

NEWS SNAPS

Wild elephants kill two in Cox's Bazar**UNB, Cox's Bazar**

Wild elephants killed two people including a little boy in separate attacks in Chakaria upazila in Cox's Bazar on Saturday.

The deceased were identified as Russel, 4, of Surajpur village and Abdul Khaleq, 55, of Phashiakhali of the upazila. Besides, at least 20 people were killed and over 50 injured by the wild elephants in Naikhangchhari, Lama and AlikAdam upazilas of Bandarban district and Chakaria upazila of Cox's Bazar in last one year. The wild elephants also damaged households and standing crops worth about several lakhs of taka in the upazila during the same period.

One killed in Laxmipur road mishap**UNB, Laxmipur**

A man was killed and 10 others were injured in a road accident on Charpata road in Raypur upazila of Laxmipur on Sunday.

Police said Hafez Ahmed, 56, was killed and others were injured when their tempo fell into a roadside field losing its control. Of the injured three were rushed to the upazila health complex in a critical condition.

Woman killed in Sathkira road accident**UNB, Sathkira**

One woman was killed and two others were injured in a road accident on Sathkira-Khulna highway at Binerpota on Thursday.

Witnesses said the mishap occurred when a Sathkira-bound bus overturned after losing its control at Binerpota bazaar in Sadar upazila killing Monwara Begum, 45, of Binerpota colony on the spot. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy. The injured were admitted to local hospital. A case was filed with the police.

12 feet python caught**UNB, Barguna**

Local people caught a 12 feet long python from a paddy field in Taltali upazila headquarters of Barguna on Friday.

The giant snake weighing 35 kgs has been kept in a box and hundreds of people from different places come to see it everyday. According to local snake charmers, it is a female python and there may be another male one in the area. Local administration requested the zoo authorities to take the responsibility of the snake.

Clothes worth Tk 1.63cr damaged by rats**UNB, Chuadanga**

Clothes worth about Tk 1.63 crore were damaged by rats at Chuadanga customs godown in last eight months due to negligence of the authorities concerned.

According to official sources, BDR men seized a truck carrying 11,270 pieces of high quality Indian sarees from Moheshpur frontier on April 7 and handed over the clothes to Chuadanga customs authorities. But the customs authorities said they could not send the seized clothes to Prime Minister's Relief Fund in absence of clearance by Moheshpur thana police and Jhenidah court. Meanwhile, rats damaged the clothes, as those were kept in the godown for over eight months without proper care.

Valuables worth Tk one crore gutted**UNB, Cox's Bazar**

Valuables worth Tk one crore were gutted in a devastating fire at Gorokghata Bazar in Moheshkhali upazila of Cox's Bazar on Saturday midnight.

Locals said the fire originating from a shop of the bazaar soon engulfed the adjacent areas. Three storehouses loaded with goods and seven shops were charred in the blaze. Later local people brought the fire under control.

Trucks carrying stolen timbers seized**UNB, Tangail**

Police seized two trucks carrying valuable stolen timbers and arrested six people from a saw mill in Ghatail upazila headquarter on Saturday.

The arrested were identified as Rahijuddin, Rafiqul Islam, Shiru Mia, Abdul Quader, Abdul Based and Nazrul Islam. The law enforcers nabbed them when they were unloading the timbers from the trucks.

Two with opium arrested**UNB, Bandarban**

Police in a drive arrested two people along with opium worth about Tk 50,000 from Maddhyapara area in Sadar upazila of Bandarban on Sunday.

Acting on a tip off, the law enforcers raided the area and caught Shachingnu and Uchaimang with 1.2 kgs of opium. Police said the arrested had long been running arms and drug trading in the area. Two cases were filed against them.

10,700 VGF cards allocated**UNB, Dinajpur**

A total of 10,700 VGF cards was allocated in three phases for the destitute families of Kaharol upazila of Dinajpur.

Upazila Relief Office sources said 1,700 VGF cards in the first phase, 3,000 in the second and 6,000 cards in the third phase were allocated for six unions of the upazila. Meanwhile, the UP chairmen have already distributed rice against the VGF cards in two phases. Distribution of rice under third phase will be started soon.

Plan to construct 38 bridges, culverts**UNB, Pirojpur**

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) has taken up a project to construct 38 bridges and culverts in Pirojpur during the current fiscal year at a cost of Tk 60.98 lakh.

Of the total, three bridges and culverts will be constructed in Kaukhali, nine in Mathbaria, seven in Sadar, 11 in Nesarabad, four each in Bhandaria and Nazirpur upazilas. In the last fiscal year, LGED implemented 71 schemes involving Tk 1.27 crore. Of the schemes, 18 were implemented in Sadar, nine in Bhandaria, 10 in Kaukhali, 15 in Nesarabad, nine in Nazirpur and 10 in Mathbaria upazilas. The schemes included construction and reconstruction of roads, bridges, culverts, earth filling and excavation and re-excavation of ponds and canals.

Nine injured in separate clashes**UNB, Manikganj**

Nine people were injured in separate clashes over land disputes in Manikganj Thursday.

Witnesses said a clash between Rahim Khan and Gendu Khan groups over planting paddy on disputed land at Datarail village in Shibalaiya upazila left seven people injured. The injured Rahim Khan, 25, Jamal, 40, Kader, 50, Karim Kha, 25, Gendu Kha, 40, Khorshed Kha, 28, and Riaz Kha, 40 were admitted to sadar hospital in a critical condition. In another clash over land demarcation at Jamorki village in Ghior upazila, two people Akhter, 25, and Nurul Islam, 35 were critically injured. They were being treated in a local hospital.

Workshop on human rights**UNB, Khulna**

A daylong workshop on human rights violation for the UNB correspondents of Khulna division was held at local Officers Club on Thursday.

UNB Chairman Amanullah Khan inaugurated the workshop titled "Violation of Human Rights and How to Improve the Situation". Additional Divisional Commissioner Md Hafizur Rahman attended the workshop as chief guest while Police Commissioner Ali Imam was special guest. Speaking on the occasion, the Divisional Commissioner said journalists can help curb crime by publishing incidents in dailies and weeklies.

Cattle diseases break out in Narail**UNB, Narail**

Cattle diseases have broken out in Narail due to lack of necessary steps by the authorities concerned to combat the menace.

Locals said shortage of vaccines and other necessary drugs in the livestock department has aggravated the situation. Farmers said various diseases have attacked a large number of cattle in all the three upazilas and many of them died recently. Moreover, poultry diseases that broke out in an epidemic form in Narail have also been spreading fast. Farmers alleged that the livestock department is not taking necessary measures to combat the diseases. They urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps in this regard.

Train journey becomes risky in Moulvibazar**RAJAT KANTI GOSWAMI, Moulvibazar**

Journey by train in Moulvibazar has become hazardous.

Train journey is not at all comfortable along the railway branch lines. This is because the railway tracks of the branch lines are in dilapidated condition.

However, the branch lines are playing an important role in maintaining the railway network. Kulaura-Shabajpur railway line of Moulvibazar is one such branch line under Akhaura-Sylhet railway section.

The Kulaura-Shabajpur branch line of railway was established during the British period. At that time this line was a part of the main line under Badarpur-Akhaura section of the British Indian Railway. Badarpur is now under Assam province of India. Badarpur-Akhaura railway section used to connect Bangladesh with Assam province. Then Kulaura-Sylhet railway line was a sub-section line under Akhaura-Badarpur rail-

way section. Later on, following partition of the Indo-Bangla-Pak sub-continent, the then Pakistan Railway converted the Kulaura-Sylhet sub-section line as the main line which connected Sylhet with rest of the country. Once busy Kulaura-Shabajpur line under Akhaura-Badarpur section was relegated to the status of a branch line.

Now the Kulaura-Shabajpur branch line in Moulvibazar is in a pitiable condition. The 44-kilometre long Kulaura-Shabajpur railway line is situated along the border areas of Kulaura and Baralekha upazilas. The train service is so slow along this line that even a bicycle can run faster than the trains running along the track. Considering the dilapidated condition of the line the authority concerned have fixed the speed of the trains along this line at only 15-kilometre per hour. Passengers travel along this line with risk to their lives.

Sleepers of this branch line were replaced in 1965. In 1984 new

sleepers were replaced only along four-kilometre area of the track between Kulaura junction and Juri station. But stones were not replaced along this track since 1965. As a result, the movement of trains have become very risky.

Trains with old engines and worn-out compartments with damaged and dirty seats ply along this route to the utter dismay of travellers. The running trains do not follow any time table in this line.

Meanwhile, all the six railway stations located at Juri, Dakshinbgha, Borolekha, Kataltali, Mural and Shabajpur are beset with numerous problems causing sufferings to the passengers as well as staffers of the railway department. There is no proper signalling or telecommunication system in most of these six railway stations. It is the alleged that most of the railway stations along this branch line have become a den of smugglers and anti-social elements.

Use of rectified spirit as substitute for liquor on rise**UNB, Narail**

Use of rectified spirit as substitute for liquor is on alarming rise in 10 southwestern districts, including Narail, despite occasional reports of tragic death.

According to a statistics, the addicts, on average, consume some 250,000 litres of rectified spirit every month in Kushtia, Jhenidah, Meherpur, Chuadanga, Magura,

Jessore, Sathkira, Khulna, Bagerhat and Narail districts.

Locals said generally rectified spirit is used in medical formulations and sold by dispensaries, mainly homeopathic pharmacies.

As per the existing rules, government issues licence to registered homeo practitioners. This allows such registered doctors to receive a specific quota of rectified spirit for making homeopathic medicine.

But it is alleged that some unscrupulous homeo doctors sell the same to the drug addicts to earn windfall profit rather than using it in preparing medicine.

There are four distilleries in the country that produce rectified spirit. These are Marshall Distilleries in Panchagarh, Rangpur Distilleries in Rangpur, Jamuna Distilleries in Natore and Crew Company in Darshana.

Timber worth Tk 10 lakh seized**UNB, Bagerhat**

Patrol police of Morelganj thana seized timber worth over Tk 10 lakh from Kanarmuk area in Bagerhat on Sunday.

They challenged a timber-laden cargo in the Panguchi river and seized the timber collected from Swarankhola range of the Sundarbans in violation of a government ban.

None was arrested and no case was filed in this connection. Local people said timber smugglers were trying to hush up the matter.

The previous government banned felling of trees in the Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world, for five years.

Body of college student found near Patenga sea beach**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

Body of a college student was found near Patenga Sea Beach on Sunday.

The victim, Farid Md Mainuddin Chowdhury, 18, son of Abul Kalam Chowdhury, was a second year (Science) student of Mohsin College.

Farid left his Amin Bhaban residence at Noor Mohammad Sarak at around 6pm on Saturday. He remained missing since then.

On information, Patenga thana police recovered Farid's body from Charpara, some 2 kms off the sea shore at noon.

The body bore marks of injury. It was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

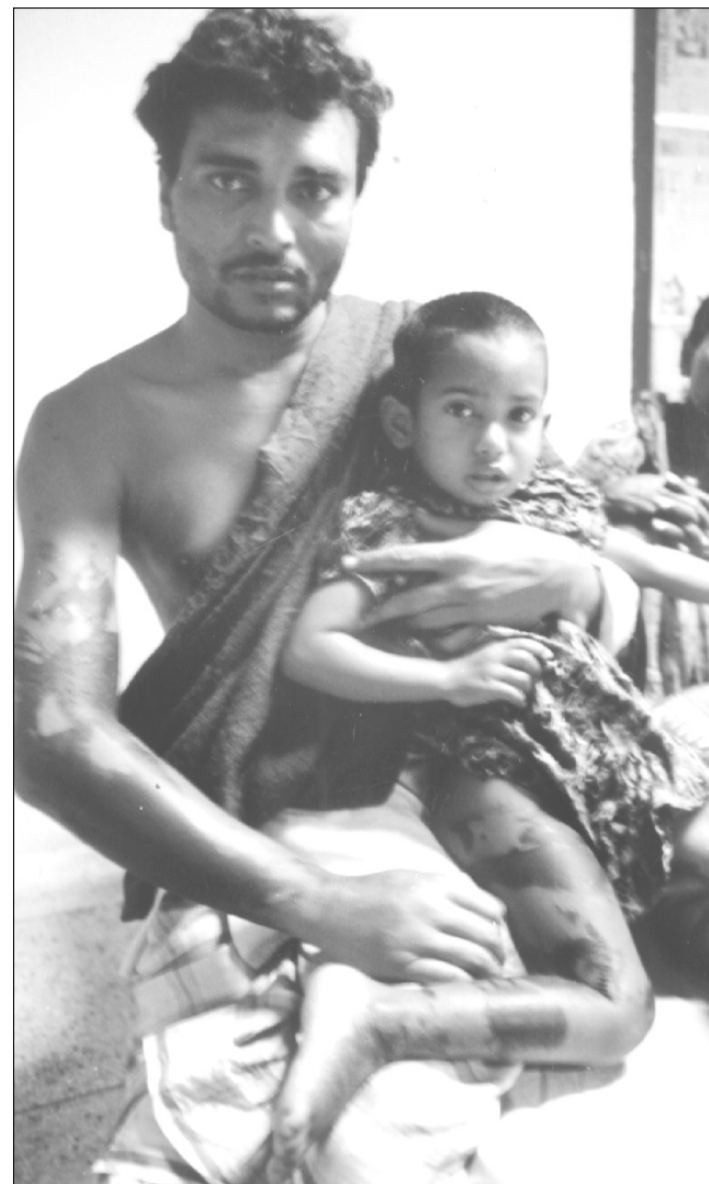


PHOTO: STAR

Photo shows acid victims Abdur Rahim and his three-year-old daughter Rashida at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Miscreants threw acid on the man, his daughter and wife Kajoli (not in picture) when the family was asleep in Mymensingh last week. They were brought to the capital for further treatment by the Acid Survivor's Foundation.