

News snaps

Father allegedly killed by son

RAJBARI, Oct 27 : A father was allegedly brutally killed by his son on Monday in Bilnaybarad village under sadar thana following a quarrel over sharing of land property, reports UNB.

Family sources said Abdul Jalil, 65, allotted his lands among his seven sons recently. The quarrel ensued in the morning when his sixth son Babu Molla, 24, asked the father to give his share by registering a deed. On refusal, Babu got furious and hacked his father to death. The body was brought to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

Efforts on to uproot terrorism

JOYPURHAT, Oct 27 : Home, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim on Monday said the government is firm to uproot terrorism from the country at any cost, reports BSS.

Addressing a big public meeting organised by the district Awami League here, the minister said the general people were held hostage by terrorists as General Ershad and Khaleda Zia harboured them for years to win elections. But the present government has taken effective steps including the combing operations to annihilate terrorists, he said. He urged the people to help the law enforcing agency personnel to curb terrorism. He assured the local people of setting up a 2,000-line digital telephone exchange in Joypurhat in the next financial year. Earlier, the minister addressed another public meeting at Mujibur Rahman College field in Akkelpur thana.

27 injured in Sirajganj clash

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 27 : At least 27 people, including five women, were injured in clashes between two groups of people at Mulkandi village in Balkuchi thana over a trifles matter on Sunday, reports UNB.

Of the injured, 15 were admitted to sadar hospital and other clinics. Of them conditions of 10 people, including three women, were stated to be critical. According to witnesses, the clash ensued as a sequel to a trifles incident of altercation among two local youths over ferrying at Mulkandi ghat. Later, the matter took a serious turn when two groups — one led by Aziz Talukdar and another led by Asad Mirza of the village — attacked each other with lethal weapons, which left 10 people injured in the morning. On same night another 17 people were injured when the supporters of Asad Mirza attacked their opponents. They also damaged and looted five houses.

Minister opens Education Week

FARIDPUR, Oct 27 : Environment and Forest Minister Sveda Sajeda Chowdhury on Monday opened the "Education Week -2000" in the district town with a call to the students to equip themselves with the qualities to serve society and the mankind, reports BSS.

The main theme of this year's observance of the education week is "Education for Better Living." Holding of education rally, education fair, adjustment of best students through subject-wise competition, best educational institution and education conference are the highlights of the week long programme. Inaugurating the programme at simple function, the minister said securing degree is not enough, rather welfare to the mankind should be the motto of education. She advised the students to read the lives of great men to imbibe themselves with their ideals of serving the people.

Gamblers arrested

NETRAKONA, Oct 27 : Netrakona Police arrested a total of 13 gamblers from a gambling den at Malni area here on October 21, reports BSS.

Police sources here said, acting on a tip-off, a police squad of Netrakona Kotwali Police Station cordoned a house at Malni area and arrested the gamblers. Police also recovered gambling money amounting to taka 5047 and six sets of playing cards from their possession. The arrested gamblers were produced before Netrakona Sadar Magistrate Court on October 22. The magistrate rejected their bail petitions and sent them to jail custody, police sources added.

Food Day observed

KISHOREGANJ, Oct 27 : World Food Day was observed in a befitting manner recently, reports BSS.

District food office arranged elaborate programmes to observe the day. The programmes included rally, seminar and discussion. A discussion on Food and Food Problem in the country was held in the Food Office. Presided over by the district Controller of Food, the meeting was attended by all thana food officers and inspectors, district level officials and elite. The speakers emphasised on increasing more production of food.

Journey by cycle

THAKURGAON, Oct 27 : Three youths who began journey across the country by by-cycle from Dhaka on October 1 to create awareness among the people about Arsenic problem arrived here on October 20, reports BSS.

The cyclists are Kazi Aminul Haque Jewel, a B.Com student of Shahid Suhrawardy College, AZM Manzurul Haque Rubel, final year honours students of Jagannath University College and Kazi Zahurul Islam Roni, second year honours student of Jagannath University College. Meanwhile, they visited Tangail, Sirajganj, Bogra, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Nikphamari, Panchagarh, Tetulia and Banglaphandha. Talking to newsmen at Thakurgaon Press Club they explained the purpose of their tour and said that their slogan is Drink Arsenic-free Water. They said that the central committee of Bangladesh Manabdhikar Commission has organised the tour.

Khelaghori Asor biennial confce

RANGAMATI, Oct 27 : Fourth biennial conference of Rangamati Spandan Khelaghori Asor was held on Monday at Bonorupa Forest Colony in the town, reports BSS.

Altaf Hussain, Conservator of Forests, Rangamati circle was the chief guest. Divisional Forest Officer of Chittagong Hill Tracts, South Forest Division, Tapai Kumar Dey and Municipal Ward Commissioner Zebun Nesa Rahim were the special guests while Chairman of the Conference Preparatory Committee, Rafiqul Islam was in the chair. Addressing the conference, the chief guest hailed the unique role of Khelaghori Asor in inspiring the people to uphold the spirit of liberation war in the prevailing polluted social environment. President of Spandan, Rangamati unit of Khelaghori Asor, journalist Sunil Kanti Dey, in his speech, said that this organisation has been trying to guide the children and youths of the society to the right path of living.

Work progressing

BARISAL, Oct 27 : Construction work of Dumki Agriculture College in sadar thana of Patuakhali district is expected to be completed soon, reports BSS.

On an average, 95 per cent work of this institution has already been completed till September, 1999. The project includes construction of students' hostels for males and females, quarters for teachers and officers, guest house, auditorium, gymnasium, library, academic building, mosque, medical centre, residence of the principal, farm building and purchasing of two buses for the students, two microbuses and a pick up. Besides, construction of a Shaheed Minar, boundary wall, earthwork, drainage system, roads, repairing of road and digging of pond is progressing fast now.

Agri-rehabilitation programme

SHERPUR, Oct 27 : The government has taken up an agriculture rehabilitation programme in five northern districts to recoup the farm output losses caused by last year's flood, reports UNB.

Agriculture Extension Department(AED) will implement the programme with financial assistance from OISCA Bangladesh, a Japan-based donor organisation. Under the programme, some 4,140 poor and marginal farmers in 40 thanas of Sherpur, Rangpur, Kurigram, Gaibandha and Bogra districts will be provided with seeds of various winter crops. AED has already distributed seeds of radish, cabbage, sweet pumpkin, watermelon, lettuce and spinach among the growers of 1,130 villages in each of five thanas.

Uplift works progressing

PATUAKHALI, Oct 27 : Works on 424 development projects under rural infrastructure maintenance programme began this week, reports UNB.

Officials said the authorities have sanctioned 603 mts of wheat for implementing the projects. The project works included reconstruction of rural roads, construction of bridges and renovations of educational institutions.

Two with firearms arrested

GAIBANDHA, Oct 27 : Police in separate drives in Gobindaganj thana arrested two people along with firearms and ammunition of Sunday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the house of Abdus Sattar at village Chor Sohagi and recovered two pistols, three bombs and three rounds of bullet. One person named Saiful was arrested in this connection. In another incident, police arrested another person named Morul Islam from a house in Raghunathpur thana along with a pipe gun.



Water is life: An acute scarcity of water has been prevailing in Chittagong city now-a-days. As a result life of the city dwellers has become very miserable. This picture testifies the truth. Residents of Lal Khan Bazaar area waiting for water keeping their pitchers serially at 2 am.

— Photo courtesy: Didarul Alam Didar

Workshop on NEMAP-Ctg Hill Dists

Larma for people's participatory environmental action plan

RANGAMATI, Oct 27: Chair-
man of Chittagong Hill Tracts
Regional Council (CHTRC)
Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma
(Santu Larma) on Tuesday em-
phasised the need for formula-
tion of a pragmatic environmental
management action plan for main-
taining ecological balance of the hilly region.

Defunct Rangamati Hill Dis-
trict Council Gautum Dewan,
Semp Programme Coordinator
Dr Mahfuzul Haq and Regional
Council Member Rupayan
Dewan spoke at the inaugural
session.

Andre Klap said between
1990 and '95 when NEMPA was
being formulated, the hill districts
region could not be covered,
given the then prevailing situation.

Shireen Karna said the CHT
component of SEMP will enable

for identification and priori-
tisation of actions needed for
environment and natural re-
sources management that are
aimed at sustainable future de-
velopment of this particular
region.

FEJB Chairman Quamrul
Islam Chowdhury said traditional
knowledge of the people should
be highlighted in the action plan.

Syed Murshed said envi-
ronment ministry is deter-
mined to improve the environ-
ment of the CHT region and
launching of this workshop is
the beginning of the planning
exercise.

Dipankar Talukdar, MP
said after the peace accord
window of opportunities has
opened up which should be ex-
plored by all development partners
and agencies.

Shakwat Hossain under-
scored the need for sustainable
development of the hilly dis-
tricts.

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Dr. Mahfuzul Haque said a
total of 15 grassroots work-
shops will be organized in the
region in next six months for
eliciting people's opinion.

Over 150 participants di-
vided into three groups prepared
a workshop plan, which was
approved at the concluding
session.

Foodgrains for flood victims in N-region

From A Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 27: One
lakh and 70 thousand metric
tons of foodgrains were allo-
cated under Kabikha and Test
Relief projects in the northern
region to address food crisis fol-
lowing the recent floods which
have affected crops on a vast
tracts of land.

The government allocated 1
lakh 20 thousand metric tons
food grains under Kabikha pro-
ject and 50 thousand metric
tons under TR project, official
sources said.

Besides, 1.5 lakh more VGF
(Vulnerable Group Feeding)
cards were allocated, in addi-
tion to 3 lakh cards allocated
earlier.

Deputy Commissioners have
been asked to Kabikha project
immediately following the
recession of floodwaters, the
Relief Ministry sources said.

Biennial confce of Chandpur BNP

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Oct 27: Bienn-
ial conference of Chandpur
district unit of BNP was held on
Friday.

The conference elected S A
Sultana Titu and Alamgir Haider
Khan MP President and General
Secretary respectively of the
district unit for the next two
years.

Held at Chandpur Hasan Ali
High School playground, the
conference was attended by a
large number of party delegates
from seven thanas. Prof Abdul
Mannan, Joint Secretary General
of BNP, inaugurated the
conference.

Among others, BNP leaders
MK Anwar, Md Shahjahan MP,
Major General (Rtd) Mahabubur
Rahman, Major General (Rtd) Z
A Khan, Advocate Majibur
Rahman, Khandakar Abdus
Salam were present on the
occasion.

Wildlife in Cox's Bazar on verge of extinction

From Abdul Monayem Khan

COX'S BAZAR, Oct 27 : Wildlife
particularly mammals are estab-
lished by clearing the jungles.
Felling of trees for firewood

have badly affected the habitat
of wild animals.

According to experts, in
Bangladesh there are 105
species of mammals, 567
species of birds, 129 species of
reptiles and 14 types of amphibians
which constitute a rich
wild life resource.

Experts said, poaching, ex-
pansion of human settlements,
industrialisation and extension
of arable lands are the reasons
behind the natural degradation.

According to forest officials,
21 species of wildlife have
already disappeared and 42 other
species are on the verge of extinction.

Experts said, poaching, ex-
pansion of human settlements,
industrialisation and extension
of arable lands are the reasons
behind the natural degradation.

The species gradually dis-
appeared mainly after the libera-
tion of the country and had
been totally wiped out in the
last 12 years. Beside, the num-
ber of tigers, elephants, deers,
monkeys, gharials and dol-
phins are also decreasing, they
added.

The number of wild animals
is decreasing every day in five
out of seven thanas of Cox's
Bazar district due to various
reasons for quite a long time.

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