

Man chopped to death in Rajshahi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A man was chopped to death at Alimganj in Paba upazila in Rajshahi Monday night.

A gang of hoodlums chopped Amirul Islam Dilip, 34, with sharp weapons when he was returning home. He died on his way to hospital. The reason behind the murder could not be known immediately.

A case was filed and a man, identified as Mamun, was arrested in this connection.

One slaughtered in Patuakhali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A man was slaughtered in Baulfali Bil area under Baulfali upazila in Patuakhali Saturday night.

The dead was identified as Abdul Latif, 48.

According to police, Latif was might be murdered over land dispute. A case was filed.

Ex-DU teacher held in Magura

UNB, Magura

A former teacher of Dhaka University was arrested along with his two sons from his village home at Kabilpur in Sreepur upazila in Magura on Sunday.

Police picked up Mollah Shahiduzzaman, 65, a former teacher of English Department of the university, and his sons Shawkatuzzaman, 8, and Shafiquzzaman, 6, following a court order and sent them to safe custody in Magura jail.

Court sources said the arrest order was issued upon a case filed by his wife, Sabiha Kashmeri, on April 19. In the case, Sabiha alleged that she and her two sons had been kept confined by her husband's relatives. Shahiduzzaman, however, said he had to leave Dhaka because of his wife's immoral activities.

DU sources in Dhaka said Shahiduzzaman was terminated from the university about four years ago, as he was 'mentally disturbed'.

Eight bombs recovered in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Eight homemade bombs were recovered from a student mess located near the district BNP office in Sirajganj town on Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the mess and recovered the bombs. A case was lodged in this connection.

Ransacking of rly office: 9 Pabna BNP men chargesheeted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Police submitted charge sheet against nine Ishwardi, Pabna BNP men including Sirajul Islam, a former MP, on Sunday in connection with ransacking the railway divisional office at Pakshay.

The eight others are Ishwardi upazila BNP joint Convener Abdur Rashid, Abdus Sobhan, Abul Kalam Azad, Surja Sardar, Jubo Dal leader Jahangir Alam Thakur, Milton Rahman, Alam and Kamal Sardar.

During a trial on April 2 the opposition activists allegedly ransacked the office.

A case was lodged under PSA against 100 opposition activists of Ishwardi upazila.

Body of youth found in Barisal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Body of a young man was recovered from a residential hotel in Barisal town Saturday night.

According to police, two young men Swapan Biswas, 30, and Bikash Sarkar, 25, of Atang village under Bhanga upazila of Faridpur, rented room no. 1 of Chalmika Hotel in Katpally Road area in the town Friday night.

The following morning one of the two youths found dead. The other was not found in the room.

Identity of the dead could not be known immediately.

Three terrorists held: Revolver recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Railway police arrested three alleged terrorists from the rooftop of 482 Padmarag Express train at Bonarpura station recently and recovered one revolver and explosives from their possessions.

The arrested were Faruk, 22, Nayan, 21, and Rostum Ali, 23, of village Akash Tara under Bogra district.

Jessore hospitals in disarray

Poor patients suffer as many posts of doctors remain vacant

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

The poor patients in the district are nowadays deprived of required medical facilities since many posts of doctors in different hospitals and health complexes including the local general hospital remain vacant for long.

According to reports, 12 posts of doctors are lying vacant in the local general hospital alone while 15 other health sub-centres in the rural areas are virtually facing shutdown due to lack of medical officers.

When contacted, the civil surgeon of Jessore told this correspondent that in the General Hospital, the posts of a junior consultant in pathology, one junior consultant in anaesthesia, four medical officers in the emergency section and six assistant registrars are left unfilled.

He also said that in Jhikergachha Upazila Health Complex, posts for two medical officers and one junior consultant in anaesthesia were vacant. Same the case with Monirampur Upazila where posts of a junior consultant in anaesthesia, a medical officer, one dental surgeon, one upazila family planning officer and a residential medical officer (RMO) are lying vacant.

In Keshabpur Upazila Health Complex, the post of RMO and that of the dental surgeon are empty while in Bagherpara, there are vacancies for one junior consultant in anaesthesia and three medical officers, he added. It was

also learnt that in the Abhayanagar Health Complex, the posts of a dental surgeon, one junior consultant in anaesthesia and two medical officers are still vacant.

According to another source, the situation in Chowgachha Upazila Health Complex is no better due to lack of doctors. The X-ray machinery supplied for the complex earlier still remains uninstalled for reasons unknown. Besides, a radiologist to operate the X-ray machine and prepare reports has not been appointed.

Dr Abdur Rajjak, who was earlier transferred to the rural Sakpukuria Health Sub-centre, has recently been called back to the local Upazila Health Complex to work on deputation, which has left the sub-centre in disorder.

Besides, the medical officers' posts at Narayanpur and Jogodishpur Health sub-centres are lying vacant. The civil surgeon said that the issue to fill these vacant posts immediately had been taken up with the director general of health services on a number of occasions, but all went in vain.

He expressed his surprise that all their reminders and requests fell on deaf ears of the higher authorities, thus throwing the district health services into further disarray and making services pretty inaccessible for the suffering people.

NEWS SNAPS

Youth gunned down

UNB, Pirojpur

A youth was gunned down by unidentified hoodlums at Shaikati village in Kaulaki upazila in Pirojpur district early Tuesday.

Villagers said armed men swooped on the house of Abdul Khaleque at about 1.30 am. They shot and killed his neighbour Omar Farooq when he came in aid of Khaleque hearing hue and cry. The body was taken to Sadar Hospital for autopsy and a murder case was filed with the local police. Police Super Khan Akramuzzaman said the house had been attacked due to previous enmity over ownership of a piece of land.

Housewife murdered

UNB, Jessore

A housewife was murdered allegedly by her husband for dowry at Borokhalshi village in Jhikergachha upazila in Jessore Friday.

Police said Anisur Rahman beat his wife Mahmuda Begum, 27, to death as she refused to bring Tk 20,000 as dowry from his father. Anis later hanged her body from the ceiling of their room to prove that she committed suicide. Police sent the body to hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed.

Tiger kills man

BSS, Satkhira

A tiger killed a man in Katakali canal in the Sunderbans under Shymnagar upazila in Satkhira district last week.

The victim was identified as Rashedul Islam, 25, son of Toral Ali Sardar of village Tengrakhal under Shymnagar upazila. Family source said Rashedul Islam with two other companions while fishing in Katakali canal in the Sunderbans suddenly came under attack of a man-eater. His mutilated body was recovered next day.

Tribal girl rescued

BSS, Bandarban

Police rescued a girl of Chak tribal community on Sunday from Baisrai village under Naiklangchhari in Bandarban.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the area and rescued the girl. She was abducted by some terrorists from Chak Para on March 18. A case was filed in this connection.

25 houses ransacked

UNB, Jhenaidah

A group of people ransacked some 25 houses and looted valuables worth about Tk 10 lakh at village Pardakhapur in Haninakunda upazila in Jhenaidah recently.

Locals said the attack was made by the supporters of Jubo League following the killing of party activist Jhumur at Pardakhapur bazaar. Jubo League blamed BNP for the killing and filed a case against 50 people, mostly BNP supporters, after Jhumur was chopped to death.

Two bandits caught

UNB, Patuakhali

Two bandits along with a pipe gun were caught red handed while fleeing after committing a robbery at Hoglebania village in Galachipia upazila in Patuakhali recently.

Police said some 10-12 robbers stormed the houses of Shazal Roy and Dilip Roy of the village at dead of night and tried to flee when the villagers chased them. Later the villagers caught Al-amin, 21, and Abdi Hossain, 22, with the gun and handed over them to police. A case was filed.

School teacher assaulted

UNB, Brahmanbaria

A kindergarten school teacher was beaten up allegedly by a guardian at Akhaura in Brahmanbaria on Sunday.

Police said the guardian, Nurunnabi, roughed up Alok Babu, a teacher of Akhaura Pre-Cadet Ideal Kindergarten School, as he wanted tuition fees' from the student. Later, teachers and students brought out a protest procession and submitted a memorandum to the Upazila Nirbahi Officer demanding punishment to the guardian. A case was lodged.

Community clinic opens

BSS, Pirojpur

A newly-built community clinic at Bhitabania in Bhandaria in Pirojpur district was inaugurated on Monday.

Taslima Hossain MP formally inaugurated the clinic. While opening it, she said development of the health sector is essential for building a healthy and able nation.

Five houses gutted: Woman dies

UNB, Magura

Some 5 houses were gutted in a devastating fire at Rampur village in Mohammadpur upazila in Magura on Monday leaving an old woman dead and 10 injured.

The deceased was identified as Panchubibi, 65. Witnesses said the fire originated from an oven of Amzad Hossain's kitchen at noon and soon engulfed the adjoining five houses. Valuables worth about Tk 5 lakh were gutted in the blaze. Local people doused the flame after an hour-long effort. Ten people were injured while extinguishing the fire. The injured were admitted to local hospital.

Students get stipend

BSS, Bandarban

Bandarban Hill District Council has disbursed Taka 8 lakh 68 thousand among 1,083 meritorious students as stipend in Bandarban district.

Chairman of Hill Council Kyasahla distributed the stipend among the students on Sunday in the council office conference room. District Council sources said Taka 300 for each selected student of class six to eight, Taka 400 for class nine and ten, Taka 600 for the each talented student of college and university was disbursed. Medical engineering, agri-university and technical college students got Taka 1,000 each.

Farmers receive training

UNB, Bandarban

Some 150 farmers of Bandarban district have been imparted training on modern cultivation and prevention of diseases and insects.

The Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) organized the training course for both male and female cultivators from three upazilas during April 16-19. They also trained up 26 block supervisors under the integrated soil fertility and fertilizer management project. The trainees were given practical knowledge on prevention of diseases, integrated pest management as well as vegetable farming and nutrition supply. DAE sources said.

102 projects complete

BSS, Chuadanga

A total of 102 projects under Food for Works Programme have just been completed in Chuadanga district.

According to official sources, 28 projects were implemented in Sadar, 33 Projects in Alamdanga, 25 in Damurhuda, and the rest in Jibannagar upazilas. The projects included construction and re-construction of roads in the rural areas of the district.

Acute water crisis hits Barisal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

With the advent of the scorching summer, people in the Barisal divisional headquarters have been subjected to an acute crisis of water supply and resultant sufferings.

The Barisal municipality, recently declared a city corporation, has been supplying only about 50 lakh gallons of water against a normal demand for 90 lakh gallons for the town-dwellers, thus failing to serve the majority people with safe water.

The Barisal Poursava has only 24 pumps to lift water for about 4.5 lakh people here, sources said, adding that seven of the pumps remain almost inoperative for a long time. This compels a good number of people, particularly the poor, to use polluted water from different ponds and nearby canals, resulting in the outbreak of various water-borne diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery etc.

To address the severe water supply dearth, 12 more pumps were installed under the 5-district Water Supply Project some years ago, but these failed to help ease the crisis due to the project's shortcomings. Most of the pumps installed under the project are now inoperative due to their faulty installation and use of low-quality materials by the contractors, it is alleged.

Besides, the operative pumps cannot lift water as per their capacity due to lack of degeneration, refilling and overhauling of the pumps from time to time. Besides, almost one third of the 150-kilometre water pipeline in the town have become unusable and over 200 water taps out of a thousand are out of order due to lack of maintenance.

According to sources, the municipality authorities here have to pay more money as bills to the Power Development Board (PDB) for its slow water-lifting capacity. On an average, the pumps are now lifting nearly 5,000 gallons of water per hour, because of the fall in water level. Besides, 8,400 subscribers owe the municipality about Tk 85 lakh as outstanding water bills.

Local people allege that the Poursava authorities on different occasions assured the city-dwellers of moves to solve the water crisis, but they failed to implement any project like installation of an water treatment plant in the last ten years. The people want the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to ease the situation.

Massive road development programme taken up in CHT

UNB, Bandarban

The government has taken up a massive programme for the development of road communication network in the three hill districts.

As part of the programme, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is constructing Lama-Sualok Road at a cost of Tk 39 crore.

Meanwhile, nearly 70 per cent work on the road has been completed while the rest is nearing completion. A 180-metre bridge over the river Matamuhuri was inaugurated here recently.

LGED constructed the bridge at a cost of over Tk 1.70 crore to establish direct road link between Lama upazila and Bandarban district headquarters.

LGED Executive Engineer M Shah Alam said construction work on another 140-metre bridge on the road was progressing, involving Tk 1.09 crore.

Besides, maintenance of rural infrastructure and roads, earth filling and renovation of religious institutions are being carried out. Another report from Moulvibazar says: Work on bituminous carpeting from Madhubazar to Bilbari portion of Rajnagar-Balaganj road is progressing fast.

The nine-kilometre carpeting work was inaugurated in November last year. Local Government Engineering Department is implementing the work at an estimated cost of over Tk 1.20 crore.

BSS from Rangpur adds: Rangpur Roads and Highways department has started constructing a bridge over the Ghilnai river at Mithapukur upazila of Rangpur.

The 61.76-metre-long bridge is being constructed at a cost of Taka 3.19 crore.

The work of the bridge is expected to be completed by the year 2002, the official sources said.

They said with the completion of this bridge, the road communication between Badarganj and Madyapara will improve.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (BCSIR) regarding recruitment for research positions. Includes details about the council, the positions, and the application process.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina receives a replica of the Sfrifalata bridge from Shahidul Hassan, Chief Engineer of LGED, after she inaugurated the bridge at Rampal upazila in Bagerhat Sunday. The 240m bridge, the longest-ever constructed by the LGED, was built at a cost of Tk 2.25 crore.

Bumper wheat in Chuadanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

Farmers in the district have harvested bumper wheat this season, according to agriculture officials.

During the season, nearly 45,000 metric tons of wheat has been produced in all the four upazilas of the district Sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar.

According to local Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), about 8,980 metric tons of the crop have been produced in Sadar, 14,700 tons in Alamdanga; 13,800 tons in Damurhuda and 7,500 tons in

Jibannagar upazilas.

It may be noted that a total of 22,500 hectares of lands were brought under wheat cultivation in the district, one of the major wheat producing areas, as against the target of 21,000 hectares.

However, price of wheat has been decreased in markets of the district. The crop now sells between Taka 10 and Taka 11 per kg as against Taka 12 to Taka 12.50 before the harvesting.

UNB from Sherpur says: Although they could not bring all the targeted land under cultivation, farmers of the district produced a record amount of wheat this season.

Agriculture officials said the farmers were harvesting 35 to 40 maunds of wheat per hectare, breaking all previous records of wheat production.

They said on average 3.7 metric tons of wheat were produced per hectare of demonstration plots at Dighaldi village in Sadar upazila.

They attributed the bumper production to availability of quality seeds, fertilizer and pesticide, and favourable weather.

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