

News snaps

Old woman commits suicide

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Aug 30: A 75-year-old woman allegedly committed suicide by cutting her throat herself with a machete recently. She was identified as Karimannessa of village Jangalia under Salakupur thana. Police sources said the old woman cut her throat herself in her bed-room at noon and succumbed to her injuries immediately. She tried to commit suicide many times earlier, police quoting the family sources said.

Two miscreants arrested

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Aug 30: Police arrested recently two persons for their alleged involvement in an attack on a doctor at emergency section of Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCCH).

They were identified as Ariful Islam Shanta and Zeaur Rahman. Police said a group of miscreants attacked Dr Shafiqul Islam on August 8. Following the attack, local chapter of BMA enforced a three-day strike protesting the attack and demanded immediate punishment of culprits. A case was lodged in this regard. Earlier police arrested one Anwar Hossain in this connection.

Man commits suicide

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Aug 30: A man committed suicide by taking poison at village Bhajandanga on the outskirts of the town on August 16.

According to police sources, the victim, who was identified as Sohrab Sheikh, 35, son of Samad Sheikh of the village, took poison and fell sick. He was rushed to Faridpur general hospital where he died immediately after admission. Family feud was stated to be the cause of suicide.

Minor strangled

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Aug 30: A minor boy was killed at village Atkpara under Sadar thana of the district recently.

According to police sources, a step mother Ansuna Begum along with her a group of accomplices allegedly strangled her step son Jamal Mia, 8, on July 26 while he was sleeping in the house. The dead body was found in a nearby banana field. Police arrested Ansuna Begum.

Drinking water scarcity

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Aug 30: Rural people in the district have been facing acute scarcity of drinking water.

The number of tube-wells in six thanas is inadequate to meet the demand. According to a report, a large number of tube-wells have remained out of order for the last two years, causing untold sufferings to the villagers. Local people have urged the authorities concerned to immediate steps to repair the tube-wells.

Tk 44,000 distributed among women

BANDARBAN, Aug 30: Tk 44,000 was distributed among 440 old aged women in Sadar thana of the district as Old Age Allowance at the rate of Tk 100 per head, reports BSS.

The allowance was distributed on the occasion of National Mourning Day on August 15. According to official sources, Chairman of the Hill District Council of Bandarban Thwanga Cha Prue Master distributed the allowance as the chief guest in a function held at District Town Hall on this occasion. Local leaders and social welfare officials in the district attended the function organised by Social Welfare Department.

Relief distributed among flood-victims

COMILLA, Aug 30: Comilla unit Red Crescent Society distributed 130 tones rice and 26 tones pulse among the flood affected people in Devidwar, Chandina and Burichong thanas, reports BSS.

Thirteen thousand affected families of ten unions of the three thanas received the relief. Each family got 10 kg rice and 2 kg pulse. Secretary, Red Crescent Society, Comilla, Abdul said 12 medical teams were working for the treatment and distribution of necessary medicines among the flood affected people.

30 schemes nearing completion

SHERPUR, Aug 30: Work on 30 development projects involving an expenditure of Tk 44 lakh in Sherpur town is nearing completion, reports UNB.

The projects under the Annual Development Programme of last financial year were taken up before June. Sources in the Engineering Department said 70 per cent of the work, including repair and construction of 18 roads, construction of last phase of Pourasava building and earth filling at coach terminal has already been completed. They said Tk 21.27 lakh has been sanctioned for carpeting, renovation and drainage work along 18 road and Tk one lakh for the completion of the last phase of Pourabhaban. Work on earth filling to expand the coach terminal at a cost of Tk 11 lakh and installation work of 150 hand-operated tube wells in slum areas taken under the Dutch-Bangladesh joint development assistance programme at a cost of Tk 11.72 lakh is also nearing completion.

Training for fruit growers

RAJBARI, Aug 30: A 21-day long training course for the growers of summer fruits concluded at the Horticulture Centre here on August 18, reports BSS.

The training programme was organised by the Horticulture Development Scheme of the government in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). A total of 420 persons both female and male from 23 villages of Rajbari district participated in the training. The participants were divided into 14 batches. Horticulturists imparted training to the growers of summer fruits on modern method of fruit production.

Woman commits suicide

MANIKGANJ, Aug 30: A woman committed suicide allegedly by taking poison in her house at Katigram in sadar thana on Sunday, reports UNB.

The police and neighbours said Rabeya, 44, mother of three children, took her life being angry with her husband Danej who failed to take action against the quarreling neighbour. Family sources said she had a quarrel with the neighbour over a silly matter on the day. Her autopsy was done at Sadar Hospital on Monday.

Leg of young man severed

PATUAKHALI, Aug 30: Terrorists out of enmity severed a leg of a young man on Monday night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said about 8 terrorists attacked Kalam Payda, 30, when he was sipping tea in a tea stall at Saibag and axed his left leg with Chinese axe at 9 pm. They also hacked him with sharp weapon inflicting deep injuries in the body. Kalam, a fish trader living in College Road area, was lying in semi coma in Sadar Hospital. The police arrested Belal for his alleged involvement in the brutal action.

Tk 95 lac loan disbursed

MEHERPUR, Aug 30: Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) disbursed taka 95 lakh as loan in the two thanas of Meherpur district in the month of July under its agriculture rehabilitation programme, reports BSS.

A BKB source said here, taka 65 lakh has been disbursed among 435 small farmers and sugarcane growers and taka 30 lakh among the Aus paddy growers. The disbursement of BKB loan among the farmers of various crops and for animal husbandry and fish culture for the current fiscal year has also started in the district.

Loan for tribal youths

KHAGRACHHARI, Aug 30: Youth Development Department on Monday disbursed loan totaling Tk 12.70 lakh among the youths here for their training, reports UNB.

District Council chairman Jatindra Lal Tripura distributed the loan at a function, marking the 24th death anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Officials said the department disbursed Tk 28.83 lakh among 5,069 unemployed youths in eight thanas here in last three years. However, they realised loan amounting to Tk 26.97 lakh during the period.

Accused escapes police custody

NAOGAON, Aug 30: A young man, accused of woman repression, escaped from the police custody recently, reports UNB.

Mukul alias Samaj of village Hakimpur in Dinajpur district was produced in the court. On taking back to jail, Mukul managed to open the handcuff and flee from the custody of the police.

H S C talents of Jhenidah

From Delwar Kabir



Top to bottom (1st row) Shahed, Tanvir, Iftekhar, Shahin (2nd row) Nasim, Ashik, Walid, Rezwan (3rd row) Saif, Reaz, Maruf, Sohan (4th row) Shahin, Jahid, Arif and Shams.

— Star photo

Maliha wants to study computer science

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Aug 30: Maliha Sultan secured the first position in the combined merit list of Science group under Comilla Board this year. She obtained a total of 929 marks including letter marks in 4 subjects.

Maliha is second among 3 daughters of Dr Mohiuddin Ahmed, Director of the Holy Family Hospital, Dhaka and Nazma Begum, a housewife. Hailing from Borni village of Moulvibazar thana under Moulvibazar district, Maliha appeared her exam from MC College, Sylhet.

While talking to The Daily Star a happy Maliha said that she used to study for 7 to 8 hours a day and is highly grateful to her teachers as well as her parents for the brilliant result.

"I expected something very good, but not this much really," she said. She spends her leisure by reading books and listening to music. Sarah Chandra, Jafar Iqbal, Hamayun Ahmed and Shirshendu are her favourite writers while she is fan of singers Hemanta and Manna Dey.

We should get rid of the present trend of student politics which is in fact nothing but terrorism and extortionism, said Maliha. She wants to study Computer Science in future.

New step to curb night coach robbery

From KM Rezaul Haque
GAIBANDHA, Aug 30: A unique method is being applied in greater Rangpur district to curb increasing night coach robbery.

Local transport owners and workers unions have made arrangement to video coach passengers at two points mainly for identifying them. The points include Rangpur and Palashbari under Gaibandha district. Through search is also being conducted.

Robbers generally travel in guise of passengers and unmask themselves in convenient time.

This is being done on experimental basis, said transport leaders, adding the use of video recorder in identifying passengers in other points will be extended in phases.

Transport men introduced the method in the first week of this month.

Earlier, two armed guards were posted for each night coach to ensure security of passengers. But later the guards were withdrawn due to reasons known to inter district bus operators.

Landslides render 2,800 families homeless

BANDARBAN, Aug 30: Over 2800 families were made homeless by landslides caused in 15 hills spreading over seven Kms along Bandarana-Lama road here on August 12, official sources said, reports BSS.

Three hundred dwelling houses were damaged and seven persons buried under mud caused by incessant heavy rains.

The boiler exploded at 9 pm injuring Abu Bakar Siddique, 25, Jamal, 10, Harunur Rashid, 25, Moharam Ali, 17, Hanif, 6, Latifa, 30, Kulsum, 22 and Panna, 20. They were first admitted into Kishoreganj sadar hospital from where they had been rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) as their conditions were deteriorating. The injured persons were the employees of the rice mill owned by Hira Mia of village Banagram in Katidai thana.

Kishoreganj DIARY

Housewife killed for dowry

From Our Correspondent
KISHOREGANJ, Aug 30: A newly-married housewife was killed by her husband and other inmates of her father-in-law's house for dowry. This incident took place at village Char Haipur in Hossainpur thana recently.

According to ejhar lodged with the local thana, Shahabuddin of the village got married to Khodeza Khatun, 25, daughter of Asruddin of village Halifura in Nandail thana eight months back. Shahabuddin was then given Taka 10 thousand in cash as dowry. After some days, Shahabuddin and other inmates of the house pressurised on Khodeza for bringing more money and a tape-recorder from her parent. She was tortured off and on as she refused to do so. On the morning of the fateful day Khodeza was beaten mercilessly and at one stage she was strangled to death.

Two convicted for possessing arms

Two youngmen were convicted on charge of possessing illegal arms and ammunition.

Abkar Hossain Mridha, Special Tribunal Judge, court No 5, Kishoreganj in a judgement delivered on May 30 sentenced Samiran Sahar alias Falan and Altaf Hossain alias Minto to suffer rigorous imprisonment for 10 years. According to the prosecution, on January 29, 1996, police arrested Samiran and Altaf from the premises of Batrish Government Primary School. Police recovered one revolver from the possession of Samiran and five rounds of ammunitions from Altaf.

Two killed in road accident

Two passengers were killed on the spot and at least 15 others injured when a Tarail-bound passenger bus skidded off a roadside ditch near Palahar bazar in Nandail thana on Kishoreganj-Mymensingh road recently.

This is being done on experimental basis, said transport leaders, adding the use of video recorder in identifying passengers in other points will be extended in phases.

Transport men introduced the method in the first week of this month.

Earlier, two armed guards were posted for each night coach to ensure security of passengers. But later the guards were withdrawn due to reasons known to inter district bus operators.

Rice mill boiler blasts: 8 hurt

Eight persons were injured seriously when the boiler of a rice mill blasted at village Jhalupara in Kishoreganj

district recently.

The boiler exploded at 9 pm injuring Abu Bakar Siddique, 25, Jamal, 10, Harunur Rashid, 25, Moharam Ali, 17, Hanif, 6, Latifa, 30, Kulsum, 22 and Panna, 20. They were first admitted into Kishoreganj sadar hospital from where they had been rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) as their conditions were deteriorating.

The landslides affected areas were mostly inaccessible. Rescue and medical teams reached the affected areas on foot.

Air Pollution

Most villagers in 2 dists use kutchha latrines

NETRAKONA, Aug 30: Despite hectic campaign by the government and NGOs to create awareness of health and sanitation, about 60 per cent people in rural areas here use kutchha latrines, reports UNB.

Kutchha latrines spread putrid smell causing serious air pollution. Besides, rotten jute plants before rating during this time of the year in ponds and tanks adjacent to the homes also create air pollution.

As a result of air pollution and use of such water, villagers have been suffering from various diseases like malaria, enteric fever and skin diseases.

Absence of adequate tube wells and safe drinking water compelled the villagers to use water polluted by jute rotting and kutchha latrines.

Local elite observed that the

government should provide adequate tube wells here to ensure safe drinking water.

Another report from Sherpur says: When 80 per cent of the town dwellers have access to sanitation facilities, rural people suffer from various diseases due to absence of such facilities, reports UNB.

Doctors say the disease spread easily from the defecation through the flies and mosquitoes. The situation has turned worst after arsenic contamination found in the deep tubewells of these areas.

It said that everyday defecation of about 29,000 metric tons released from human body dissolves into the rivers flowing through the district.

Executive Director of OVA told that they have earlier selected village Haribhanga as a model village.

They are preparing lands by power tillers

Shortage of magistrates in JESSORE

From Our Correspondent
JESSORE, Aug 30: Posts of seven magistrates have been lying vacant for several months in the district, hampering judicial and administrative activities.

Over 6000 cases are now pending with magistrate courts because of shortage of magistrates in the district, court sources said.

According to sources, 17 magistrates are now posted in the district against 24 sanctioned posts.

Of the 17 magistrates, nine are holding first class power. Seven are entrusted with second class and one is holding third class power.

New committee of Ctg city PCP

From CU Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Aug 30: Saumitra Chakma and Biplob Chakma have been made President and General Secretary respectively of Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) Chittagong city unit.

They were elected at the annual conference and council of the organisation held at Chittagong Buddhist Foundation auditorium on August 15. A 21-member new executive body was also formed at the council.

Smuggled sugar seized in Magura

From A Correspondent
MAGURA, Aug 30: Police seized 40 bags of smuggled Indian sugar in Arpara Bazaar area under Shalikha thana recently.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the spot and recovered the smuggled sugar. A case was lodged with Shalikha police in this connection. But nobody was arrested.

To make their plan a success, the Samity leaders asked every

businessman of the bazaar to keep a whistle and a stick in their shops and blow the whistle if one failed to convince a toll collector.

On hearing the whistle, the Samity decided