

NEWS SNAPS

AL activist killed in Naogaon

UNB, Naogaon
A middle-aged man, said to be an Awami League (AL) activist, was killed at village Giringram in Raninagar upazila of Naogaon on Oct 25, according to a delayed report. Police said Mansur Ali, 42, was slaughtered by unknown assailants while he was returning home from nearby Deulia Bazaar in the evening. Mansur was a witness in the murder case of his nephew Shakhawat, an AL activist. He was killed recently. A case was filed.

Kushtia AL leader gunned down

UNB, Kushtia
A group of outlaws gunned down a local Awami League (AL) leader in Khoksa upazila of Kushtia on Thursday. Police said the outlaws of 'Adel group' opened fire on Mahbubur Rahman Ripon, 32, a village unit leader of AL, when he was taking bath in the Gori river near Goneshpur Bazaar at about 12:30 pm. Ripon, also a computer science teacher of Khoksa Saidur Rahman Montu College, died on the spot. Police brought the body to the local police station. A tense situation was prevailing in the area over the killing.

Two hacked to death in Pabna

UNB, Pabna
Two people were hacked to death and two others injured in Sadar upazila of Pabna on Thursday. Police said some hoodlums picked up Moktar Hossain, 20, of Nandanpur and Abdul Malek, 25, of Sharodia in Sadar upazila and hacked them to death in the morning following previous enmity. The miscreants also chopped Rafiqul Islam of Kuchimara and Akkas Ali of Shakaripara villages. Islam and Ali were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital and Pabna General Hospital respectively.

Attacks on houses of minorities: Two held

UNB, Sherpur
Two people were arrested Wednesday in connection with attacks on the houses of minority people at Chenguria village in Jhenaidah upazila of Sherpur. The arrested were identified as Abdul Khalek of Bhakurpara and Khalilur Rahman. Locals said terrorists Sunday attacked and ransacked the house of Kripanath Barman and damaged the image of Laxmi. They set on fire to a pottery factory of Boripal earlier Tuesday. The terrorists also beat Sunil Barman and Boripal at Kalibari Bazaar, and ransacked five houses of Hindu families. While visiting the area Wednesday, local people told that the terrorists, led by BNP men, attacked their houses and looted their belongings as they cast their votes for Awami League in the Oct 1 election.

100 copies of 'Janakantha' burned down

UNB, Narail
A group of unruly youths burned down some 100 copies of 'Janakantha' (a Bangla national daily) at Chowrasta in Narail town Tuesday demanding removal of its district correspondent. Witnesses said the youths went to a kiosk in the area at about 10am, took away the copies of the daily and set those ablaze. They said they would not allow selling of the newspaper in the district if its local correspondent Rifat Bin Toha was not removed immediately.

Two alleged extortionists arrested

UNB, Bagerhat
Local people caught two alleged extortionists from Falita Bazaar in Fakirhat upazila of Bagerhat Tuesday night and handed them over to police after a mass beating. Police said the two extortionists, Alamgir and Ripon, were caught when they attacked fish trader Norendra Nath and were beating him with a hammer as he refused to pay them toll. In another incident, plainclothes police took two accused, Abu Taleb and Amjad Hossain, in the AL leader SM Farhad murder case on a three-day remand Thursday. Farhad was gunned down at Kathalola bus stand in Fakirhat upazila on Oct 16. Police have so far arrested six people in this connection.

Snatcher gets 10-yr- RI in Jhenidah

UNB, Jhenidah
A court in Jhenidah has sentenced a man to 10 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) in a snatching case. The court also fined convict Shahidul Haque Tk 1,000 and he will have to suffer one year more RI if he fails to pay the fine. According to the prosecution, local people caught Shahidul red-handed from Goalpara in Jhenidah Sadar when he aided by one of his associates was trying to snatch the bicycle of Malek on Jan 9, 1999. However, his friend was able to take away the bike. After examining the records and witnesses, the court handed down the verdict Wednesday.

25 injured in gas cylinder explosion

UNB, Moulvibazar
Some 25 people were injured, eight critically, when a gas cylinder exploded in front of a restaurant in Moulvibazar town Tuesday night. Police said the cylinder attached with an oven at Shah Hotel at Station Road went off at 8pm. Critically injured Lokman was sent to Dhaka while Liton, Nuru and Protap were admitted to the Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital and nine others to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital.

Oath taking ceremony

BSS, Chuadanga
The oath taking ceremony of the newly elected office-bearers of the Chuadanga district bus-truck road transport workers union was held at Sreemonto Town Hall in Chuadanga on October 26. Shahidul Islam Biswas, the newly elected MP of Chuadanga was present on the occasion as the chief guest. The special guests were Syed Mahub Hasan, Deputy Commissioner of Chuadanga, Nurul Anwar, SP Chuadanga and Prof Siddiqui Rahman. Sirajul Islam and MG Islam were elected president and general secretary respectively of the union. Advocate Shawkat Mahmud, election commissioner of the Chuadanga district bus-truck road transport workers union administered oath to the newly elected office bearers of the union.

Telephone bill defaulter released

UNB, Mymensingh
A telephone bill defaulter, who was sent to jail Tuesday, was released later in the day after he cleared the bills. Court sources said Amjad Hossain was sued by local T&T office for nonpayment of bills for a long time and the court sent him to jail when appeared before it seeking bail. The court later released him and quashed the case filed against him as his lawyer paid the outstanding bills amounting to Tk 62,000 in the court. Twenty more similar cases are still pending in the same court, according to competent sources.

Prices of vegetables up in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari
Markets in Nilphamari have been flooded with winter vegetables though prices are beyond reach of common consumers. Bean is being sold between Tk 40-50 per kg while radish at Tk 20, tomato at Tk 32, brinjal at 16, carrot at 40, cauliflower at Tk 40, cabbage at Tk 36 and cucumber at Tk 32. Vegetable trader Najibar Rahman said the prices would come down soon when winter vegetables start coming in plenty.

Rotary Club sponsored eye camp in Feni

BSS, Feni
Rotary Club of Feni central organised a two-day eye camp at Zahir Raihan auditorium in Feni from November 2 to provide free treatment to the patients. The patients undergoing surgical operations will be provided with free lenses if required. The camp will be opened at 8 am everyday.

Workshop on self-employment

UNB, Magura
A daylong workshop on self-employment was held at the Sadar upazila parishad auditorium Wednesday. Some 110 NGO workers took part in the workshop organised by local Social Welfare Department. Deputy Commissioner of Magura Mohammad Shafiqul Alam attended the workshop chaired by Social Welfare official M Zillur Rahman.

Cash, valuables worth Tk 50,000 looted

CU CORRESPONDENT
Armed robbers shot a domestic help and looted cash and valuables worth about Tk 50 thousand at Razoan upazilla in Chittagong in the early hours of Tuesday. Police said the robbers entered into the house of Rinku Nath at Nathpara of Purbia Bagan union under the upazilla at around 2.30 am. They confined the inmates to a room and looted about 22 thousand taka in cash and other valuables at gun point. As the domestic help Manik Das tried to resist the robbers, they shot at him. He was injured critically. Manik was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. A case was filed in this connection.



Smokes from brick kilns pollute environment in Foujderhat area of Chittagong. Most brick field owners here do not follow the official instruction of erecting 120 feet chimney on each kiln. As a result people in and around the area are prone to suffer from various complicated bronchial diseases including asthma and TB. But the authorities concerned are yet to take strict measures to check the unhealthy practice.

Arsenic threatens health of two lakh people in Satkhira

BSS, Satkhira

Arsenic contamination in waters of tubewells has taken a serious turn in 12 unions of Kalaroa upazila in Satkhira threatening the health of about two lakh people.

According to Kalaroa upazila Public Health Office sources, a total of 683 persons in 142 villages of 12 unions have so far been affected by arsenic poison.

Water of 95.19 per cent tubewells in the upazila was found to have a high percentage of arsenic. People of the area fell sick when they drank arsenic contaminated water as there is no alternative source of drinking water.

To detect arsenic in the tubewell water, Sohac Society on Health and Care (SSHC), with the help of Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE), and an NGO, recently conducted a survey at ward level under Bangladesh arsenic mitigation water supply project supervised by Major Retd Ali Azim Khan, Chief Co-ordinator of BAMWSP.

According to the survey report, water of 16,962 tubewells out of the total 17,811 under the upazila was tested, of which 16,146 tubewells were found to contain high percentage of arsenic.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) 0.05 mg arsenic per litre of water is the tolerable limit for Bangladesh, but samples collected from different parts of the upazila showed that the arsenic content was 0.40 mg in the tubewells water. Arsenic content was 0.70 mg fund in a tubewell of Emandul Haq of village Deara, 0.55 mg found in a tubewell of Shaheb Ali of village Horina and 0.49 mg arsenic found in a tubewell of Atiar Rahman of village Goalchattar in the upazila.

Kalaroa upazila PHED has put red mark on the arsenic contaminated tubewells and advised the people not to drink water from those tubewells.

The upazila Public Health Engineer's office sources said that water of 1,455 tubewells out of 1,473 of Healtala union was found arsenic contaminated. Arsenic was found in water of 1,530 out of 1,765 tubewells in Keralkata union, 1,448 out of 1,538 in Sonabaria union, 1,442 out of 1,478 in Joynagar union, 2,013 out of 2,126 in Chandanpur union, 867 out of 881 in Jugikhali union, 1,481 out of 1,656 in Kragachi union, 1,057 out of 1,069 in Kushadanga union, 1870 out of 2026 in Diara union, 628 out of 644 in Lanaljhara union, 1,507 out of 1,538 in Jallabad union and 747 out of 758 tubewells in Kaila union of the upazila.

Kalaroa upazila Public Health Engineer M Abdul Wadud told that DPHE with assistance of BAMWSP, has taken up a programme to install 142 arsenic free tubewells in all the 142 villages of the upazila -- one tubewell for each village.

He said, a large number of VS ring well and deep tubewells will also be installed in the upazila. People in the arsenic affected areas have been advised to take boiled and rain water.

Meanwhile, another report from Munshiganj reports: Sirajdikhan upazila and Gazaria upazila of Munshiganj have been taken up under UNICEF and World Bank programmes respectively for examination of arsenic content in the water of tubewells in those areas.

A source of the district office of the Department of Public Health Engineering said examination of water of tubewells in Gazaria upazila was completed at field level. Examination of the tubewells was in progress in Sirajdikhan upazila.

The arsenic-contaminated tubewells were marked red and the arsenic-free tubewells were marked green.

Diseases resulting from arsenic contamination of drinking water are yet to pose any serious threat to public health in Munshiganj.

Over 60 pc rural people in Cox's Bazar do not use sanitary latrine

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

More than 60 per cent people in rural areas of seven thanas in Cox's Bazar do not use sanitary latrine due to lack of proper initiative.

About nine lakh people live in rural areas in Cox's Bazar. Two thirds of them have no access to sanitary latrines, an unofficial survey report said.

Majority of the villagers discharge human waste in the bushes, barren land, bank of the canal, pond or river and crop land. As a result, human waste mixes with waters of canals, ponds, rivers, beels and pollutes environment.

"The Department of Public

Health Engineering (DPHE) said they are supplying equipment of latrines from their thana offices at a low cost. But due to lack of awareness people of the rural areas do not show interest to set up latrines in their houses.

Ansarul Haque, a social worker of Matar Bari village in Moheshkhali upazila told this correspondent that a large number of children belonging to poor families of rural areas do not use latrines at all.

Some local leaders in rural areas of Taknaf upazila said some families in their areas use kutcha latrines which mostly stand on the banks of rivers, beels and canals. By allowing human waste to fall in

rivers, beels and canals, such latrines pollute the water.

Local doctors said, due to lack of good sanitation rural people including children suffer from diarrhoeal diseases around the year.

DPHE observed sanitation week throughout the country every year, but the rural people who live in poverty are not actually motivated for using sanitary latrines and safe water.

Local leaders and experts have appealed to the authorities concerned to take necessary steps for motivation poor rural people for good sanitation.



PHOTO: STAR

Nurul Islam, an amateur scientist of greater Barisal is seen engaged in work in a science laboratory. Islam participated in various science fairs, workshops and training courses since 1982 where his outstanding scientific inventions attracted thousands of people from all walks of life. He participated in training courses such as electric house wiring and motorcycle repairing of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC). He also participated in the 10th National Science Fair in 1968, in the 11th and the 12th National science weeks at Bakerganj in 1988 and 1989, in the Self-reliance Works Project of BSCIC in 1995, in the National Science Week of 1982 at Bakerganj and in Dhaka, in the Bangladesh Shisu Academy sponsored fair in Barisal in 1985, in the training course on fisheries in Dhaka, organised by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in 1989 and so on. But the talented scientist is yet to get proper recognition and financial help.

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