

NEWS SNAPS

Youth killed in road accident

UNB, Mymensingh
An unidentified youth was killed and 10 others received injuries in a road accident at Hajir Bazaar of Bhaluka upazila in Mymensingh on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway on Thursday. Witnesses said the accident took place early in the morning when a Dhaka-bound truck turned turtle on the road leaving 11 people injured after its front wheel got punctured. One of the injured succumbed to his injuries on way to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH). Seven others were admitted to the same hospital. Police seized the truck, but its driver fled the scene. A case was filed.

Train smashes truck in Mymensingh

UNB, Mymensingh
A truck was smashed when a passenger train hit it at Fatemanagar level crossing in Trishal upazila of Mymensingh on Wednesday night, railway sources said. The Mymensingh-bound commuter train coming from Dhaka rammed into the truck at about 9:30 pm at the rail crossing where no gateman was present during the incident. None was, however, injured or killed in the accident. A case was filed with Government Railway Police (GRP).

DPHE executive engineer suspended

UNB, Kishoreganj
Executive Engineer AKM Bashir Uddin Ahmed of Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) has been suspended for corruption and breaking official discipline. After having primary evidence of corruption and financial irregularities Local Government Division of Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Ministry suspended him in an order on Tuesday. A one member committee was formed to investigate into the allegations against him and submit its report by December 23. Official sources said he was suspended for alleged irregularities in installing tubewells surpassing budgetary allocation and other financial irregularities. When contacted the accused engineer told that he was not involved in any corruption.

BNP-AL clash leaves 25 injured

UNB, Narayanganj
Some 25 people were injured, 10 by bullets, in a violent clash between BNP and Awami League (AL) labour fronts at Adamjee Jute Mills over occupying CBA office on Thursday. Police and witnesses said the fighting erupted at Dhaka Baju Kancha Line of the mill in the morning. The rival unionists chased each other trading gunfire and exploding bombs. Police, however, denied firing. Five of the injured were sent to Dhaka "in critical condition." Police reinforcements have been deployed amid tensions escalating there following the clash.

Clash over gambling leaves 12 hurt

UNB, Manikganj
A fierce clash between two groups of villagers in Sadar upazila of Manikganj left 12 people injured Tuesday. Police and witnesses said the clash between the people of Uchutia and Nokhanda villages took place over gambling. Eight of the injured -- Abdul Mannan, 22, Rahim, 24, Siraj, 23, Ali, 18, Jabbar, 30, Nuna, 23, Shashil, 25, Mega, 32, and Abdus Sattar -- were admitted to Sadar hospital.

Smuggled goods seized

UNB, Dinajpur
Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in a raid at Amtali frontier in Chirirbandar upazila of Dinajpur seized smuggled goods worth Tk 11.50 lakh on Wednesday. Acting on a secret information, a team led by Fulbari 15-battalion commander Major Khalil Ahmad Khan raided the area and recovered the contraband goods. The seized goods included saree, salt, sugar, spices, cosmetics, imitation ornaments, spares, utensils, fruits and bicycles.

Two grocery shops gutted

UNB, Sunamganj
Two grocery shops were gutted partially in a fire in Natun Bazaar area in Sunamganj town Thursday midnight. Fire Service sources said the fire originated from an unknown source and engulfed the shops of Lutfar Rahman and Rintu Roy before they reached the spot to douse it. Loss of the damage was estimated about Tk two lakh, they added.

56 including 10 Indian citizens arrested

BSS, Satkhira
The members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in separate drives arrested 56 persons including 10 Indian citizens from Kakkdanga and Keragachhi border area in Kalaroa upazila on Monday and Tuesday. According to BDR sources, the BDR members of Keragachhi border outpost (BOP) arrested 18 persons including four children from the Keragachhi border area while they were trying to cross the Bangladesh border without valid papers. In another drive the BDR Jawans of Kakkdanga BOP arrested 38 persons including 15 women and 11 children from Kakkdanga border area while they were illegally trying to cross border without valid papers.

Output hampered in sugar mill

UNB, Chuadanga
Frequent mechanical trouble in the Darshana Sugar Mills is hampering production and inflicting losses to the farmers as well as the mills authorities. The authorities forced to suspend operation of the mills for five times in last 17 days till Sunday during the current crushing season due to technical fault in the boiler.

Inner conflict in Muktiyoddha Sangsad Narail Liberation Day passes without any programme

RAHAT AHMED, back from Narail

It is most unfortunate that no program was chalked out to mark the glorious day of Narail on December 10 this year due to inner conflict in Narail unit of Muktiyoddha Sangsad (a committee of freedom fighters). Local people have urged the government to help solve the conflict for the greater interest of the nation. Narail was freed from the clutch of the occupation Pakistan Army on December 10 in 1971. Freedom fighters in Narail attacked the local treasury and took huge arms and ammunition with the help of then district administration. Freedom fighters led by Sharif Humayun Kabir, Sarif Kashruzzaman, Sheikh Yunus Ali and Abul Hossain Khokon freed the stronghold of 'Rajakars' (collaborators of the Pakistani forces) at Ruppangj Dukkungalow in Narail on the same day.

Pakistani forces along with 'Rajakars' surrendered on the day. Lt (Honorary) Kamal Siddiki was the artillery chief of this region under Sector number 8. On behalf of sector commander Major Monju, captain Huda hoisted the national flag of Bangladesh at the Ruppangj Dukkungalow premises on December 10. According to local muktiyoddha command sources, a total of 20 freedom fighters of Narail were enlisted as martyrs in the Liberation War in 1971 in Narail. But there were many people who sacrificed their lives in 1971 in Narail. They remained in oblivion. The brutal killing by Pakistani forces and their collaborators (Rajakars) on May 23 of 197 at Itna village in Lohagara upazila left at least 39 people martyred. Gajirhat of Kalia and Kumardanga, Digir Char, Fukura, Vatiapara of Lohagara upazila were the fiercest war fields in 1971.



PHOTO: STAR

A neglected massgrave at Borni in Sukpukuria union of Chaugachha upazila in Jessore where many innocent freedom loving Bengalee people were buried. The occupation Pakistan Army and their collaborators brutally killed them during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971. The neglected massgrave needs to be well-preserved.

Teesta Barrage threatened

UNB, Rangpur

Teesta Barrage, the country's largest irrigation project, is facing threat due to random playing of over-loaded vehicles over the barrage. The Water Development Board authority after completion of the barrage on August 5, 1990 declared its site as restricted area. They deployed Ansars for its security, prohibited taking of photograph and banned the playing of

overloaded vehicles on the barrage. But the restriction remained confined in papers only. Despite the ban, heavy trucks were playing freely over the barrage due to lack of proper care and maintenance. The balance of the barrage is in jeopardy as stones from the main way of the barrage at the down stream of the river are being lifted with impunity by an influential quarter. The Teesta Barrage Irrigation

Project was built aiming to provide irrigation facilities in 5,95,000 hectares of land in 30 upazilas of greater Rangpur, Dinajpur and Bogra districts with the target to produce additional 569,000 metric tons of foodgrains worth Tk 452 crore annually. Local leaders called upon the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to save the barrage from destruction.

Husband pushes young wife to death under running train in Moulvibazar

UNB, Moulvibazar

Hossain Ali asked his young wife Rubena Begum to accompany him for a stroll on November 1. She gleefully agreed and followed her husband along the railway track close to their home. As a train came running in full speed, Hossain allegedly pushed Rubena down the wheels of the train that cut her into two pieces below the belly. He then ran to her mother to say that Rubena has committed suicide. But the mother, Teraban Bibi, would not believe Hossain. With broken heart and wiping out tears she told that "My daughter can't commit suicide. The heartless brute murdered her." She said: "After the murder, Hossain went to my mother's house and suggested compromise in exchange of some money. He also threatened to eliminate our family if he is prosecuted in the court." Rubena's father, Farid Mia, a day labourer of village Purshai of Prithimpasha union in Kulaura upazila, filed a case with Kulaura police accusing Hossain Ali of murdering his daughter throwing her under the running train. Hossain, son of Rifatullah of village Reby in Karmadha union of Kulaura upazila, had already earned the bad name of a terrorist in the locality. The people of the area strongly suspected it was Hossain who murdered the poor girl. About Latif, chairman of

Prithimpasha union, said that after a hectic search the villagers caught Ali from a hideout and handed him over to the Kulaura police on November 16. On production before the court Ali was sent to jail hajat. Kulaura railway thana police said that on information of the November 1 incident, they rushed to Norton area in Rautgaon and recovered the body of Rubena cut into two pieces lying on the railway track. Those were sent to Sylhet hospital for postmortem. "The girl was found wearing a tattered saree, no cloth on the upper part and her breasts severed and stained with blood," said the police sub-inspector of Kulaura railway thana who led the team to recover the body. There has been no progress in investigation into the murder or the trial of the case. The officer-in-charge of Railway thana said, "We are yet to receive the postmortem report. Steps will be taken once the report is available. The accused (Hossain Ali), arrested under section 54 of CrPC, is lodged in Moulvibazar jail hajat." The tragic end of young Rubena created sensation in the area. Some say she was forced to commit suicide due to continued oppression by her husband. Most people, however, suspect that Hossain Ali murdered her. Rubena caught the lustful eyes of Hossain, a young man of neighbouring Reby village in Prithimpasha union, back

in 1999. He offered love with lofty promises and she responded. One day, Hossain eloped with the girl and spent some days away from home. After a few days Hossain returned Rubena to her parents refusing to marry her. On September 7, 1999 the village elders in an arbitration meeting gave verdict for their marriage that was solemnised with all rituals. But soon Rubena was sent to her parents with demand for dowry. Her father filed a case against Hossain accusing him under the Women and Child Repression Act. Angered by the case, Hossain along with some hoodlums attacked and ransacked the house of Rubena's parents and inflicted injury with sharp weapon on her uncle, Gakul. Another case was filed against Hossain in this connection. But police did not take any action for reasons unknown to the villagers. Gradually Hossain turned a terrorist in the area. He sent message to Rubena's parents that he would take back home his wife if the cases against him were withdrawn. Considering the future of their daughter, the father reluctantly withdrew the case and Rubena went back to her husband. But she continued to suffer ill treatment until the tragic end of her life on November 1 this year, said Rubena's poor father, cursing his fate.

Severe cold wave in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A severe cold wave has been prevailing in Srimongal and Sadar upazilas of Moulvibazar. The cold wave has almost halted normal life in Moulvibazar and Srimongal towns. According to the official sources, the minimum temperature was 8.15 degree Celsius at Srimongal on Thursday. It was 8 degree Celsius on Wednesday. The poor people are the worst sufferers. The situation worsens after evening and turns unbearable at night. Since Monday, fog engulfs the town from 12.30 am to 9 am. Vehicles ply along the streets with their headlights on. The sun usually appears for a while at about 10 am.

Potato farmers face setback

UNB, Kurigram

Potato farmers in the northern region have been facing setback due to low price of potato, and lack of hard cash and buyers. The farmers who stockpiled huge quantity of potatoes at different cold-storage in Kurigram showed reluctance to release their potatoes ignoring notices issued by the owners of cold-storage. Meanwhile, the cold-storage owners declared that they would sell all the potatoes in auction if the farmers would not release their potatoes from the cold storage within 15 days. The potato traders can not now sell their potato seeds even at a throwaway price for lack of buyers in local markets. In order to earn profit, the farm-

ers in the northern region started cultivating potato on vast tracts of land since several years and produced a good harvest in last season. As a result, local people set up a good number of cold storage in various districts in the region to preserve potatoes and earn profit. The farmers have to pay Tk 170-190 for preserving an 84 kg sack in the cold storage. But potato is being sold at between Tk 150 and 200 per bag now. Although the traders bought potatoes at Tk 300-400 per bag, now they can not sell their produce even at Tk 200-250 due to lack of buyers, some potato traders said. A potato trader, Mohammad Karim, said he incurred a loss of Tk 10 lakh by selling potatoes at throwaway price. Huge quantity of potato is now perishing, he added.



PHOTO: ANWAR ALI

A rural elderly man wraps jute sacks around the body of his domestic cows and calves with a view to protecting from bitter cold at Diarvita in Sadar upazila of Natore recently. A severe chilly weather has been prevailing in Natore which has already disrupted normal life for the last couple of days. Rural poor are the worst sufferers and they need warm clothes, blankets and other necessary materials in such a chilly weather.