

News snaps

Mystery over death of housewife

From Our Correspondent

KUSHIYA, 8: Mystery shrouds over the death of a housewife on June 1. The victim, Shila daughter of Dr Mahabub of village Chapra in Kumarkhali thana was married to Khairul Islam, son of Shamsuddin of village Barara one year ago. After the marriage Shila was subjected to serious oppression for dowry. On June 1, all the members of her father-in-law's family started physical oppression on her, according to neighbours. At one stage Shila lost sense and her in-laws poured poison on her mouth in a bid to convince the neighbours that Shila has committed suicide. On getting information police recovered her body and sent it to Kushiya General Hospital for autopsy. A murder case has been filed with Kumarkhali Police Station in this connection. Police have arrested her father-in-law.

Housewife gangraped

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, June 8: One housewife was gangraped by a group of miscreants at dead of night here on June 4 at village Braja Baksa in Kalaroa thana.

Police said, in absence of her husband a group of miscreants namely Mizanur, Arman, Abu Bakar and Ayenuddin, all of the same village entered into the house and raped her one after another.

Housewife commits suicide

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, June 8: A housewife recently committed suicide. The victim, Latifa Begum, 25, wife of Faruk, Mia of village Salana in Boalmari thana poured kerosene on her body and set herself on fire. In a critical condition the victim, mother of two children was first admitted to Boalmari Hospital. From there she was shifted to Faridpur Medical College Hospital where she succumbed. Family feud is the cause of her suicide.

50 pc ponds in Jamalpur derelict

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, June 8: About 50 per cent ponds in seven police stations of the district have become derelict due to lack of maintenance and dispute among the owners.

A large number of ponds are silted, completely dried up or fully covered by water hyacinths making them unsuitable for fish cultivation. Fish production in other water bodies is also hampered due to indiscriminate fishing of fries. Unscrupulous people are using current nets violating the government ban. According to the Fisheries Department, about 1,100 ponds in the seven police stations could yield fish worth Taka 2.5 crore per annum if those are brought under planned fish culture.

Kidnapper arrested

From Our Correspondent

NETRAKONA, June 8: Durgapur Police recently arrested a notorious kidnapper named Eman Ali. Police sources said, Monju Miah, a renowned businessman was kidnapped from his house by a group of kidnapers for releasing ransom of Taka 50 lakh. Acting upon a secret information, a police squad led by Officer-in-Charge Belal Hussain, rushed to Bakpara village of nearby Dubaura thana and arrested Eman Ali and rescued Monju Miah.



SYLHET: A colourful rally which was brought out here recently on the occasion of birth centenary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. — Star photo

Foreign wine, hemp recovered

NOAKHALI, June 8: Police recovered a huge quantity of foreign wine and hemp from Izardur village and Sonapur bazaar of Ramganj thana, reports UNB. Acting on a tip-off, police raided the house of Sayal Mana of the aforesaid village and arrested him with 168 bottles of foreign wine worth about Taka 2 lakh recently. In another drive on the same day police raided the shop of Sharif at Sonapur bazaar and recovered 170 grams of hemp. They also managed to arrested Sharif.

New body of photographers

RANGAMATI, June 8: A 13-member committee of the amateur photographers of Rangamati Hill District was formed here in a meeting held at Rangamati Jum Aesthetic Council Office on Monday, reports BSS. Arunendu Tripura and Subarun Chakma were elected its president and secretary respectively. The committee formed under the name of 'Hill Tracts Photographic Society' would work to develop the photographic profession and activities in the region. Vice-President of the society, Amiyo Kanti Chakma chaired the meeting.

Pry edn programme hampered

COMILLA, June 8: The government's compulsory primary education programme for all children is being hampered due to shortage of school in over 1,000 villages here, reports APB. Official sources said there are 2,494 primary schools across 12 thanas here. The number of villages is 3,605. Some 1,111 villages have no school. Of the schools, 1,334 are government primary schools, 415 registered non-government primary schools, 50 unregistered primary schools, 202 community primary schools, 62 satellite primary schools, 18 primary schools functioning alongside high schools and 315 of the equivalent schools co-exist with the same number of madrassas.

Work on dam remains incomplete

RANGPUR, June 8: Construction work of the embankment to protect Pathgram thana town of Lalmonirhat district from river erosion remained stopped since long for unknown reasons, reports UNB. Bangladesh Water Development Board took up the 7,072 feet embankment construction project in fiscal 1995-96 to protect Patgram from erosion of the river Dharala. But, the construction work was suspended due to mysterious reason after completion of 2,200 feet of the construction work. The thana complex building, post office, union council office, government girls' school and college, business establishments and Patgram-Burimari road may be washed away any time.

Thunderbolt kills one

HABIGANJ, June 8: A young day labourer was killed and another injured when struck by thunderbolt at Bogee village in Baniachang thana last week, reports UNB. Police said Noor Mia, 27, of Gaganda village of Netrakona district died on the spot while he was working in a paddy field recently. Injured Suruj Mia, 25, was rushed to Baniachang Health Complex in a critical condition.

Valuables worth Tk 70,000 looted

NOAKHALI, June 8: Thieves took away valuables worth about Taka 70,000 from two NGO offices of Raypur thana headquarters in one night, police said, reports UNB. They said the muggets entered into the Proshika office breaking its grills and took away a VCR, a cassette player and other valuables worth about Taka 50,000 on the night of May 29. In another theft at BRAC office on the same night the thieves unlocking the office entered into it and took away valuables worth about Taka 20,000.

College student recuperated

COX'S BAZAR, June 8: A college student of Bogra was recuperated from an unconscious state at the sea beach near the scenic site of Himchhari recently after he was mysteriously held hostage in the capital on Wednesday, reports APB. On getting his name back, Enamul Hujum Milon, 22, told Ukhia Police that coming to Dhaka along with four to five friends from Bogra, he had fallen unconscious after taking meals at a hotel in the city. Milon, recovered by fishermen at Himchhari, could not say how he was taken to the coastlines. Son of Rashid Ahmed, he hailed from Adamdighi Pollan Para in Bogra. Police suspected that Milon would have been abducted either for trafficking or for killing him at a remote place.

Fish production falls in Chandpur

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, June 8: Scarcity of fish has been prevailing in the district for a long time.

Chandpur was once an important fish producing centre of the country. Hilsa, Prawns and common carps were supplied to other districts from Chandpur. Besides, a large quantity of Hilsa was exported to other countries. The pisciculture at Chandpur had been badly affected by massive siltation in the rivers Meghna, Padma, Dhanogoda and Dakatia.

As a result about 50 thousand fishermen of the district are facing unemployment due to abnormal fall of fish production in different water bodies.

Fish production has also fallen due to construction of two big irrigation projects in Chandpur.

About two lakh acres of land are brought under irrigation project by constructing canals. So pisciculture can not be cultured within the project areas. Fish Production is also hampered due to the outbreak of fish diseases in different areas. Unabated fishing of Hilsa fries are also hampering the natural growth of fish.

A group of unscrupulous persons living along the river sides are fishing fries rampantly defying the government ban during the breeding season. Increased use of insecticides in paddy fields have already perished a large quantity of fries. Fish is also not cultivated properly in different water bodies here now-a-days.

Some fishermen complained that they could not cultivate fish due to fund constraints. They neither get bank loans nor they get other financial help.

Some fishermen said non-professional fishermen are getting bank loans and other facilities in the name of genuine fishermen. Most of the genuine fishermen can not cultivate fish after getting lease of water bodies as non-professionals are engaged in fishing. So the existence of poor fishermen is at a stake. As a result many fishermen have already left their profession and have taken up other profession.

Police recently arrested 50 fishermen for fishing Hilsa fries in the rivers Meghna and Padma during the month of April and May.

According to Chandpur Fisheries Department office sources, about 15 mobile courts were conducted headed by a magistrate during the last month in the rivers Meghna and Padma. Two hundred current nets worth Taka about 50 lakh were seized and burnt on the spot for fishing Hilsa fries.

8 ships with foodgrains stranded at Mongla

BAGERHAT, June 8: Eight ships loaded with imported foodgrains remained stranded at Mongla Port for the 13th consecutive day on Monday as transport owners stopped carrying grains from the port, reports UNB.

Port sources said the Foodgrains Transport Owners' Association has been on strike since May 26 to realise its various demands.

Their demands include speedy unloading of grains at ghats, increasing carrying charges, emergency unloading of rotten and adulterated grains and sorting out the rotten grains at ships.

Man gets 14-yr RI for possessing illegal arms

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, June 8: One person has been convicted and sentenced to suffer rigorous imprisonment (RI) for 14 years on charge of keeping illegal fire arms.

The convict is Anisur Rahman of village Chargram in Tala thana.

The prosecution story in brief is that the accused, Anisur Rahman was arrested by police in connection with a decoity case on February 14, 1997.

After his confessional statement police recovered a revolver including 2 round of cartridges from his dwelling house on March 1, 1997.

After investigation police submitted charge sheet against him. MA Shahidur Rahman, District and Sessions Judge, Satkhira tried the case and found him guilty.

Couple arrested for killing servant

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, June 8: A couple was arrested for killing a boy at Tarakandi in Sariabari thana of the district on June 4.

According to witnesses, Atiur Rahman a teacher of Jamuna Fertiliser College and his wife Tarla, both residents of Jamuna Fertiliser Colony, tortured to death Shamim, 10, who used to work in their house as a servant. After the incident when the couple tried to hide the body by a pickup van the villagers challenged them and discovered the body there. Later on, they were handed over to police.

According to their confusion, they beat up Shamim on June 2 as he came from bazaar late. He succumbed to his injuries on June 3. Shamim hailed from Fulpur thana in Mymensingh district. The body was sent to hospital for autopsy.



Executives of Sangbadik Samity, Gaibandha unit

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, June 8: The Biennial election and general meeting of Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity, Gaibandha district unit was held at the old press club recently.

A 15-member executive committee was formed unanimously.

The office bearers are President — Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Vice-President — Rezaul Hoque Mita, General Secretary — Asaduzzaman Mamun, Asst. Secretary — Azad Hossain Sarker, Treasurer — Dheresh Chakkravarti, Office Secretary — Abdul Hye Pramanik, Cultural Secretary — Uttom Sarker and member are Mostiur Rahman Khan, Rabiul Hossain, Shamim Mahbub, Siddique Alam Dayal, Babul Roy, Jobbeyar Ali and Rajat Kanti Barnan.

Presided over by KM Rezaul Hoque, the meeting was addressed among others by Gobinda Lal Das, Abu Zafar Sabu, Rabiul Hossain, Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Siddique Alam Dayal, Asaduzzaman Mamun, Dheresh Chakkravarti, Babul Roy, and Rezaul Hoque. The speakers condemned the police attack on journalists recently in Dhaka during a hartal programme recently.

From vagabond to farm owner

From Our Correspondent



A garden of 'Amrapali.'

JAMALPUR, June 8: An educated young man who remained unemployed for a long time, has changed his lot by dint of his wisdom and diligence.

The youth named Jahangir Alam, an inhabitant of village Kutamoni of Kendua union in sadar thana has achieved economic emancipation from his created agricultural farm. After passing the BA examination, he roamed from door to door for a job, but failed. Then he decided to set up an agricultural farm on his inherited land.

At first he had started the farm by planting 460 saplings of 'Amrapali,' a High Yielding Variety (HYV) of mango on two

acres of land in 1997. After one year the trees bore fruits. This year he expects to earn Taka three lakh by selling mangoes.

As he earned windfall profit at the initial stage of the farm, he has expanded the farm on 22 acres of land. On the vast land he planted the saplings of 450 coconut trees, 450 guava trees, 450 betel nut trees and 430 lemon trees. Besides this, he bought some lands for fish culture and rearing high breeding cows. He also cultivated various seasonal vegetables on the land. In this way he has cultivated pumpkin in the field of 'Amrapali' mango this year. He is expected to earn Taka three lakh by selling his produce.

Meanwhile in the last season he earned a profit of Taka one lakh from the same field by selling tomato.

Mizanur Rahman (Manu), Whip of the parliament visited his farm on May 26 this year and lauded highly for his excellent job.

Last year he received the President's Award for his outstanding contribution in the field of agriculture by producing High Yielding Variety (HYV) of green chilli.

Jahangir Alam, who was a vagabond a few years back now earns Taka 12 lakh every year. He has employed 25 persons in his farm.

Cottage industry in Satkhira facing extinction threat

From Abu Ahmed

SATKHIRA, June 8: The cottage industries of Shyamnagar, Kaligoni, Debhata, Assassumi, Kalaroa, Tala and sadar thana are on verge of extinction. This is because of want of incentive and patronisation. Consequently, a large number of people, mostly women of the region are under threat of unemployment.

About 35,000 people here use to make fancy goods from bam-

boo, cane, mat-fibres, pati leaves and jute.

Their products had a glorious past, but this glory has been faded away.

Prices of raw materials have increased much and for want of fund they can not work in full capacity. About 75 per cent people can not afford to purchase raw materials at an exorbitant rate. They borrow money from the affluent people

or money lenders at a high rate of interest.

As a result, many artisans are forced to give up their traditional trade. As a result this village oriented cottage industry is facing extinction.

Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) should help these people by providing loans at an easy term with a view to saving the age-old cottage industry.



NARAYANGANJ: Local Member of Parliament (MP) A K M Shamim Osman inaugurating a cleanliness drive on Shaheed Suhrawardy Sarak here recently which was jointly organised by Narayanganj Poursabha and Subasati, a non-governmental organisation. — Star photo

Lack of monitoring system at field level IPM training programme yet to yield positive result

From Anwar Ali

NATORE, June 8: Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programme has brought about a revolution in the cultivation of crops without using pesticides.

The Agriculture Extension Department (AED) along with the international non-governmental organisation (NGO) DANIDA have taken up the five-year IPM programme with a view to saving the environment and human beings from the long-term bad effects of pesticides used on crop-fields.

There are two training centres, one at Joydevpur in Gazipur and another at Kalyanpur Horticulture centre in Chapainawabganj district. Hundreds of farmers of this region are being trained at the two centres on various aspects relating to pest management. However, despite extensive

trainings, indiscriminate use of pesticides on the agricultural fields could not be checked so far due to lack of proper monitoring system at the field level.

Some IPM trained farmers think that pest control without chemical pesticides had been a very tedious process. The benefit of IPM training would not be achieved until all the farmers were conscious enough to realise the bad effects of indiscriminate use of pesticides.

Coordinator of the IPM training course at Chapainawabganj, horticulturist Quamruzzaman has claimed that the use of pesticides on crop-fields had been declining gradually. The farmers are becoming aware of the bad-effects of using pesticides by the IPM programme, he said. But he admitted that it would take

time to make the programme a success.

Pesticides have a poisonous reaction on human body as well as on the environment. Pesticides enter into our body through various agricultural products we consume every day. It also contaminates waterbodies while these are used in the crop fields near the rivers and ponds.

IPM advocates natural and biological processes as alternative to pesticides in combating pest attack.

IPM experts said, more than 93 per cent insects on crop-fields, are beneficial to crops. If these beneficial insects are nourished properly, pest-attack can be naturally checked and the productivity of land can also be increased.

Law and order improves in Jessore dist

From Atiur Rahman

JESSORE, June 8: Law and order situation improved significantly in the district in May this year.

In May, a total of 43 persons met unnatural deaths. This figure is less than that of April.

In April, it was 64. A green coconut seller Mizanur Rahman, 50, was killed at Tasbisur in Hakimpur union of Chougacha thana on May 1.

Zafar Ali, 25, was chopped to death at Sankerpur in the local town on May 16.

Sirajul, 27, of Sharapole in Kotwali was strangled to death on May 8.

Shahidul Islam Litu, 27, was strangled to death in retaliation of the murder of a grocer Sudhir in Jail Road on May 28.

Ramjan alias Muna, 35, died on way to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) on May 1 after being seriously injured by a group of miscreants earlier. Ramjan hailed from Vatoria in Kotwali thana.

Azhar Ali, 25, of Marua in Chougacha thana succumbed to injuries on May 4. He was beaten seriously by his rivals.

Hasina (22), of the same thana was beaten to death by her husband on May 5 in demand of dowry.

Kamrunnesa, 53, of Monirampur thana was killed by her son Malek on May 10. Nasima, 22, was killed by her husband Fazlur Rahman of the same thana in demand of dowry on May 28. Taslima, 24, was killed by her husband Iman of Mohinikati in Jhinkergacha thana on May 26 for the same reason.

Thirty-three others lost their lives in different incidents. The number of murders including rape, mugging, hijacking and looting in eight thanas of the district has fallen considerably.

The law and order situation here improved after Abdur Rouf took over as the new Police Super in April last.

The present improvement of law and order situation is the tangible result of his effort and hard labour.

The measures undertaken by him include setting up of police camp in crime-prone areas on priority basis, meeting people both in rural and urban areas regularly.

Meanwhile, he has given special attention to streamline police administration to dispose of any problem forthwith and render spot services to make its benefit available to the aggrieved people.

2 Nagas held in Rangamati

From Our Correspondent

RANGAMATI, June 8: Two suspected Naga insurgents were arrested at Baghaichhari in the district on Friday night and handed over to police, officials said, reports BSS.

The arrested identified themselves to police as Libi Naga and Toha Naga, both aged about 30. They were moving around Baghaichhari cluster village in an intoxicated condition when they were held up by the mob. Baghaichhari police quoted the villagers as saying.

The case was lodged with Baghaichhari Thana.

Body of young woman found

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, June 8: The deadbody of an unidentified young woman was recovered from Patharghata beel in the sadar thana on June 5.

Police sources said, the villagers found the body floating in the beel. Then they informed the matter to police. After getting information police rushed to the place of occurrence and sent the body to Satkhira hospital for autopsy. The body bore marks of wounds.

Police suspects, after raping the miscreants strangled her to death. None identified the ill-fated woman.



PABNA: Erosion by the river Jamuna has taken a serious turn at Nakla bazaar in Bera thana. Most of the bazaar has been devoured by the river during the last several years. Temporary measure has been taken to protect the remaining portion of the bazaar, but the river has been threatening it. — Star photo

CU Shibir lays siege to VC's office

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 8: Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) at Chittagong University laid a siege to the Vice-Chancellor's Office here today demanding arrest of the killers of its leader.

The Shibir leader was murdered on the campus on May 15.

The speakers at a rally also threatened to enforce a greater agitation programme if their demands were not met by June 15.

Satkhira pouro commissioner arrested

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, June 8: One commissioner of Satkhira Poursabha was arrested recently by police from his house.

Mominullah Mohan, commissioner of Satkhira Poursabha was arrested in connection with several cases. Police said, Mohan physically assaulted pouro chairman Shaikh Ashrafu Haque at the later's chamber.

Mentionable that Mohan is an accused of sensational Shaheed SM Alauddin murder case.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Visitors thronging at an art exhibition here which was arranged by some students of the Department of Fine Arts. — Star photo



FARIDPUR: The wife of late poet Jasimuddin speaking at a reception which was accorded to some noted personalities here recently by Faridpur Laloni Parisad at Kabi Jasimuddin hall. — Star photo