

NEWS SNAPS

Man slaughtered

UNB, Pabna

A middle-aged man of village Hafania in sadar upazila of Pabna district was slaughtered midnight Friday. Police said the victim, Tofazzal Hossain alias Tofai, 40, who was allegedly the chief of a robber group, came under attack by a group of six terrorists near Nandanpur Edigah ground at about 1 am.

They chopped and slaughtered him and took away his right hand severing from the body. Police recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.

3 killed in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Three people were killed and 15 others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway near Sameetibazar in Feni district on Thursday.

According to police, one victim was identified as Monwara, 8. But the two others could not be identified. The accident occurred when a Chittagong-bound bus from Comilla fell into a roadside ditch.

Body recovered

UNB, Khustia

Nurul Islam alias Nuru Military, a top terror in the region and accused of more than a dozen murder cases including Kazi Aref killing, has been killed by his rivals. Police recovered his body from Belghoria of sadar upazila and sent to hospital for autopsy. On a secret information police rushed to Belghoria with the hope of rounding up Nuru but found him dead with several bullet wounds. Residents believe that 45-year-old Nuru was shot dead by his former accomplice Raushan now turned foe on the share of booty. Hailing from Kazipur in Meherpur district, Nurul Islam had joined the Bangladesh Army following the independence. When dismissed from service in 1982 he returned to his village and opened a grocery shop.

Boy abducted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenaidah

A boy was abducted from village Sohehmanpur under Kotchandpur upazila in Jhenaidah district on Saturday night.

Local people said a group of seven people went to the house of Abdul Hannan of the village and kidnapped his three and a half years old boy Rokan at gun point. The abductors demanded Tk 50 lakh as ransom for the release of the boy, family sources said. Hannan is involved in illegal 'hundi' trade. Meanwhile, following abduction case police arrested two persons. They were identified as Shahana Begum, 25 and Anirul Islam, 35.

Police SI suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

A sub-inspector of police in Magura Sadar upazila was suspended on Thursday for his alleged involvement in illegal activities.

According to police sources, Sub-inspector Prashanta Kumar Biswas was also suspended last year.

Girl raped

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A six-year-old girl was raped by a young man at Uttargram village under Mohadevpur upazila in Naogaon district last week.

Police sources said the youth, identified as Nazrul Islam, forcibly took the girl to a secluded place and raped her there. Local people rescued the girl and sent her to hospital. A case was filed in this connection.

200 hurt as Bangladeshis, Indians clash

UNB, Sylhet

Some 200 people were injured in a clash between Bangladeshis and Indian nationals at Lauringar frontier in Sunamganj district Saturday evening.

A large number of Hindu devotees gathered on the Indian side of the border on the occasion of "Baruni Mela" while hundreds of Muslims thronged the Bangladesh side for attending the Urs of Hazrat Arifin (R). Locals said some Bangladeshi youths entered a Garo neighbourhood in India on Friday enraging Indian nationals who attacked the Bangladeshis on Saturday leaving at least 150 people injured. In the evening, angry Bangladeshi nationals attacked the frontier villages in retaliation and wounded some 50 Indians.

50,000 cattle vaccinated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

Livestock Department in Chuadanga district vaccinated at least 50,000 cattle during the first eight months of the current financial year, official sources said.

Livestock Department staff vaccinated the cattle to check 'tarka', 'badia', and foot and mouth diseases in Sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar upazilas of the district. According to the sources, 12,500 cattle were vaccinated in Sadar, 15,000 in Alamdanga, 11,500 in Damurhuda and 11,000 in Jibannagar. District Livestock Department has fixed a target to vaccinate one lakh cattle in the district during the current financial year to check outbreak of diseases.

RCC staff succumbs to injuries

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

An employee of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC), who was injured in a bomb explosion while dumping waste along with his other colleagues a few days ago, succumbed to his injuries at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) on Wednesday.

The dead was identified as Kalu 24. Four employees of RCC were injured at the incident at Naogapara in the city. The other three employees— Talebur, Chhoton and Saginwere under going treatment at RMCH.

2 get life term for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Two people were sentenced to life term imprisonment for murder last week.

The convicts were identified as Abdul Halim Biswas and Wajed Ali Mondal. According to the prosecution, Babar Ali was killed in a clash between two rival groups of villagers at Shabolhat in Shalukha upazila of Magura district on April 26, 1990. Additional District and Sessions Judge Sajedur Rahman found the two guilty and pronounced the verdict. However, seven others were acquitted.

One stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

A clerk of Brahmanbaria Judge Court was stabbed to death by a group of miscreants at Morapukurpar of Kirshnapur under Kashbar upazila in Brahmanbaria district on Wednesday.

According to police, the clerk, Jubayer Alam, 32, was intercepted by hoodlums and stabbed to death. The reason behind the murder could not be known. The body was sent to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital.

New PMO of Rajshahi circle

Jakir Hossain took over as Post Master General (PMG) of Rajshahi circle recently, says a press release.

Prior to his new assignment, Jakir, a member of BCS (Postal), was director at the Directorate, BPO, Dhaka. He joined the Postal Department on January 2, 1974. Jakir, a valiant freedom fighter, received professional training from Germany, the Netherlands and Pakistan.



Nancy stands 2nd in music competition

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Najmun Monira Nancy secured the second position in the national level Nazrul song competition, organised by the Ministry of Education recently in Dhaka.

Earlier she obtained the first position in the same event in Dhaka divisional level. Najmun Monira Nancy, a student of class VIII of Netrakona Government Girls' High School, is the only daughter of Nazmul Haque and Jusna Haque of Satpai in Netrakona town.

Potato price down

UNB, Thakurgaon

Prices of potato and tomato marked drastic fall in Thakurgaon district following this season's bumper production of these two agricultural products. With huge supply in local markets, different variety of potato is selling at Tk 70-100 per maund while tomato price is around Tk 80 per maund. The retail price is slightly higher.

The growers are deprived of the fair price of potato and tomato, even they are not getting enough price to meet the production cost. Moreover, they can not preserve potato due to lack of cold storage.

Independence Day celebrated in dists

Renewed pledge to build 'Sonar Bangla'

BSS, Dhaka

The 31st Independence and National Day was celebrated on Monday in different parts of the country with great enthusiasm and renewed pledge to build "Sonar Bangla" as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Massive programmes were drawn up in celebration of the day in a befitting manner.

Independence Day was celebrated in Chittagong city with greater enthusiasm and patriotic zeal.

Besides the national programme, different political parties, their front organisations, educational institutions, professional bodies, trade unions and scores of socio-cultural and literary forums observed the day with renewed pledge to make the country prosperous and self-reliant through upholding the hard earned independence and sovereignty.

In the city, the day's programme heralded with a 21-gun salute from the court hill and placing of wreaths at central Shaheed Minar at one minute past 12 mid night on Sunday night. Minister for Labour and Employment MA Mannan was the first to place wreaths at the Shaheed Minar. He was followed by Chittagong city mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and leaders of Chittagong City and north chapters of Awami League, district and police administrations.

An attractive march past under the aegis of Chittagong City Corporation was held at the historical parade ground in the morning. Minister for Labour and Employment MA Mannan and Chittagong City mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury inspected and took the salute in the march past, participated by smartly contingents of students, girl guides, boy scouts and BNCC.

The labour minister, in his brief speech, urged the people to take a fresh vow for maintaining the sanctity of the independence achieved at a cost of huge blood.

Another march past of police, Ansars, VDP, BNCC, girl guides, fire service, scouts and juveniles was held at MA Aziz Stadium in the morning.

Commissioner of Chittagong division ASM Mobaidul Islam inspected and took salute in the march past held under the auspices of the district administration.

In Khulna, the day was heralded with twenty-one gun salute and placing of wreaths at the Gollamari Martyrs Smriti Soudha.

Those who placed wreaths at the Smriti Soudha included Bangladesh Awami League and its front organi-

sations led by State Minister for Relief and Disaster Management Talukder Abdul Khaleque, Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Vice-Chancellor of Khulna University, Khulna Press Club and leaders of various socio-cultural bodies.

The national flag was ceremonially hoisted by Divisional Commissioner MA Taher at the local stadium where he took salute from a joint march past by the Police, Ansars, VDP, Boy scouts, Girl guides of different schools of the city.

Disabled freedom fighters were accorded a reception while improved diet was served to inmates of hospitals, prisons, orphanages and children's homes.

Discussion meetings were held by different organisations highlighting the significance of the day while special prayers were offered in mosques, temples, churches and other places of worship for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the country.

Khulna station of Bangladesh Betar aired special programmes and local newspapers brought out special supplements on the significance of the day.

People of Narayanganj town paid rich tributes to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the martyred heroes of the War of Liberation on the occasion.

Different socio-cultural organisations including Bangladesh Awami League and its front bodies garlanded the portrait of Bangabandhu at Chashara Square and placed wreaths at the local Shaheed Minar in memory of the martyred freedom fighters in the morning.

A colourful children and juvenile rally was also held at Chashara Osmani Stadium while workers of the Adamjee Jute Mills organised 'kabaddi' competition at its playground to mark the day.

In Barisal, the day's programme began with placing of wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar by Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Abul Hasnat Abdullah at zero hours. Later, he garlanded the portrait of the Father of the Nation. A large number of leaders and activists of socio-cultural bodies followed the chief whip.

In the morning, the chief whip also led a huge colourful procession with banners and festoons that paraded main streets of the city.

Former MP and district unit President of Bangladesh Awami League Mohiuddin Ahmed was also present.

Similar programmes were held in all other districts to mark the day.

Five-day military hardware display begins in Bogra

BSS, Bogra

A five-day military hardware display, organised by Bangladesh Armed Forces, Bogra area, began in Bogra on Monday on the occasion of the 31st Independence and National Day.

Akhima Jaman, mother of martyred TA Aiyub Tulu, and Aleya Begum, wife of martyred Azad, inaugurated the exhibition and Independence Day functions in Nishindara area.

TA Aiyub Tulu and Azad were killed in a frontal fight with Pakistani Army on March 28 in 1971.

Acting General Officer Commanding (GOC) Brigadier General Mohammad Abu Ishaq Ibrahim and high civil and military officials were present on the occasion.

This is for the first time the Army and the freedom fighters have jointly organised the Independence Day functions in cantonments across the country by various

programmes involving the civil administration and the freedom fighters.

After the inauguration, Akhima Jaman, 87, expressed her happiness for getting the opportunity to open such programmes at the invitation of Bangladesh Armed Forces.

"I am very much happy as the Armed Forces and the government have honoured me and recognised the supreme sacrifice of my son," Octogenarian Akhima Jaman told on Monday afternoon.

She said that they were in fact ignored during the regimes of Ershad and Khaleda and did not get any allowance and even honour from those governments.

"The government of Sheikh Hasina after coming to power gave recognition to the sacrifice of my son Tulu," she said with deep gratitude.

Aleya Begum, 55, also became very happy for becoming a guest on the auspicious occasion of the

Independence Day.

Aleya, mother of two daughters, said, "We are grateful to the government for honouring us by inviting to the function."

"We have suffered much after the independence and during 21 years nobody looked after us," she said, adding that it is Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who recognised the supreme sacrifice of my husband after coming to power.

She urged the government to provide a job for her unemployed son-in-law.

After the inauguration, a physical display was held with the participation of school students singing patriotic songs. An army band group also joined the display.

Besides, documentaries and short films on the War of Liberation were screened. Hundreds of local people, including children, witnessed the exhibition.

Later, local artistes staged a cultural function on this august occasion.

Date-expired Indian goods flood frontier dists

UNB, Satkhira

Frontier area of the southern parts of the country has been flooded with date-expired Indian goods creating concern among the health conscious people.

Various beverages like powder milk and Horlicks, which are banned in the neighbouring country for expiry of date, are pouring into the local markets.

Market sources said a group of smugglers bring these goods from India and sell those after locally packing in tins and bottles.

Mainly the children are becoming victims after taking the adulterated food items, doctors said.

It is learnt that the law enforcers, including BDR, remain silent when the goods enter into the country.

When asked local BDR officials admitted that they have heard the matter but did not get any evidence even after conducting raids in different areas.

Two muggers arrested

BSS, Bogra

Police arrested two muggers from the medical college area on Sherpur Road in Bogra district on Monday and recovered two daggers and one chapati from their possession. Police said, the arrested persons are Nipu, 25, son of Abdul Jalil, Saiful Islam, 22 son of Altaf Ali of Thanthania of the town.

A gang of four-five muggers attacked a tempo on the road and tried to snatch the belongings of the passengers. As the passengers raised alarms, the local people rushed there and barricaded the muggers. Three muggers managed to escape. Police arrested two others.



Members of paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Border Security Force (BSF) of India patrolling the border along Banglabandha Land Port in Panchagarh district.

24 irrigation schemes abandoned in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

24 small irrigation schemes of Bangladesh Water Development Board in greater Rangpur district have been lying abandoned for a long time, depriving irrigation facilities to more than 20 thousand acres of croplands in the area.

There is allegation that due to lack of proper maintenance these projects remain abandoned.

In 1965-66 fiscal year, Water Development Board set up the small irrigation projects aiming at providing irrigation facilities to the poor farmers. Accordingly irrigation canals were dug and power pumps installed along the project sites in Rangpur Sadar, Badarganj, Pirganj, Sundarganj, Phulbari, Domar, Nilphamari Sadar, Hatibamda, Patgram, Nageshwari, Bhurugamari, Gobindaganj and Pateshwari areas. Installation of power pumps and digging of canals were completed during 1970-71 fiscal year.

According to an estimate, at least 150 power pumps were installed and about 2 lakh 44 thousand feet long irrigation canals excavated to facilitate the irrigation.

But now most power pumps are out of order canals remain clogged. All the irrigation canals are now filled with mud and spare parts of machinery were stolen.