

NEWS SNAPS

Man killed in road accident

BSS, Satkhira
A man was killed in a road accident in Mirjapur area on Satkhira-Khulna Road under Tala upazila in Satkhira district on Saturday.
The victim was identified as Sumon, 25, of village Motbaria of Pirojpur district. Police said the accident occurred when a Satkhira-bound truck hit a rickshaw van from behind. The van passenger, Sumon, fell on the road and died on the spot. The body was sent to the Sadar Hospital for autopsy. A case was filed with Tala police station. The driver, however, managed to escape with the vehicle.

One electrocuted

UNB, Panchagarh
A domestic help was electrocuted at Sardarpara village in Boda upazila in Panchagarh district Tuesday.
Witnesses said Anisur Rahman, domestic help of Mosharraf Hossain of the village, was electrocuted when he went up the roof of a house, the tins of which were electrified. Hailing from Sadar upazila of Thakurgaon district, Anis died on the spot.

Extortionists beat contractor

UNB, Laxmipur
A contractor was beaten allegedly by some extortionists at Mozupur village in Laxmipur municipality area on Saturday night.
Police said armed extortionists numbering 14/15 demanded Tk 25,000 from the contractor of LGED Zahiruddin Babu but on his refusal they beat him mercilessly. He was admitted to Dhaka orthopaedic Hospital in a critical condition. Police arrested one Jahangir Alam in this connection. A case was filed under the Public Safety Act.

30 hurt in road accident

UNB, Rangpur
At least 30 people were injured, 15 seriously, when a Panchagarh-bound coach skidded off the road in Sadar upazila in Rangpur district and fell into a ditch on Saturday.
Police and witnesses said the accident occurred on Rangpur-Bogra highway when the driver of the speeding coach from Dhaka lost control over the steering. The seriously injured Kamala Begum, 20, Mina, 10, Eti, 7, Rowshan, 12, Momota, 19, Zakir, 13, Abdul Zabbar, 65, Doil Chowdhury, 22, Asma, 22, Hosneara, 36, Minto, 40, Asraf, 27, Shukra, 27, and two other unidentified men were admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. Driver of the coach and his helper managed to flee the scene. A case was filed with the Kotwali police.

Man gets life term

UNB, Comilla
A court in Comilla has sentenced a man to life term imprisonment, in absentia, on charge of throwing acid on a housewife.
The court also fined M Hanif of Mithloma village in Burichang upazila Tk 2 lakh, in default, to suffer two years RI more. According to the prosecution, Hanif threw acid on Mazeda of the same village on June 9, 1998 as she married another person refusing his marriage proposal. After examining records and witnesses, Special Tribunal Judge Masdar Hossain pronounced the judgement on March 4.

Girl raped: Two held

UNB, Comilla
Two people were arrested in connection with violating a maidservant at Dhamati union in Debidwar upazila in Comilla district recently.
Police said the teenage girl of the union was serving as domestic help at a house of village Burirpar for the last two and a half years. But on the night of February 27 master of the house violated her in absence of his wife. On the following morning the victim narrated the incident to a friend of the master of the house when he came to the house. But he asked her not to disclose the matter to others and on her refusal to hush up the matter he also beat her.
The arrested were identified as Abu Yusuf and Kazi Jamal.



Veteran freedom fighter Maj Gen (retd) M S A Bhuiyan distributing prizes among the winners of Nazrul Memorial Silver Cup Cricket Tournament at Daspara Nasim ground under Daudkandi upazila in Comilla district on March 10. Local Maitherkandi Surjo Tarun Sangha defeated Solopara Akjhak Paira Club by 19 runs in the final.

Acid thrown on girl

UNB, Bagerhat
A girl student suffered burn injuries as miscreants threw acid on her in Chapatala area under Sadar upazila in Bagerhat district recently.
The victim was identified as Mahbuba Khanam, 19, honours 3rd year student of Bagerhat Government PC College and daughter of Khan Muhammad Ali. Police said a gang of hoodlums allegedly led by Hasmat Ali and Alamin Sheikh threw acid on the college student at dead of night while she was asleep. Mahbuba was admitted to Bagerhat Sadar Hospital. A case was filed with the police.

12 injured in clash

UNB, Munshiganj
At least 12 people, including two police constables, were injured in a clash between police and local people at village Bhabanipur in Gajaria upazila in Munshiganj district on Saturday.
Earlier on Wednesday, the villagers swooped on them and snatched away inter-district robber Khokon and his accomplices when they were being taken to thana, police said adding that three policemen were injured in the attack. On Saturday when police went to arrest the attackers, local people further clashed with them leaving at least 12 people, including constables Yaar Ali and Sultan injured. The two cops were admitted to the local Upazila Health Complex while the injured villagers were taking treatment in private clinics secretly for fear of arrest. Police filed three cases against the villagers.

4 muggers caught red-handed

BSS, Satkhira
Local people caught red-handed four muggers from Dudli Road crossing area on Kaliganj-Shymnagar Road under Kaliganj upazila in Satkhira district recently.
The four were identified as Abdur Rashid Gazi of village Moutola, Aatur Rahman Dhali, Shahin and Abdus Sattar of village Charsonai Ghorami under Kaliganj upazila. Police said mob caught them while they were snatching a motor cycle from the cyclist in the area. Later, they were handed over to Kaliganj police. A case was filed in this connection.

59 youths get loan

UNB, Chapainawabganj
Youth Development Department in last six months distributed loan amounting to Tk 7.76 lakh among 59 unemployed youths in Chapainawabganj district for their self-employment.
The department earlier distributed loan among 582 people and 254 of the borrowers have now become self-reliant by undertaking income-generating activities like poultry farming and pisciculture.

Obituary

UNB, Magura
Amena Khatun, wife of late Abdur Rashid, a former MP, died of old age ailment at her residence in Mohammadpur upazila in Magura Sunday. She was 78.
She was buried at her family graveyard at Khaila village Monday. She left three sons and five daughters.

Criminals active in Sylhet Osmani Airport area

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Organised gangs are engaged in various crimes, including harassment of expatriates and snatching, in and around Sylhet Osmani Airport area.
The gangs become very active during the three days when direct flights are operated. Even there are allegations that the airport is being used for gold smuggling.
A large scale irregularity is alleged in customs and cargo handling. Unwanted delay in delivery of baggage sent through air cargo has become a daily affair. There are allegations that some businessmen can manage to receive their goods brought through air cargo at an earliest. It is also observed that the expatriates who come from the Gulf and other countries for one or two months can not get their baggage in time. Most of the time they have to return before getting these from the Osmani Airport.
On the other hand, due to absence of minimum legal arrangement for remittance by the non-resident Bangladeshis, hundi business has gone up in Sylhet. Some stringent measures had been taken against some

account holders as well as a good number of bank officials two years ago for their alleged involvement in hundi business. But with relaxation of such measures, the practice is again going on. Leaders of the expatriate community have appealed for ensuring easy and speedy arrangement for money transfer from abroad.
Haor Development Board, an important demand of the people of the 'haor' (large water body) region could not be created two years after the official announcement made by the prime minister. People suffer extremely due to repeated floods and other calamities almost every year.
Most of the haors are situated in the greater Sylhet region while the rest are in the districts of Kishoreanj, Netrokona, Brahmanbaria.
It had been one of the major election pledges of the present government as well as of the previous ones.
It is worth mentioning that at a public meeting in the month of November 1989, the then President Ershad announced formation of an authority to ensure development of the affected region.

Jhikargachha Municipality election April 2

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Election of Jhikargachha Municipality is scheduled to be held on April 2.
However, the electioneering is yet to gain momentum.
Four candidates are contesting for the post of chairman in the first polls of the municipality established three years ago.
Three of the candidates are activists of ruling Awami League, causing commotion in the rank and file of the party. AL candidates are Mostafa Anwar Pasha Zamal, Amjad Hossain Kalim and Aminur Kadir Tulu. The other candidate, Akhtarul Islam Royal, is backed by main opposition BNP.
A group of upazila AL, BCL and

Jubo League leaders are backing Mostafa Anwar Pasha Zamal.
Amjad Hossain Kalim, ex-chairman of Jhikargachha union, is popular among senior AL leaders in the upazila. Aminur Kadir Tulu is now somewhat passive. Some people say he will be active 'at the right moment'.
BNP-backed candidate Akhtarul Islam Royal is well known man in the area for his family reputation. His father Abdus Satter was chairman of Jhikargachha union. His brother Abdus Samad was also chairman of this union.
A total of 56 candidates including 12 females have filed nomination papers for the posts of ward commissioner for nine wards.



Prof A K Azad Khan, Secretary General of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh, speaking as the chief guest on Saturday at the inaugural function of "NDN Miah Khan-Barkatunnessa Khanam Memorial Health Centre" at Charigram under Singair upazila in Manikganj district. The function was presided over by local MP and former Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan. Barrister Rafiqul Haq, Vice President of the association, Advocate Abdul Wahab MP from Manikganj, Dr Hajera Mahtab of BIRDEM, Brig (Dr) MA Mohsin of National Diagnostic Network (NDN) are also seen.

Import thru' Sona Masjid Land Port declines

Hily Land Port earns record revenue

UNB, Chapainawabganj

Import of goods through Sona Masjid Land Port has declined sharply due to strict measures taken by the authority for collecting tax properly.
Official sources said a section of traders and C&F agents in connivance with some dishonest officials and employees of the port have long been importing goods evading tax.
The revenue board recently created a post of assistant commissioner to check the tax evasion by the dishonest traders.
The importers and C&F agents are now planning to import goods through Benapole and Hilli land ports.
The officials alleged that the importers bring various consignments of goods through the port showing false declaration, depriving

the government of huge revenue.
Besides, Indian goods-laden trucks enter Bangladesh every night without clearing customs entry, they added.
A meeting of Anti-smuggling Task Force held in Chapainawabganj last month requested the authorities of customs and BDR to strictly enforce they newly introduced measures for realising tax.
Another report from Lalmonirhat says: Hily Land Port has set a record earning Tk 6.8 crore revenue in the month of December last year surpassing the target of Tk 4.5 crore.
This record amount of revenue has been collected in 23 working days of the month, officials said.
In the first six months of 2000-2001 fiscal, Customs officials informed, they earned around Tk 33

crore from import items carried through this land port. Target of revenue during the period was Tk 27 crore.
"The record earning was possible due to the prevailing stable and congenial atmosphere here," said president and secretary of Clearing & Forwarding (C&F) Association Abul Kalam Azad and Kamal Hossain respectively while talking to the news agency.
With the commissioning of the Bangabandhu Bridge, local importers are importing huge commodity through this land port due to cost effectiveness and convenient transportation facilities, they added.
Officials and C&F association leaders expressed the hope that annual revenue income will rise around Tk 300 crore if the land port is made a full-fledged one.

Thakurgaon farmers harvest bumper vegetables

UNB, Thakurgaon

Fertile soil, favourable climate and high yielding seeds have given the farmers a bumper harvest of tomato and other vegetables in the district this season.
Encouraged by good return, the farmers have extended vegetable cultivation during the winter. But in absence of storage and processing facilities the farmers are deprived of fair price of their produce.
Good variety of tomato is selling here at Tk 100 per maund while potato price is falling every day and now sells at Tk 80 per maund. Beans, cauliflower, cucumber and other vegetables are in abundant supply and sell at throwaway prices to the distress of the farmers.
Deputy Director of Department

of Agriculture Extension (DAE) Abdus Salam said most farmers are now cultivating vegetables with easy availability of high breed seeds. He also felt the need for storage facility and food processing factory in the district, which will give the farmers a fair return.
Another report from Jessore adds: Growers exceeding the target of 4000 hectares of land cultivated potato on 5,265 hectares in district with the hope of achieving bumper production this season like the previous seasons.
Local DAE sources said the growers cultivated the crop to recoup the last year's crop losses caused by the devastating flood. They said this was the highest record of cultivation of the crop in comparison with the last 7 years.
They said that during the flood in

last September standing crops on 1.15 lakh hectares of land in the district were damaged causing huge losses to the growers. Hence they became interested to bring more land under potato cultivation.
But the growers apprehend that they won't get fair price of their produce due to lack of marketing facilities and consequent lower price in the market. They said at the beginning of the harvesting season per kg potato was sold between Tk 15 and Tk 18 and at present it is being sold between Tk 3 and Tk 4, which is below the cost of production.
They feared that the price would come down further in the last part of the Bengali month of Chaitra due to huge supply of the crop from the northern districts.



A flood affected woman of Khanpur in Sadar upazila of Satkhira district rebuilding a kitchen which was collapsed along with her dwelling house during last year's devastating flood.

PHOTO: STAR