

News snaps

Girl gangraped

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, July 31: Some miscreants gangraped a 15-year-old girl at Krishnapur village in sadar thana recently. Police said, the miscreants kidnapped the girl from her house, took her away in a nearby cropfield and raped her one after another.

Abducted school girl rescued

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, July 31: Bhaluka police rescued a school girl within 18 hours of her abduction recently. According to police, Dulena Begum, 12, a student of Hasirbari Sonabangla High School, daughter of Dulal Mia of village Laban Kova in Bhaluka thana was abducted from her house on June 29, at about 11 pm. Immediately, a case was lodged with Bhaluka thana accusing Azizul Hoque, son of Abdul Khaleque of the same village for his alleged involvement in the abduction. Police rescued Dulena from the house of Shamsuddin, a relative of Azizul on June 30. Police also arrested Azizul.

Separate incidents claim two lives

PATUAKHALI, July 31: Two people were killed in separate incidents here on Tuesday, reports UNB. Police said Shahidul Mirza, 30, of Sadar thana was killed in a traffic mishap at the district ferryghat. In another incident, Abdul Kader, 20, of Kalapara thana allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself with rope at their residence.

Indian onions seized

JOYPURHAT, July 31: BDR jawans seized 4,450 kgs of Indian onions worth about Taka one lakh from Jitarpur area on Wednesday night, reports UNB. Acting on a tip-off, the BDR men intercepted a truck on Mongolbari-Dhamurhat road in Jitarpur and recovered the onions. Witnesses said the smugglers in a bid to snatch the onions put up barricade on the road with the help of some local people, but the BDR men foiled their attempt. The haul was deposited with the local Customs office.

Fund shortage hampers project work

GOPALGANJ, July 31: Implementation of a child home project, involving Taka 80 lakh, is being delayed for lack of fund, reports UNB. Officials said the fund, which was allocated by Public Works Department for construction of a four-storied building of the project on the bank of the Matamuhuri river, has been diverted to another project. When contacted PWD Executive Engineer said it would not be possible to implement the project if fresh fund was not allocated.

Two dacoits awarded jail term

TANGAIL, July 31: A court here on Thursday convicted two men and sentenced them to 10 years' imprisonment in a dacoity case, reports UNB. The court also fined the convicts — Julhash alias Julu Khan of sadar thana and Darbesh Ali of Mirzapur thana — Tk 5,000 each, in default, to suffer six months' more in jail. According to prosecution, the convicts along with their accomplices entered into the house of Nital Chandra Saha at Karatipara in sadar thana at dead of night on November 18, 1993 and looted goods worth about Tk 82,000. After examining records and witnesses, the judge punished the two and acquitted 12 others.

JP leaders, workers resign en masse

BHOLA, July 31: A section of Jatiya Party (JP) leaders and workers have resigned en masse protesting what they said the party's anti-people and destructive activities, reports UNB. President of JP sadar thana unit Muhammad Saad, general secretary Muhammad Shafi, president and general secretary of the pourasabha unit Azizul Huq and Muhammad Senu and district unit general secretary of Sramik Party, a front organisation of JP, Amirul Huq Chowdhury were learnt to have submitted their resignation letters. A large number of JP workers of the municipality area also deserted the party, JP sources said.

Girl raped

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, July 31: A girl was raped at village Assassuni in Assassuni thana on July 2. Police sources said that the victim had been going to a nearby vegetables field of her house when Abdus Sabur of the same village took her forcibly to a nearby bush and raped her.

Body exhumed

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, July 31: Body of young girl was exhumed after 65 days of her demise recently. Following a complaint by the deceased's father the body was exhumed in presence of magistrate Mir Nazrul Islam, Lipi Begum, 16, daughter of Rezabuddin of village Kagalakura in Malendah thana died at Malendah Hospital on April 28. She got admitted there with complaints of abdominal pain and enteric fever. Later on she was buried by her relatives. Subsequently her father complained that his daughter had been poisoned to death.

Gets primary scholarship

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, July 31: Farhana Shahrin Khan got talent pool scholarship from Faridpur PTI school at the primary scholarship examination held in 1998. Farhana Shahrin Khan is the daughter of school teacher Hosneara Begum and Md Shahjahan Khan, a businessman of the town.

Installation ceremony

From Our Correspondent

KISHOREGANJ, July 31: Installation ceremony of the newly elected chairman and commissioners of Kishoreganj Pourasabha was held recently. A function was arranged in the pourasabha premises with Md Nurul Islam in the chair. Md Zilur Rahman, Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives attended the function as the chief guest while advocate Md Abdul Hamid, Deputy Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, AikM Shamsul Haque, MP and Syed Ashrafur Islam, MP were special guests.

Terrorist rearrested

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 31: A notorious terrorist was rearrested recently by Mirpur police from village Pearpur in Daulatpur thana. Shah Alam, the notorious terrorist was arrested on March 2 this year on charge of murder, dacoity and other arms cases. He was kept in Kushtia General Hospital under police custody. But he fled away from Kushtia General Hospital on March 3. Afterwards Mirpur police rearrested him from the house of Tobjel of the aforementioned village.

Two housewives killed by husbands

JESSORE, July 31: Two young housewives were brutally killed by their husbands in Morinrampur and Sadar thanas on Friday, reports UNB. Police and family sources said Subash Kumar of Grurulla village in Sadar thana mercilessly beaten his wife Kabita Rani Dashi, 18, as she failed to bring dowry money from her parents. She was found hanged by rope around the neck in a mango tree. Police and residents suspect that Kabita was beaten to death by her husband. In another incident, Hosneara, 20, lost her life protesting the immoral act of her husband Waki Uddin of Gabukhali village in Morinrampur thana.

Two commit suicide

Two persons allegedly committed suicide on Saturday and Sunday in Satkhira and Joypurhat district, reports UNB. In Satkhira: A young housewife allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at Khatabari in Kalaroa thana on Saturday. Quoting her family members police said Rehana Parveen, 22, wife of Abul Hossain of the area, took her own life having failed to endure the torture by her husband. In Joypurhat: A young man allegedly committed suicide over a family feud at Dogachhi village in sadar thana on Sunday.

Villagers said Mir Alam, 23, took pesticide under a brawl with his family members over a trifling matter.

338 killed in 38 train accidents in Rly western zone in 27 years

JESSORE, July 31: Some 338 people were killed and more than 700 others injured in 38 major train accidents in the western zone of Bangladesh Railway over the last 27 years, reports UNB.

According to Railway sources, 150 people were killed and several hundred others injured when an engine buffer of a passenger train ploughed through a roadside bazaar near Jessore railway station in 1972.

Nine people were killed and an unspecified number of passengers injured in a collision between an army truck and Mahananda Express at Jessore railway station in 1975.

Forty passengers died when a Rocket mail train derailed near Chuadanga in 1986.

At least 36 passengers burnt to death and 50 others were injured when Simanta Express caught fire between Mirpur and Bheramara in Kushtia district in 1992.

Twenty-three people were killed and 200 others wounded in an accident near the Hilli border in Dinajpur district in 1993.

The same year, six people were killed and 20 others injured in a collision between a mail train and a passenger bus at Bhanga gate in Jessore district.

Eleven passengers were killed and 50 others hurt in a train accident in Shiddhir station in 1997.

Thirteen people were killed and 50 others injured in a head-on collision between a passenger bus and an express train at a level crossing near Mobarakganj railway station of Jhenidah district on December 18, 1998.

Besides, 30 more accidents occurred in the western zone during the period that left 50 people killed and more than 200 others injured.

Another report from Lalmonirhat says: Ten more passenger trains of Bangladesh Railway's western zone have been put under private management in a bid to increase the sagging revenue income.

The Dhaka-based lessee — Islam Ship Builders and Heavy Engineering — will run the trains under its management from August 15.

Earlier, all tender formalities were completed in Dhaka and Rajshahi on July 21. A competent source at the Lalmonirhat Divisional Railway office said the authorities expect to earn three times more than its present income from 10 trains by handing over their management in the private sector.

Uttar Banga Mail train (7-Up Dinajpur-Dhaka and 8-down Dhaka-Dinajpur) — monthly contract value Tk 8.10 lakh; Bogra Express (19-Up Santahar-Dhaka and 20-down Dhaka-

Santahar) — Tk 5.40 lakh; 491-Up Santahar-Bonarpur Local and 492 Down Bonarpur-Santahar — Tk 3.54 lakh.

Four trains — 27-Up Parbatipur-Chilahati, 28-Down Chilahati-Parbatipur, 23-Up Parbatipur-Khulna and 24-Down Khulna-Parbatipur — have been leased out at Tk 18 lakh per month.

The source said the trains would be handed over to the contractors by August 15.

With these 10 trains, a total of 14 trains in the Western Zone have been given on contract to private management.

The authorities earlier leased out four trains that run between Santahar and Lalmonirhat as "Padmarag Express".

Passengers said services of the trains run under private management are better than the government-run trains and they reach the destination on time.

Mita killing

Proper investigation demanded

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, July 31: Students of the varsity demanded proper investigation into the killing of Sabina Yasmin Mita, a 3rd year student of Botany Department, and exemplary punishment to killers.

The students, under the banner of general students, in a press conference held at the central cafeteria on the campus, also criticised the slow pace of investigation.

Sabina Yasmin Mita was found dead in the room number 9 of the Karmajibi Mahila Hostel in the city on July 5. Two people were arrested in this connection.

Students also demanded Shimul, the main accused and friend of Mita, be barred from taking part in the third year honours examinations from safe custody.

Meanwhile, the general students recently submitted a memorandum to the home minister through the vice chancellor demanding the trial of the killers.

Earlier, they brought out a protest procession on the campus. A large number of students, both male and female, joined the procession.

Mystery shrouds over death of lady

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, July 31: Mystery has shrouded over the death of a technical trainer of the Department of Social Welfare of Naogaon district.

According to eyewitnesses, Khadija Begum Popy, 27, died mysteriously on Wednesday night. The young lady was residing in Chakdarpur area in Naogaon town. Local people found the door of her bed room shut down till Thursday noon. Afterwards they informed police. Then police from local thana rushed to the spot and entered into the room and recovered the dead body.

Kidnapped girl rescued

From A Correspondent

FENI, July 31: A kidnapped school girl was rescued from Kalidha under Sadar thana last week.

Kulsum, 14, daughter of one Alauddin of village Balukia under Sadar thana, was kidnapped on her way to school on May 5. Kulsum is student class XI in Sonapur High School. Feni thana police rescued the girl and arrested one Bachu Mia in connection of the kidnapping.

Three children drown in Chandpur

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, July 31: Three children drowned here recently in two separate incidents.

A two-year-old child drowned in a pond in Haziganj thana. According to family sources, Bilkis Akter, daughter of Md Shahjahan, a school teacher, fell into a nearby pond of their house and drowned.

Two children drowned in a pond at Kachua thana. Ferous, the three-year-old daughter of Anwar Hossain of village Kamarkasha in Kachua thana and Aslam, the two-year old son of Makkul Hossain of the same village were playing nearby the pond and the victims fell into the pond and drowned.



Determined growers: Farmers of Jamalpur collecting seeds from far away in the face of an acute scarcity of Aman seeds and bullock crisis this year. They are using power tillers to attain their goal. —Star photo

Crimes up in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 31: Five persons were killed, several dacoities were committed, one hijacking incident took place within a span of five days in Kushtia. On July 12 after committing dacoity, dacoits shot at the house owner, but the bullet hit another dacoit of the same group. Later on he was killed in the hospital. Name of the dacoit is Faruq, 19.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) worker Salahuddin alias Solomon, 29, was hacked to death by the activists of Biplobi Communist Party at village Baruchara in Kumarkhali thana on July 13. Kumarkhali police recovered a mutilated body of a 35-year-old unidentified person from Kaliganga river near Dhalnagar area of Kumarkhali thana on July 15. They sent it to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy. Identity of the person could not be known.

In another incident two sisters were killed by snake bite on July 15. Rashida Khatun, 23, and Buli Khatun, 16, daughters of Jowad Ali of village Jhoidia in the sadar thana became vic-

tims of snake bite in their houses and fell ill. They were rushed to Kushtia General Hospital, but they died during treatment.

During the period five dacoity cases were reported from Kumarkhali thana. Dacoits looted cash, gold ornaments and other valuables worth Taka five lakh, according to the victims. During the period snatchers snatched Taka eight lakh in broad day light on Kushtia-Meherpur road, but none of the accused could be arrested.

Reception

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, July 31: Faridpur Press Club accorded a hearty reception to Kazi Shurajul Islam, MP from constituency — Faridpur I comprising Boalmari, Mahukhali and Alifadanga thanas recently at the club premises with its president Syed Imanul Azam in the chair.

The MP in a brief speech lauded the role played by the press for peace and prosperity for the nation. He urged the newsmen to cover objective and reflective news for the welfare of the state. He donated a fax machine and a telephone set to the press club for convenience of the journalists in their professional works.

Earlier, he was given another reception at Faridpur High School from where he passed the Matriculation Examination in the year 1956. He donated Taka one lakh to the school for awarding stipends among the poor and meritorious students every year.

Jute production may fall short of target

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 31: The prospect of achieving the jute production target this year in 10 districts of Khulna division is bleak as seed crisis during sowing hampered the farming. Besides, total estimated area of land targeted for jute farming was not actually brought under the cultivation.

According to Agricultural Extension Department (AED) source, only 2776 hectares of land was brought under jute cultivation in Kushtia against the target of 10362 hectares.

In Chuadanga target was 11465 hectares but only 4750 hectares of land was brought under the cultivation. In Meherpur target was 10661 hectares but 3406 hectares of land was brought under jute cultivation.

In Jhenidah only 2240 hectares of land against targeted 15320 hectares, in Jessore

only 5000 against 24024, in Narail only 305 against 13325, in Magura only 715 against 16295, in Khulna only 57 against 14024, and in Satkhira only 144 hectares of land was brought under the cultivation against the target of 1194 hectares.

During sowing time, farmers also experienced drought like situation. Besides, farmers, who were facing acute seed crisis, were not interested to purchase Indian jute seeds of inferior quality then available in the markets.

Some growers, however, said apart from seed crisis, they lost interest in the farming because of fund shortage and high prices of fertilizer.

Experts said that the drastic fall in jute cultivation will have an adverse impact on the production of jute mills of Jessore and Khulna districts.



Welcome freshers: Prof. Abdul Khaleque, Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University addressing a freshers' reception function for the students of 1998-99 session at Kazi Nazrul Islam auditorium. Prof. Sayedur Rahman, Pro-VC also seen on the dais. —Star photo

Misuse of card phone at RU

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, July 31: Cards phones on the campus are being misused in many ways.

Three card phone booths, installed by the Telephone and Telegraph (T&T) Department, one at the varsity guest house and two others at the administration building-1, are in the grip of some class four employees of the university. They buy phone cards from the banks and post offices at the government rate in connivance with some dishonest officials. They do not even spare a single card for the consumers to buy.

On the other the consumers including the students and teachers do not get phone cards from the post office on the campus. This is because the cards are exhausted in the back door. Sometimes, large unit cards are left in the post offices buying the small unit cards. This inconvenient situation compels the users to buy units

in the black market. The practice also goes in the teachers club. The peons and guards of the club sell units in the same way to the teachers and guests there. Nobody protests the black practice.

They sell a 50 unit card at Tk. 125 in stead of Tk 100, a 100-unit card at Tk 250 in stead of Tk 200, a 200-unit card at Tk 475-500 in stead of Tk. 400. Besides, they sell per unit at Tk 2.5 in stead of the actual rate. It is also alleged that they intentionally make the machines faulty.

Meanwhile, there is no telephone facility in the students' dormitories on the campus. All the telephone sets are out of order in the residential halls. So the students face a great problem in communicating with others from their respective dormitories. Again, it becomes impossible to set up communion with the students from outside the campus.

Events of districts in picture



A discussion meeting was arranged on the occasion of the ongoing Fisheries Week '99 at the sadar thana parisd auditorium in Magura. Dr M S Akbar, MP addressing there. —Star photo



A colourful rally by the Rotarians of Rotary Club of Mymensingh which they brought out recently in observance of their year launching programme, 1999-2000. —Star photo



A seminar titled Woman and child trafficking, arranged recently by Rights Jessore in cooperation with CIDA is progressing at Keshabpur thana parisd auditorium. —Star photo



Maj Gen (retd) Mohammad Subed Ali Bhuiyan, a renowned freedom fighter of the country recently exchanged views with the elite of Gouripur, Dhakargaon and Kapashkandi in the Gouripur College premises.

Uplift works progressing in districts

Development works are progressing steadily in various districts, report agencies.

Firojpur District Council implemented 25 development schemes during the fiscal 1998-99 spending Tk 65.60 lakh. Officials said of the schemes 16 were implemented with the council's own funds while the rest with that of ADP.

The projects included construction and reconstruction of bridge, road pavement and renovation of bungalow and Union Parishad (UP) building.

Of the projects, nine were implemented in Mathbaria thana, four in Sadar, three in Bhandaria, two each in Nazirpur and Kaokhali and five in Swarupkhantha.

Another report from Gopalganj adds: The District Council completed 22 development projects in the district in the preceding fiscal at a cost of Tk 60.89 lakh.

It also implemented 25 schemes spending Tk 75.26 lakh from ADP funds, officials said.

In Feni: Execution of 38 projects was completed at a cost of Taka one crore and eight lakh by Feni Zilla Parishad during the last financial year.

According to an official source, the projects included construction and reconstruction of village roads, passengers' sheds and repair of Dak-bungalow.