

NEWS SNAPS

Young housewife commits suicide

UNB, Barisal
A young housewife allegedly committed suicide at Horinafula village in Sadar upazila of Barisal on Monday.

Police said Rashida Begum, 24, took poison following a family feud. She was rushed to Barisal Medical College Hospital where she died. In another incident, septuagenarian Nanibala, who was admitted to Barisal Medical College Hospital with severe injury marks on her body, succumbed on Monday. Nanibala hailed from Machhrang village in Banaripara upazila. Reason behind the injuries could not be known.

Body of unidentified young man recovered

UNB, Narayanganj
The body of an unidentified young man was recovered from near a nursery at Painadi in Sidhirganj upazila on Dhaka-Chittagong highway Thursday. The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed. In another incident, Shahinur Rahman 24, of Ramnagar village in Singair upazila of Manikganj district was arrested along with a revolver from a Dhaka-bound bus at Meghna toll bridge on the day. Shahinur confessed to the police that he bought the revolver from Chittagong and was heading to Dhaka for reselling it.

Two more bridges to be built over Surma

UNB, Sylhet
Two more bridges will be constructed over the river Surma to ease traffic problems in the divisional town of Sylhet.
Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman said this while inaugurating the periodic maintenance work on Keen Bridge-Airport Road in Sylhet on Friday. The minister said Keen Bridge would be repaired soon. To ease traffic congestion, he said, illegal structures would be removed from the roadside and roads would be developed, said an official handout.

26 children attacked with AFP

UNB, Jessore
Some 26 children aged between one and 15 were attacked with Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP), a virus disease, in eight upazilas of Jessore in last nine months.

Of them, five children were affected in Sharsha upazila, four in Abhoynagar, five in Manirampur, three in Bagharpara, two each in Chougachi, Jhikargacha, Keshobpur and Sadar and one in municipal area. Local health department said urine and stool of the affected children were tested but they did not find any poliovirus in their body. "Although poliovirus was not detected, the disease is not less dangerous than that of polio," said the health officials.

15 hurt in clash during arbitration meeting

UNB, Barisal
Fifteen people were injured in a clash between two groups of villagers in Gouranadi upazila of Barisal on Sunday night.

Witnesses said the clash between Sardar and Khalifa groups took place during an arbitration meeting arranged to resolve their old dispute. Of the injured, Harun Khalifa was rushed to Barisal Medical College Hospital in a critical condition while 10 others to the upazila health complex.

Cash, valuables worth Tk 80,000 looted

UNB, Gazipur
A group of youngsters swooped on a brick field in Sadar upazila on Sunday and looted cash and valuables worth of Tk 80,000.

Police said the hoodlums attacked Taher Auto Bricks Field at Sardaganj village in the morning, looted cash Tk 70,000 and other goods. A case was filed with Joydevpur police accusing 11 people.

Transport worker stabbed

UNB, Narayanganj
A transport trader was stabbed by a group of terrorists in Masdair Sher-e-Bangla Road area of Fatullah thana here on Saturday.

The injured was identified as Moniruddin, 45. Relatives said some terrorists demanded Tk 50,000 from Monir as toll. As he refused to give the money, the hoodlums stabbed him with a sharp weapon. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition. A case was filed.

Indian sarees seized

BSS, Manikganj
Manikganj Sadar police seized a huge quantity of Indian contraband sarees, two trucks and arrested four people from Manikganj bus stand on Sunday midnight.

Acting on a tip-off Manikganj police stopped two trucks at Manikganj bus stand and recovered 213 packets of Indian sarees and three-piece dress. Police seized the trucks and arrested two drivers and helpers of the trucks. A case has been filed with Manikganj police in this connection.

10 tribal youths with arms arrested

UNB, Khagrachhari
Some 10 tribal youths were arrested along with firearms and ammunition at Nunchari of Mohalchari upazila in Khagrachhari on Saturday.

Acting on a tip-off, army personnel stopped their microbus and seized the arms and ammunition. A case was filed.

25 arrested from several border areas

BSS, Satkhira
The members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) arrested 25 persons from several border areas of Satkhira during the last two days.

The BDR also arrested one trafficker from Bhomra border area. The BDR source said the BDR members of 12 Rifles battalion raided the Bhomra, Laxmidari, Bhadiali and Kakkanga border areas and arrested 25 persons including nine women and four children from the area while they were illegally trying to cross Bangladesh border without valid papers. The BDR arrested one human trafficker Nokol Sarkar, 35, from Bhomra border of village east Kumira under Debhata upazila. They were handed over to police. Several cases were filed with Kalaroa and Sadar thana in these connections.

CI sheets distributed among distressed families

BSS, Kurigram
Ulipur upazila administration in Kurigram recently distributed 419 bundles of tin (CI) sheets among 273 distressed families, martyred freedom fighters and poor women.

According to official sources, the relief and rehabilitation ministry allocated the CI sheets for the purpose. Senior government officials, freedom fighters, local elite and journalists were present during the distribution of CI sheets in Ulipur Upazila town recently.

Price spiral of essentials hit low-income people hard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People belonging to middle class and below this class have been suffering a lot due to price spiral of essential commodities in Satkhira and Natore districts in recent days.

Our Satkhira Correspondent reports: Prices of essentials including vegetables have gone up abnormally in all the markets of Satkhira recently causing sufferings to the people in general, especially to the low-income group people.

Local traders and farmers of different kinds of vegetables said that crops on a vast tract of land had been damaged due to inclement weather during the last few months. A sharp fall in supply of these commodities from other neighbouring districts also attributed to the crisis over the last few weeks.

People of low income group have been facing hardship as they hardly got any temporary job during the last few months due to different reasons.

Different varieties of rice are being sold in local markets between Tk 14 to 18 per kg as against Tk 12 to Tk 16 a month ago while lentil is being sold at Tk 40 as against Tk 34. Onion and garlic are being sold at Tk 24 and Tk 50 though the price had been half of the existing price four months ago. Prices of various kinds of vegetables such as gourd, pumpkin, potato, lady's finger and others had gone up abnormally in the local mar-

kets.
Ruhi, Katla and Pangash are available sometimes in small quantity in the markets, but prices are beyond capacity of common men.

Apart from these price of beef had also increased in the local markets while mutton is not always available. In case of availability, it is sold between Tk 120 to Tk 140 per kg.

Prices of chicken, both of local varieties and of high yielding ones, are up. One kg chicken is being sold between Tk 75 to Tk 100 normally.

Our Natore Correspondent reports: Prices of essential commodities, particularly rice and vegetable have risen in local markets of Natore causing immense sufferings to the low-income group of people.

Different varieties of rice are being sold in local markets between Tk 12.50 and Tk 16 per kilogram against Tk 11 to Tk 15.50 one month ago while lentil at Tk 38 as against Tk 32.

Prices of various kinds of vegetables such as gourd, pumpkin, potato, lady's finger and other vegetables have gone up by Tk 2 to Tk 6 per kg. The prices of onion and garlic have almost doubled.

Fishes such as hilsa, koi, prawn are available but prices of these fishes remain far beyond the reach of common people.



PHOTO: STAR
Demonstrators under the banner of 'Towhidi Janata' burning the effigy of US President George Bush in front of Natore Central Mosque following a protest procession in the district town on Saturday where the demonstrators condemned the US-led war in Afghanistan.

Brahmaputra may devour Chilmari port at any moment

UNB, Kurigram

Chilmari river port, the traditional and important centre of transportation of goods in the northern region, is on the verge of extinction due to continuous erosion by the river Brahmaputra.

The port, situated on the confluence of the Teesta and the Brahmaputra, may vanish at any moment for want of protection measures by the government.

Over the thousand acres of land went into the gorge of the river in last few days displacing a large number of people and establishments.

People here have been demanding for long to protect the Chilmari Port from the onslaught of erosion. But, work on "Chilmari Port Protection Project" could not be started yet although the feasibility study and formulation of PCP were completed.

Minister concerned, local MP, officials of the district administration and WDB have already visited the erosion-hit area. They all gave assurance of taking proper steps in this regard, but nothing was done yet.

The mighty Brahmaputra devoured a large portion of the river port during Pakistan period.

Afterward, thousands of acres of land, a number of government offices, educational and religious institutions, mosques, dwelling houses, railway station, roads, bridges and culverts, shops and godowns were engulfed by the river.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, during her visit in Chilmari on January 16, 1994, assured of taking all necessary measures to protect the port.

As per her directives, "Chilmari Port Protection Project" had been undertaken and a Project Concept Paper (PCP) also prepared.

River Research Institute in Faridpur submitted a report of its study prepared at a cost of Tk 58 lakh on the project in October, 1996.

The project works include

Female drug seller shot dead in Kushtia

A CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A drug peddler was shot dead by unidentified gunmen at her Bahtapara, Mirpara residence in Kushtia on Monday night.

Police and neighbours said that Aleya Begum, 42, a drug peddler was shot point blank at about 9:15 p.m. at her residence.

The lady was shot dead following rivalry among two groups of drug suppliers in the area. A gang led by Gama while the other Hamidul-Akther forced her to buy drug from them.

Aleya was threatened as both the gang were pressing her to buy drugs from them. A tense situation was prevailing in the area for quite sometime following rivalry of the drug suppliers.

Some unidentified armed men went to the house of the victim and fired two bullets in her chest and shoulder. Aleya collapsed on the ground with a pool of blood.

Fatally injured Aleya was rushed to Kushtia Sadar Hospital where the attending doctor declared her dead. The body was kept at the hospital morgue for autopsy.

A panic situation was prevailing at the spot following killing of Aleya by assailants at her Bhatapara residence.

The duty officer of Sadar police station said on Monday night that they are yet to file case in this regard.

