

NEWS SNAPS

Royal Bengal Tiger found dead

UNB, Bagerhat

A Royal Bengal Tiger was found dead at Chandpuri Range of the Sundarbans in Mongla upazila of Bagerhat on Wednesday.

Forest employees found the body of the 7 feet long tiger near Dalmari canal of the forest range. Another Royal Bengal Tiger was found dead at Kochikhali of Shorokhola Range of the Sundarbans on November 21 last.

Tk 8cr project to set up spars in Jamuna

UNB, Bogra

The government has taken up a Tk 8 crore project to set up six spars in the Jamuna river at Dhunat, Sarikandi and Sonatola upazilas of Bogra to protect the areas from river erosion.

Work on the project is likely to begin soon and be completed by the next fiscal. Bangladesh Water Development Board will supervise the work. WDB officials said the proposed spars would be constructed at Khabunia and Teknai Chaknaagar in Sonatola, Chhandaibasha and Ontapara in Sarikandi and Baniajan and Bhandaribari in Dhunat upazilas.

Move to protect houses, lands from flood

UNB, Bogra

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) has taken a plan to build an embankment to protect houses and croplands from flood of the river Bangali.

The cost of the 18-kilometer dam was estimated at about Tk 15.55 crore. It will be constructed from Bothuabari Bridge to Modhyabagh bazaar in Dhunat and Sherpur upazila. BWDB has already sent the Project Concept Paper (PCP) to the higher authorities for approval. BWDB said the proposed embankment would protect thousands of acres of land as well as houses, schools, colleges, madrasahs and mosques.

Nilphamari hospital to be upgraded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The government has sanctioned Tk 6 crore to upgrade Nilphamari Sadar Hospital.

Contractors have already been appointed for constructing administrative building, residences for doctors, nurses and other staff and for supplying equipment. The work will start in January next year. A government decision to upgrade the 50-bed hospital into a 100-bed one in 1996 decision could not be implemented due to lack of fund.

Work on health complex completed

UNB, Feni

The construction work on Fulgula upazila health complex has been completed at a cost of Tk 4.30 crore. State Minister for Health Amanullah Aman visited the newly constructed health complex on Wednesday. Earlier, the state minister also visited health complexes at Chhahajnai, Munshirhat and Parshuram, Feni Sadar Hospital and Feni Medical College.

Valuables looted from AL leader's house

UNB, Gazipur

Miscreants swooped on the house of an Awami League (AL) leader at Chowrata village in Kapashia upazila and looted valuables Wednesday night.

According to locals, the hooligans attacked the house of AL leader Ruhul Amin, also a lecturer of Kapashia College, at dead of night and damaged and looted valuables, including a TV set. They said the hoodlums also poured petrol on one of his rooms and set fire to it while leaving the house.

147th birth anniversary of Hasan Raja

UNB, Sunamganj

The 147th birth anniversary of mystic poet Hasan Raja will be celebrated in Sunamganj on Monday in a befitting manner.

Sponsored by Hasan Raja's three successors Dewan Iskandar Raja Chowdhury, Dewan Mohsin Raja Chowdhury and Dewan Emdad Raja -Sunamganj Prantik Sangskritik Parishad will organise a two-day programme at local Abdul Hossain auditorium. The programmes include discussion, Hasan Raja's songs, dramas on his life and works. Former vice chancellor of Sylhet Shahjalal Science and Technology University Prof Habibur Rahman, dean of language and Cultural Faculty of Assam University Dr Tophodhir Bhattacharaya, DU Professor Mridul Kanli Chakravarty and local elite will attend the function.

950 telephones inoperative in Satkhira

UNB, Satkhira

About 950 telephones out of the total 2,500 under local exchange have been lying inoperative for the last two months causing sufferings to the subscribers.

The subscribers complained many times to the T&T, but their problem was not yet resolved. The telephones had gone inoperative as a Chinese company while digging earth for installation of digital telephone line damaged the old cables. The remaining 1,500 telephone subscribers are facing many problems including cross connection, excessive bill and difficulty in getting dial tone.

Highway robbery in Madaripur

UNB, Madaripur

Highway robbers swooped on a number of vehicles on Rajoir-Kotalipara road in Rajoir upazila and looted cash and valuables worth over Tk one lakh from drivers and passengers Monday night.

Witnesses said the bandits, numbering 4-5, halted a microbus and five trucks by putting logs on the road at the dead of night and looted valuables of the passengers. They beat up the microbus passenger, a schoolteacher Nikhil Chandra Baidya and took away Tk 30,000, a cheque of Tk 50,000 from him and a mobile phone set from the driver apart from cash, gold ornaments and wristwatches worth about Tk 20,000 from its female passengers. They also snatched cash and belongings from the drivers and businessmen of the trucks.

Incidents of robbery up in N'ganj

UNB, Narayanganj

In a string of robberies, armed bandits looted cash and valuables worth about Tk 7 lakh from three houses in Fatulla of Narayanganj early Thursday.

Police said some 20 robbers stormed into the houses of Mafizuddin and one of his neighbours at about 4am and took away valuables worth about Tk 5 lakh, including Tk one lakh in cash, 39 tonnes of gold ornaments and TV and VCP sets.

Another band of armed robbers broke into the house of Shawkat Imran Mintu in Raghunathpur area of the thana at the same time and looted Tk 10,000, 20 tonnes of gold ornaments and a TV set. Separate cases were filed.

Three arrested with pipe gun, weapons

UNB, Sunamganj

Three people were arrested along with a pipe gun and six other sharp weapons from Ghatia water body in Dirai upazila of Sunamganj on Monday.

According to villagers, the arrested had dumped the weapons in the water body following a clash on Dec 11 over its possession. A case was filed. Earlier on Dec 21, police recovered a revolver from Bogia Pekpara frontier village in Doarbazar upazila. It was left behind by arms smugglers when police went to the village to arrest them.

Rice trader robbed of Tk 1.25 lakh

UNB, Manikganj

A rice trader was robbed of Tk 1.25 lakh at Boali in Shibalaya upazila on Dhaka-Aricha highway Wednesday. Witnesses said the muggers riding in two motorbikes waylaid rice trader Abdul Jabbar, 42, while he was going to Aricha from Uthali market in a lorry.

Bid to grab land: Five arrested

UNB, Gazipur

Five people were arrested for their bid to grab land of the Forest Department in Sadar upazila on Tuesday.

The arrested were identified as Mofizuddin, Profulla Chandra Barman, Jamal, Nasiruddin and Abdul Majid. Forest Department employees caught them when some people led by Hatem Ali began to construct a wall on the land of Shalma beat. The arrested were produced before a magistrate court on Wednesday.

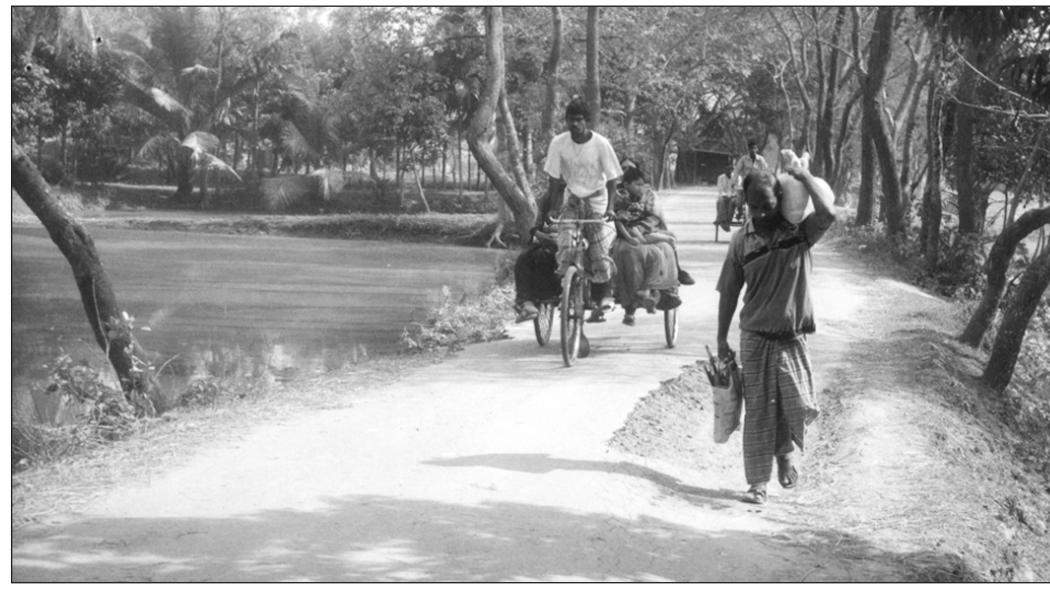


PHOTO: DELWAR KABIR

Sailkupa-Langalbandh road in Jhenidah was built at a cost of several lakhs of taka in the year of 2000. But the road began to give up at various points just after its opening due to use of inferior quality construction materials.

Rabi crops cultivation on 1,55,050 hectares in Brahmanbaria

SK MD SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Brahmanbaria

An extensive Rabi crops cultivation programme has been taken up in Brahmanbaria. Under the programme 1,55,050 hectares of land have been earmarked in this winter season with an output target of 5,53,520 metric tonnes in eight upazilas of Brahmanbaria.

Of the target, 90,700 hectares of land have been earmarked for high yielding variety (HYV) of paddy fixing the target at 3,10,200 metric tonnes, 3,700 hectares for local variety of paddy fixing the production target at 4,700 metric tonnes, 15,500 hectares for HYV of wheat fixing the target at 35,805 metric tonnes, 3,000 hectares for HYV and local variety of potato fixing the production target at 34,260 metric tonnes, 1,000 hectares for sweet potato

fixing the production target at 10,000 MTs, 23,000 hectares for mustard fixing the target at 23,000 MTs, 500 hectares for ground-nut fixing the production target at 1,000 MTs, 3200 hectares have been for lentil fixing the production target at 2,300 MTs, 300 hectares for pea cultivation fixing the production target at 216 MTs, 500 hectares for onion cultivation fixing the production target at 5,000 MTs, 300 hectares for garlic cultivation fixing the production target at 1,700 MTs, 2,000 hectares brought under pepper cultivation fixing the production target at 4,000 MTs, 50 hectares has been brought under zinger cultivation fixing the production target at 250 MTs, 350 hectares brought under turmeric cultivation fixing the production target at 880 MTs, 2,000 hectares under coriander cultivation fixing the production

target at 450 MTs, 6,000 hectares has been brought under maize cultivation fixing the production target at 2620 MTs while 5,700 hectares of land have been brought under vegetable cultivation fixing the production target at 1,14,000 MTs.

While contacted the Deputy Director of Agriculture Extension, Brahmanbaria, he informed that they have also prepared HYV paddy seed beds on 4,540 hectares of land and local variety of paddy seed beds on 250 hectares in order to ensure smooth cultivation of paddy in all parts of Brahmanbaria.

According to Brahmanbaria DAE, 267 demonstration plots for ASIRP, 150 demonstration plots for SFPP and seven demonstration plots have been prepared in different parts of the district.

ANWAR ALI, Natore

Four persons including three women of a family were seriously injured when armed activists allegedly belonging to ruling BNP attacked a house at Dilalpur village in Lalpur upazila on Tuesday.

The victims -- Nazmunnahar, 20, Shamsunnahar, 22, their mother Shahera Begum, 52, and their neighbour Dera Pramanik, 50, -- were admitted to Lalpur Health Complex.

Sources at the village said the miscreants led by Bhasan attacked the house as the head of the family, Khandaker Nizamuddin, refused to pay Tk 20,000 as toll for working in favour of Awami League in the last parliamentary election.

They also tried to kidnap Nazmunnahar but failed.

On Monday midnight, the miscreants entered Nizamuddin's house breaking the door and threat-

ened him that his daughters would be kidnapped if he failed to pay the toll.

Nizamuddin informed police, who visited his house on the following day.

The armed miscreants again attacked the house on Tuesday evening when there was no male member in the house and beat the two girls and their mother indiscriminately.

The attackers also smashed fingers of both hands of Shahera, left hand fingers of Nazmunnahar and an elbow of Shamsunnahar with hammers. Neighbour Dera was severely beaten when he went there hearing screams.

Nizamuddin's son Golam Morshed filed a case with Lalpur thana accusing five persons. The accused are Bashan, Saiful Islam, Zaker Ali, Idris Ali and Del Bahar. None was arrested.

Body recovered

UNB, Satkhira

The body of an old man was recovered from a mango orchard near his house at Katakhali village in Tala upazila of Satkhira Wednesday.

The victim was identified as Panchanan Mallik, 50, of the village. He was missing since Monday.

Police suspected that members of the outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party slaughtered him as he refused to give them toll.

In another incident, a housewife suffered serious burn injuries in an acid attack allegedly by her husband at Pania village in Kaliganj upazila Monday.

Villagers said Shahidul Islam hurled acid at his second wife, Shakhina Khatun, 30, a mother of two, as she filed a case against him under Women Repression (Prevention) Act.

She was admitted to Kaliganj upazila health complex in a critical condition. Shahidul was absconding.

Meanwhile, BDR jawans recovered 20.5 kgs of silver worth over Tk 3 lakh from Demrai frontier in the upazila Thursday.

Kidnapping for ransom on rise in Kushtia

UNB, Kushtia

Kidnapping for ransoms in Kushtia is on the rise, making difficult the job of the law enforcers to improve the deteriorating law and order situation.

According to competent sources, 18 people were abducted from different parts of Kushtia since the Oct 1 national election while eight well-off families received anonymous letters from the kidnappers.

They said the victims were either being tortured or killed by the abductors in case of failure to meet their demand of ransom.

Locals said a number of organised gangs were involved in the kidnapping. They pick up rich people and even farmers at gun-

point and demand ransom from their families.

In a number of cases, the victims did not file cases for fear of reprisal by the criminals.

The terrorists abducted Matin from Bheramara upazila on Oct 17 while Enamul from Gopalpur on Oct 22, and three others -- Shariful, Kafil and Alami -- from Sadar on Nov 21.

Besides, 14 people in Bheramara upazila received anonymous letters with demands of ransom: Tk one lakh each.

After receiving the letters, some of them informed police while some others went into hiding.

Despite receiving allegations, police could not yet identify the kidnappers, villagers alleged.

4 killed in 3 road mishaps in Mymensingh

UNB, Mymensingh

Four people were killed and 10 injured in three road accidents in Mymensingh on Thursday.

Police said driver of a pickup van, Mustafa, 30 and his helper, Amir Hamja, 22, died on the spot when it crashed into a Dhaka-bound bus at Kathal in Bhaluka upazila on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at about 7pm.

Ten passengers of the bus were also injured in the accident. They were admitted to the upazila health complex.

Police said an unidentified woman, aged about 30, was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus at Bagunda on Mymensingh-Haluaghata road in Tarakanda upazila at about 8pm.

Police said two motorbike riders were killed on the spot on

Nov 15 at Dakbunglow Bazar in the town when a bus hit the bike from behind. The bus tumbled into a roadside after hitting the bike, leading 10 people injured.

On Nov 26, three people were killed and four injured when a truck overturned at Patibila in Kaliganj upazila and on Nov 29 one bicycle rider was killed and his wife injured when a truck hit them from behind at Laudia in Sadar upazila.

In another accident, the driver and a passenger of a Kaliganj-bound private car were killed when it dashed a roadside tree at Rawda village in Kotchandpur upazila.

A little boy, Mafiz, was killed on Dec 15 when a microbus hit him in front of a school in the town.

Wheat farming on 1.13 lakh hectares in five dists

UNB, Rangpur

Some 1.13 lakh hectares of land will be brought under wheat cultivation in five districts of greater Rangpur zone this season with an output target of 2.61 lakh mts.

The districts are Rangpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) sold nearly 2,400 mts of different varieties of wheat seeds among farmers of the districts at fair price to help achieve the production target.

Of the seeds, 500 mts were sold in Rangpur, 350 mts in Gaibandha, 750 mts in Kurigram, 500 mts in Nilphamari and 300 mts in Lalmonirhat districts.

Besides, some 74,000 hectares of land in eight districts of greater Rangpur and Dinajpur zones will be brought under onion farming this season from where some 74,000 mts of onion are expected to be produced.

Of the total, 2,600 hectares of land will be cultivated in Rangpur district, 200 hectares in Lalmonirhat and 400 hectares in Nilphamari district.

Onion will also be cultivated on 300 hectares of land in Kurigram, 500 hectares in Gaibandha, 2,000 hectares in Dinajpur, 200 hectares in Thakurgaon and 1,200 hectares in Panchagarh district.

Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) has made all arrangements to provide necessary support to the farmers.