

News snaps

Intellectuals' Day in Bandarban

BANDARBAN, Dec 19: Different political and social organisations have observed the Martyred Intellectuals' Day here in a befitting manner, reports UNB.

District unit of Awami League, BNP, Sramil League, Krishak Samity and local administration observed the day through elaborate programmes. BNP, Krishak League and Krishak Samity organised separate discussion meetings on the occasion. Speakers at the discussions condemned the killing of intellectuals at the fag end of the liberation war. They accused local collaborators of the occupation forces to render the nation bankrupt intellectually. They cautioned the people that the collaborators are still active and conspiring against the national independence.

Brickfield owners fined

FARIDPUR, Dec 19: An amount Taka 70 thousand was realised as fine from seven brickfield owners and three thousand maunds of firewood was confiscated on Wednesday for violating government restrictions in using firewood in brick manufacturing, reports BSS.

According to an official source, a mobile court led by First Class Magistrate of Faridpur Collectorate Hamidur Rahman raided the brickfields and found seven brickfield owners violating restrictions by using firewood for brick manufacturing. Each brickfield owners were find Taka 10,000 while all the firewood heaped in those brickfield amounting to about three thousand maunds were also confiscated. The Environment Ministry in a very recent order has imposed restrictions not to issue any further licence to new brickfields. But the brickfields already operating will not come under the purview of the order. The government is seriously dealing the deforestation matter for the sake of environment.

Library opens

HABIGANJ, Dec 19: A reference library-cum information centre has been set up in Sadar thana here, reports UNB.

Mahmood A Rouf, president of Habiganj Association in UK, has recently inaugurated the centre. General secretary of the association Hifzur Rahman and its executive member and council of Tower Hamlet Council Syed Mizan were present on the occasion. The association announced to donate Tk 50,000 to start functioning of the centre.

Housewife commits suicide

CORILLA, Dec 19: A young housewife of Abidpur village in Burichang thana has allegedly committed suicide by taking poison, reports UNB.

Local sources said Selina, 21, wife of Azad Bhuiyan, took poison after a quarrel with her in-laws on Dec 6. She was rushed to Comilla Medical College Hospital, but died there the same day.

Acid thrown on 2 women

MYMENSINGH, Dec 19: An teenage girl and her grandmother have been struggling for life in the district Medical College Hospital after they suffered acid injuries on Monday night, reports UNB.

Residents said miscreants threw acid on Achhia Khatun, wife of Aminul Huq, and her grand daughter Panna when they were asleep in the house in village Muglia in Katiadi thana of Kishoreganj district. The victims were taken to Bajipur thana Health Complex and later on shifted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. The brutal action was suspected to be a sequel to enmity over land dispute.

Body recovered

CORILLA, Dec 19: The body of a shopkeeper was recovered from village Ratnapur in Sadar thana on Friday, reports UNB.

Police and family sources said unidentified terrorists killed Nazrul Islam Momin on way home at about 11 pm on the day. Police suspect that Nazrul had been strangled to death by the assailants over property. The victim was sent to the hospital for autopsy. A male son of Nazrul was found dead in a case with Kotwali thana. A sister of the son said a nephew had allegedly killed his uncle at Nella village under Brahmapur thana on Wednesday. Police said Alim Alim strangled to death his uncle, Sekandar Ali, following a family feud. A case was filed with the police.

Young boy gunned down

NARSINGHDI, Dec 19: Armed dacoits gunned down a young boy and looted cash and valuables from a house in remote village Taltala in Polash thana early hours Monday, reports UNB.

Police said a group of armed dacoits stormed into the house of Rahman Master at about 1 am, tied with rope all the inmates of the house and looted the wealth estimated at Tk one lakh. Sensing presence of the dacoits the villagers came forward and chased them. While retreating the dacoits opened gunfire and exploded homemade bombs to scare away the villagers. One of the bullets killed Sabir Mia, 18, on the spot. The body was sent to the hospital morgue for post mortem.

Loan disbursed

PROJUPUR, Dec 19: Regional office of Bangladesh Krishik Bank has disbursed more than Tk 3.53 crore among the farmers during the last four months to boost agriculture production, reports UNB.

The bank through its 21 branches disbursed the loan among 2,979 farmers for augmenting production of various crops like paddy, potato, sweet potato, banana and winter vegetables. Besides, the bank has advanced soft loan to marginal farmers to purchase bullock, set up dairy farm, poultry farm and for self-employment activities by unemployed rural youths.

Aman harvesting progressing

RANGPUR, Dec 19: Harvesting of a bumper Aman paddy is going on in full swing in all the 8 districts of greater Rangpur and Dinajpur, reports UNB.

Officials hope that more than 17,63,000 tons of paddy will be available to the growers this season. Farmers cultivated Aman this year on 10,37,500 hectares in two greater districts of Rangpur and Dinajpur as against the official target of 10.09 lakh hectares.

Orientation workshop

HABIGANJ, Dec 19: A daylong orientation workshop on oral re-dehydration therapy (ORT) concluded at local Circuit House here on Saturday, reports UNB.

Deputy Commissioner Abdul Aziz inaugurated the workshop organised by district administration in collaboration with UNICEF. Thirty-six woman members and ward commissioner from two thanas and two municipalities took part in the workshop. Additional district commissioner MAN Siddique presided over the workshop. The discussants included DC Abdul Aziz, Civil Surgeon Dr Hosne Ara, Deputy Civil Surgeon Dr Wali Mahmud Khan, director Anisa Khatun, district primary education officer Sumal Kumar Barua, assistant director of LGD Rashedul Islam and project director of UNICEF AA Quamrul Islam.

Uplift projects progressing

KISHOREGANJ, Dec 19: Local Government Engineering Department (LGED), Kishoreganj has taken up 33 development projects in 13 thanas in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to official sources, the government has sanctioned Taka 20,059,6000 for different development projects in 13 thanas. The projects also included the development of rural infrastructure.

Road mishap kills police officer

MYMENSINGH, Dec 19: One police officer was killed in a road accident near Maizbagh under Iswarganj thana on December 13, reports BSS.

According to police sources, the victim was identified as Abdus Satter, Sub-Inspector of Naudali thana. It was reported that Abdus Satter was going to Netrakona by motorcycle for his official duty and was killed under the wheels of a running bus coming from opposite direction on Mymensingh-Kishoreganj highway near Maizbagh under Iswarganj thana. The driver of the bus, however, managed to escape. The body was sent to his village home in Tangail for burial.

Separate incidents kill 2

PROJUPUR, Dec 19: Two people, including a girl student of Govt BM College, were killed in separate incidents on Sunday.

Nanjin Akther Lipi, a student of Economics Department of the college, was suffocated to death allegedly by her husband on Sunday. Police, however, picked the maid-servant of the house, Khadija Begum, for interrogation. Meanwhile, various professionals held rallies and processions in the town on Monday protesting the killing of Lipi. In another incident, Mohammad Raj, son of Abdus Salam in Dhaka, was killed when a bus knocked him down near Togra Ferry ghat on Monday noon. Police seized the bus and arrested its driver and his helper.

1,770 killed in launch accidents in 16 years

BARISAL, Dec 19: Some 1,770 people have been killed in 228 river-way accidents in the country during last 16 years, reports UNB.

During the period, 1,649 people were killed in 21 accidents in Barisal region only, which is about 90 percent of the total casualties.

Of them, 50 drowned in a collision between an oil tanker and a passenger launch at Lamchari in the River Kirtonkhola in 1983.

Eleven passengers were killed when a launch capsized at Charmonai in 1984. In the same year, 100 more people drowned in the River Kirtonkhola.

Some 500 passengers feared drowned when a launch sank at Moulavirhat in Hizla in the River Meghna in 1986.

A total of 150 people were killed in the River Lohalia in Patuakhali district in 1989 in a launch disaster while 22 at Beltala in Kirtonkhola in 1990, 100 at Char Bherdura in 1993.

Some 52 people drowned in two accidents in the Rivers Tetulia and Kalapara in 1997.

Some 30 people were killed in the River Charkhali Kacha in Pirojpur and three in Meghna in 1998.

In recent accidents, some 120 passengers drowned when ML Dweepakanya and ML Falguni capsized on Daulatkhana-Char Alexander route on May 8 and December 11 respectively.

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They tore down nat'l flag

PATUAKHALI, Dec 19: Three students of Amragachhi High School in Mirzaganj thana and its headmaster were injured in an attack on a discussion meeting by terrorists on Friday, reports UNB.

The gangsters attacked the meeting on Victory Day on the school premises injuring headmaster Mohammad Bazlur Rahman and SSC candidates Jahangir, Shahid and Shahin.

They also tore down the national flag while leaving the spot.

The headmaster filed a case against four people with Mirzaganj police. But police could not yet unearth the cause behind the attack.

Unrest in B'baria prison

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMANBARIA, Dec 19: Inmates in Brahmanbaria jail on Thursday chanted slogans against the jail authorities protesting alleged malpractice in distributing foods among the prisoners.

The protest continued throughout the day, creating a tense situation. The situation, however, was brought under control by the evening.

A prison official, seeking anonymity, said when the authorities resisted a bid to supply illegal drugs to inmates they started agitation on flimsy ground. Visitors often supply drugs like phenylid syrup and hemp to inmates, he added.

Bangladeshi forest guard killed by BSF

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 19: Indian border force BSF personnel allegedly gunned down a Bangladeshi forest guard at Mandarbaria near the Sundarbans on December 4.

The dead was identified as Kadrat Ali, 28. He was shot just as the moment he surrendered raising his hands on board a mechanised boat, which came under the attack by the BSF men who trespassed Bangladeshi waters through the Roy Mangal river. Kadrat Ali died on the spot. Three other forest guards on board, however, managed to escape.

Officials of the Sundarbans Forest Division including DPO Zahiruddin visited the place of occurrence on December 5 along with over fifty armed forest guards. They investigated the incident and got a lot of evidences that BSF attacked the boat without any provocation.

One of the top officials said that BSF personnel were on a mission to rescue Indian fishermen. Twelve Indian fishermen were allegedly kidnapped from Dublarchar area near the Bay of Bengal by Bangladeshi pirates on December 3. Earlier on the same day, some Indian pirates allegedly kidnapped six Bangladeshi fishermen from the same place.

Poachers active as guest birds start arriving

GOPALGANJ, Dec 19: With the advent of winter, a section of people have become active in catching the guest birds in the district, defying government ban, reports UNB.

A group of amateur hunters, most of them members of local rifle club, are engaged in the carnage shooting down or catching at least 500 winter migratory birds daily in the area, an unofficial source said.

Every year, thousands of guest birds come to the district and stay Chander beel, Birni Bazar, chars of the rivers of Kishoreganj, Madhumati river and its adjacent Kalla area as part of their cruise to the tropical countries to save themselves from the chilly weather of Siberian region.

The birds locally known as Pankouri, Chakha, Dighari, Kalidighari, Sarail, Balihash, Burisforks, Herons, Koa, Modotak are found abundantly around the rivers, beels and baors during the winter.

A section of unemployed youths of the area also involve themselves in catching of the birds as a means of source of their income during the winter season. They prepare nets, traps and other instruments to catch the birds.

The source said although there is government ban on killing or catching these guest birds, the ill work is being done under the nose of law enforcing agency and a section of government officials.

Rescue of abducted businessman demanded

From Our Correspondent

CHUADANGA, Dec 19: Local traders and businessmen on Friday staged demonstration in the town demanding immediate rescue of businessman Ashadul Hoque Asha, who was abducted from village Alokdia, three miles off the town, 19 months ago.

The demonstrators also brought out procession, which paraded main thoroughfares, and later submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner.

Recently a rumour has run through the town dwellers that Asha was killed by the terrorist Nantu and his accomplices.

Extortion in rivers up

From Ranesh Maitra

PABNA, Dec 19: Incidents of

robberies and extortions

of money from boatmen have increased alarmingly in the rivers Jamuna, Hurasagar and

Baral in recent days.

Boatmen and traders in the

riverine areas of the district

alleged a section of members of

law enforcing agencies are also

cooperating with the criminals.

A large number of traders and

boatmen and Bhangoora thanas of

the district largely depend on river

based trades.

They alleged armed hoodlums

swoop on boats carrying

goods and valuables at different

points of the rivers.

The hoodlums on board en-

gine boats wait for prey.

Whenever they find any boat

carrying goods and valuables, they

whistle.

Hearing the sound of whistle

the boatmen move towards

waiting vessels and pay 'toll' to

hoodlums.

The boatmen and traders also

fall victim to rob-

bers.

It is alleged that the toll col-

lectors have fixed rates of toll

for boats.

Vessels carrying jute,

rice and paddy have to pay Tk

150 to Tk 2,000 while boats car-

rying fodder have to pay Tk 100