

NEWS SNAPS

Mollarhat bomb blasts: Three more held

UNB, Bagerhat
Three more people arrested in connection with the Mollarhat bomb blasts were sent to jail hajjat after they were produced before the magistrate court in Bagerhat on Tuesday.
Earlier, the three Kalam Gazi, Sadeq Mollah and Nasir Munshi were taken on a three-day police remand.
Eight people were killed in bomb blasts at Mollarhat Khalilur Rahman College ground while AL candidate Sheikh Helaluddin was addressing an electioneering meeting on Sept 23.
Local Awami League filed a case against 169 people in this connection. CID police was given the responsibility to investigate into the case.
Police have so far arrested six people in this connection.

Clash over cultivation: Seven hurt

UNB, Manikganj
At least seven people were injured in a clash over cultivation of a plot of disputed land at Shimul village in Sadar upazila of Manikganj on Saturday.
Police said the clash ensured when three brothers – Naser, Saudagar and Kader – went to cultivate the land where their another brother Habeb Khan already cultivated mustard. Of the injured, Amena Begum, 35, Habeb, 45, and Alamgir, 19, were admitted to the Sadar Hospital. In another incident, Badshah Miah, 35, allegedly committed suicide by taking poison following a quarrel with his wife at Khorial village in Doulatpur upazila on the same day.

Schoolteacher mugged in Barguna

UNB, Barguna
An amount of Tk 20,000 of a schoolteacher was mugged mysteriously from the bank counter on Wednesday.
Witnesses said teacher Mostafa while counting the notes soon after drawing from the Betagi branch of Rupali Bank in Barguna at 11 am a cheat drew his attention from behind that his money dropped on the floor. Later when the teacher looked behind to take the money the cheat fled away with the entire amount. A case was filed.

Abductor gets 10-year-RI

UNB, Thakurgaon
A local court in Thakurgaon on Wednesday sentenced a man to 10 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) and five others to seven years each for abducting a teenage girl.
The convicts Syed Ali and his accomplices Zakirul Yusuf Ali, Nurul Haq, Anisur Rahman and Fazlur Rahman were also fined Tk 1,000 each, in default, to suffer three months more RI. According to the prosecution, Syed Ali and his accomplices abducted Dulai Begum, 14, daughter of Akbar Ali, of South Senihari village in Sadar Upazila on October 6, 1996. Later police rescued the girl from the house of Syed Ali after her father filed a case with them indicting nine people. After examining the records and witnesses, the Judge handed down the verdict.

Youth arrested for raping little girl

UNB, Joypurhat
A youth was arrested on charge of raping a little girl at a remote village in Akkelpur upazila of Joypurhat on Sunday.
The arrested was identified as Shahjahan Ali, 18. Police said when the poor girl, aged about 11, was playing in front of her house, Shahjahan forcibly took her to his nearby house and raped her confining in a room. She was rushed to upazila health complex in a critical condition and later shifted to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital as her condition was deteriorating.

One arrested for torturing wife

UNB, Narayanganj
A man was arrested on charge of torturing his wife in Ramarbag area of Fatullah thana in Narayanganj on Monday.
The arrested was identified as Nur Hossain, 35. Police said mother of housewife Rumi Akhter alleged that Nur Hossain tortured Rumi inhumanly confining her in a room and cut her hair. According to the allegation, police arrested Nur Hossain and rescued Rumi.

Wheat cultivation on 12,500 hectares

UNB, Jhenidah
A scheme has been take up to bring 12,500 hectares of land under wheat cultivation in Jhenidah during the current season.
According to Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) of the total land, 1,600 hectares will be cultivated in Sadar, 1,800 hectares in Kaliganj, 1,200 hectares each in Kotchandpur and Harinakundu, 3,500 hectares in Moheshpur, 3,200 hectares in Shaikupa upazilas. The production target has been fixed at 28,875 metric tons. Meanwhile, the farmers have been supplied quality seeds, pesticides and other necessary inputs at fair prices to make the program a success. It may be noted that a total of 23,799 metric tons of wheat were produced cultivating 11,067 hectares of land in Jhenidah last season.

Training on sugarcane farming

UNB, Magura
A three-day training programme on cultivating sugarcane in modern method concluded in Magura on Friday.
The training programme was organised by the District Agricultural Department and 60 farmers from different parts of Magura attended it. The farmers were imparted training on preparing land, sowing seeds of high yielding variety, use of fertiliser and irrigation, pest control etc.

Acute shortage of bullocks

UNB, Narail
Acute shortage of bullocks has been persisting in Narail causing serious hindrance to cultivation.
According to a survey, about 60 per cent farmers of Narail have no bullocks and as a result a vast tract of land cannot be brought under cultivation. Most of the marginal farmers have been tilling their lands hiring bullocks, as they can not afford to buy them due to sharp rise in their prices. At present a pair of bullocks is being sold between Tk 12,000 and Tk 15,000 at different markets. Sometimes they till their lands with spades and drew the harrows by themselves.

Training on production of rice seed

BSS, Madaripur
A two-day training course on the production of high-breed rice seed sponsored by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) concluded in Madaripur at the BADC Training Institute.
Mukhlesur Rahman, Director, Seed and Horticulture, of the Institute inaugurated the course. The inaugural function was presided over by Abdur Razzaque Khan. Subject-matter specialists AFM Habibur Rahman, MA Gazilul Huq, Serajul Islam, Zainuddin Khan, Sohrabuddin Khan and Dr AW Zulfiquar spoke on the occasion. Thirty three BADC officers including Farm Joint Directors, Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors participated in the training.

Four arrested for abusing woman

UNB, Patuakhali
Four people were arrested from Kalikapur village in Sadar upazila of Patukhali Wednesday for trying to abuse a female employee of Jiban Bima Corporation.
Police said they arrested Hiru, Mahub, Shohag and Mahub when Shamsunnahar Lilly, the employee of local Jiban Bima Corporation office, lodged a complaint against them. Lilly alleged that five youths tried to rape her on Juba Sangsad road Tuesday while she was returning home from her office at about 5pm Tuesday. She said the youths whisked away when local people rushed to the spot hearing hear screams.

Verification of arms licences sought

UNB, Bogra
At present the number of licenced pistols and revolvers stood at 171 in Bogra but licences for 92 pistols were issued during the last five years of Awami League government alone.
Official sources said before taking over office by Awami League in 1996, the number of licenced pistols and revolvers was 79. Of these, 43 licences were issued during Ershad regime ('82-'90), only one licence was issued during five-year rule of BNP ('91-'96) and 39 were issued during the tenure of other governments. Local elite urged the authorities concerned to verify the licences of all legal arms as they said in some cases the requirements of possessing legal arms were not fulfilled.

Output in 7 cement factories comes to a halt in N region

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Production in seven cement factories in the northern region has been closed within three months of operation following various reasons including marketing problem, fluctuation and crisis of power and complexities in import of raw materials.
An owner of a cement factory in Sirajganj told this correspondent that they found it difficult to vie in the markets with imported cements.
Besides, the production cost of cement in recent years is high because of delayed importing process, LC complexities and dearth of power.
Clinker and gypsum, raw materials of cement are usually imported from India, China, Thailand and Indonesia. The dearth of power has become a major problem. An easy availability of natural gas can reduce the production cost as the cost of gas based factories is much lower than that of electricity based factories, said the owner of a cement factory, unwilling to be named.
Meanwhile, at least 19 cement factories were established in this region in last three years. Of those at least 10 factories started production last year.

3 with phensidyl held from Victoria College

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Comilla Kotwali thana police on Saturday arrested three people with three bottles of phensidyl when they were having a drinking bout in a residential hall of Victoria University College.
Police sources said a team led by Kotwali thana OC Sheikh Mohiuddin Chowdhury raided Kabi Nazrul Islam hall at about 1.25 pm and caught the trio red-handed with phensidyl bottle.
The arrested were identified as Mosharrif Hossain Zakir, Khurshed and Ataur Rahman of nearby Dharmapur village.
Local people alleged that well-known as BNP cadre, the three established a stronghold in room nos 228 and 244 of the hall for illegal toll collection and arms-trading in the area in connivance of the college authorities.
These non-student addicts used the college premises as a den for taking drug. They forced the canteen-owner to let them take food without money for long, local people alleged.
Though they were wanted in several criminal cases, they roamed the area freely and victims reportedly never dared to lodge fresh complaints for reprisal.
A case has been filed with the thana under Special Powers Act accusing them for involvement in criminal activities.



PHOTO: STAR

Teachers, students and employees of Islamic University, Kushtia parade streets of the campus in a colourful procession on November 22 on the occasion of the 22nd founding anniversary of the university.

Rajshahi DIARY

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Two killed in road mishaps

Two people including one woman were killed in two separate road accidents in Rajshahi recently.
Nasir Ali, 30, son of Emaj Uddin of Chalk Kalu village in Manda upazila, who sustained injuries when a bus knocked him down near his house, succumbed to his injuries at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) recently.
Another woman Zamela, 35, wife of Zinnah of Naodapara area in Shah Mukhdum thana in the city, who received injuries in a road accident, died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital recently.
Two separate cases were recorded with the respective thanas in these connections.

House wife beaten to death

One housewife was beaten to death by her husband at Sahebgram village in Gomostapur upazila in Chapainawabganj district recently.
The dead was identified as Mollika, 22, wife of Arman Ali.
Local people said, Arman Ali married to Mollika about two years ago and since then he used to torture his wife for dowry. On the fateful night Arman beat her mercilessly causing her instantaneous death. A case has been filed with Gomostapur thana in this connection. The husband remained absconding since the incident.

Little girl raped

One baby girl was raped allegedly by one young man at Chalk Siddeshwary village in Manda upazila of Naogaon district recently. The girl was undergoing treatment at Naogaon Sadar Hospital.
Police, quoting the statement of the victim's father said, Juel, 26, son of Sekandar Ali of the same village took the girl to a solitary place and raped her there. Local people recovered the girl, but the alleged rapist managed to escape.
A case was filed with Manda thana in this connection.

350 pieces of Indian saree seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Sholonga thana police seized 350 pieces of Indian saree valued about Tk 65,000/ from Badollahpur village in Sholonga police station on Tuesday.
Acting on a tip-off police raided the house of Akhter Hossain, son of Najabath Ali in Sholonga police station and seized the sarees.
A case was lodged with Sholonga police station. None was arrested.

26 detained while trying to cross border

UNB, Joypurhat

Twenty-six people, including nine women and 10 children, were detained for trying to cross the border through Bhuidoba and Koya frontiers in Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat on Sunday.
They all were the inhabitants of Dorga Beel village in Ukhia upazila of Cox's Bazar.
Lured out by a gang of human traffickers with a promise of well-paid jobs, the people were trying to walk into neighbouring India through the border points.
They told police that the human smugglers took Tk 3,000 from them each. However, no trafficker was arrested.

Twenty-four of the detained people were identified as Khaleda, Alam, Sanoara, Rasheda, Sharitullah, Jalal Ahmed, Fatema, Sayedur, Monoara, Abul Hossain, Shaheda, Badsha Miah, Nurunnahar, Meher, Almas, Karim, Taslima, Rezwan, Rashed, Hamidul, Nasima, Ali Hossain, Mizanur, and Umme Salma.

Body recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Police recovered the body of a 35-year-old man from Dhaka-Dinajpur highway near Jamuna Bridge west at 7 am on Tuesday.
Police said on a secret information Raiganj thana police recovered the body of the unknown man from the north side on Nalka bridge near 12 KM west of Jamuna Bridge. Many cut mark were found on the body. Police suspected that miscreants might have kidnapped the victim and murdered him in the area.
A case was lodged with Raiganj police station in this connection.



PHOTO: DELWAR KABIR

The Liberation War monument at Parbari Square in Jessore town attracts all, but a cigarette company pasted posters on this glorious monument which is objectionable. Who will prohibit this practise?

Poor result of literacy programme

JAHANGIR ALAM, Netrakona

Total Literacy Movement (TLM) programme under the auspices of Ujibita Netrakona concluded on November 14 by hold an evaluation test in seven upazilas of Netrakona.
The upazilas are Kalmakanda, Durgapur, Purbadhala, Atpara, Modan, Mohonganj and Khaliajuri. Under the programme 3,28,345 illiterate people were targeted for receiving education through 11,049 centres with equal number of teachers under 755 supervisors. The government sanctioned Tk 11 crore and 50 lakh to make the programme a success.
But due to negligence and corruption of the district administration, Upazila Nirbahi Officers, supervisors, TLM teachers and Union Parishad chairmen, the programme failed totally. Visiting different examination centres, this correspondent observed that 90 per cent illiterate people did not learn anything under this programme.
This correspondent also visited some evaluation centres in Durgapur and Purbadhala upazilas on November 14 where he found that students of different schools and colleges were writing answer scripts of TLM students.
Abul Kalam, a TLM teacher in Khidirpur centre of Purbadhala upazila told the correspondent that due to lack of proper management they did not teach the illiterate persons properly.