

NEWS SNAPS

Boy killed in Rajshahi road mishap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
A little boy was killed on Tuesday noon in a road accident which occurred in Firozabad area under Shah Mukhdum thana of Rajshahi city.
The victim was identified as Sakib, 3, son of Shamsur Rahman of the same area. According to police and eyewitnesses, the accident occurred when a sand loaded speeding truck ran over the victim while he was crossing the road. Shah Mukhdum thana police seized the truck, but its driver managed to escape. A case was filed with the thana in this connection.

Decision of arms recovery drive hailed

Noted freedom fighter and founder of Juranpur Modern Complex at Juranpur under Daudkandi upazila in Comilla district Maj Gen (Retd) M S A Bhuiyan has welcomed the decision of a drive to recover illegal arms by police after the take over of administration of the country by the Care Taker Government, says a press release.
Gen Bhuiyan said this repeatedly while exchanging views with the people at Baherchar, Hasnabad, Raypur, Kushiara, Nolair, Biteshwar, Malakhana, Pipiakandi, Mohammadpur, Machhimpur and Nagerchar in Daudkandi upazila of Comilla district from May 17 to 23. He also addressed various meetings and wayside rallies in the aforementioned places. He demanded recovery of illegal arms and arrest of terrorists for the interest of a free and fair election.

41-man Kazipur upazila BCL committee

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj
A 41-member committee of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Kazipur upazila unit was announced on Tuesday night at the local Awami League (AL) office.
Saiful Islam and Raju Ahmed alias Rased were declared President and General Secretary respectively of the new committee while Monjurul Karim became Vice President and Soheli Mahmud publicity secretary.

Workshop on poverty alleviation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj
A day long workshop on "Community Empowerment for Poverty Alleviation at Grass Root Level" was held at 'Dipsetu' auditorium in Sirajganj last week.
Deputy Commissioner of Sirajganj Hedayet Ullah Al-Mamun presided over the CEPA organised workshop. Intellectuals, officials of different organisations and nine local journalists attended the workshop. Among others, Abdul Khaleque, Convenor of the programme and National Project Coordinator of CEPA Sujit Kumar Biswas, Upazila Programme Coordinator, Jafrul Islam, Ajminajuddin Ahmed, Gazi Nazmul Hoque and Habibur Rahman attended the workshop.

Acute fish scarcity in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur
Acute fish scarcity is prevailing in local markets in Faridpur.
Many species of common fishes are not available in markets, local people said.
"I cannot afford to purchase even small fishes, as the prices have shot up", Arshad Ali, a day labourer, said last week.
According to market sources, now hilsa is being sold at Tk 200 to Tk 250 a kg as against Tk 100 to Tk 125 a few weeks ago.
Medium-sized shrimps numbering 20 to 25 are being sold between Tk 70 and Tk 80 as against Tk 25 to Tk 30 a month ago. Medium-sized shoil fish sells at Tk 100 as against Tk 50 to Tk 60 each. Some 20 pieces of tangra fishes are selling at Tk 80 to Tk 100.
The prices of puti, khailsha and other small fishes have gone beyond the purchasing capacity of common people.

Tk 13 lakh sugar recovered

UNB, Joypurhat
BDR jawans in a raid recovered 41,750 kgs of Indian sugar worth Tk 13 lakh from Mahari Para in Hilli border Tuesday.
No one, however, was arrested in this connection. In separate raids in sadar and Hilli areas on Monday, the BDR men also seized various Indian goods like sugar, salt and onion worth about Tk, 50,000.



PHOTO: STAR

A grower at Mallikpur village under Kaliganj upazila in Jhenidah district takes home his just-harvested **Boro** paddy on a bullock-cart as another farmer looks on. Farmers in the district are being deprived of fare prices of paddy this season following good production of the crop. Now paddy sells between Taka 250 and Tk 255 per *maund* in local markets.

Satkhira bazaars in bad shape

ABU AHMED, Satkhira

Most of the village markets in seven upazilas of Satkhira district are in bad condition. This is due to lack of proper maintenance.
As a result, people have been suffering a lot for a long time.
There are 256 bazaars in seven upazilas of the district.
The bazaars which are in bad shape include Bardal Bazaar, Budhhata Bazaar, Pratapnagar Bazaar, Khajra Bazaar, Patkelghata Bazaar, Jethua Bazaar, Jatpur Bazaar, Mithabari Bazaar, Islamkati Bazaar, Sujan Sha Bazaar, Tala Bazaar, Mela Bazaar, Nazimgonj Bazaar, Iswaripur Bazaar, Rotinpur Bazaar, Baliadanga Bazaar, Dhalbaria Bazaar, Nalta Bazaar, Mathureshpur Bazaar, Bhatsala Bazaar, Parulia Bazaar, Kulia Bazaar, Bahera Bazaar, Gazirhat Bazaar, Town Shreepur Bazaar, Munshigonj Bazaar, Ranjannagar Bazaar, Noor nagar Bazaar, Shyamnagar Bazaar, Agardari Bazaar, Jhhowdanga Bazaar,

Banshdah Bazaar, Kathanda Bazaar, Akhrakhola Bazaar, Madhabkati Bazaar, Dhulihar Bazaar, Bangdah Bazaar, Alipur Bazaar, Mahmudpur Bazaar, Reyni Bazaar, Babulia Bazaar, Kazirhat Bazaar, Sonabaria Bazaar, Gaira Bazaar, Rani Kirshnapur Bazaar, Hijaldi Bazaar, Baliadanga Bazaar, Sharashkati Bazaar, Baman Khali Bazaar, Dum Dum Bazaar, Joynagar Bazaar and some other 'kutch'a' bazaars.
The authorities earn a handsome amount of revenue every year leasing out the bazaars. But it is alleged that development work is hardly seen in the bazaars. In most bazaars, the sellers continue their business activities under the open sky braving the sun or the rain.
Sometimes they use polythene paper to save their goods from rain. But they have to pay tolls regularly. During the rainy season most of the bazaars go under water stopping business activities. After rain the bazaar area becomes muddy hampering smooth activity of the

buyers.
In most bazaars, lease holders collect more toll violating the rules. They continue such bad practice without any opposition. In many cases lease holders collect toll without giving any receipt to the buyers and sellers. In many bazaars, sellers sit on the roads with their commodities due to shortage of accommodation creating traffic jam and hampering activities of the markets. Though the authorities are reluctant to develop the bazaars, yet they raise toll every off and on, it is also alleged.
Most of the markets were established at local initiatives, but these are not been maintained in proportion with the growing population. Filth and garbage are seen piled up here and there which emit bad smell, threatening public health.
Absence of pure drinking water in markets is another problem. Local people urged the authorities concerned to take necessary steps in this regard.

Note making materials recovered: Two held in Rajshahi

UNB, Rajshahi

Police arrested two people with counterfeit note making materials from Laxmipur crossing in Rajshahi town recently.
The arrested were identified as Abdul Malek, 30, of Shishahat in Porsha upazila of Naogaon district and Aslam, 20, of Hetam Khan area in the town. Police said three other members of the gang managed to fleeaway.
Police said the gang hired a microbus to go to Pabna from the Laxmipur area but suddenly they changed their plan and asked the driver to go to Naogaon in an alternative road in the dark. Later the driver sensing something wrong returned to Laxmipur tactfully and informed the police and local people about the suspicious movement of the gang. The arrested were sent to jail hajat.
Another message says that the wholesale rice traders' association of Kumarpara in the town Saturday observed one-hour token strike from 11 am protesting the illegal toll

collection of some local terrorists.
They said they were facing financial loss as the rice-laden trucks have almost stopped coming to the wholesale center since long following extortion of money by the hoodlums from them.
They also demanded of the authority to arrest the extortionists without further delay.

Valuables looted

UNB, Manikganj

A gang of bandits stormed a house at Paragram village in Shibalaya upazila, of Manikganj district and looted valuables worth Tk one lakh on Monday night.
Armed robbers numbering about 10-11 broke into the house of Prof Anil Kunar Sarker, teacher of Mahadebpur Degree College, at dead of night and took away valuables including Tk 10,000 in cash, gold ornaments and other valuables.

Passing out parade of Navy soldiers held in Khulna

BSS, Khulna

The passing out parade marking the induction of a batch of new sailors to Bangladesh Navy was held at BNS Titumir parade ground in Khulna on Sunday.
Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral A Taher reviewed the parade and took salute as the chief guest.
He also distributed awards among the outstanding new sailors.
Mohammed Tanvirul Kabir, OD/UT was adjudged the best all rounder and awarded with "Chief of the Naval Staff Cup" in SSC group, while Mohammed Munirul Islam, DE/STD-II/UT was awarded the "Titumir Cup" as the best sailor in the non-SSC group.
Admiral Taher asked the new sailors to keep themselves abreast with the new advancement of science and technology for better professional excellence. He also directed them to take utmost care of the costly ships and equipment.
Paying glowing tributes to the members of the Bangladesh Navy who embraced martyrdom during the War of Liberation in 1971, the Navy chief asked the new entry sailors to uphold the tradition of putting professional duty above everything.

Strange animal creates panic in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Three women including a girl child were injured by a strange animal in some villages under Prithim Pasa union of Kulaura upazila under Moulvibazar district. A panic situation was created in the area.
According to the local people, the odd-shaped strange animal entered into the house of Basit member of Rautgaon village at night recently. Wife of Basit member was injured by the animal's scratch. On the following night, the animal went to a house of village Kazirgaon where another woman received injury. A girl child aged about 12 to 13 was njured by the same animal at a house of Uttar bazar of Rabir bazar.
Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Kulaura was not available for comments when this correspondent tried to contact with him over telephone. A Sub-Inspector (SI) of Kulaura Police Station said over telephone that they did not receive any information about such incident.
People of Prithim Pasa informed that the aforesaid animal looks like a monkey, but its face looks like a man and its height is 3 feet. in
However, villagers of the area were patrolling the villages at night. Most of the women are passing night in pucca houses of their neighbours. The matter should be investigated, opined the local elderly people.