

NEWS SNAPS

Two killed in road mishaps

UNB, Manikganj
Two people were killed and 17 others injured in separate traffic mishaps on Dhaka-Archa road in Manikganj on Wednesday-Thursday. Police said Nalu Sheikh, 50, was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck while crossing the road in the evening.
In another incident, a collision between two trucks on the road left a man dead Thursday morning. Yet in another mishap, 17 people were injured when a tempo overturned at Baniajuri in Ghor upazila on the same day. They were admitted to sadar hospital.

Woman killed in another road mishap

UNB, Kushtia
A woman was killed and a man injured in a road accident at village Karatkandi in Kumarkhali upazila on Kushtia-Rajbari road recently, according to a delayed report. Police said the accident occurred when a truck hit a rickshaw-van carrying Nasrin, 30, and her child. Nasrin died on the spot, but her child was unhurt.
The van-puller, who suffered critical wounds in the accident, was admitted to a local hospital. A case was filed.

Eleven commit suicide

UNB, Pabna
Eleven people committed suicide in nine upazilas of Pabna district in the month of February. According to police records, family feud, unhappy conjugal life, failure in love affair, frustration and mounting pressure for study have led them to self-killing. One student, two youths, two men, six girls and two housewives were among the victims.

Child trafficker arrested

UNB, Habiganj
People of Habiganj caught a child trafficker red-handed foiling his bid to traffic out a little girl on Saturday. Police said Alas Mia, 55, of Batpara village in Bahubal upazila abducted Lovely, 9, daughter of Amir Hossain of village Burinao in Nabiganj upazila while going to her relative's house at Rokanpur.
The little girl fell unconscious when Alas Mia gave her poisonous food and took her to Lamatali village under Bahubal upazila, where he was challenged by local youths for his suspicious movement. The youths caught him as he tried to run away and handed him over to police. The girl was returned to her parents.

Prize distribution ceremony

Prize distribution ceremony of four training courses—the six-month long training course on Fitting Cum Machine Shop Practices and Welding, Radio-TV Repairing and the four-month training course on Electrical House Wiring, Motor Winding, Garments Making and Knitting—was held at the Narsingdi unit of Skill Development Centre of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) on February 28, says a press release.

Meanwhile, inaugural session of another training course on Industrial Entrepreneurship Development for the prospective entrepreneurs under Self-employment Project of the same unit was held on the day. Assistant General Manager of Narsingdi BSCIC Amirul Islam Chowdhury presided over the session while Regional Director of Dhaka Rezaul Karim was the chief guest and General Manager (Technology) Jamil Alam was present as the special guest.



Noted TV and cultural personality Rashida Muhiuddin addressing a meeting protesting frequent hartals (strikes) and religion based politics at Kalibari School ground of Muktagacha in Mymensingh district recently.

Smugglers' syndicate dominates sacrificial cattle markets

UNB, Kurigram

Smugglers' syndicate is dominating the sacrificial cattle markets in northern districts on the eve of Eid-ul-Azha with abundant supply from across the border.

Cattle market is found everywhere, even on the highways and small bazaars in villages along the border. Hundreds of cattle are brought from across the border, apparently with no restriction.

Informed sources said varieties of cattle, buffalo, camel, goat are passed through the border on 'passing slip' secured on payment of Tk 100 to Tk 400 each according to the size and value of the animal.

Most of the camels bear the seal 'batil' (useless) and many bullocks are found old or ailing.

Trucks loaded with cattle and camel from border areas are continuously moving towards Dhaka, Chittagong and other parts of the country.

Because of abundant supply the price of camel came down to Tk 8 to 10 thousand. Camel meat is selling in border areas at Tk 80 per kg, which was about Tk 200 a few weeks ago.

Although buyers of sacrificial animals have increased this year as farmers harvested successive bumper crops and stability of prices of other essentials, abundant supply from across the border maintained their prices low.

The demand for Rajasthani goat is high in Rajshahi market. These goats are found buying by richer section of people at high prices.

Because of large supply of larger size Indian goats, the demand for local black goats is comparatively lower this year.



Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria addressing the inaugural session of the 59th branch of Karmasangsthan Bank at Nabiganj under Habiganj district as the chief guest on February 27. Mohammad Abdul Aziz, Deputy Commissioner of Habiganj, presided over the opening session while Dewan Farid Gazi and Enamul Huq Mostafa Shaheed, members of parliament were present as the special guests.

Pabna farmer killed in clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A landless farmer was killed and 30 others were injured in a clash on Tuesday at Afrar Char under Santhia upazila in Pabna district.

The clash that lasted for an hour erupted over harvesting on a 'disputed' cropland.

The dead was identified as Arshad Ali, 30. Three seriously injured were sent to Pabna Sadar Hospital while eight were admitted to Santhia Health Complex.

Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Int'l workshop on cross border trafficking

Bilateral, multilateral pacts between states suggested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Poverty alleviation, creation of employment opportunity, consciousness of the common people, education and coordination among the government and non-government agencies are the requirements to stop trafficking of women and children.

This was observed in an international workshop on "Cross Border Trafficking."

Organised by Association for Community Development (ACD), a Rajshahi-based NGO working for development and human rights, the daylong workshop was held at the Rajshahi Tennis Complex conference room in the city recently.

Participated by about 100 delegates from host Bangladesh and India and many other national and international agencies, the workshop identified some issues, fixed up some targets and chalked out the probable line of action for the agencies working to check trafficking of women and children.

The workshop observed that rescue of the trafficked victims was

hindered and became difficult for lack of bilateral and multilateral pacts between the countries. Complex judicial procedure is also another reason hindering rescue of the victims. Repatriation and rehabilitation have also been proved difficult for non-cooperation of the families and society, the workshop observed.

As most of the trafficked women and children are engaged in prostitution, risk of spreading AIDS and sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs) has been increased, the workshop observed.

The workshop was inaugurated by the Divisional Commissioner (Incharge) of Rajshahi Abdus Sattar.

Second Secretary of the Royal Norwegian Embassy Tam Hanstad and Rajshahi Sector Commander of Bangladesh Rifles Col Mohammad Enamur Rahman Chowdhury were the special guests at the inaugural function. Member of the Board of Directors of ACD Prof. Abdul Halim presided over the inaugural session, while ACD Director Salima Sarwar delivered the address of welcome.

In the working session, the keynotes were presented by Project Coordinator of Sanglap of Kolkata in India Tapati Bhoomik, expert of Bangladesh Ain-O-Shalish Kendra Advocate Rawshan Jahan Perveen, Laila Rashid of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association and Ratan Sarkar of INCIDIN, Bangladesh.

The working session was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner of Chapainawabganj Nurul Haque.

The discussants were Development Adviser of the Royal Norwegian Embassy Zakia K. Hasan, Trafficking and Child Labour Adviser of USAID Nishat Chowdhury, Project Officers of Save The Children, Denmark Shwapan Kumar Roy Ballav and Rasheda Begum, Prof Abdul Halim, Prof Abdul Jabbar Khan, Project Officer of ASTEC, Bangladesh Chapter Mobashwer Hossain Didar, Aminul Islam of Aparajeo Bangla, Journalists Uttam Kumar Das, Wajed Mahmud, Anu Mostofa and others.

The concluding session of fixing targets and taking recommendations was conducted by Nishat Chowdhury and Uttam Kumar Das.

Among others, the session was addressed by Roma Banerjee of Kolkata, Thia Boram of Save The Children, Denmark, Carole Camissa of USAID and AB Siddique of Dinajpur Pally Unnayan Sangstha.

ACD executive member Jebunnessa Mukul delivered the address of thanks.

Jute mill workers' union polls held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Candidates, backed by opposition 11-party alliance, have swept the labourers' union polls of Rajpur Qumi Jute Mills in Sirajganj district.

Abdul Khaleque of Workers' Party and Sujabot Ali of JSD were elected president and general secretary respectively of the union. The election was held on Monday. Meanwhile, Aslam Hossain and Sohrab Ali were elected president and general secretary respectively of Sirajganj District Truck Workers' Union for two-year term.

FEMA meet held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

An exchange of views meeting, organised by Faridpur district unit of FEMA (Fair Election and Monitoring Alliance), was held on Sadarpur Adarsha Primary School premises recently.

Advocate Golam Robbani alias Babu Mridha, president of the unit, presided over. Md Omar Faruque, UNO of Sadarpur upazila, and Abdul Wadud Mia, Acting Principal of Sadarpur Government College were the chief and special guests respectively.

Among others, Prof Tarek Ayub Khan, general secretary of FEMA district unit, Md Ayub Khan, Madhusadan Dey, Abdur Rahim Khan, Md Shahjahan Talukder, Abdul Majid Mia and Nilay Kumar Sarker spoke on the occasion.

The speakers emphasised the need for holding free and fair polls for the greater interest of the country.

Demand for job of youths

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A meeting of the 'Educated Unemployed Youths Council (EUYC)' was held at Shamsenagar Chowmuhana under Kamalgonj upazila of Moulvibazar recently.

Presided over by Md Tajul Ali, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Meer Liakat Ali, Mujibur Rahman Ranju, Abdur Rahman and Tajuddin Ahmed.

Speakers in the meeting demanded for appointment of local educated youths in the service in the tea gardens of Moulvibazar district in greater number.

Chuadanga lacks civic amenities

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

Chuadanga municipality has been beset with manifold problems, including lack of water, drainage and recreational facilities, depriving residents of civic amenities.

Residents have been suffering because of deplorable condition of roads, constant traffic jam, frequent power failure and absence of adequate streetlights and public toilets.

The municipality, which has now a population of about one lakh, was established in 1972 covering an area of 12 square miles. However, the municipality is now enjoying grade A status.

Most of the roads, lanes and by-lanes in the municipality area remain in pitiable condition, causing much suffering to passengers.

The dilapidated roads are Chuadanga-Belgachi, Chuadanga-Taltala, and Chuadanga-Hazrahati. Besides, the lanes and by-lanes in Farmpara, Court Para, Post Office Para, Bara Bazar Para, Shakratala Para, Emergency Road Para, Mollick Para, Rail Bazaar Para, Jouarder Para, Bara Masjid Para, Kederganj Para, Palash Para, Old Hospital Para, Sadar Hospital Para, Gulshan Para, Shaikh Para, Hoque Para, Sumirdia Para, Satgari Para, Noornagar Para, Hatkaluganj Para, and Budumiar Amm Bagan Para areas are also in bad shape.

Most of these roads and lanes go under water after slight rains. But there is no drainage in the town to solve the recurrent problem.

Traffic jam is a common feature during peak hours on Court, Station, Barabazar and Rupchaya Cinema and Sadar Hospital roads.

Short supply of running water is one of main problems for the town dwellers. The municipality cannot supply running water in Taltala, Hazrahati, Belgachi, Noornagar, Farmpara, Sumirdia, Budumiar Bagan Para, Shanti Para and Hoque Para areas.

There is no public toilet in the district headquarters. As a result, many respond to the call of nature in roadside areas.

There have been no recreational facilities in the town areas excepting two cinemas. There is no park in this town.

Residents also face suffering, as there are no adequate streetlights. Most of the roads plunge into darkness just after sunset.

Local people have urged the authorities concerned to immediate steps to solve the problems in the town.