

News snaps

Kidnapped schoolgirl rescued

KURIGRAM, Oct 6: Police rescued a kidnapped schoolgirl from Kounia level-crossing within one hour of her abduction on Friday night, reports UNB.

Police said the abduction named Reazul Karim (Razu) aided by his associates picked up Mahmuda Begum (Kemi), a student of class X and daughter of Mokshed Ali from their residence at 9:30 pm on the day. On information, police started a hunt and rescued the girl. They also arrested eight youths in connection with the abduction.

Menace of snake

NAOGAON, Oct 6: Menace of poisonous snakes has increased in Dhamairhat upazila, creating panic among the people, reports BSS.

According to reports reaching here from Dhamairhat, several persons died by snake-bite in the area during the last few months. The latest victims were a housewife, Aduri Rani, and a six-year-old boy, Rumi. Local people think, Dhamairhat being a flood-affected area for the last few years has become an abode of snakes of the low-lying jungle areas the snakes have taken shelter in the high land and homesteads.

Teachers' rally

NARSINGDI, Oct 6: A teachers' rally organised by the Bangladesh Teachers' Association was held on Thursday at Brahmandi Girls High School premises here, reports BSS.

The rally was presided over by Ataur Rahman Bhuiyan. It was addressed, among others, by Afzal Uddin, General secretary of the district branch of the Bangladesh Teachers' Association. Leaders of the association urged the government to take necessary measures for implementation of their five-point charter of demand.

Two babies drown

THAKURGAON, Oct 6: Two babies drowned in a pond at village Panch Doal under Balaidangi thana last week, reports BSS. Eye witnesses said Hosne Ara 10, and Rokhshaná, 7, of village Panch Doal drowned while they were collecting water-lily from a pond near their house.

Workshop on retarded persons

DINAJPUR, Oct 6: A workshop on the intellectually retarded persons organised by the Society for the Welfare of Intellectually Disabled (SWID) was held last week at Lok Bhawan here, reports BSS.

Md Lutfar Rahman, president of the SWID, presided over the workshop which was inaugurated by the Deputy Commissioner of Dinajpur Azizur Rahman. Ainun Nahar presented the keynote paper. Pourasabha chairman Syed Mosaddeq Hossain (Labu) and District Education Officer Azhar Hossain, among others, took part in the discussion. Around 200 persons including teachers, cultural and social activists, journalists and NGO workers participated in the workshop.

Motivational workshop

NARSINGDI, Oct 6: A day-long motivational workshop on Women and Child Development, organised by the District Information Department, was held at Polash Upazila Parishad auditorium on Wednesday, reports BSS.

Rafiqul Islam, Deputy Commissioner Narsingdi, inaugurated the workshop as the chief guest while Abdul Kader, Thana Nirbahi officer (TNO) Polash presided over the inaugural function. The function was also addressed, among others, by Khaleda Khatun, District Information Officer, Fokhrul Islam, Assistant Commissioner and Magistrate, Md Habibur Rahman, District Sports Officer and journalist Abu Taher. A total of 40 persons including chairmen of union parishads, female ward members, school teachers and journalists participated in the workshop.

Old man killed in road mishap

MADARIPUR, Oct 6: An old man was killed by a speeding truck at Kalabari on Madaripur-Teknaf road on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police said Hakimuddin, 60, of village Kawakuli in sadar thana, was run over by the truck while he was crossing the road. He was rushed to Madaripur Sadar Hospital, where the attending doctors declared him dead.

3 unnatural deaths in Madaripur

MADARIPUR, Oct 6: Three unnatural deaths were reported in two thanas on Monday-Tuesday, reports BSS.

Police said Abdul Halim, 32, of village Purbarasti in sadar thana committed suicide on Monday. The cause behind the suicide could not be known immediately. Sadar police recovered the body of a middle-aged man from Puranbazar brothel on the same day. The dead was identified as Kinai Hawlader, 50, of village Chandibardi in sadar thana. Police also recovered the body of an unidentified youth from a paddy field at village Gengabardi in Rajorai thana on Tuesday. The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Teachers' Day observed

MADARIPUR, Oct 6: World Teachers' Day was observed in a befitting manner on Tuesday, reports BSS.

District Teachers' Association organised a discussion meeting on the occasion. Chaired by Association president Anjum Hossain, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Abdul Aziz Hawlader, Abdul Mannan, Binod Gain and Motahar Hossain. The meeting was followed by a colourful rally, which paraded different roads in the town.

Three muggers arrested

COMILLA, Oct 6: Police in a prompt action arrested three muggers with arms and recovered cash money looted by them in the town on Monday, reports BSS.

Police said the muggers numbering about 6 to 7 intercepted a private car of Arab-Bangladesh Bank near T&T office here on way to Sonali Bank in Monaharpur and looted Tk 9.20 lakh of the bank at gun-point. Soon after the incident, Comilla police alerted all thanas here and also neighbouring Chandpur district. They also formed 17 teams to nab the snatches. A team of Chandina police led by ASI Nazrul Islam chased the snatches and managed to catch them with arms, private car and cash at Dolia-Nawabpur bus stand. Cashier of the bank Ziaul Alam and guard Abul Khair who sustained injuries by the attack of muggers were admitted to Comilla sadar hospital.

Contraband recovered

BARISAL, Oct 6: Police and the Narcotics Control Department personnel recovered huge quantities of foreign wine, phenisyl syrup and hemp from different places here and Jhalakathi district on September 29, reports BSS.

Swarupkathi police seized 156 bottles of foreign wine from villages Katakhali and Barchha. Police arrested four persons in this connection from the spot. The arrested are Zakir, Shahbuddin, Lokman and Babul. The Detective Branch of police recovered 67 bottles of contraband phenisyl syrup from Katpatty road here. None was arrested. A team of Narcotics Control Department recovered one kilogram of hemp from Kalashkathi village. One person named Nirmal Chandra Das was arrested in this connection.

215 bridges, culverts constructed

JHALAKATHI, Oct 6: Some 215 bridges and culverts were constructed here in last four years at a cost of Tk 3.45 crore, reports BSS.

Officials said the bridges and culverts three were built in 1995-96 fiscal while 22 in 1996-97, 67 in 1997-98 and 123 in 1998-99 fiscal. Another report says: Roads and Highways Department has undertaken a scheme to construct 16 RCC culverts on three roads in the current fiscal, spending Tk 2.51 crore. Of them, eight culverts will be constructed on Gabkhan-Shekhher-Guwar road, four on Rajapur-Kathali-Bamna road and four on Jhalakathi-Nabagram-Guwar road.

Rice sanctioned

CHANDPUR, Oct 6: A total of 48,000 Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) cards and 2,670 Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) cards have been allocated for the members of the destitute families of seven upazilas and five pourashabas of Chandpur district in the current season, reports BSS.

According to an official source, 1,540 tons of food-grains have been allocated for the VGF programme. Each VGF card-holder will get monthly 10 kilograms of rice for three months. Besides, Disaster Management and Relief Ministry allocated 2,670 VGD cards for the seven upazilas and five municipalities under the district.

The government sanctioned 962 tons of rice for distribution free of cost under VGD programme here. Each VGD card-holder will get 30 kilograms of rice per month for one year.

House building grant for destitutes

CHUADANGA, Oct 6: The government has sanctioned Taka three lakh for disbursement as house building grant among 600 destitute and landless people in Sadar, Alamganga and Damruda upazilas in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the house building grant will be given to those poor men who were badly affected by last year's flood in the three upazilas. Each flood victim will get Taka 500. The disbursement of grant will begin soon.



Beauty of Sharat: A boy of village Royera in Sajikupa thana of Jhenidah district collecting red Shapla from a pond near his house. —Star photo by Delwar Kabir

T-Aman farming target surpasses in 10 dists

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Oct 6: A total of 725,169 hectares of land were brought under transplanted Aman paddy cultivation this season in 10 southern-west districts, surpassing the target by 29,819 hectares.

Agriculture Extension Department (AED) had set the target to bring 695,350 hectares of land under the farming in the area. The production target is 13,22,420 metric tonnes of paddy.

Agriculture officials have attributed the achievement of the target mainly to favourable weather conditions.

AED had fixed the target to produce 243,000 mt of paddy on

115,000 hectares of land in Jessoré; 30,000 mt on 15,000 hectares in Narail; 76,000 mt on 36,000 hectares in Magura; 152,000 mt on 70,000 hectares in Jhenidah; 113,600 mt on 53,000 hectares in Kushtia; 31,000 mt on 15,000 hectares in Meherpur; 65,000 mt on 30,000 hectares in Chuadanga; 199,000 mt on 130,000 hectares in Khulna; 250,620 mt on 121,350 hectares in Satkhira; and 101,209 hectares in Bagerhat.

Farmers have just started harvesting the crops. So far the price has been satisfactory. T-Aman paddy is now selling between Tk 350 and Tk 360 per maund.

Some farmers of village Hatgopalpur in Jhenidah Sadar thana, said weather condition was favourable this season.

People want to see what Kader Siddique likes to do: Tofail

BASHAII (Tangail), Oct 6: Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed has said people want to see what Kader Siddique likes to do by shaking hands with Khaleda Zia and Ershad, reports UNB.

"Kader Siddique tells about trial of the killers of Bangabandhu. On the other hand he shook hands with Bangabandhu's killers," he blasted the expelled Awami League leader.

Addressing a public meeting here on Tuesday, the minister urged the countrymen to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by not being misled by the statements of people devoid of principle and ideology.

The meeting was also addressed by AL leaders Shamsur Rahman Khan Shahjahan, Shawkat Momen Shahjahan, Mirza Tofazzal Hossain and Fazlur Rahman Faruk with MA Khalek in the chair.

MYMENSINGH, Oct 6: Acute fish crisis has been prevailing in markets here following sharp decline in supply.

Indigenous species such as tanga, shol, magur, shing, gazar, boal, pabda, puti and koi have virtually disappeared.

Local fish traders said these species are now getting dearer in local markets.

Fisheries Department officials said use of pesticides and chemical fertilisers on croplands is polluting waters of beel, haor, canals and rivers, the natural sources of fish, hampering production.

Moreover, fishing of fries is one of the main reasons for the decline, they said.

Elderly fish traders of Natun Bazaar and Machhia Bazaar in the district headquarters said a

section of unscrupulous fishermen catch fries and eggs from natural water bodies like rivers, beel and haor by using current nets, causing harm to fish production.

With the onset of rainy season, hundreds of kilograms of fish eggs are caught every from the rivers of Old Brahmaputra, Khiru, Sutia, Netai, Kangsha and other natural water bodies across the district.

Fishermen fish more than 200 kg of fries from the old Brahmaputra every year. Fishermen usually catch fish eggs with current nets during full moon and new moon.

Local people have urged the authorities concerned to stop fishing fries and eggs from natural water bodies.

New project for shelterless people of Moulvibazar

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Oct 6: Bandhan, a new Ashraya project was opened in Majidhali tea estate area of Srimongal thana on September 22 last.

Vice-Principal Md Abdus Shafeed whip of the parliament inaugurated the project at a simple but impressive ceremony. Chaired by GKM Nurul Ameen, Deputy Commissioner of Moulvibazar, the function was attended by Husne Ara Wahid MP, Md Habibur Rahman, Divisional Commissioner of Sylhet, Mahmudur Rahman, Chairman of Moulvibazar Pourasabha and Syed Mohsin Ali, President of Moulvibazar District Awami League as special guests.

4 robbers held in Sirajganj

From A Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 6: Four alleged robbers were arrested from Koddar intersection near the western side of Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge on Dhaka-Bogra highway early Monday.

The arrested were identified as Faruque, 30, Nasiruddin, 23, Abdus Sattar, 22, and Alamgir, 22, of Banbaria and Paikpara villages under Sadar thana.

Patrol police said they challenged a gang of eight people in the area and arrested four of them. Four others managed to flee.

The district administration sources has disclosed that more such projects will be implemented in near future in the district to rehabilitate the homeless people.

A portion of Jamalpur-Dhaka highway near Tipphallah bus stand which was affected badly by last year's flood is yet to be repaired. Vehicles are plying with great risk through this point.

— Star photo

Binam introduces London-Sylhet flight twice a week

From Iqbal Siddique

SYLHET, Oct 6: National flag carrier Biman Bangladesh is going to start its first direct flight along London-Sylhet route from November 3 this year, said a Biman official on Tuesday.

There will be two weekly flights every Wednesday and Friday.

Booking for the flight has already begun, said the official adding the much awaited decision has got a good response from the Bangladesh expatriates living in United Kingdom (UK). Most of the expatriates in UK are from the greater Sylhet region. The opening flight will take off from Heathrow Airport in London at 9:05 pm on November 3. It is scheduled to land at Dubai at 8:05 am on November 4 and take off at 9:30 am from there. The flight is scheduled to land at Sylhet MAG Osmani International Airport at 4 pm on the same day, the official informed. The time given is local time.

The 224-seat airbus, which is being used for operating the existing Dubai-Sylhet flight will also be used for the extended service, the official added. An additional amount of 23 pounds is being used for the London-Sylhet direct flight, the official added.

Introduction of the flight has created much enthusiasm in Sylhet. With this decision, a long felt demand of the people of Sylhet region is being fulfilled.

Moulvibazar DIARY

Four killed in road accident

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Oct 6: Four people were killed and 25 others injured in a tragic road accident at Kazir bazaar turning point on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in the Sadar thana at about 2.15 pm on Saturday.

The accident occurred when a Brahmanbaria bound passenger bus lost control when it reached at the aforesaid place and rammed on five rickshaws.

The bus was coming down from Sylhet. Local people rescued the injured people and rushed 25 of them to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital and Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital. Driver of the bus fled the scene.

Two of the dead were identified as Abul Hasim, 28, and Abdus Salam, 25. They were rickshaw pullers.

Emergency meet of 'Parosporik'

An emergency meeting of Parosporik Moulvibazar, a local voluntary educational, social literary, cultural and sports organisation, was held at Girzapara here on Saturday.

The meeting was chaired by its senior member Sultana Shamsunnahar Chowdhury. Secretary of the organisation Azmal Ahmed Chowdhury initiated the discussion meeting.

After threadbare discussion, it was decided to reorganise the executive committee of the organisation.

A six-member new executive committee was formed there with Sultana Shamsunnahar Chowdhury as President, Shameem Ara Begum as Secretary and Akhlaq Ahmed Chowdhury as Treasurer.

It was also decided in the meeting to include two local personalities journalist S M Motiur Rahman (Sani) and banker H M Mustaque Ahmed (Momin) as its members.

A decision was also taken that the organisation would arrange a 'quiz competition' at local Saifur Rahman auditorium in the first week of December this year with the students of all secondary schools in Moulvibazar Pourashava.

It is also gathered that toilet and pure drinking water facilities will also be provided to the project people. Each family will get eight kg of wheat and eight kg of rice monthly.

The district administration sources has disclosed that more such projects will