

were very much active in Santhia, Pabna, Atgharia and Chatmohar thana areas during the decade of 1980s. In 1988, 12 murders were committed during the flood season, in village Khobar in Chatmohar thana allegedly by outlawed Sarbaha Party activists in one house on the same night. The sensational murder case, although charge-sheeted, were still under trial before the Sessions Court of Pabna. The accused persons who were arrested by police, were released by the court on bail. One such accused has also been elected chairman of a union parishad in the last union parishad elections held in December, 1997. Some of the accused persons, after being bailed out, were

legedly threatening the complainants with dire consequences if the case was not withdrawn.

The villagers, being afraid, wanted a police camp in the village.

The Police Super set up a police camp there in accordance with the prayer of the villagers, but after several months, the camp was withdrawn.

Among the 32 political murders, there are Awami League, BNP, NAP, Chhatra League and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal workers. In one case only one killer was hanged to death and in a few other cases, the accused were convicted. But in most other cases, the accused were acquitted for want of sufficient evidence and also for submis-

sion of defective chargesheets.

The year-wise break-up of murders in the district is as follows:

In 1978-43 persons, 1979-40 persons, 1980-50 persons, 1981-48 persons, 1982-50 persons, 1983-49 persons, 1984-58 persons, 1985-52 persons, 1986-58 persons, 1987-44 persons, 1988-33 persons, 1989-44 persons, 1990-33 persons, 1991-47 persons, 1992-42 persons, 1993-44 persons, 1994-32 persons, 1995-42 persons, 1996-39 persons, 1997-42 persons and till June, 1998 38 persons were murdered in the district.

In 16 districts under Rajshahi Division, the highest number of murders were recorded in 20 years.

Steps taken to protect AJM from flood

NARAYANGANJ, July 27: The management of Adamjee Jute Mills (AJM) has taken precautionary measures to protect the mill and other installations from flood water, reports BSS.

When contacted General Manager of AJM ATM Nurul Alam told that 20 pump machines have been set up on an emergency basis to pump out stagnant water from the mill premises.

Besides, about 3,000 sand bags have been placed around the mill to prevent flood water from entering the mill, he said.

Overall flood situation has deteriorated further during the last 24 hours. Flood water has entered Narayanganj Railway Station on Sunday and wooden slippers have been submerged at Gola Chipa point on Dhaka-Narayanganj rail route.

Revised decision on RU Convocation

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, July 27: A fresh decision has been taken regarding Rajshahi University Convocation which is scheduled to be held on November 2 this year.

According to the new decision, an eligible participant is a masters fellow of the university from 1969-1990 and M Phil and Ph D fellow from 1969-1998 (who are yet to receive the original certificate). Earlier, the university allowed masters fellow from 1969-80 for the convocation ceremony.

The registration of names must have to be completed within August 30. The registration form should be submitted to the Registrar's Office after filling it properly with a pay order or a bank draft worth Taka, 1,000. The bank draft should be made in favour of the Registrar, Rajshahi University.

A candidate can collect the form personally from the Registrar's Office. He may also collect the same by sending envelopes with required stamps and proper address. He must address the letter to the Registrar, Rajshahi University. But the form cannot be collected during holidays. The candidate is also suggested to enclose the original provisional certificate (if issued) with the registration form, a press release issued by the Press, Publication and Public Relations Department of the university said.

Shortage of teachers at Pabna college

PABNA, July 27: Education at the Government Women's College here is being hampered seriously due to shortage of teachers, reports UNB.

College sources said, 12 out of 38 posts of teachers have been lying vacant since long. At present the number of students at the college stands at about 1200.

The science students are worst sufferers as there is only one teacher each for Chemistry and Zoology departments. So classes remain suspended in case of leave of the teachers.

According to college sources, two posts are lying vacant in Bangla department, one each in English and Political Science, two in History.



SYLHET: A pucca road at Chankhai Dahar in Golapganj thana has been damaged by gushing water of the river Surma.

— Star photo

Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital

Poor patients deprived of medicare service

SYLHET, July 27: MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital here is best with many problems including lack of physicians and inadequate supply of medicine, reports UNB.

Sources said, seven out of the total 17 posts of professors are lying vacant in various departments hampering expert services to the patients. Besides, the posts of four Associate Professors and 10 lecturers are also lying vacant since long.

People coming from far flung areas for treatment at the outdoor are not getting adequate attention from the doctors, alleged some visitors adding that there is acute scarcity of neces-

sary medicine in the hospital. The patients have to buy most of the medicines except a few low price ones from outside.

They also alleged that poor patients are suffering much as they do not have the ability to buy medicine for treatment.

The number of beds in the hospital is 500. But the authorities are being forced to admit a large number of patients against its capacity. As a result, the services in the hospital are deteriorating day by day.

Besides, there is allegation of misbehaving by a section of staff particularly the nurses and aqas. The patients further alleged that a number of physicians are engaged in private

practice neglecting their official duties in the hospital.

Besides, shortage of pure water is acute here as the hospital has only a hand driven tubewell.

The visitors and patients are facing inconveniences due to lack of PABX in the hospital for the last several months.

It is also learnt that a section of dishonest hospital employees are involved in collecting tolls from the people who come from far flung areas to visit their patients.

Local people have urged the authorities to take proper steps to solve the problems faced by the hospital.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdul Khaleque (C) congratulating the four Rover Scouts who walked 100 miles on foot recently. The members are (L-R) Masud Rana, AGM Al-Masud, Ataur Rahman and Abdur Rahman Reezvi.

— Star photo

30,000 hectares of land inundated in Chandpur

From Shirin Akhter

CHANDPUR, July 27: About 30 thousand hectares of crop land have been inundated within 60 miles area of Chandpur Irrigation Project embankment due to incessant rains.

Continuous rains have caused flood in the area. About two lakh people within the project area have been affected by flood.

According to Chandpur Water Development Board office sources, about one lakh hectares of land were brought under transplanted Aman crops cultivation in the project area during the current season. Aman seedlings on 10,000 acres of land were inundated and totally damaged. Due to lack of seedlings Aman cultivation in the area will be affected very badly. Excess rain water within the embankment cannot be pumped out due to low voltage of electricity in the pump house at Charbagadi.

Besides, frequent loadshedding persists in the area. The normal water level in the embankment is eight feet. Now wa-

ter level in the embankment remains 12 feet above the normal one. The cultivators of Chandpur Irrigation Project complained if excess water can not pumped out within a short time, entire crops within the embankment will be inundated and damaged completely.

Meanwhile, roads, houses and other crops have also been affected within the project.

Highway dacoity in B'baria

From Our Correspondent

Brahmanbaria, July 27: A highway dacoity was committed on Dhaka-Brahmanbaria highway near Shullipur in the sadar thana recently.

Masked dacoits numbering 6 intercepted a taxi on the spot and looted cash and valuables worth Taka 20,000. The taxi was carrying goods of Halim Automobiles and it was on way to Brahmanbaria. The dacoits also looted money of the driver. They managed to escape safely.

Mass contact drive starts

Faridpur poura poll schedule yet to be announced

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, July 27: Municipal election has become the talk of the town now.

Though the election schedule has not yet been announced yet much enthusiasm has been marked among the people.

Probable candidates for the posts of chairmen and commissioners have started house to house contact in their respective areas for gaining public support. While campaigning from door to door many probable candidates are listening to the problems of the town dwellers. They are giving them assurance to solve those if elected.

Wall writings and posterage have already been started.

The main feature of the poura election this year is that a great zeal for election is expressly visible among the woman voters, not to speak of probable women candidates.

Three wards of Faridpur pourasava have been divided into nine wards this year facilitating the voters to cast their votes comfortably.

However, the probable candidates for the post of chairman are sitting chairman Fazlul Kabir Chan, ex-chairman Rokibuddin Ahmed, Hasibul Hossain Lablu, SM Nurunnabi, AFM Kaiyum Md Faruque Hossain and Golam Robbani Khan Moon.

Open sale of stale food in Jamalpur hotels

JAMALPUR, July 27: Stale and substandard food items are being sold with impunity in hotels and restaurants here threatening the public health, reports UNB.

Local people alleged that foods are prepared in most unhygienic manner and kept in the open to draw the attraction of the customers.

A number of customers complained that after taking these food items they have been suffering from various intestinal and skin diseases.

They said most of the hotels and restaurants are found selling sub-standard meat, fish, bread, rice, pulses and fried vegetables which are being prepared with various rotten materials particularly adulterated oil and flour.

The customers said some types of foods are being prepared in front of the restaurants, that is beside the roads. Dust from the road and smoke

of the vehicles easily mix up with food during their preparation causing various diseases for the customers.

Moreover, garbage and waste materials remain piled up around some restaurants violating the atmosphere. In some shops, contaminated water from nearby pond or other sources are being used for consumption seriously threatening the life of the customers.

State foods, generally mixed with fresh ones, are found to be sold at various shops particularly in and around railway station area, alleged some regular customers.

The men working in these hotels and restaurants wear dirty clothes and most of them are affected with various skin disease.

Local people complained that the officials and employees of the Sanitary department are not taking action against these food shops.

Survey says

177 killed, 75 raped in Bangladesh last month

MYMENSINGH, July 27: Some 177 people were murdered and 75 women violated in the country during last month signaling deterioration of country's law and order situation, reports UNB.

The Institute of Democratic Rights (IDR), a human rights organisation here, gathered the information on the basis of

news published in the national dailies.

According to IDR's survey, during the period, 14 women fell prey to dowry, 25 sustained injuries of acid burn, 42 were abducted, 59 allegedly committed suicide, six killed in police custody, 77 were murdered and 182 were killed in road accidents which were higher than the previous year.

Nine victims of 14 women, of dowry related incidents were tortured to death by their husbands or in-laws. Of the violated women, including minors, 30 were gangraped and four were killed after violation.

The survey also showed that one person was killed in the capital in a day on an average while five in the country during the last month.

Clash over land leaves woman dead in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, July 27: A clash between two rival groups over land dispute left a woman killed and another two injured at village Gachha in Kalarao thana here on Sunday, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Putul, 22, wife of Ahad of the village.

Police said when Ahad was cultivating the disputed land in the morning the rival group attacked them with lethal weapons. Putul wife of Ahad died on the spot and Ahad and his uncle Sayeed sustained serious injuries.

The body was sent to Satkhira Hospital for autopsy. A case was filed with the police. Another report from My-mensingh adds: A new born baby was killed in a family feud over a trifling matter at a village in Nandail thana on July 21.

Witnesses said, two brothers of Katlipara village, Chan Mia and Mostafa, were quarreling over a petty matter on the previous day. At one stage, Mostafa pulled Chan Mia's wife by hair for which her one month old daughter fell down from her lap leaving the baby seriously injured.

The baby was rushed to the thana health complex where she succumbed the following day. A case was filed with the police.

Housewife beaten to death by husband

NARAYANGANJ, July 27: A housewife was mercilessly beaten by her husband for dowry money at Idrakpur area in Fatullah thana here on Wednesday, reports UNB.

According to police, Mohammad Ali, son of Azgar Ali, married Nargis, 19, daughter of Sharif Hossain of West Deobhog area one year back.

Since their marriage Ali was putting pressure to realise the demanded dowry money on his wife by resorting to various tortures.

On the fateful day, Ali picked up a quarrel with Nargis when she refused to bring the dowry money from her poor parents.

At one stage Ali got furious and beat her mercilessly with the help of a rod. Local people rescued her in a critical condition and rushed her to the Sadar hospital where her condition was stated to be critical. A case was filed and police arrested the greedy husband.