

News snaps

Man gets life term for kidnapping

JHALAKATI, Dec 6: A man was sentenced to imprisonment for life and fined Tk five thousand, in default another two years RI, for kidnapping and raping the daughter of his employer, reports APB.

The District and Sessions Judge, also the Judge of Repression on Women and Children Court here, Mominullah, pronounced the verdict on Monday. According to the prosecution, Abdul Quddus, 25, son of Abdul Mannan Howladar of village Uti, Raniari in Nazipur thana was a farm labourer at the house of Anwar Hossain of village Betlach in sadar thana in Jhalakati. Quddus kidnapped Shahnaz, daughter of Anwar Hossain, and took her to Chittagong on March 30, 1998, where she was subjected to rape. Anwar filed a case on April 1, accusing three persons — Quddus, Alam Howladar and Abdul Mannan Howladar — for kidnapping his daughter. The girl, however, was recovered but the accused remained absconding.

Girl killed in road accident

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 6: A girl was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck at Shaheganj on Bogra-Nagarbari highway in Rajganj thana on Wednesday, reports APB.

Police said Ruma, 12, a student of class-VI of local high school was run over by a Bogra bound truck while she was crossing the highway. The driver of the truck along with the vehicle fled the scene.

Programme to construct drainage-slucice

PATUAKHALI, Dec 6: Water Development Board (WDB) has taken up a programme for construction of Kachirhat drainage-slucice under Bakal-Gournadi-Agolljhaba Chaddamador Beel sub-project during the current fiscal year (1998-99), reports APB.

The project, being financed by the government of Bangladesh, will be implemented under the supervision of the Barisal O&M Division of WDB. Official sources said an amount of Tk 42,96,635 will be spent for construction of the drainage slucice. The work under the project is likely to commence soon, they said. The Road Division of Patuakhali, meantime, has taken up a programme for repairing the Labukhali-Dashmina Road during the current financial year. The sources said Tk 20,37,495 was allocated for repairing the road.

Free seeds for farmers

HABIGANJ, Dec 6: Over 7,000 small and marginal farmers have already received seeds and fertilisers free of cost and grants under the Post Flood Agriculture Rehabilitation Programme here, reports UNB.

Agriculture Extension Department (AED) sources said, 7,459 small and marginal farmers out of the total 1,38,000 have been brought under the programme in the district. The government has allocated Tk 50,56,310 for implementing the programme to cover the losses caused by the recent devastating flood. Besides, government has allocated Tk 65,71,910 to achieve the cultivation and production target of 'Rabi' crops. The cultivation target of 'Rabi' crops has been fixed on about 2,24,788 acres of land and the production target at 2,87,409 metric tons.

Meeting held marking NID

THAKURGAON, Dec 6: A meeting of a cross section of people marking the fifth National Immunization Day (NID) on the importance of vaccination was held last week in the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner here, reports BSS.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (Gen. M. Abul Hashem) presided over the meeting. Civil Surgeon Dr Shahadat Hossain, Thakurgaon Pourashava Chairman S. M. Solaiman Ali, Deputy Director of Family Planning Shamsheer Ali and UNICEF Dinajpur representative Dr Mahmuda Begum, among others, took part in the discussion.

Abducted girl rescued

JHALAKATI, Dec 6: Police rescued an abducted girl after five months and arrested the alleged kidnapper from Binoykathi in sadar thana here on Monday, reports UNB.

Police said Abul Kalam, 32, son of Aynuddin Hawladar of Bazitpur village, abducted Mitu, 14, from her village home at Bahampur on July 8 this year and took her to Dhaka. Subodh Kumar, father of the victim then filed a case with the police accusing Kalam, father of three children, of kidnapping her daughter. Acting on secret information that Kalam returned his village home with Mitu, police in a raid arrested him and rescued the girl. The girl was sent to the custody of her father.

Body recovered

JHALAKATI, Dec 6: The nearly decomposed and headless body of a man packed inside a gunny bag was recovered from the Bashanda-Gabhan Bharanikhal Wednesday morning, reports APB.

Police said the victim was killed apparently some four to five days ago and the head and the right-hand of the 35 year old man was chopped off. The body was retrieved from under the water of the canal. Police sent the body to local hospital for autopsy and filed a general diary.

Workshop on 'electoral law reform'

MANIKGANJ, Dec 6: A one-day workshop on 'electoral law reform' organised by Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) was held here at district sports association office on November 28, reports BSS.

A total of 30 journalists, educationists, lawyers, social and NGO workers took part in the day long workshop. Among others, Prof. A.A. Asaduzzaman, ex-Principal, Government Devendra College, Manikganj, Bibhor Kumar Biswas, District Election Officer, Shahadat Hossain Khan, District Information Officer, SM Bokhari, Chief Go or crops, FEMA Central Committee, Advocate Shakawat Hossain, Secretary, Manikganj Pourashava unit Awami League, Kalyan Saha, general secretary, Bangladesh Sangbadik Samiti, Mujib Uddin Mantu, ex-UPAZILA Chairman, Shilalaya, Golam Sarwar Sanu, Secretary FEMA district unit, Abdul Mannan Khan, subject teacher, SK Government Girls' High School, Shamsunnahar, Headmistress, Ghior Pilot Girls' High School, advocate Lutfur Rahman, advocate Jamilur Rashid Khan, advocate ATM Shahjahan, Aleya Begum and Laxmi Chatterjee took part in the discussion.

Plaque unveiled

MATLAB (Chandpur), Dec 6: State Minister for LGRR and Cooperatives Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya unveiled the commemorative plaque of a ferry service on Dhanagoda river here, reports BSS.

After inauguration of the ferry service the state minister visited some areas under Meghna-Dhanagoda Irrigation Project. He was accompanied by Executive Engineer of Roads and Highways Mohammad Nazmul Huq. Addressing a gathering there he said some three lakh residents inside the Meghna-Dhanagoda Irrigation Project would be directly benefited by this ferry service and 14 unions under Matlab thana would get direct access to the national road network through this service.

Rajoir Health Complex in bad shape

MADARIPUR, Dec 6: Most of the patients coming to Rajoir Thana Health Centre have to return home only with prescriptions because of lack of medicines there, reports APB.

The health care centre is riddled with multifarious problems. Against the sanctioned post of nine doctors, there are only four to see 200 to 250 patients a day. The hospital also lacks medical equipment. There is no dental surgeon, although there is a sanctioned post. Many of the patients have to sleep on the floor owing to inadequacy of beds, which are also not clean. There is no facility for treatment of mothers and children due to lack of maternity department. The centre even does not even have a medical officer.

List of FFs being prepared

NAOAGAN, Dec 6: District unit Muktiyoddha Sangsad has prepared a list of 1,798 genuine freedom fighters in the district after scrutiny of 3,116 applications, reports UNB.

Of the bonafide freedom fighters, 33 are in Porsha thana, 107 in Sapahar, 141 in Patnitala, 92 in Dhamurhat, 135 in Mahadevpur, 285 in Badalgachhi, 157 in Atrai, 151 in Raniganj, 65 in Niamatpur, 139 in Manda and 493 in sadar thanas. Secretary General of the Central Command Council of the Sangsad Abdul Rashid disclosed this at a recently held press conference. Rashid said the number of genuine freedom fighters in the country was 2 lakh. He also asked the genuine freedom fighters to apply within 20 days if their names are dropped mistakenly from the list. Member of the Central Command Council Hatem Ali, District unit Commander Shaiful Islam and local leaders were present at the conference.

RU MA final examinees' ultimatum

RAJSHAHI, Dec 6: The results of MA final examination of Arabic Department of Rajshahi University held eight months back are yet to be published, reports UNB.

University sources said the examination of the department started on February 22 and ended on March 15, this year. But due to lack of publication of the results the students are facing uncertainty. The aggrieved students at a press conference in the campus on Monday said they will stage a mass hunger strike until death from Dec 7 if the results are not published within December 6. They alleged that having 18 teachers in the department, the results of 50 student are being delayed only for the internal conflict of the teachers.

Satkhira liberated on Dec 7

From Abu Ahmed

SATKHIRA, Dec 6: Satkhira was liberated on December 7 after 228 days of occupation by the Occupation Pakistani Army since April 19, 1971.

Satkhira was liberated after a fierce fighting on December 6 and 7.

The 6th and 7th December are the two red-letter days in the history of our Liberation War.

On December 6, the Pakistani Occupation Army was forced to retreat from Satkhira following a heavy resistance by the Freedom Fighters (FFs). On December 7, the freedom fighters marched towards Satkhira town triumphantly and hoisted the national flag of Swadhin Bangladesh at Satkhira Court premises.

The Mukti Bahini fought valiantly many battles and sacrificed their lives for the cause of independence. It was on April 19, 1971 when the Pak Army entered into Satkhira town through Jessore road and they took shelter in the town's high school building. In the meantime, fighting spread throughout the countryside.

On the following day, the Occupation Pakistani Army attacked and killed about 1,500 innocent people who took shelter in the high school building. They were buried in a mass grave in the residential area of Dinesh Karmakar near the school.

The next morning the enemy blew up the house of Kazi of Kachhari Para by charging dynamite and later killed Kazi Mosur Ahmed (Captain Kazi) along with his brother-in-law by charging bayonet. Kazi Mosur Ahmed was one of the chief organisers of freedom fighting in Satkhira. After a few days of Kazi's death, the enemy opened fire indiscriminately on a large number of people who were fleeing to India. Over two thousand people, most of them children and women met the tragic end of their lives near Jihodwanga Bazaar in sadar thana, 12 km away from the town.

In the meantime, the freedom fighters were organised to build up resistance against any attack of the enemy. From the first week of March preparations were going on for an armed struggle against the Occupation Pakistani Army in Satkhira. The session of National Assembly was postponed on March 1, 1971. Then thousands of people of Satkhira took to the streets to protest President Yahia Khan's announcement.

A big procession was brought out here on March 3. When the processionists were parading the main streets of the town, Matiar Rahman and Atiar Rahman two supporters of the then Pakistani regime, opened fire on the procession from their residence 'Chapra Lodge'.

As a result, Abdul Razzak a rickshaw puller was killed on the spot and many others were injured. The first Shahid of the Liberation War, Abdul Razzak was buried in the Children's Park. Later the Children's Park was renamed after his name Shahid Abdul Razzak.

On March 5, Swadhin Bangla Chhatra Sangram Parishad was formed here in Satkhira following killing of Abdul Razzak. Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader Mustafizur Rahman Jahangir and Kamrul Islam Khan were elected President and General Secretary respectively of Sangram Parishad. The other members were: Nazmul Abedin, Enamul Haq, Ershad Khan Hablu, Azibar Rahman, Kismet Hasan, SK Abu Nasim and Mir Mustaq Ahmed Rabi. Later Sangram Parishad was formed in seven thanas of Satkhira.

On March 8, the portrait of Jinnah was taken off from the Sub-divisional Officer's (SDO's) office under the leadership of Sangram Parishad leader Hablu. The activists of Sangram Parishad hoisted Swadhin Bangla's flag at Pucca Pole crossing of Satkhira town on March 23.

The students, general people, EPR, Ansar and Mujahed forces of Satkhira were united and decided to work in favour of freedom struggle of the country.

On March 29, Mustafizur Rahman Alamgir of Chhatra Sangram Parishad brought down the Pakistani flag from roof of SDO's Office. Kamrul Islam Khan hoisted Swadhin Bangla's flag. The boys of Satkhira collected arms from the local treasury for taking part in the war on April 21. Satkhira town, including its adjoining areas went under the control of Pak Army and a new chapter of war began. Arrangements of training the youths were made in different villages of Satkhira. Many local youths went to India for taking war training and collecting arms.

After taking training and collecting arms, they returned to Bangladesh and took part in battle in different areas of Satkhira.

The first face to face combat took place at Bhomra border in Satkhira on May 29. This battle was jointly commanded by Captain Salah Uddin and SDPO Mahbubur Rahman. This battle was very important for keeping high the spirit of freedom fighters. Though the Pak Army attacked Bhomra Muktiyoddha Camp being armed with modern weapons, they could not capture the camp. In this battle 11 freedom fighters including Subedar Samsul Alam sacrificed their lives.

In Satkhira the freedom fighters comprised of people of all walks of life. A fierce fighting was fought at Town Sreepur in Debbahata thana under the command of civilian Captain Shahajahan Master. The enemy troops attacked the freedom fighters in a planned way and surrounded the freedom fighters in collaboration with the local agents. On this day, a number of youths intercepted the enemy from marching ahead at the cost of their lives and were able to save the lives of many freedom fighters.

Some freedom fighters faced the Pak Army with a few light weapons. In this battle 59 Pakistani soldiers were killed. At last Pak Army retreated suffering heavy casualties. Eight freedom fighters including Samsuzzoha Kazzal, Nazmul Abedin, Narayan Dhar and Abul Kalam Azad lost their lives in this dreadful battle.

In the early morning of August 14, 1971 the occupation forces attacked the Muktiyoddha Camp of Gopal Nagar in Syamnagar thana all of a sudden. Shyamnagar thana came under the control of freedom fighters. Though the freedom fighters were surprised by the sudden attack, they were able to organise themselves and faced the enemy in groups. The fight lasted for about five hours under the leadership of Captain Beg. In this battle five freedom fighters including Subedar Elias

Ali, Kalam and Abdul Kader lost their lives. The battle of Keargati in Assasuni thana is worth remembering. On August 16, the enemy troops opened fire on the freedom fighters from the river Kargati and thus a fierce battle was fought between the freedom fighters and the Pak Army. In this battle freedom fighters Habib, Shahid and Quddus were able to save their lives by applying their intelligence. Monoranjan the main organiser of this battle lost his life.

In the last week of September, the freedom fighters captured Kaliganj Rajakar Camp. At the same time, a battle was fought between the freedom fighters and the Pak Army at Pirojpur in Kaliganj thana. Successful operations of the freedom fighters led to the capture of Chapra from the clutch of the Occupation Pak Army in the last week of November. In this battle 20 unidentified freedom fighters lost their lives.

On November 29, a fierce fighting was also fought between the freedom fighters and the Occupation Army at Roypur-Kushodanga in Sadar thana.

The enemy troops surrounded the freedom fighters and opened fire on them. The freedom fighters under the leadership of Abu Ahmed stopped the enemy from marching ahead six hours and while retreating the Pak forces entered into village Roypur and killed seven innocent people.

The Satkhira Power House fell to the freedom fighters on November 30. Freedom Fighters Sona Mia, Abdullah, Babu, Hablu and others took part in this operation. The power house was completely demolished. Satkhira town was turned into a ghost town. The Pak Army's morale came down due to the successful operations of the freedom fighters. The Occupation Pak Army became weakened because of continuous attack by the freedom fighters.

In the early hour of December 6, the enemy left Satkhira. On December 7, the freedom fighters entered into Satkhira town in triumphant procession in groups from all around. They hoisted the national flag of Bangladesh at the Satkhira Court building premises and finally Satkhira was liberated.



BRAHMANBARIA: Cock-fight in progress at Kazipara.

— Star photo

Cock-fight — a traditional game of Brahmanbaria

From Sk Md Shahidul Islam

BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 6: Cock fight is an interesting game of rural areas in the district. Hundreds of people enjoy cock fight here with great enthusiasm. It is a traditional game of the local people.

Now a days, a group of young men arrange the competition of cock fighting, an ancient game, in some areas. Especially Sarail thana headquarters and Kazipara 'Moholla' of Brahmanbaria Pourashava are very well known for cock fighting.

Every year young organisers invite the owners of fighting cocks and arrange the competition. At least 20 to 24 pairs of cocks are assembled in the competition ground for fighting. Only the owners of 'Aseel Cock' which is the best variety for fighting are allowed to come to the competition field.

The organisers make a pande and decorate an area for cock fighting. First, second and third prizes are distributed among the winners. The organisers also give consolation prizes.

People say, cock fighting is an ancient game. During the British regime, cock fighting was a favourite hobby of kings and land lords. Land lord Kutub Dewan of the then Sarail Porgona, now Sarail thana of the district had various kinds of pet animals including 'Aseel Cock', known as 'Ashi Murog'. With the passage of time all kinds of land lordships have been abolished, but the game of cock fighting became very popular throughout the district.

'Aseel Cock' has a long neck and long legs. Its face is bigger than that of any other cock, but its body is slim. Its body is very energetic. It is taller and bigger than any other cock. Its weight is 1.5 kg to 2.5 kg. Sometimes, its weight becomes 3 kg. It can fight for hours together.

Mr. Jaru, an owner of 'Aseel Cock' has informed, it is the nature of 'Aseel Cock' to fight till victory. He has also added, they do not run the fighting between the same pair of cock for hours together, rather during the cock fight they make judgment which cock is going to win. At one stage, they stop the running pair of cock and start fighting with another new pair of 'Aseel Cock'. If they do not separate the clashing cocks then one cock will kill the competitor at last, he added.

Proverb says, 'A tola of hobby costs Taka 80.' Really the Aseel cock has proved it. Such kind of 'Aseel Cock' is sold at Taka 2,000 to 6,000. It is interesting to note that sometimes the winning 'Aseel Cock' is sold at Taka 10,000.

Aseel cock is originally a quarrelling poultry bird. Whenever a pair of 'Aseel Cock' is released in the completion field they are locked in a ruthless tough fighting. The winning cock usually breaks the neck bone and legs. They also gouge out the eyes of each other during the fighting. In order to check the danger, the owners of 'Aseel cocks' usually cover the big nail of cocks with cotton.

They also take some other steps to quell and control the danger. Sometimes this precious cock dies of cholera, pox and dysentery and other diseases due to lack of proper medical treatment.

Meanwhile, after fighting each cock suffers from high fever when they are given proper medicine, otherwise they fall sick seriously.

Kazi Shafiuddin, an owner of 'Aseel Cock' has alleged, their cocks are not given training nor proper medicine by the respective authorities. He has also alleged that he had one 'Aseel Cock', one 'Aseel hen' and six chicks. They died of four diseases due to lack of medical facilities.

Day by day the number of 'Aseel Cock' is decreasing due to shortage of proper care.

While contacted, Kazi Shafi Uddin, Chief Adviser of 'Aseel Cock Owners Association' has informed that once elite including ex-state minister Dr. Huda, Ex-Political Adviser Humayun Kabir and film star Zayed used to come to enjoy cock fighting and see 'Aseel cocks'. Now it is only dream.

He has also informed that in order to save 'Aseel cocks' from extinction they have formed an association named 'Saikhin Aseel Morog Samity of Brahmanbaria' and nominated Sayed Hussain Khoka and Sayed Muhammad Bakli as President and Secretary respectively.

They have urged the authorities concern for financial assistance and other helps to save 'Aseel cocks' and its interesting fighting.

Homage paid to Dhulauri martyrs

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Dec 6: The present government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is determined to foil any effort from any quarter to distort the glorious history of our Liberation War.

Prof. Abu Sayeed, State Minister for Information said this while addressing as the chief guest at a discussion meeting arranged in observance of 'Dhulauri Mass Killing Day' on November 27.

The minister said, the present government will project the true history of Liberation War not only through the mass media, but also through text books for our future generation.

Presided over by Santhia Thana Muktiyoddha Commander Aftab Uddin, the discussion meeting was addressed, among others, by Prof. Jannatul Ferdous MF, Advocate Shamsul Haque (Tuku), Fazul Haque Mantu, Mozammel Haque master, Abdul Mannan Azad, Jamal Uddin and Omar Faruq, Santhia Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO).

Other programmes included visit to the mass grave of the martyrs, laying of floral wreaths, Qur'an khwani and milad mahfil.

On November 27 in 1971, freedom fighters of the area took shelter in different houses at village Dhulauri for a night. But the local 'Razakars' came to know the presence of freedom fighters and they informed it to the Occupation Pakistani Army.

On that fateful night, the marriage ceremony of the daughter of Kasim Uddin Fakir was being solemnised in his house in the same village. The heavily armed Occupation Pakistani Army attacked many houses including the house where the wedding ceremony was being held in presence of a good number of men and women. From there the Occupation Pakistani Army caught many young girls, violated them and also other women.

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Witnesses said Azimuddin, 60, also a local Awami League leader, was beaten up by rivals in a feud over harvesting paddy in a field in Bishnupur Union of Manda thana on Wednesday.

With fatal injuries he was rushed to the Thana Health Complex and then being shifted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Export Promotion Bureau Dhaka

Notice for Exporters of Data Entry Services & Computer Software

This is for the information of all Bangladeshi companies active in the 'data entry service and computer software' business that, the government have taken up a scheme of providing 'working capital' to the viable organisations of this sector with a view to encouraging export of this high-technology service to the global market. Organisations fulfilling the following conditions may apply to the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) for working capital:

- (a) the applicant organisation must be a limited company and must register itself with the EPB for the purpose;
 - (b) the company must be technically, financially and commercially viable;
 - (c) the company must be a member of the Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) and must have been certified thereby in respect of its technical competence, business credibility etc. in undertaking preparation and export of software;
 - (d) at least one of the sponsor-directors of the company must either have a degree/post-graduate diploma in computer science/engineering or have, to his credit, professional experience of at least 5 (five) years in the field of Information Technology (IT);
 - (e) the company must have, in its employ, at least 10 (ten) programmers for data processing/software preparation and at least 5 (five) of them must either have a degree/post-graduate diploma in computer science/engineering or have, to their credit, work experience spreading over at least 3 (three) years in the field of Information Technology;
 - (f) the company must have at least 10 (ten) personal computers (with accompanying facilities) and they should be in a network (LAN);
 - (g) the company must have in place modern communication facilities, such as, internet, e-mail etc;
 - (h) the company must, at the time of applying, have, to its credit, at least 5 (five) cases of successfully completed data processing/software orders, duly supported by certificates of client-satisfaction from recipients of the orders;
 - (i) the company must, at the time of applying, have a specific export order from a foreign firm/organisation; and
 - (j) no organisation/person declared by the Bangladesh Bank as defaulter shall be considered for sanction of working capital.
02. Eligible companies interested to apply may procure application forms along with detailed information/ guideline, for a non-refundable fee of Taka 100 (one hundred) from the Common Service Section of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), 122-124, Motijheel Commercial Area (Chamber Building), Dhaka-1000.
 03. Application forms duly filled in, along with requisite papers/documents, should be deposited to the Commodity Development Division-2 of the Export Promotion Bureau (3rd floor).
 04. Incomplete and defective applications shall not be considered.
 05. EPB reserves the right to accept or cancel any application without assigning any reason therefore.
 06. For detailed information, the Commodity Development Division-2 of the EPB may be contacted.

Hussain Ahmed
Director (Commodity Div-2)
Phone: 9560082

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