

NEWS SNAPS

Show cause notice on Taras thana OC

UNB, Sirajganj
Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Taras thana was served with a show cause notice on Monday for not taking action against BNP terrorists who attacked an 11-party rally on Sunday.

Police Super Anwar Hossain served the show cause notice against OC Rashidul Islam as his force did not take action against the attackers on the rally held in front of Taras Press Club. Some 10 people, including two central leaders Haider Akbar Khan Rono and Monjurul Ahsan Khan, were injured in the attack. The 11-party arranged the rally in protest against the price-hike of essentials and oil and gas.

Munshiganj AL leader arrested

UNB, Munshiganj
An Awami League (AL) leader was arrested from his house at Kazibagh in Sirajdikhan upazila of Munshiganj on Thursday night.

Police said they arrested Nazrul Islam Pintu, general secretary of Malkhanagar Union Awami League, after a ruling party man filed a case against him. Local Awami League alleged that false cases were being lodged against their leaders to harass them. However, BNP leaders denied the allegation. Pintu was sent to jail hajat after producing before the court on Friday.

Headmaster of Nalchhiti school punished

UNB, Jhalakati
The headmaster and a peon of KBK Secondary school at Nalchhiti upazila were sentenced to two-year simple imprisonment for giving proxy of a student in the SSC examination.

According to prosecution, headmaster Tofazzal Hossain extended all-out help to give peon Mosharrif Hossain proxy for a regular student in the SSC examination held in 1995. Later on, a case was filed with the police in this regard. After examining the records and witnesses, magistrate KS Jafrul Amin handed down the punishment on Saturday.

Workshop on woman, child repression

UNB, Jhenidah
A daylong workshop on "an observation of government programme against women and children repression" was held at Jhenidah Shishu Academy auditorium on Saturday.

The workshop was jointly organised by NGO committee of Bangladesh for Beijing Plus Five (NCBP) and Bangladesh Development Partnership Centre (BDPC). Presided over by the principal of Government KC College, Dr Mokbul Hossain, the workshop was attended by ADC Rabindranath Roy Chowdhury as chief guest while Police Super Monjur Kader Khan as special guest. Advisor of BDPC Sharif A Kafi presented the keynote paper. A cross section of people, including a large number of women, attended the workshop.

Valuables worth over Tk 6 lakh looted

UNB, Laxmipur
Armed robbers looted valuables worth over Tk 6 lakh from six houses of Dakkhin Mandari village in Sadar upazila of Laxmipur Sunday night.

Locals said the armed robbers swooped on the houses of Nesar Ahmed, Mohibullah, Afsaruddin Patwary, and three other houses and looted cash and valuables, including gold ornaments. The armed robbers also beat up the family members while they tried to resist them. In another incident, valuables worth Tk 70,000, including Tk 30,000 in cash, from the house of Sultan Ahmed and valuables worth Tk 20,000 from the shop of Babul of Dakkhin Mudapur village in Sadar upazila, were stolen on the same night.

Two youths along with a fire arm arrested

UNB, Rajbari
River police arrested two youths along with a firearm and ammunitions from Daulatdia launch ghat in Rajbari on Sunday.

On suspicion, police searched the two Habibur Rahman and Golam Rabbani and recovered a revolver and two rounds of bullet from their possession. Both the arrested were going to Dhaka on board a bus. A case was filed with local police.

Tk 1.68 cr projects progressing

UNB, Kurigram
Five projects are being implemented in Kurigram Municipality at a cost of Tk 1.68 crore under Municipality Service Project (MSP) during the current fiscal year.

Local Government Engineering Department is implementing the projects with the financial assistance of the World Bank. The projects include reconstruction of Adarsha Municipal Bazaar involving Tk 61 lakh, construction of two public toilets at a cost of Tk 11 lakh, repairing water pump costing Tk 6 lakh, carpeting of Khaliganj bazaar-Horikesh Pump road and CNB ghat-Horikesh crossing at a cost of Tk 52 lakh. Carpeting of Munshipara-Belgachh link road, fire service-Kurigram clinic road and old rail station road is also included in the project.

950 bottles of phensidyl recovered

UNB, Jhenidah
Some 950 bottles of phensidyl worth Tk one lakh were recovered from a night coach in Kaliganj rail gate area of Jhenidah on Thursday.

Police said they searched the Dhaka-bound coach and recovered the contraband items kept in the bundles of betel leaf. Meanwhile, two drunkards were arrested from a brickfield in the municipality area. The arrested were identified as Jahangir and Sukumar.

Vegetable farming on 6,000 hectares

UNB, Jhenidah
An intensive scheme has been taken up in Jhenidah to bring 6,000 hectares of land under vegetable farming with a production target of 1.20 lakh metric tons.

According to Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), the growers are cultivating winter vegetables amid much enthusiasm with the hope of achieving optimum production. Official sources said of the total land, 790 hectares have been earmarked in Sadar, 1,125 hectares in Kaliganj, 590 hectares in Kotchandpur, 1,350 hectares in Moheshpur, 1,705 hectares in Shaikupa and 440 hectares in Harinakundu upazilas. It may be mentioned that Jhenidah is one of the main producers of vegetables in the country and vegetables are the main cash crops of the growers.

18 Bangladeshi nationals shot dead by BSF last year

BDR asks locals in Panchagarh, Thakurgaon to move with caution

UNB, Panchagarh
Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot 18 Bangladeshi nationals dead in border areas of Panchagarh and Thakurgaon last year.

Following the incidents, BDR personnel have already asked local people to move with caution that created panic among the people living especially along the border. But local people said that it is impossible to move with caution as they have to go to cultivate their lands, collect stones and catch fish along the border to maintain their livelihood.

In addition, BSF men abducted at least 20 people and looted over 1,000 cows and goats, huge quantity of stones and paddy from frontier areas of the two districts during the period.

The people killed by BSF last year were identified as Daya Rani, Chaitali, Moksed, Shahidul, Dailur, Hafizul, Ansarul, Kuddus, Samad, Darul, Zabed, Noor Islam, Mosharrif, Liakat, Shah Alam, Kamaluddin, Monwar and Kushiyara. The identities of two other deceased could not be known.

The majority of the victims were stone workers and day-labourers. BSF men opened fire at them and killed them when they went to lift stones from the rivers and cultivate

their own lands adjacent to border areas.

After the killings, BSF men took the bodies to their territory. They also took the injured people. Although they returned the bodies to BDR due to strong protest lodged by them, they sent the injured persons to jail hajat.

Following the untoward incidents, several flag meetings between BSF and BDR were held. Despite promise of BSF men in these meetings not to open fire at the innocent people, they failed to keep their words.

The border security forces of the two countries exchanged gunshots at least 10 times over construction of a groin in the River Mohananda at Banglabandha and planting tea saplings at Majhipara in Tetulia upazila.

Meanwhile, Indian security guards defying international law have created a horrific situation in border areas by throwing illuminating bombs at regular intervals.

Local people alleged that BSF men threw an illuminating bomb at Nekipara on January 6 and another near Joydharbhanga BDR camp on January 8 creating panic in the area.

In addition, Indian border guards of Chopramari BOP trespassed into Bangladesh territory on January 4

and ransacked furniture of the house belonging to Shamsul Haque at Fakirpara in Tetulia upazila.

Although they threatened him to remove the house from zero line, later BDR jawans of Bhajanpur BOP took necessary steps in this regard.

Local people said that BSF men beefed up security measures along Indo-Bangla border following the terrorist attack on the Parliament Bhaban of India and arrest of some suspected spies from Shiliguri in West Bengal recently.

As part of precautionary measures, BSF men also started construction barbed wire fence along the border in Atwari upazila.

A report from Barguna says: Indian pirates shot and wounded a Bangladeshi boatman in the Bay of Bengal near Heron Point on Saturday.

Trawler Owners Association sources said the Indian pirates opened fire on the Bangladeshi fishermen while they were fishing on the Bay, 90 km off Patharghata upazila, leaving Sekendar Ali, 35, injured.

The trawler was totally damaged as about 50 bullets hit it. Hearing the hue and cry, nearby fishermen rescued the boatmen and sent Sekandar to a local hospital.

Move to remove session jam at Rajshahi University

BSS, Rajshahi

The Rajshahi University (RU) authorities have taken some steps to remove session jam from the institution by 2004.

The steps include empowering all departments of the university to take examinations and publishing results independently and introducing integrated course. Earlier, examinations of all the departments were controlled centrally by the controller of examination, university sources said.

Vice-chancellor of the university Prof Faisal Islam Faruqi told in Rajshahi recently that the university authorities had taken the measures to hold examinations regularly in all departments for ending session jam within next two years.

He said a meeting with the chairmen of all departments was held at his office recently to review overall situation of the university. The meeting took some important

decisions in order to maintain congenial atmosphere on the campus and to eliminate session jam.

Prof Faruqi said the university authorities had already achieved some success in reducing session jam by holding regular classes and examinations on weekly holidays.

Session jam in some departments, including Public Administration, Mass Communication, Genetics and Breeding, History, Statistics, Physics, Law, Anthropology, Geography and Environmental Science have been successfully reduced to some extent, sources in the university said.

But some other departments, including English, Fine Arts, Computer Science, Accounting, Management, Marketing, Finance and Banking, Social Work, Library and Information Science, Psychology, Geology and Mining Departments had been facing the problem of the session jam.

Six TV sets seized: 37 arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Police arrested 37 persons including seven little boys and seized six television sets with many obscene film cassettes from Sirajganj town and Shahjadpur upazila area last week.

Acting on a secret information, Sirajganj sadar thana police raided the Sirajganj District Truck Bondobostokari Sramik Union office and Sirajganj District Rickshaw Van Sramik Union Office in the Bazaar Station area and arrested 35 persons including seven little boys including school and college going students. Police seized six television sets and seven obscene film cassettes. In another drive Shahjadpur thana police raided Bachchu Mia's house at Talgachi and arrested Bachchu and Shamsul Haque with 21 inches television set with obscene film. Police sent them to jail custody. Two separate cases have been lodged with Shahjadpur Police Station.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Dighirpar Bazaar of Tongibari upazila in Munshiganj faces extinction threat due to erosion by the river Padma. Immediate measures should be taken to check erosion here, otherwise the main portion of the bazaar will be eroded at any moment. Half portion of the bazaar had already been devoured on the riverbed. Necessary commodities worth lakhs of taka are regularly sent to various parts of the country from this major rural market.