

News snaps

Road accidents claim 3 lives

JESSORE, Dec 5: Three people, including a boy, were crushed to death under the wheels of speeding vehicles in separate incidents in Sarsa and Sadar thanas on Thursday, reports UNB.

Police and hospital sources said Abul Hashem, 16, a Class X student of Jamtola High School, was run over by a microbus while crossing the Magura-Sathkira road at Bagachara at about 11 am. Hashem was the son of Meher Ali of village Panchpota in Sarsa thana. A four-year-old boy, Zahid Hasan, son of Safiquzzaman of village Baidadanga in Sadar thana died on the spot when a truck knocked him down on Jessore-Narail road at about 8 am. In another mishap, labourer Abdul Malek, 35, was critically injured when a truck hit him at Sathmail Bazaar in Sadar thana on the same day. He was rushed to Jessore General Hospital, where the attending doctors declared him dead. Three separate cases were filed in connection with the incidents.

Uplift activities reviewed

NARSIGNDI, Dec 5: Minister for Science and Technology Lt Gen (ret'd) Mohammed Nooruddin Khan on Wednesday underscored the need for implementation of the projects in due time to accelerate the pace of development, reports BSS.

Speaking as the chief guest at the meeting of Monohardi thana development project implementation committee, Nooruddin laid emphasis on the use of quality goods in implementing the development projects to help maintain the standard of works. The Minister sought cooperation of members of the implementation committee as well as the local people in finishing the development projects on schedule. Officials said, development projects worth about Taka 27 crore were implemented in building of physical infrastructures and in communication, education and health sectors in Monohardi thana during the last three and a half years. Authorities have also implemented 684 projects under rural infrastructures reforms and maintenance programme, they said.

New building for orphans

MEHERPUR, Dec 5: The government has constructed a new building for the orphans in the suburbs of the town at a cost of over Tk 1.70 crore, reports UNB.

The newly constructed building of former Shishu Sadan of the government on 2.13 acres of land has been turned into Shishu Paribar. State Minister for Social Welfare Dr Mozammel Hossain formally inaugurated the new building on November 30. Later, the state minister distributed Tk 15 lakh as interest free loan among the distressed people at the local shilpakala academy and Gangni Thana Parishad Hall.

'Waz mahfil' held

TANGAIL, Dec 5: The annual 'waz mahfil' of Madhupur Barabaid Yatimkhana Madrasa was held on Saturday at its campus, reports BSS.

Alhaj Moulana Abdus Salam Rajee presided over the 'mahfil'. Eminent Islamic thinkers of the country delivered lectures on Quran and Hadith in the 'mahfil'. KH Musa Chowdhury, a donor, laid the foundation stone of a pucca mosque there. Among others, Subir Kishore Chowdhury, TNO Madhupur, AC (Land) and thana social welfare officer attended the function.

Discussion meeting

MANIKGANJ, Dec 5: A discussion was held here at the first Shaheed Minar premises on Sunday, reports BSS.

It was presided over by convener of Language Martyr Memorial Council Mujibur Rahman. The discussion was addressed, among others, by district children affairs officer Shariful Islam and Advocate Dipak Ghosh.

Six trucks looted

NAOGAON, Dec 5: Dacoits looted six trucks at Kowatola in sadar thana on Naogaon-Badalgachi Road on Thursday midnight, reports UNB.

The armed bandits barricaded the road for two hours and looted the belongings of trucks from 1:30 am. Truck workers said police did not go to the spot even after sending message to them. Local transport workers raised barricade placing trucks helter-skelter on the roads in the bus terminal area on Friday morning protesting the indifference of police. The agitated workers, however, cooled down after police nabbed a man identified as Sana on charge of the robbery.

Wheat allotted for uplift work

SHERPUR, Dec 5: The government has allotted 1,359 metric tons of wheat for rural infrastructure development during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

The wheat, under Food for Work Programme (FWP) of the government, will be utilised to construct and reconstruct the roads, construction of dams and earth filling in playground of different educational institutions. According to the district relief and rehabilitation department, the work on the projects will begin within next month. The wheat has already been sent to respective thanas. Thanawise wheat allocations are: Sadar-410 metric tons, Nakla-210 tons, Nalitabari-265 tons, Jhenaidah-180 tons and Sreebordi-294 tons.

Tk 5.42 cr eye hospital project

JHENIDAH, Dec 5: The government has undertaken a project to establish an eye hospital here to provide eye care to the people of the region, reports UNB.

The hospital will be constructed on 1.5 acres of land near the town at a cost of Tk 5.42 crore. Social Welfare Department will implement the project, official sources said. Apart from treating eye patients, the hospital will provide education to the blind and rehabilitate them. Construction of the hospital is likely to begin soon.

23 uplift schemes progressing

PIROJPUR, Dec 5: Pirojpur Municipality has taken up a project to implement 23 schemes involving Tk 26 lakh during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

The works included construction and reconstruction of road, afforestation, repairing of buildings and bridges and construction of pipe, boundary pillar and drain. Completion of the project, which is already underway, is expected to improve communication and drainage system in the town.

Sugarcane farming programme

MADARIPUR, Dec 5: Nearly 2,000 hectares of land will be brought under sugarcane cultivation here during the next season, reports UNB.

The production target has been fixed at 90,000 metric tons. District Agriculture Extension Department sources said the thana-wise breakup of sugarcane cultivation is: Sadar-460 hectares, Kalkini-1,050 hectares, Rajoir-120 hectares and Shibchar-350 hectares.

Pipe guns recovered

BARISAL, Dec 5: Banaripara thana police recovered two pipe guns from a pond near the women's affairs department office on Saturday, according to police sources, reports BSS.

Police arrested Firoz Hossain Talukder, Labani Khanam and Afzar in this connection. A police case was lodged with Banaripara thana.

Directive to recover money

SYLHET, Dec 5: Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts directed the local Sylhet Municipality to recover the money for the commissioners taken in excess of their honorarium, reports UNB.

Officials said 14 commissioners of the municipality drew Tk 35,000 from the municipal funds in excess of their honorarium in 1997-98, which was detected during the government audit. It was told that the commissioners had taken the money to meet expenses on stationery. The ministry concerned accepted the explanation and settled the matter. However, problem arose when the meeting of Public Accounts Committee rejected the proposal of the Ministry on October 28 and directed it to recover the money from the 14 commissioners of the Sylhet Poursasabha.

Priority on rural dev

LALMOHON, (Bhola) Dec 5: Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed said the government is giving priority on rural based development and that's why it is providing all-out assistance for building rural infrastructure and setting up small and cottage industry, reports BSS.

The government is establishing BSCIC industrial estates in these places where the people will be benefited, he said adding the previous governments had established BSCIC industrial estates indiscriminately in different areas which in fact have turned into a barren land. The minister was addressing a huge rally here with local union parishad chairman Manu Miah in the chair.

Goitre patients up in Kurigram

KURIGRAM, Dec 5: The number of goitre patients has been increasing here due to iodine deficiency and the people's ignorance of its effects, reports UNB.

According to a recent estimation, the number of goitre patients here is about 3 lakh, of which majority are female. Hundreds of women have been leading a miserable life with a big lump at their throats. The disease has also created a

social problem as unmarried girls find it hard to get married. Besides, goitre, other diseases like mental disability, dwarf and dullness are also abundant here.

The main cause of the disease is deficiency of iodine in soil. Heavy downpour and recurrent flooding in the northern districts wash away the essential element of the human body from soil.

To prevent the deficiency,

the government has undertaken programme to supply iodine through salt. It is mandatory to mix iodine to the salt but a section of millers did not mix iodine in the salt. Besides, iodine-less salts are also smuggled in from neighbouring country.

Due to its low price, the poor people who are also ignorant of iodine deficiency, are randomly buying and using iodine-less salt.

Locals alleged that the au-

thorities concerned are not taking any steps to check smuggling or selling of iodine-less salt.

A physician said a human being needs only 3-4 gm iodine, a chemical ingredient very essential in forming thyroid hormone for the growth of the human body.

Another report from Feni says: About 60 per cent people of three coastal districts in greater Noakhali have been suffering from malnutrition-related diseases due to non-intake of protein-rich food and mineral salt. This was revealed in a survey conducted by some NGOs in collaboration with Health and Nutrition Department.

In some remote villages of Feni, Noakhali and Laxmipur districts up to 95 per cent people have been suffering from malnutrition, the survey said.

Female and children are the worst sufferers of the malnutrition. Some 9 per cent males, 35 per cent females and 16 per cent children have been suffering from malnutrition.

The badly hit area is Ramgati thana of Laxmipur district where nearly 97.45 per cent people have been suffering from malnutrition.

A nutritionist said a healthy man needs 43.30 gm protein daily. He said scarcity of fish is one of the main causes of protein deficiency. Once, 80 per cent animal protein comes from fish. Now, fish has become dearer in the area.

However, neither any NGOs nor government agencies have come forward to combat the situation.

Local people urged the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to boost fish production in the area to contain protein deficiency in the districts.



Believe it or not: This is Malithia Government Primary School in Sailkupa thana of Jhenidah district. The ground in front of the two school buildings is low where water remains stagnated for most of the time. The reason is there is no outlet of stagnated water. The place is a permanent threat to the school children, but the authorities care little to solve the chronic problem.

— Star photo

Five killed in separate incidents in 4 dists

A total of five persons were killed recently in separate incidents in Jhenidah, Magura, Sathkira and Joypurhat districts, reports agency.

A man was killed and 35 people were injured in a clash over harvesting on disputed land at Hajramoni village in Shailakupa thana of Jhenidah district on Nov 28.

In a sequel to long-standing dispute, Mubarak Ali and Ansar Mondal of the village locked in a clash over harvesting paddy on Mubarak's land on the day.

Witnesses said the clash occurred when Ansar Mondal and his supporters, equipped with lethal arms, tried to resist Mubarak and his men from harvesting the paddy.

One person named Hujur Ali succumbed to his injuries on way to Kushtia Sadar Hospital. The injured from both groups were admitted to the local hospitals.

Additional police were deployed in the village to avert further trouble. A young lover was brutally killed allegedly by the father of his fiancée in Magura town on Monday night.

Family sources said the victim, Sanjit Kumar Goswami of village Sialpur in sadar thana, salesman in a garments shop in the town, had love affairs with Lipi Rani Biswas, daughter of Babul Biswas, residing behind

the shop. The guardians of Lipi, a student of Class VIII, had repeatedly warned Sanjit but he ignored.

On Monday night some armed terrorists kidnapped Sanjit, took him to nearby Naboganga riverside and strangled him to death.

Police recovered the body on Tuesday morning and sent to the sadar hospital for autopsy. Police arrested Babul Biswas and Anjali Biswas, the parents of Lipi Rani, following a case lodged with the police.

A young housewife was allegedly beaten to death by her husband in Kalatara thana in Sathkira district on Tuesday. The victim was identified as

Boy killed in road accident in Narail

From Our Correspondent

NARAIL, Dec 5: A six-year-old boy was killed as a running truck hit him at Lohagara thana recently.

The boy was identified as Abul Hossain, son of late Nisruddin of village Singa under Lohagara thana.

The accident occurred on C&B Main Road near BRAC office. A case was filed in this connection.

Arsafunnesa, 22, wife of Nasar Ali of Khoroudi village.

Police said Nasar beat up Arsafun to death as she failed to bring dowry money from her parents.

The body was sent to the sadar hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with the police.

In another incident, a youth allegedly committed suicide in Shyamnagar thana on the same day.

Police said Jahangir Hossain, 30, son of former upazilla Chairman Abul Haque, killed himself by hanging with a nearby mango tree of their house.

The cause behind the suicide could not be known. But a letter recovered from the victim's cloth's pocket read — "none was responsible for his suicide."

A UD case was filed with the police in this regard. A boy was killed in an accident by a truck of Joypurhat Sugar Mills on Joypurhat-Jalmaganj road on Tuesday.

Police and witnesses said the truck carrying sugarcane ran over Nazmul Hossain, 11, of Narayanpara when he was crossing the road at Pakar Mattha at 11 am.

Nazmul had been living with his mother in her father's house in absence of his father.

Pry school dropouts on rise

BAGERHAT, Dec 5: Myriad problems, including mismanagement and lack of teachers, have plagued the primary schools in the district, raising the number of dropouts, reports UNB.

In a bid to ensure education for all by the year 2006, 274 primary schools out of 1036 in nine thanas have been brought under Food-for-Education Programme.

Officials said over 1.85 lakh students were enrolled in different schools here last year, but 25 per cent of them have left the schools by the time. Some 1.71 lakh students took admission this year, they said.

A recent survey revealed that although the enrollment rate in primary schools has increased in recent years following the introduction of food-for-education programme, the standard of education continues to decline.

Conflicts among school managing committees, teachers and guardians on distribution of food among students are also blamed for the deteriorating condition in primary schools here.

When contracted the district primary education officer said 33 posts of headmaster and that of 43 assistant teachers have long been lying vacant. Allegations are also there against the teachers that they do not attend their classes regularly.

AL leaders urge govt

Expedite construction of four rubber dams

CHITTAGONG, Dec 5: Leaders of Chakaria thana Awami League (AL) at a press conference Wednesday urged the government to expedite construction work of the proposed four rubber dams on the river Matamuhuri to ensure irrigation facilities for fifty to sixty thousand acres of lands, reports BSS.

They said many projects including the rubber dams have been undertaken by the present government for overall development of Chakaria thana, particularly agriculture and aquatic sectors. "Agricultural and aquatic production of the area largely depend on permanent cross-dams on the river Matamuhuri", they said, adding Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during her recent visit had assured the local people of construction of four rubber dams for irrigation during dry season.

Joint convener of Cox's Bazar district AL Salauddin Ahmed read out a written statement at the press conference held at Chittagong Press Club. Former MP and convener of Cox's Bazar district AL

Youth chopped to death in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Dec 5: A young man was murdered by some unidentified assailants in Billabari area, on outskirts of the town recently. The dead was identified as Masud, 23.

Mostaque Ahmed, AL leaders Alhaj Anwar Hossain, ATM Zia Uddin Zia and Jafar Alam were present at the press conference.

AL leaders said every year government has to allocate huge quantities of wheat under "Food for work programmes" to construct temporary dams for irrigation during dry season, but the dams are washed away by floods during rainy season.

Attack criticised

SHARIATPUR, Dec 5: BNP leaders at a public meeting here on Saturday urged the people to intensify their anti-police movement to topple this 'subservient' government, reports UNB.

Organised by the district unit of BNP, the meeting was addressed, among others, by BNP Standing Committee member Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain, Sardar AKM Nasiruddin Kalu, Dr KA Jalil, Yakub Ali Hawlader and SMA Altaf Mahmood. BNP district convener TM Giasuddin Ahmed presided.

Criticising police attack on Sadek Hossain Khoka, Abdullah Al Noman and Joynuj Abedin Faruque in Dhaka, Mosharraf said, "It was a clear attempt on the lives of the BNP leaders".

Giasuddin Ahmed said "Awami goons" have established a reign of terror in Maria thana and the terrorists are roaming around in broad daylight brandishing firearms under the shelter of a ruling party MP.

Event of district in picture



Managing Director of Loe Consultancy Services Ltd Mick Loc and Associate Consultant of Oxford Policy Management Paul Thornton recently met with Rajshahi city mayor Mijanur Rahman Minu at his office in Rajshahi. They discussed on progress of various development projects.

— Star photo

40 killed in 9 months in Kushtia this yr

KUSHTIA, Dec 5: In an indication of lawlessness, 40 people, including six women, were murdered in first nine months of the current year in Sadar and Gangni thanas of Meherpur district, reports UNB.

The most tragic incident took place on April 16 at Balia-rup in Sadar thana where four people — Mohsin, Reasin, Nurad Ali and Ansar Ali — were killed.

The women victims were identified as Sathi, Anura Kharun, Hanufa, Rubina, Parul and Fazila Khatun.

According to press reports, six people were killed in January, four in February, five in March, nine in April, four in May and three each in June, July and September. No murder was reported during the month

of August. Most of the victims were either gunned down or slaughtered after abduction.

Locals alleged that violent crimes like murder after abduction, rape, dacoity and mugging are some of the gravest problems they are facing now.

They said organised gangs of terrorists equipped with firearms move around in broad daylight in the thanas unleashing a reign of terror.

Police said in their recent combing operation they arrested 70 terrorists and recovered 50 firearms. "But some real terrorists somehow or rather escaped arrest and are now carrying out terrorists acts," said a local elite wishing anonymity.

Uplift schemes progressing

Various development projects are progressing in Barisal, Tangail and Madaripur districts, reports agency.

Facilities Department has been implementing 45 education projects at a cost of Taka 7,35,65,000 in ten thanas of Barisal district in the current fiscal year.

According to an official source, the government has been financing the implementation of the projects.

The projects include the construction of seven non-government degree colleges, two-story buildings for 25 non-government secondary schools, one-story buildings for seven non-government Madrasas and expansion of six secondary schools for introducing double shifts.

On average, 50 per cent work on these projects has already been completed and the rest is expected to be completed by April next.

Road and Highways Department, Tangail has taken a programme for repairing and maintaining its seven roads in this fiscal year.

Official sources said that Taka 9.7 lakh has been sanctioned for the purpose. The work will be completed by this month.

The government has allotted 510 tonnes of wheat under the Test Relief Programme to implement 269 schemes in four thanas and three pourasabhas in Madaripur district.

The schemes have been taken up to create employment opportunities for the rural

poor. Of the total, 124 tons have been allotted against 55 schemes in Sadar thana, 118 tons against 66 schemes in Kalkini thana, 106 tons against 72 schemes in Rajoir thana, 141 tons against 63 schemes in Shibchar thana, 14 tons against 6 schemes in Madaripur Poursasabha, 5 tons against 5 schemes in Shibchar Poursasabha and 2 tons against 2 schemes in Kalkini Poursasabha.

Senior nurse manhandled at Kurigram

KURIGRAM, Dec 5: Nurse students of Kurigram Nurse Training Institutes assaulted a senior nurse of sadar hospital recently, reports UNB.

Witnesses said senior staff nurse Shirin Akhter Banu has long been pressing nurse student Rashida Begum to marry Shirin's ex-husband Habibur Rahman.

As she turned down the proposal, Shirin swooped on Rashida inside the institute on Friday and beat up her severely.

Angered by the attack, some 40 nurse students picked up Shirin from the institute on Sunday and gave her a tremendous thrash.

On information, police and civil surgeon Dr Mozaffar Hossain rushed to the spot and rescued the injured nurse.



Not a truck terminal: The pictures seem to be a truck terminal where workers remain busy loading and unloading of goods. But actually it is a spot where two trucks met an accident recently. The place is Isakhada area on Magura-Jhenidah highway.

— Star photo by Hossain Seraj