

NEWS SNAPS

Beheaded body recovered in Gopalganj

UNB, Gopalganj
The beheaded body of a man was recovered from a sugarcane field at Singati village in Mollarhat upazila of Gopalganj on Thursday.
Police said Himu Chowdhury, 45, father of three children, went to nearby Charkulia bazaar with Tk 18,000 in cash for buying two bullocks on Wednesday, but didn't return home at night. Family members of Himu found his body next morning. Later, police rushed to the spot and sent the body to the morgue for autopsy. Police suspect that previous enmity may be the reason behind the killing.

Housewife beaten to death in Satkhira

UNB, Satkhira
A housewife was allegedly beaten to death by her husband at village Tarali in Kaliganj upazila of Satkhira on Tuesday.
The victim was identified as Shahanara Khatun, 30, wife of Nurul Islam. Police said on the fateful day, Nurul had an altercation with his wife Shahanara over a trifling matter. At one stage, he got infuriated and started beating his wife, causing her instant death. Villagers caught Nurul and handed him over to police.

Clash over land leaves 50 injured

UNB, Gopalganj
At least 50 people including an SI and a leader of Chhatra League were injured in a clash between two groups of people in Monohari Potri area of Gopalganj town on Thursday.
Witnesses said Imanuddin Bepari had so long been doing business on a land in the area. But recently ex-commissioner of Gopalganj Municipality A Rob Mollah demanded the ownership of the land and the clash erupted when Rob tried to occupy the land. SI of Sadar thana Kibria and general secretary of district Awami League Gazi Hafizur Rahman were injured while they were trying to bring the situation under control. Of the injured, Rob Mollah, Sohag Mollah, Altaf Mollah, Rashed, Bulbul, Shikder Naltu Mollah were rushed to the Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

Killer gets death sentence in Jhenidah

UNB, Jhenidah
A special tribunal in Jhenidah on Saturday awarded a man to death sentence for killing his wife.
According to the prosecution, Abdur Rashid who hails from Kushtia poisoned to death his wife Dolly Khatun at village Malipara in Shailakupa upazila on July 15, 1998. After examining the records and witnesses, Judge Diproman Sarkar found Rashid guilty and handed down the judgement.

Polythene bags polluting Panchagarh

UNB, Panchagarh
Use of plastic containers and polythene bags is on rise in Panchagarh, polluting the environment.
Statistics showed that 3,000 to 10,000 polythene bags are used in Panchagarh town daily. Foods are carried in the bags, which is considered harmful for human health. Experts said the polythene bags contain 54 kinds of ingredients of cancer. Besides, these bags do not dissolve in soil, hindering soil to absorb water, oxygen and sunlight and reduce soil fertility. Poly bags are the main carrier of different waterborne diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery and skin diseases, local physicians said.

Work on water supply, sanitation project suspended in Rangpur

Disagreement between municipal authority, contractors over payment of bill

UNB, Rangpur
Implementation of Nine Town's Second Water Supply and Sanitation Project in Rangpur Municipality has become uncertain due to disagreement between the contractors and the authority over payment of bill.
The work of the project remained suspended for the last one year due to the bill that the contractors submitted to the municipality authority surpassing the actual tender rate.
Official sources said that bill was 70 per cent higher than the previous tender rate.
However, contractors claimed that the excess bill has been charged due to change of tender by the authority itself as they preferred supply and installation of specific PVC pipe which was not mentioned in the previous tender.
The sources said they also contacted the Project Director (PD) to consider the varying rate of the tender but the PD office informed them that the municipality has to pay the excess bill as they changed the tender.
Rangpur Municipality has taken up the project with

the financial assistance from Asian Development Bank and technical assistance of Public Health Engineering (PHE) at a cost of Tk 10 crore in 1996 aiming at supplying pure water for its 2.30 lakh population.
Under the project, work of installation of 65km underground new pipeline, three overhead tanks, six deep tubewells, one water treatment plant and 4300 new houses water supply connection has nearly been completed.
Besides, change of existing 48 km underground asbestos pipe line into PVC pipe also included under the project and the authority changed only 13 km underground such pipelines.
A source said that the municipality authority has planned to go into operation of the project without changing the existing 35-km underground asbestos pipeline which have already been damaged and also become unfit for use.
He said if the concerned contractor refrains from giving the connection of the underground pipelines the operation of the total project would be held up.

Acute scarcity of water in Chuadanga, Kurigram

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Acute scarcity of pure drinking water has been prevailing in Chuadanga and Kurigram districts.
BSS from Chuadanga reports: Acute scarcity of pure drinking water has been prevailing in all the four upazilas of Chuadanga.
Hundreds of hand pump tubewells here remained out of order for over two years for containing arsenic contaminated water.
The upazilas are : Chuadanga Sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar.
There are over 19,000 hand pump tubewells in all the four upazilas. Of which, the government installed 8,000 hand pump tubewells and the rest 11,000 hand pump tubewells are personal or private.
Of the total hand pump tubewells including government and private about 2,000 hand pump tubewells have gone out of order over two years and these are neither being repaired nor being resunk because there are massive contamination of arsenic in water of these disordered hand pump tubewells.
An NGO is now working in Damurhuda upazila to make the hand pump tubewells of the upazila arsenic free. There has been no installation of new hand pump tubewells by the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) for arsenic problem.
Another report from Kurigram

says: The dwellers of Kurigram Municipality are facing acute crisis of pure drinking water for years together.
According to dwellers, numerous illegal water-lifting pipelines have been set up by a section of influential people with the main supply line to lift supply water using motor pumps. Water is being supplied thrice a day for a period of one hour every time. Due to illegal pump connections with the main supply pipelines, people do not get water regularly, as there remains no pressure in the pipelines for those illegal pumps. But, all the consumers are giving similar fixed monthly bills, as there is no metre system, they added.
Chairman of Kurigram Municipality and Engineer of the institution said they are aware of the situation, but they are helpless to do something for the betterment of the common consumers. The water supply was started in 1991 with 678 consumers in the municipality area. The present number of consumers is 1,362 and there are 25.15-kilometer long pipelines in the town now.
There are only two water-lifting pumps and two overhead tanks and two water treatment plants. Thirty per cent of the total inhabitants of the town are now under water supply network.
Annual expenditure for the purpose is Tk 5,17,848 and annual income stands at Tk 5,91,371 now.

Due to heavy iron contamination, aluminum sulphate and bleaching powder are being used in the treatment plants, which is costly, they said.
They have a plan to set up a new pump, another treatment plant and 20-kilometer long new pipelines in near future. They sought more allocation for the purpose to promote water supply facility in the town.
The officials blamed most of the consumers did not pay their bills regularly. During the last three consecutive fiscal years up to 2000-2001, only Tk 10,27,785 was realised as water bills from the consumers against a total amount of Tk 27,52,748.
On the other hand, common consumers urged the authorities to disconnect all of the illegal motor-pump lines for better services.

Condolence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chit
Jotirindra Lama alias Santu Lama, chairman of Parbatya Chattagram Jano Sanghati Samity(PCJJS) expressed his deep condolence to the family members of Rahmathullah who was shot dead on November 10 during a shoot-out incident on a car carrying the supporters of Phahari Chhatra Parisad (PCP), the student wing of PCJJS.

10 'terrorists' of Bagerhat take shelter in Kolkata

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna
Ten alleged terrorists of Bagerhat have taken shelter in Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal.
They have been staying there in a rented house after Awami League was routed in last October 1 national elections, witnesses said.
The house rented at Dutta Pukur area is close to several residential hotels of Kolkata where at least 30 per cent boarders are Bangladeshis who have gone there for medical treatment and business purpose, witnesses said.
Six of the alleged terrorists could be identified as Khan Habibur Rahman, president of district Jubo League, Sramik League secretary Rezaur Rahman Mantu, president of Rickshaw Sramik League Abdul Barik, Jubo League leader Khan Moniruzzaman Moni, secretary of district Chhatra League Mostafizur Rahman Sohel and Mahfuzur Rahman of Awami League.
A senior official of Bagerhat police department said all the ten absconders are most wanted criminals of Bagerhat. They fled just few hours after October 1 parliamentary elections, the police official said.
They are maintaining contacts with Bagerhat BNP and Jubo Dal leaders through mobile phones and messengers for coming back safe and sound, one of the witness said.
They were trusted armed cadres of Sheikh Helal MP and former state minister Dr Mozammel Hossain, a reliable source said. They are bearing daily expenses from the money being managed through hundi system, a witness said.

Seven injured as miscreants attack sweeper colony near Gopalganj sugar mills

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore
At least seven aborigine people were injured, including one seriously, in an attack at the sweeper colony near North Bengal Sugar Mills (NBSM) in Gopalganj of Lalpur upazila Saturday midnight.
Police sources said, some unidentified miscreants, numbering eight, masked with gamchha [a scarf of cotton] attacked the colony at dead of night. They were calling someone Bablu during the attack.
Raju, one of the injured as admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) and others at local health complex.
The sugar mill authorities informed the miscreants damaged the colony severely, but could not do any major harm as the sweeper colony members chased them out of the area.
No case has been filed so far. However, the mills authorities said that they were planning to lodge a case in this connection.

Gold smuggler held

UNB, Satkhira
An alleged gold smuggler was arrested along with six gold bars from Bhomra land port border area in Satkhira Wednesday.

One dies in road mishap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari
A staff member of the district administration died as his by-cycle collided with a police patrol car on a bridge on bus stand road in the town on Sunday midnight.
According to police, Maksud Ali, 38, a cook at the district circuit house was seriously injured when his by-cycle was hit on the bridge by police patrol car coming from the opposite side.
Maksud was admitted to Khagrachhari Sadar Hospital first and doctors referred him to Chittagong Medical College Hospital CMH, but he died on way to Chittagong.
The driver of police car, Shushil Sen was arrested. The third and fourth class employees of the district administration observed work stoppage programme on November 6.

Female workers make a difference



Even a few years back Madaripur Textile Mill was a state owned losing concern. The mill was reshaped afterwards following transfer of ownership. The new private owners modernised the mill with computerised machines and recruited only female labourers who turned the mill into a prosperous one by dint of hard labour. (Top left to right) Female workers are seen processing cotton while some of their colleagues enter into the mill in a disciplined manner at the beginning of their shifting duties. (Middle left to right) A skilled female worker repairs a machine successfully while some others ensure unhindered production in the mill. (Bottom left to right) After a day's hard toil a group of female workers leave their workplace for home while four others are seen stocking cotton yarns for exporting abroad after proper packaging.

PHOTO FEATURE: A K M MOHSIN