

News snaps

Four pirates arrested

COXS BAZAR, Nov 11: Police in a swoop caught four branded pirates and seized firearms from them at Bastuhara Ghat in the coastal district on Tuesday, reports APB.

The alleged gangsters are Ahsanul Haque, Mohammad Shanzaw, Abdus Sobhan and Abdus Shukur — all from Gorkhata village in Moheshkhalia island thana. Police said a squad, acting on a tip-off, raided Bastuhara area near Bakkhali river in the afternoon and arrested the pirates. A sawn-off rifle, one country-made rifle and 10 bullets were seized from them. Police said the robbers, who had long been involved in piracy in the region, were on the lookout for preys in deep sea.

Sugarcane farming on 2,316 hectares

GAZIPUR, Nov 11: Sugarcane has been cultivated on 2,316 hectares in five thanas of Gazipur district in the current season, reports BSS.

The Agriculture Extension Department sources said, of the total lands 1,220 hectares have been brought under sugarcane cultivation. In Sreepur and Kapasia thana, 510 hectares in Kaliganj thana, 530 hectares in Kallikora thana and 56 hectares in sadar thana.

Farmers' rally at Sherpur

BOGRA, Nov 11: A farmers rally to protect the cropland from the attack of pests and insects was held last week at Sonka Math in Sherpur thana near here, reports BSS.

Bhabanpur Union Parishad chairman Tasiruddin Ahmed presided over the rally. Deputy Director of the Agriculture Extension Department, Bogra Mazharul Haq, among others, spoke on the occasion. About 300 farmers both male and female participated in the rally. Agriculture officers, plant protection officers and block supervisors discussed different aspects of the menace of pests and harmful insects and informed the farmers about ways and means to protect crops.

Verdict hailed

LALMONIRHAT, Nov 11: The judgement in the Bangabandhu murder case pronounced by the District and Sessions Judge Kazi Golam Rasul was welcomed by the people of Lalmonirhat, reports BSS.

After hearing the judgement, a procession of common people led by district Awami League leader paraded the main roads of Lalmonirhat town on Sunday. A discussion meeting was held at the district Awami League office. Abul Hossain, ex-MP, president of Awami League, Lalmonirhat, presided over the meeting. Special prayer seeking peace of the departed soul of Bangabandhu was also held.

Orchard crops farming programme

BANDARBAN, Nov 11: Government has under taken a short and long term massive orchard crops farming programme in Thanchi thana to discourage the poppy cultivation, reports UNB.

Officials of the Regional Army Headquarters here told that they have enlisted 360 families for cultivation of the traditional fruits in the remote Thanchi thana. The Regional Army headquarters will provide the farmers with capital, seeds and seedlings to cultivate pineapple, banana, papaya, lemon and orange in the hilly land. The Parbatya Chattagram Unnayan Board has taken up a motivational programme among the farmers to cultivate local traditional fruits.

Post-flood rehab programme

PIROJPUR, Nov 11: A massive scheme has been undertaken to overcome the losses of various infrastructures and agriculture of five thanas here caused by the long lasting devastating flood, reports UNB.

Official sources said, Tk 77 lakh has been sanctioned for various sectors so far. Of the total, Tk 20 lakh will be spent for buying 'Boro' maize and vegetable seeds and fertiliser. Tk 5 lakh for construction of three roads and one bridge at Mathbaria, Kaokhali and Bhandaria thanas under the initiative of LGED and reconstruction of cross dam by the Water Development Board. Relief Department will take up responsibility to repair the dwellings of poor flood affected families at a cost of Tk 15 lakh. The rest amount will spent for purchasing fodder, vaccination of Livestock. The works have already been started.

Progress of relief work reviewed

TANGAIL, Nov 11: A meeting of the district Relief and Rehabilitation Coordination Committee was held on November 5 in the Deputy Commissioners' conference room here, reports BSS.

Abdus Sattar Khan, Deputy Commissioner, Tangail presided over the meeting. Alhaj Abdul Mannan, MP, attended the meeting and took part in the discussion. The meeting reviewed the progress of the relief and rehabilitation activities being carried out in the district after the flood.

209 posts of pry teachers vacant

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 11: A total of 209 posts of Primary teachers have been lying vacant for a long time hampering education in all the 13 thanas, reports UNB.

According to District Primary Education Department, posts of five headmasters and four assistant teachers remained vacant in Sadar, one headmaster and 18 assistant teachers in Pakundia, five headmasters and 13 assistant teachers in Karimganj, three headmasters and 12 assistant teachers in Baipitpur, two headmasters and 14 assistant teachers in Katiadi, four headmasters and nine assistant teachers in Bhairab, four headmasters and 11 assistant teachers in Kuliarchar, three headmasters and seven assistant teachers in Hossainpur, three headmasters and 17 assistant teachers in Tarail, 17 assistant teachers in Ausagram, three headmasters and 15 assistant teachers in Itna, four headmasters and seven assistant teachers in Nikli, five headmasters and 23 assistant teachers in Mitamoin thanas.

Islamic books distributed

COMILLA, Nov 11: Islamic Foundation, Bangladesh, Comilla district office distributed religious books among 13 mosque based libraries on Saturday, reports BSS.

A T M Shamsul Haq, chairman of the Public Administration Reforms Commission distributed books at a function as the chief guest. Each library received books worth Taka eight thousand.

Pakistani rifle, bullets seized

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Nov 11: BDR recently seized a rifle and 50 rounds of bullets from the platform of Akhaura railway junction.

Acting on a tip-off BDR jawans of 23 Battalion at kalikachchha rushed to the spot. Seizing the presence of BDR the unknown young men ran away from the scene leaving the rifle and bullets. Later on BDR men seized the rifle which was made in Pakistan and named 'Shekander rifle'. The BDR men also seized a packet of 50 bullets from the same place at the same time which were made in Germany.

Outlaw arrested

FENI, Nov 11: An activist of an outlawed party was arrested in the town on Friday, reports UNB.

Police sources said Labu Mollah, wanted in a number of cases, including killing, terrorism and robbery, was arrested from a Khagrachhari-bound bus. Labu, son of Abdur Rob Molla of Kushiya village in Terokhada thana of Bagerhat district, reportedly came here some days ago to avoid arrest.

Gold ornaments looted

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Nov 11: A theft was recently committed in the shop of SR Brothers at 24/25 Titumir market in the heart of the town.

According to local sources, the thieves entered into the shop by breaking open the pucca wall and took away gold ornaments weighing 25 tolas worth over Taka two lakh.

RDRS implements agri-rehab project

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Nov 11: Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS) is implementing a Taka 2.16 crore agriculture rehabilitation programme to assist 30,000 flood-affected families in Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts.

Funded by DFID (former British ODA) under Agriculture Support Services Project (ASSP) covering the most affected areas of 158 unions of 18 thanas the project will continue until February 1999. Under this project each family will receive winter and other vegetable seeds worth Taka 200 and a cash relief of Taka 500. In addition, 10 per cent (3,000) most vulnerable families will be provided Taka 200 more in cash for homestead micro enterprise support.

Timber worth Tk 20 lakh seized

BANDARBAN, Nov 11: The forest department in separate drives seized timber worth Tk 20 lakh from different parts of Kaptai lake during last one week, reports APB.

The department sources said that a special patrol group seized 3,444 cft timber, 10 mechanised boats, two trucks and four buses which were being used for smuggling the timber into Myanmar.



MYMENSINGH: The existence of Mymensingh park has been threatened due to continuous erosion of the river Old Brahmaputra. — Star photo



SHERPUR: Many houses have gone under the river bed due to unabated erosion of the river Dossani at village Zaggoldi village in the sadar thana. — Star photo



PABNA: Erosion of the river Jamuna has threatened the flood control embankment in Bera thana. Many destitutes have taken shelter on the dam. — Star photo

Khaleda to visit Sirajganj Nov 14

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 11: BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia is scheduled to address a public meeting at the local University College ground on November 14, reports UNB.

Local BNP sources said the opposition leader will also visit the families of party workers affected during the anti-government movement.

Separate incidents claimed 13 lives in Mymensingh last month

MYMENSINGH, Nov 11: A total of 13 people were killed in the district during the last month, reports UNB.

Police said, an unidentified man, 30, succumbed to his bullet wounds at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital on October 30.

Body of a 20-year old boy was recovered from a paddy field at Tamait village in Bhuluka thana and another body of a newly-born child from the premises of Haluaghat Thana Complex.

Abdul Hamid of Dudhnoi village in Dhobaura thana succumbed to his injuries at MMCH on October 28 following a scuffle between two brothers.

A group of miscreants stabbed to death Liakat Ali, 45, of Rambhadrapur Kandrapara village in Gouripur thana on October 26.

Police arrested Nurul Amin in connection with killing of Hamid.

A woman of Hasanpur village in the same thana succumbed to her injuries at MMCH over a land dispute on the same day.

Over 30 hurt as AL, BNP clash in Mymensingh, Gazipur

MYMENSINGH, Nov 11: More than 30 people were injured in clashes between Awami League and BNP supporters in Mymensingh and Gazipur towns on Tuesday reports UNB.

Witnesses said, in Mymensingh the clash took place when the processions of BNP and Awami League supporters at 6 pm confronted at Atharbari Building Road.

BCL leader Nuruzzaman was injured during chase and counter-chase.

Ten shops were ransacked, 8 vehicles damaged and crackers exploded during the clash in the area.

Another clash took place between the rival groups at 4 pm at Akua Voteghar in the town when anti-hartal activists allegedly damaged mike and rickshaws of hartal supporters.

Additional police were deployed in the troubled areas to avert unwanted incidents.

In Gazipur, at least 12 people were injured when rival groups clashed at 19th March Chatter at 5 pm.

The clash erupted when a pro-hartal procession was passing by an Awami League rally, and a cracker was lobbed in the procession.

Police had to fire several rounds of tear gas shells to bring the situation under control.

ASP confined in shop at Barguna

BARGUNA, Nov 11: Assistant Police Super Clarence Gomez was confined for some time in a shop in the town on Tuesday by a group of BCL activists, reports UNB.

A contingent of police rushed to the spot and rescued the police officer after about an hour.

Admitting the incident, Gomez said he was confined in a roadside shop by a group of BCL activists when tried to dissuade rickshawpullers to go off the Bazar Road and Bangabandhu Road at about 11 am.

"I have done it for the sake of maintaining peace. I apprehended that supporters of hartal would damage the rickshaws and assault the rickshawpullers provoking anti-hartal groups to violent clashes. I wanted to avert such a situation," the ASP said.

Police Super Abdul Mannan also confirmed the incident.

Extortion, mugging on rise

SYLHET, Nov 11: The incidents of extortion and mugging have increased alarmingly in and around the town seriously disrupting public life, reports UNB.

Local people and victims of mugging alleged that the law enforcement agencies are not taking proper action against the miscreants. As a result, incidents of crimes are on the rise.

Post-flood rehabilitation Gopalganj Pourasava chairman seeks Tk 12 cr

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Nov 11: A public representative in Gopalganj has cried out for Taka 12 crore to repair all the infrastructures damaged by the unprecedented floods in his constituency.

The Chairman of Gopalganj Pourasava, Hasmat Ali Sikdar Chunnun, said the pourashava alone could never afford to repair roads, culverts, bridges, private houses, mosques and educational institutions, badly damaged in the deluge.

He said, without government help and cooperation it would be impossible to undertake such a gigantic task from the pourasava's own fund. The rehabilitation work will have to be undertaken on an emergency basis, he said.

The pourasava chairman further said that full assessment of the losses was completed by the elected commissioners and field-level workers.

According to the chairman, out of total damaged 84 kilometre roads, 38 kilometres are pucca and 46 kilometres kutchha and seven kilometres drain. A total of 10 culverts and five bridges were damaged by the floods in Gopalganj area, value of which was Taka 5,67,18,000.

Giving details of road damages, the chairman said, regarding bitumene carpeted roads, 21 kilometres of 25 roads were badly damaged.

There were half-kilometre of DC road, one km of Bangabandhu Road, half km of Uddon road, one-and-a-half km of Mirapara road, one kilometre of Madrasa road, one-and-a-half km of Fireservice road, two kilometre of Chasnai Kandhi road, one kilometre of Asrom road, one fourth km of Khaman bar road, half km of Arambagh road, three km of Taguria road,

one km of Bangpara road, one km of Chandmari road, half km of Bazar road, one fourth km of fish market road, one fourth km of Panchighata road, half km of Biswasbari road, half km of Mohammedpara road, half km of Kaborstan road, half km of Rabindra road, half km of cattle market road, half km of post-office road, one kilometre of Hira bar road, Fakirkandhi road, one kilometre and one fourth km of Gatepara road.

Out of 16 km kutchha roads, one km of Bedgram Mosque road, half km of Fire service road, one km of Charnarandi road, one km of Biswas bar road, one km of Mirapara road, one km of Kadanbari road, two km of Chasnai Kandhi School road, two km of Islamdagh road, one kilometre of markes mosque road, two

km of Molavipara road, half km of Bedgram dhalbari road, half km of Mushbari road and one kilometre of Bakchi Bari road.

A total of 10 culverts and five bridges were damaged. Three culverts and one bridge completely destroyed value of which is Taka 15 lakh.

The pourashava chairman further said, seven km drains were damaged in Gopalganj pourashava area. Of them five km of drain completely and two km partially damaged, value of which is Taka 50 lakh and two water pumps were damaged value of which is Taka 20 lakh.

A total of 1,030 houses, four educational institutions, five mosques were damaged by flood in Gopalganj area.

The chairman also said that according to preliminary estimate a fund of Taka six crores would be needed immediately for repairing of roads.



AGRI-VARSITY (Mymensingh): Vice-Chancellor Prof Muhammad Hussain delivering his address as the chief guest on the opening day of "Winter Vegetables Training Programme" organised by Bangladesh Agricultural University Extension Centre. — star photo

Favourable investment atmosphere prevails in Bangladesh, says RUV

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov 11: A day long economic seminar titled "Entrepreneurship Development in the Changing Economic Reforms in Bangladesh" was held recently on Rajshahi University (RU) campus.

The seminar held at the university Senate Hall, was arranged jointly by the Faculty of Business Studies and the Institute of cost and Management and Accounts of Bangladesh (ICMAB) of Dhaka.

Vice-Chancellor (VC) of the university Prof Abdul Khaleque attended the seminar as the chief guest, while Pro-VC Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan and ICMAB President Rafique

Ahmed (ICMA) were special guests. The seminar was chaired by the Dean of the Business Studies Faculty, Prof Shah Nawaz Ali.

Prof Shah Nawaz Ali gave the welcome address. The seminar organising committee president Md Abul Kalam Mozumdar delivered the introductory speech and Dr Md Aktaruddin gave vote of thanks.

In his address, the VC said that Bangladesh had introduced privatised market economy and liberalised the trade due to world-wide revolutionary change in the global economy. He said that free market economy based private sector had

been the force of economic development in the present global economic ambience. Low production cost, cheap labour force, vast natural gas reserve, economic liberalisation taken by the government have created an investment favourable atmosphere in the country, the VC added. He also expressed the optimism that through this seminar the problems hindering the investors' friendly atmosphere in the country can be traced which would help create a healthy investment flow in the country.

The seminar was also addressed by Pro-VC Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan.

13 telephone sets over Bangabandhu Bridge stolen

PABNA, Nov 11: All the 13 telephone sets installed over the Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge have been stolen since the opening of the world's 11th largest structure, reports APB.

About 48 kms of wire laid for the purpose in view of connecting the bridge areas with different parts of the country, including Dhaka, has also been pilfered.

Jomac, which has been providing the security and maintenance services to the bridge, confirmed the theft of wires and sets.

"Unhindered movement of people over the bridge and the surrounding areas is the cause of the stealing," one Jomac official said, adding the scanty security and maintenance are also the reason behind the incidents.

4 killed in Bogra road accident

BOGRA, Nov 11: Four people were killed and another was injured in a road accident in Dubchadia thana on Bagra-Naogaon highway recently reports UNB.

Police said the accident occurred in the evening when a Shantahar-bound truck tried to overtake another truck and rammed roadside shops, leaving four people dead on the spot.

Two victims were identified as Abdus Salam, truck driver, and Abu Bakar, a grocer.

Pinto, a shopkeeper was admitted to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital with injuries.

Police seized both the trucks but a driver and his helper of the second truck managed to flee.

Erosion leaves a trail of devastation

SYLHET, Nov 11: Erosion of river Kushiara has left a trail of devastation in the Zakiganj thana of the district, reports UNB.

Over 100 families were rendered homeless and educational institutions and crops on several thousand acres of land have been devoured by the river recently.

The erosion affected villages are Alamimid, Gangajol, Manikpur, Loharmahal, Baropahar, Laxmibazar, Uzirpur, Narshingpur, Beour and Pirnagar.

JCD-BCL clash in Sirajganj: 5 hurt

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 11: Five people were injured when some supporters of BCL and JCD clashed recently reports APB.

Police said the clash ensued when BCL activists swooped on the JCD men while they were taking tea at a teastall in Simantabazar area under Sadar thana at 9 am.

Seriously wounded Masud Rana, 24, member of the JCD district committee, was rushed to the Sadar Hospital and later shifted to Orthopaedic (Pangu) Hospital in Dhaka.

Prisoner dies in court bldg at Kurigram

KURIGRAM, Nov 11: An undertrial prisoner died in the district court building recently police said, reports APB.

Joykumar Pora, 30, of village Paschim Nageswari in Nageswari thana of the district was brought to the court from the district jail for the hearings of an appeal throwing case.

He was found dead in the toilet at about noon. The body was sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Joykumar was arrested in connection with throwing of acid on his wife last January.

BDR rescue 16 from traffickers

JESSORE, Nov 11: BDR jawans rescued 16 people, including a child and seven women, from the traffickers from Ambotla in Kotwali thana as they tried to cross the border recently reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, the BDR personnel aided by the district task force challenged two auto-rickshaws near Ambotla at about 5.40 am and rescued the people.

They were identified as Tapash, Narayan Chandra Samadder, Baloram Chandra Dhal, Santu Ranjan Mondol, Asiani Dhal, Anil Bairagi, Sabita Rani Dhal, Sumla Halder, Rango Dhal, Mayna Rani Monorama Bairagi, Sushila Roy, Samudder and Onainah Dhal, 3.

They were handed over to police.

Attack on tribals in Khagrachhari: 33 injured

KHAGRACHHARI, Nov 11: Dissident cadres attacked the tribals returning from a commemorative service for MN Larma, recently leaving some 33 injured, reports APB.

Local sources said some tribal youths of anti-peace accord bloc attacked at least eight Mohalchhari-bound vehicles and also damaged those in Bijitola area around 4:30 pm.

The tribal people were returning from the meeting attended by PCJSS chief Shantu Larma as chief guest to mark the death anniversary of MN Larma.

Police arrested three alleged attackers.

Sixteen of the injured tribals were admitted to Khagrachhari Sadar Hospital.



JHENIDAH: A rally was brought out in the district town recently in observance of International Natural Disaster Prevention Day. — Star photo



BRAHMANBARIA: Major (Retd) Jahir, a local Awami League leader recently distributed relief materials among the flood victims of the district. — Star photo