

NEWS SNAPS

Lawyers protest corruption of judges

UNB, Munshiganj
Lawyers on Wednesday began boycotting three courts here for an indefinite period alleging corruption and demanding removal of three judges.
The boycott decision was taken at a meeting of Munshiganj Bar Association with its president Kazi Afsar Hossain in the chair. The lawyers brought allegation of bribe and boycotted the court of additional district and sessions judge, 2nd judge and assistant sub-judge.

BNP terrorists break legs of UP members

UNB, Natore
Terrorists allegedly belonging to BNP broke two legs of a union parishad (UP) member by hammer in Wallia union in Lalpur upazila in Natore on Thursday.
The hooligans attacked UP member Nazrul Islam, 32, at Wallia Bazaar while he was going to the court in Natore at 10 am to give statement in a case. He was rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. Protesting the attack, local Awami League confined UP chairman and BNP leader Abdul Hakim in his house for two hours. District Awami League Organising Secretary Abul Kalam Azad blamed BNP terrorists for the attack.

Sub-contractor suffers bullet wounds

UNB, Narail
Two people, one of them a sub-contractor, suffered bullet wounds at Rugganj in Narail town on Wednesday.
Witnesses said a band of extortionists, allegedly led by Sajal and Suman, opened fire on sub-contractor Alam when he refused to give them toll. A day labourer, Pabitra Bagchi, was also injured in the attack. Alam and Pabitra were admitted to Sadar Hospital from where Pabitra was shifted to Khulna Medical College Hospital as his condition deteriorated. A case was filed and police arrested Jahangir Hossain in this connection.

Armed robbers loot valuables

UNB, Narsingdi
Armed robbers swooped on a bus on Dhaka-Sylhet highway Tuesday night and looted valuables worth about Tk two lakh from the passengers.
Passengers said a dozen of robbers got into the Narsingdi-bound bus from Dhaka and forced the driver to halt the vehicle at Barapa in Rugganj upazila at 9.30 pm. They looted valuables from the passengers and stabbed two of them while they tried to resist. The injured were given first-aid at a local clinic.

Miscreants hijack microbus in Gazipur

UNB, Gazipur
A gang of miscreants hijacked a microbus in Gazipur on Sunday night.
Microbus owner Abdul Gafur said seven youths identifying themselves as passengers hired his microbus for travelling to Mirpur in Dhaka. But when the microbus reached Mirpur, the criminals forcibly took away the vehicle after beating its driver, Lokman, he alleged.

Truck carrying imported goods missing

UNB, Benapole
A truck carrying imported goods worth about Tk 10 lakh went missing from Benapole land port recently.
Official source said a Dhaka-based business firm Mirana limited imported cloths from India and local C&F agent Keya Enterprise was given the responsibility to clear and send the cloths to the capital. The cloths were loaded in five Dhaka-bound trucks of Golden Transport on November 15, but one of the trucks went missing along with the cloths. A case was filed with Benapole police.

Krishak League president arrested

UNB, Luxmipur
Police on Wednesday arrested district Krishak League president Mohammad Tayeb Chowdhury and sent him to jail hajat.
Chowdhury, also chairman of Kushakhali union parishad, is the number one accused in a case relating to ransack and plunder of Shantirhat on the October 1 polling day. Since the case was filed on October 6 Chowdhury, remained absconding to avoid arrest.

Two brothers injured by terrorists

UNB, Narayanganj
Two brothers were critically injured in a terrorist attack at Pathantuli Loyal Tank road in Siddhirganj of Narayanganj on Thursday.
Police said terrorists chopped Anis, 22, and his brother Jolis, 20, while they were preparing a pitch on a land of Nazimuddin Bhuyan to play cricket. Meanwhile, the body of an unidentified youth was recovered from a brick-field ditch in Fatullah.

14,000 FP workers deprived of salaries since July

DELWAR KABIR, Jhenidah

About 14 thousand workers of the Family Planning (FP) Department are not getting their salaries since July.

As a result the workers are in great trouble, said a source related to Department of Health and Family Planning.

Out of the total 46 thousand workers like Family Welfare Assistants (FWA), Family Welfare Visitors (FWV), family planning inspectors and some other employees are engaged in field level as well as office level work throughout the country. Of them 10 per cent had been treated as 'revenue workers' instead of development workers in 1998-99 fiscal. Later in 1999-2000 30 per cent (about 14,000) more staffers had been placed under revenue sector from the development sector. Since then they are not getting their salaries regularly. Furthermore, none of them had been provided with the bonus on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha last year.

As the workers are not getting salaries for the last few months, most of them are leading inhuman lives for want of money.

Some family planning workers said that some of them have stopped sending their children to schools or colleges.

Furthermore, many of them can not supply food for their families regularly.

When contacted an official of the Health Department said that no fund has been allocated for the workers' salaries. The official could not tell the exact time of payment of the salaries of the poor workers.

Panic grips people of Alipur, Goalchamot in Faridpur town

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Panic has gripped the people of Alipur area in Faridpur town following frequent bomb blasts just after evening everyday by some miscreants during the last one month.

Some incidents of robberies and snatching took place at several houses in the area just after dark.

It is reported that the miscreants numbering four to five of tender ages made the people frightened by blasting bombs, entered into houses forcefully and snatched away valuables and cash.

Similar incidents are reported to have been taking place in Goalchamot area in the town.

Besides, loud sounds of explosion are heard at mid night everyday frequently.

The motive behind the blasting of bombs could not be ascertained.

Some residents of the town said that they feel very insecure with the night fall as no police patrol is seen in the area.

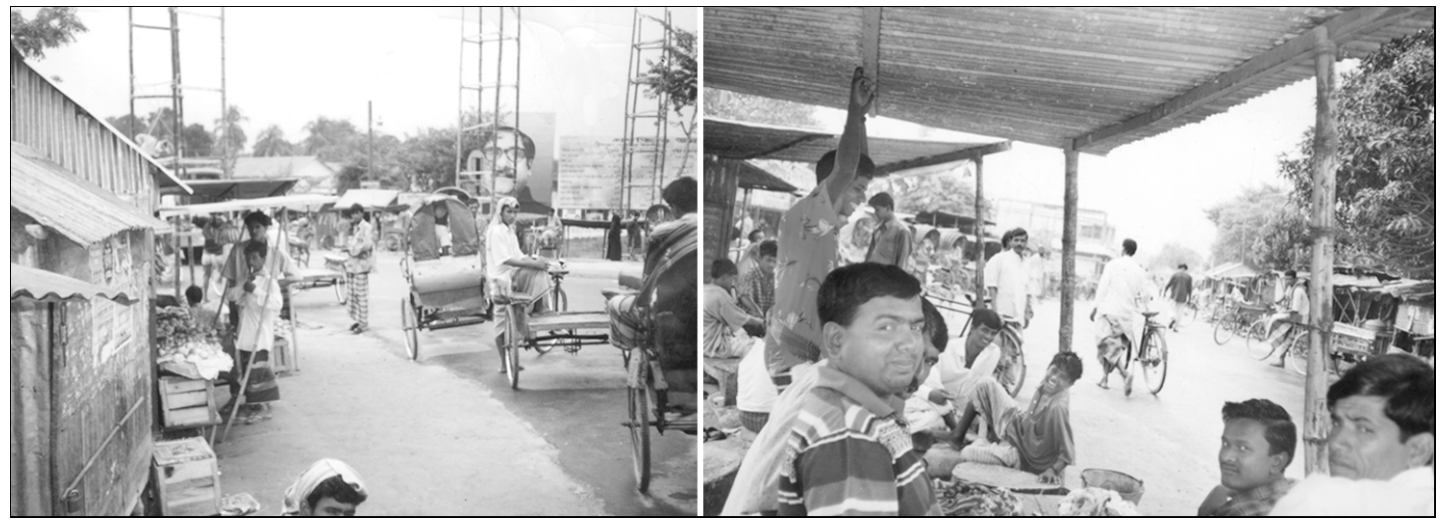


PHOTO: STAR

Defying government instructions encroachers have erected illegal shops in the Kodda intersection area on both sides of the West bank link road of Jamuna Bridge on Dhaka-Dinajpur highway in Sirajganj. Encroachers have also constructed unauthorised structures along the Kamarkhand-Belkuchi road situated in the Kodda area. The unauthorised structures include sub-standard restaurant, tea stall, betel leaf shop, cloth shop, meat shop and vegetable shop where illegal drug trading goes on unabated. It is alleged that members of the law-enforcing agencies are not taking action against the illegal occupiers for reasons best known to them.

Motor mechanic hammered to death in Khulna

UNB, Khulna

A motor mechanic was hammered to death while he was playing carom at Dopkhola in Moheswarpasha area of Khulna town on Tuesday.

Witnesses said Rajon, 17, was playing carom with friends at 11:00 am when suddenly Johnny, a terrorist of the area, barged in and hit him indiscriminately with a hammer.

Rajon was rushed to Khulna hospital where he died soon after admission.

The murder is believed to be a sequel of previous enmity.

Two persons were murdered in Khulna city during the last three days causing alarm among city-dwellers.

Ghost bills puzzle Magura telephone subscribers

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

Frustration has gripped the telephone subscribers in Magura as BTTB (Bangladesh Telephone and Telegraph Board) here issued inflated bills in July 2001.

Nearly 100 telephone owners in the district town have been burdened with such ghost bills which they received in the 1st week of October. BTTB issued to each and every victimised subscriber even bill amounting to Tk 2 lakh as the July month's bill which is quite absurd. All the victimised telephone owners have objected to the BTTB authorities about the ghost bills.

"They have issued a ghost bill amounting to Tk 1 lakh and 92 thousand which is about 30 times more than the actual bill of every month which usually ranged between Tk 600-700, alleged a telephone owner of M R Road in Magura town on condition of anonymity.

An investigation revealed that Mofizur Rahman, a telephone subscriber of Bhaina area in the town received a bill amounting to

Tk 1 lakh and 95 thousand against his telephone No 3545 in July while Benzir Ahmed of College Para (Tel No. 2718 received a bill amounting to Tk 1 lakh 90 thousand in the same month. Over 100 telephone owners received such ghost bills.

It is interesting to note that nearly 200 telephone owners in Magura town received slim bills. They are receiving slim bills for several years because of their underhand deals with some unscrupulous BTTB officials. Of them, at least 70 owners are engaged in illegal trade of phone and fax. Under a verbal contract they receive Tk 2,000 to 2,500 per month from the telephone owners and issue a bill of Tk 600 to 700. This way the government revenue is being deprived of huge revenue. But when the caretaker government was in power some unscrupulous BTTB officials sent the ghost bills to those even who usually bribe them, only to adjust the shortage of government revenue, subscribers informed.

Rich tributes paid to Bhasani

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

The 25th anniversary of death of great leader Moulaana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani was observed on Saturday last week in a befitting manner at his birth place at Sayadhangara and in all upazillas in Sirajganj.

Various political and socio-cultural organisations chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day where rich tributes were paid to the great leader.

National flag was hoisted atop the Bhasani centre. Milad mahfil was observed in all the mosques after Johr prayers. Earlier, Bhasani Centre leaders and workers placed wreaths and offer feteah at the Bhasani Centre office at 6 am on the day.

In the evening Bhasani Centre arranged a discussion meeting in its office which was presided over by president of the centre Alom Khan. Among others, BNP leader and former principal Md Musa, Abdul Jabbar, BNP leader Azizur Rahman Dulal, advocate Mokaddes Ali, Mojibur Rahman Lebu, Nurul Islam Nuru, Mirza Mostofa Zaman and Rabiul Karim Dulal, Sirajganj Press Club president Akhteruzzaman Bablu spoke on the occasion.

BSD, Sirajganj district unit arranged another discussion meeting at its office which was chaired by district convenor Nabo Kumar Karmoker. Other BSD leaders spoke on the occasion.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Chittagong University (CU) parade the streets of Chittagong in a procession on November 18 demanding congenial atmosphere for their studies.

Bus services along Dhaka-Barisal route resume

UNB, Barisal

Bus services on the Dhaka-Barisal route resumed on Thursday, six days after its suspension caused by a conflict between bus owners associations of Barisal and Faridpur districts.

Bus communication on 15 other long routes of the region, which was disrupted after Faridpur Bus Owners' Association hindered movement of buses in Faridpur since Nov 17, also resumed on Thursday.

The situation returned to normalcy after a fruitful meeting between the leaders of the two bus owners associations in Dhaka Wednesday.

Kathin Chibor Dan festival begins from Tuesday

UNB, Rangamati

Kathin Chibor (cloths) Dan Utshab (festival), one of the main religious festivals of the Buddhist community, will begin at Rajban Bihar in Rangamati from Tuesday (Nov 27).

All preparations have been completed to celebrate the festival in a befitting manner. Thousands of Buddhists from three hill districts have already started coming to join the festival.

Chakma king Barrister Debashis Roy will inaugurate the festival in presence of Srimata Sadhananda Mohanthabir, the main religious personality of the community.

As part of the festival a traditional fair will be held at Rajban Bihar where hundreds of traders will open decorated shops on a few acres of lands.

Although it is a religious festival of the Buddhist community people of all walks of life including all tribes and Bengali community join the celebration every year.

The main feature of Kathin Chibor Dan Utshob is preparing yam from cotton, dying of yam, weaving of cloths, sewing of dress within 24 hours and presenting those to the monks.