

NEWS SNAPS

Truck kills two shopkeepers in Pabna

UNB, Pabna

Two shopkeepers were killed and two others injured when a truck hit two roadside shops at Maligacha Bazaar on Pabna-Ishwardi highway early Tuesday.

The deceased were identified as Abdul Quddus, 40, son of Mujibur Rahman of village Monohorpur in Sadar upazila and Mokter Hossain, 35, son of day labourer Abdul Jabbar of village Maligacha in the upazila. Police said the accident took place when the driver of a running Ishwardi-bound truck lost control over the steering and rammed into the shops, killing the two shopkeepers on the spot. One of them was fast asleep during the accident at about 6:30 am. The injured were admitted to General Hospital in a critical condition. Police seized the truck but the driver fled the scene.

Body of teenage boy recovered

UNB, Magura

Police recovered the body of a teenage boy from a waterbody near Shimakhali Bridge in Shalikhap upazila of Magura Tuesday four days after his abduction.

Being tipped off by locals, the law enforcers recovered the body of Shaheen Laskar, 16, son of Javed Ali Laskar of village Shimakhali. He was abducted on Nov 30. Police sent the body to local hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed.

Oversupply of potato a blow to traders

UNB, Bogra

Oversupply of potato has dealt a severe blow to the traders who stored hundreds of maunds of potato last year in hopes of big business.

Leading potato traders said they, like other years, stored a huge quantity of potato in cold storage at Tk 200 per maund, as the new potato has hit the market. Agriculture officials attributed the falling prices to bumper production of potato, excessive storage and decline in smuggling of potato to India.

Leader of outlawed party arrested

UNB, Jessore

Plainclothes police arrested the ringleader of an outlawed party from Daratana in Jessore on Tuesday.

The arrested, identified as Jahangir Hossain alias Tushar, son of Elias Hossain, was wanted by police in a number of murder and other criminal cases.

Three arrested: Two revolvers recovered

UNB, Jhenidah

Police arrested three people and recovered two revolvers along with 12 bullets from a Dhaka-bound bus in sadar upazila on Thursday.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the bus at Hatgopulpur cheek post and recovered two loaded Chinese revolvers and 12 rounds of bullet. Besides, police on suspicion arrested three people from the coach. A case was filed.

Alleged rapist arrested in Bogra

UNB, Bogra

Police Saturday arrested a union parishad (UP) chairman on charge of raping housewife in sadar upazila.

Police said they arrested Tebeul Islam, chairman of Khotrapara, for his involvement in the misdeed. A case was filed against him a few months back for violating the woman of his own village.



A recent sit-in demonstration of the students, teachers and employees of Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Chittagong in front of the Chittagong Court building. For sometime they have been demanding upgradation of the institute into an engineering university.

Hawkers occupy footpaths in Faridpur town

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

People, especially pedestrians have been facing much inconveniences following occupation of footpaths in Faridpur town by the hawkers, vendors and other shopkeepers of fruits, vegetables and other things. The situation has aggravated in this Ramadan.

Mujib Sarak from Alipur crossing to Goalchamot Bus stand road, Tepakhola Road, Kabi Jasimuddin Road and Ambikapur Road are the busiest ones.

Pedestrians moving along these roads very often fall

in great trouble and meet accidents.

Besides, construction material, such as rods, bricks, sands and earth are kept piled-up on these roads multiplying the sufferings of pedestrians.

Moreover, Alimuzzan bridge over this river Kumar, linking the eastern and western parts of the town was also occupied by the fruit vendors causing untold sufferings to the people.

The authorities concerned are reluctant to take any measures to remove the footpath occupiers.

Kurigram liberated on Dec 6

UNB, Kurigram

The people of Kurigram observe Liberation Day on Thursday as the district was liberated on Dec 6 in 1971 after a siege of 230 days by the Pakistani occupation forces.

The undaunted freedom fighters, who earlier scattered in face of attacks the Pakistan army, fought back and freed Kurigram district from the occupation forces defeating them in a fierce battle.

Some 335 freedom fighters, led by company commander Abdul Hye Sarker, stormed into the town at 4pm on the day and hoisted the flag of independent Bangladesh atop an overhead water tank in the town.

During the pre-war period, Kurigram was sub-division with eight thanas. Directed by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, a sub-divisional Sangram Committee was formed on March 10 with Ahmed Hossain Sarker and Ahammed Ali Baksi as its joint convenors.

Local Chhatra League leaders hoisted the national flag having the map of Bangladesh at local Children Park on March 17.

Following the massacre on March 25, the Sangram Committee formed a freedom fighter force led by Ahmed Ali Baksi, Prof Haider Ali Tosadduk Hossain and Ansar commander Mohiuddin Ahmed. It distributed firearms among the freedom fighters comprising Bangalee police, BDR, students and youths in a public meeting at Gaohor park on March 28.

Captain Noajesh Uddin of Rangpur EPR came here on March 30 and formed a strong group with his subordinate EPR members and another group was consti-

tuted at Roumari headed by defected army Subedar Altaf.

The freedom fighters strongly resisted the Pakistani attack on the eastern end of Teesta Bridge on April 1 and the freedom fighters from Lalmonirhat joined them as the Pakistan army aided by their local collaborators captured Lalmonirhat on April 4.

Two Pakistani attempts on April 7 and 14 to invade the town were foiled and they captured Kurigram town on April 20 launching a vigorous attack.

The Pakistani occupation forces also invaded Nageshwari and Bhurungamari on April 27 and 28.

The dispersed but spirited freedom fighters were reorganised immediately in Sonahata and Sahebganj areas.

The Mujibnagar government divided the entire war field in 11 sectors and Kurigram came under sector 6 while some portion of the district and the rest fell under sector 11.

The freedom fighters intensified their guerilla attacks on the Pakistani forces and their local collaborators since August. The occupation forces then started torturing local people leaving at least 99 people martyred and forcing over three lakh to take refugee in camps across the border.

Later, the freedom fighters with the help of the 6th Mountain Division of Indian Army liberated Bhurungamari on November 14, Nageshwari on November 28 and Uttar Dharal on November 30.

The freedom fighters cordoned off Kurigram town on December 1 and freed it on December 6. Over 3023 freedom fighters of Kurigram took part in the struggle in 1971.

A red letter day for people of Jhenidah

DELWAR KABIR, Jhenidah

December 6 is a red letter day for the people of Jhenidah town as on this day, 30 years ago, the town was liberated from the clutch of the occupation Pakistani soldiers.

Since mid-November the guerillas (special forces of freedom fighters) started massive attack on the occupation forces. Continuous attack after Alfapur battle, Abaipur battle, Sankardi battle, demolishing of bridge over Kumar river and some other attacks, the occupation Pakistani forces started marching towards Jhenidah town as they came to realise that rural areas were not safe for them.

As the occupation forces were retreating from remote areas, the freedom fighters alongwith their Indian allies started marching towards Jhenidah town while the occupied some important places.

On December 4 in 1971, bordering Moheshpur, Kotchandpur and Kaliganj upazilas were liberated from the Pakistani occupation forces without heavy battle with the help of allied forces. On the same night a contingent of freedom fighters numbering 70 attacked Harinakundu police station where the Pakistani soldiers were staying. Led by ex-Habilder Abdur Rahman, the freedom loving people captured the police station within two and a half hours of battle.

On December 6 the allied forces and freedom fighters tried to enter into Jhenidah town. Pakistani forces constructed two protection chamber at south-western side of Jhenidah town. The first and front chamber was one kilometre in length from Baribattan to Gayeshpur via Korapara and the second from Jhenidah police line to Chuadanga Stand Ansar Camp via

Chanconpur Paglakanai road. Near the front chamber at Goalbari village (about one kilometre west) about 50 freedom fighters made a camp which was followed by the allied forces.

In the morning of December 6, all the two tanks of allied forces were totally damaged by the Pakistan occupation forces. About 150 Indian allied forces alongwith some senior officials were killed.

On December 6, two powerful bombs were also thrown from the planes. But the bombs were mistakenly fell down elsewhere instead of the target at Jhenidah Cadet College and Chaklapara College Hostel.

As the attack of both freedom fighters and allied forces was severe, the Pakistan occupation forces started leaving Jhenidah town. Some of them came to Saikupa and rest towards Dhaka via Magura. Before leaving Jhenidah town, the Pakistan occupation forces set afire Jhenidah primary training institute (PTI) which they had been used as their food storage. Finally the victory came on Dec 6.

Price of urea fertiliser up

UNB, Bogra

Price of urea fertiliser has shot up in Bogra with the advent of irrigation season creating concern among the growers.

Farmers alleged that dealers have created artificial shortage of urea fertiliser by hoarding the important agri-input.

According to Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), most of the dealers, out of 126, sell fertiliser after lifting from the factory while the other hoard to sale in the next boro season for getting more profit.

Water level of 10 major rivers falls in S region

BSS, Barisal

A number of shoals have surfaced in 10 major rivers of the southern region of the country with the advent of the winter season as the water levels of the rivers have gone down.

As a result, plying of launches, the only transport of the large portion of people of this region, has been hindered. Different organisations urged the BIWTA officials in writing to dig out the alluvial soil from the bosoms of the rivers to make the rivers navigable soon, an official source said.

The main points to be dug out are Barisal port areas of the Kirtonkhola river, Mahisha Char (shoal) of the Ganeshpura river near Sreepur in Mehendiganj upazila, Patakhali Port of the Lohalia river, Barguna canal, Shaheber Hat canal and Bukhain Nagar canal.

Meanwhile, Chairman of Barisal region of BIWTA (transport) Alhaj Golam Maula called upon the officials of this port to dig some areas of the rivers for making the navigability easy otherwise plying of the launches on different routes would be stopped at any moment.

He pointed out the places to be dug out include Kirtonkhola river from launch terminal to jail canal, Shaheber Hat canal and Tungibaria canal of Lahar Hat, Pangashia Ghat areas, Lahar hat, Larhaipur areas of Sreepur, Bukhainagar canal and Kalabadar river out let, Mashkata river, Mehendiganj Terminal areas and Charakrupi and Chandramohan canal outlet.

While contacted, Deputy Director of BIWTA M Shahjalal Huq told that the plan of digging of Barisal port, Patuakhali port, Char Mashispora, Shaheber Hat canal and Barguna canal has been taken up by BIWTA. The digging of Barisal port has already started. The digging of other spots will be taken up in phases, he added.

At least 14 feet water is necessary for plying of heavy water vehicles in Barisal-Chittagong and Barisal-Khulna water routes. But in the winter season, at least 2/3 feet water level is found here.

There are nine major rivers like Kirtonkhola, Lohalia, Bishkhali, Paira, Nishinda, Kalabadar, Arial Khan, Tetulia, Ganeshpura and Sugandha here. Some of these rivers are in the region of Barisal, while other rivers are in the seven other regions. They are: Barisal, Khulna, Chandpur, Narayanganj, Chittagong, Aricha and Sirajganj.

UNB from Jhenidah reports : A move to restore navigability in the dying river Nabaganga has been taken up in Jhenidah.

The river that flows through Jhenidah, Chuadanga and Magura districts has lost its flow for the last two decades.

The water of the river has also been polluted for various reasons and the existence of the river is now at stake. The local NGOs have come forward and taken a programme to save the river.

The programme assisted by PRIP Trust and Padma Network organised a discussion on Wednesday afternoon at the office of Action in Development (AID) in the town.

Kazal Chowdhury and Shakhawat Hossain, NGO representatives, district fisheries officer Serajul Karim, Adv Toffazzal Hossain and other elite spoke in the meeting.

The speakers stressed the need for saving the river Nabaganga and adopted a number of pragmatic decisions on the basis of the suggestions from the experts concerned.

They also called upon the government to come forward to help their move to restore the navigability of the river for the interest of the people of the region.



M Mustafizur Rahman, vice chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University hands over certificates among the participants of a training course on "Administration, Office management, Communication and Computer training" at the Graduate Training Centre (GTI) in Mymensingh recently.