

NEWS SNAPS

Housewife succumbs to injuries

UNB, Chandpur

A housewife who sustained serious burn injuries allegedly by her husband and in-laws a week ago died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Bilkis Farhana Bilu, 24, wife of Kazi Ali Zahir Elin of Comilla Road in Chandpur town. Victim's family sources said Kazi Ali and inmates of his house poured kerosene on his wife's body and set afire following a family feud on Jan 14. Kazi Ali also suffered burn injuries as she embraced him to save her life. Both husband and wife were admitted to DMCH where Bilu died. Before death, Bilu gave a statement to the magistrate. Meanwhile, police arrested three people including Kazi Ali in this connection.

Chandpur-Sylhet bus link snapped

UNB, Chandpur

Direct bus service on Chandpur-Sylhet route remained stopped for last 10 days following a conflict between the leaders of bus owners associations of Chandpur and Comilla.

Locals said plying of buses on Chandpur-Sylhet route remained stopped since January 10 when the direct bus service was introduced on the route. Transport owners alleged that they were not in a position to operate their vehicles on the routes even after getting route permit due to hindrance created by transport workers at Comilla. Transport leaders belonging to Comilla Motor Association allegedly forced the owners to ply buses on the route due to reasons unknown.

Zazira Municipality poll on February 12

UNB, Shariatpur

A total of 10 candidates submitted their nomination papers for the post of chairman of Zazira Municipality. The election will be held on February 12.

The candidates are pro-BNP Abul Kalam Sardar, Awami League-backed Kazim Khan, and Sheikh Mokhlesur Rahman, Abul Hossain, Abul Khair Fakir, Abul Hossain Fakir, Abdul Haq Kabiraj, Kuddus Mia, Ibrahim Mia and Delwar Sikder. In addition, a total of 32 male and female candidates submitted their nomination papers for the posts of ward commissioners.

Three Bagerhat AL leaders surrender

UNB, Bagerhat

Three local Awami League (AL) leaders surrendered to Magistrate Court in Bagerhat Sunday as per the High Court order.

They are district Jubo League president Khan Habibur Rahman, general secretary of district Sramik League and Municipality Commissioner Rezaur Rahman Montu and Jubo League leader Khan Moniruzzaman Moni. The court rejecting their bail prayers sent them to jail hajat. Police said they were wanted in connection with a number of cases.

2 children fall sick after taking insecticide

UNB, Jhalakati

Two children fell sick after taking rat-killing medicine unknowingly in Sadar upazila of Jhalakati on Saturday.

Family sources said Nasrin, 6, and her brother Robbani, 5, daughter and son of Belayet Hossain of Poromohol village mistook the medicine as sweet. Meanwhile, following a family feud Ilias, 20, son of Abul Bashar of Chanta village in the same upazila took insecticide on the same day. All of them were admitted to the Sadar Hospital.

Killer gets death penalty

UNB, Rangpur

A court in Rangpur Sunday awarded death penalty to a man and another to life term imprisonment on charge of killing a little girl after rape.

According to the prosecution, accused Moksed Ali and his accomplice Akramul Hossain abused and killed little girl Nazma Khatun, 7, of Pirojpur village in Mithapukur upazila on July 24, 1996. After examining the witnesses and records, Judge of Special Tribunal ANM Syed awarded death penalty to Moksed and life term to Akram. The court also acquitted another accused from the charge.

Education Week begins at BAU

UNB, Mymensingh

As a part of National Education Week, Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) begins a competition on supplementary education related programmes on Tuesday.

The four-day programme will begin with the slogan 'Education for facing the challenge of globalisation'. A 13-member National Education Week Celebration Committee has been formed headed by Vice Chancellor Prof M Mustafizur Rahman of the university. Meanwhile, another 11-member committee has been formed headed by Student Affairs Advisor Prof Dr M Amirul Islam for the implementation of the weeklong programme.

13 robberies committed in Bandarban in four days

UNB, Bandarban

Thirteen robberies were committed in Bandarban town, including Christian Missionary Dharma Palli, in last four days, raising concerns among local residents.

Locals said armed robbers looted valuables from the houses of police constable Nannu Miah at Balaghata Police Lines and Borua Fakir Sunday.

Another band of bandits swooped on the house of Morntaz Miah, an employee of Agriculture Bank, at Choruipara in the town and looted valuables worth Tk 1 lakh Monday night.

Masked robbers broke into the Catholic church of Christian Missionary Dharma Palli and looted valuables from two elderly women -- Thoithangti Tripura, 52, and Pakh Murung, 50, Tuesday night.

They also injured two other women -- Khumbuthi Tripura, 25, and Krishnati Tripura, 24.

On the same night, some students of Bandarban Government College Hostel were robbed of Tk 10,000.

Three more armed robbers were committed Wednesday at a pharmacy and two shops in the town.

Another report from Comilla says: Police arrested six alleged robbers, including a ringleader, while preparing to commit an armed robbery at Shahebabad village in Brahmanpara upazila of Comilla Tuesday night.

Being tipped off by locals, police raided the village at the dead of night and arrested Siddiqur Rahman, 25, the

leader of Siddiq Bahini, and his accomplices Enamul Huq, 22, Masum, 23, Jahir Mia, 22, Jahir, 24, and Nazmul, 25. They were wanted in a number of criminal cases.

Earlier Friday night, Siddiq and his associates committed a robbery at the house of Manik Mia of the village and beat up him severely. They also committed an armed robbery at the house of Farid Mia of the village a few days back.

Another report from Sathkira adds: Police recovered the body of a ringleader, Abdur Rahim Dhali, from a beel water body at Benadena village in Kaliganj upazila Sunday morning.

He is believed to have been killed by his accomplices Asgar, Salam and Moyna following a dispute over sharing of looted goods. Dhali was wanted in 18 cases.

Meanwhile, armed robbers looted cash and valuables from a house at Anandanagar village in Gurudaspur upazila of Natore Wednesday night.

Villagers said a band of about 20 bandits called out Shamsu at midnight, then stormed into his house and took away valuables, including 15 tolas of gold ornaments, one passport and 10,000 Saudi Riyals. Shamsu returned home from Saudi Arabia recently.

The robbers chanted slogans of the outlawed Sarbahara Party while leaving the scene.

Police visited the spot and a case was filed.

16 lakh people in Madaripur, Shariatpur have no latrines

BSS, Madaripur

At least 16 lakh people under 10 upazilas in Madaripur and Shariatpur do not have access to any kind of latrines.

Out of a total of 23 lakh people, only five lakh people use sanitary latrines, three lakh use unhygienic kutcha latrines while the rest majority number of over 16 lakh people furnish this natural task in open spaces.

Those who have no latrines respond to the call of nature beside the rivers, beels (water bodies), drains and ponds. As a result, water of those sources are being polluted frequently causing spread of various water born diseases including diarrhoea and dysentery every year, especially during the summer and the winter.

The latrine users are small in number in the upazilas of Kalkini, Rajoir, Shibchar, Palong, Noria, Goshairhat and Damuddah.

According to a survey conducted by International Project for Rural Advancement (IPRA), a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), members of only 2,04,033 families out of a total of 4,90,121 families of Kalkini upazila use latrines.

Members of only 31,112 families of Rajoir upazila use hygienic latrines while members of the rest 70,022 families do not use latrine of any nature.

In Sadar upazila members of 27,202 families out of 1,20,115 families use hygienic latrines. Members of 12,010 families use

unhygienic kutcha latrines while members of 40,019 families have no latrines at all.

The survey revealed that the members 10,201 families out of 27,714 families of Shibchar upazila use hygienic latrine. More than 17 thousand families of this area have no latrine.

The situation in Zazira upazila is almost the same as members of 9,517 families out of 27,132 families only use hygienic latrines. Although 1,119 families use unhygienic latrines, more than 16,417 families have no latrines at all.

The scenario in Palong is no better than any other upazila of the district as members of only 7,419 families, out of a total of 29,810 families there use sanitary latrines. Members of 1,513 families use latrines of unhygienic nature while the rest members of 18,721 families have no latrine.

In Noria upazila, members of only 14,101 families out of a total of 39,222 families have the opportunity to use sanitary latrine. Members of only 1,224 families have access to unhygienic latrines whereas members of 12,332 families of the upazila have no latrine of any nature.

The survey report claimed that members of 40,419 families out of 50,518 families of Goshairhat upazila do not use latrine of any nature. Among the latrine users 10,233 families have access to sanitary latrine while 5,205 families use unhygienic latrines.

The worst situation prevails in

the poverty-ridden Bhadarganj upazila where members of 8,507 families out of a total of 22,402 families use sanitary latrines. Members of 4,317 families use unhygienic latrines, but members of 21,125 families have no access to any kind of latrines whatsoever.

Members of 6,319 families out of a total of 21,330 families of Damuddah upazila use sanitary latrine. Members of 5,622 families, however, use unhygienic latrine while members of at least 13,406 families have no access to any kind of latrines.

Woman chopped to death by miscreants

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A 35-year-old woman was chopped to death by some unknown miscreants at Chondongati village in Belkuchi upazila recently.

The victim was identified as Siria Begum, 35, wife of Aktar Hossain of village Chandongati in Belkuchi. Police said some unknown miscreants kidnapped her at gun point and chopped her to her to death after kidnapping at night. Acting on a secret information Belkuchi thana police recovered her body near the paddy field. A case has been lodged with Belkuchi police station. The cause of murder could not be known.

Pirate raids on rise in seven southern dists

UNB, Bagerhat

Pirates have renewed their grip in rivers of seven southern districts spreading panic among residents of coastal areas.

Witnesses said the pirates move in rivers, particularly Shibsha and Baleswari, in the guise of fishermen and bawalies, and loot valuables of passengers whenever they get chances.

In last one week, the sea robbers looted cash and valuables, including fish, fishing nets and fuel worth about Tk 3 lakh, from fishermen and bawalies in the coastal areas. Twenty-two fishermen were injured in four incidents.

During the period, police arrested seven pirates, recovered four firearms and seized two trawlers.

On Sunday, a gang of 25-30 pirates swooped on a trawler on the bay in Sonarchar area and looted

goods worth over Tk one lakh. Four fishermen were injured as the robbers fired gunshots and hit them with sharp weapons.

On the same day, police chased a trawler on the Baleswari River and caught four pirates while seven pirates jumped into the river and fled with firearms, police said.

On Saturday, the pirates attacked two trawlers near Kuakata in Patuakhali and looted valuables worth over Tk one lakh, leaving nine fishermen.

Another fisherman suffered bullet wounds when pirates opened fire on him near Maderbari Forest Camp of the Sundarbans on the same day.

Police said lack of manpower and logistic support, corruption and political pressure were the main reasons behind the failure to address piracies in the coastal areas.

Edicts imposed by influentials

Members of 11 families flee homes in Panchagarh

UNB, Panchagarh

Members of 11 families of Kolonda village in Balladangi upazila of Panchagarh could not live in their houses due to edicts imposed by the influential quarters of the area.

The written complaint of the victims to the Deputy Commissioner and the Police Super also went in vain. Moreover, the leaders of "fatwabaz" filed cases against 10 members of the families terming them terrorists and anti-social element.

The influentials also took away the ripe paddy from the fields of two victims Giasuddin and Abdul Aziz.

Following publication of news items on the matter, Additional Deputy Commissioner (general) visited the spot recently and asked the local chairman to settle the

matter locally.

But the matter was yet to be resolved. Moreover, the torture by the influential quarters on the victims increased by manifolds.

After visiting the village it was found that some influential people belonging to a fundamentalist party have been carrying out propaganda against the families describing them Kadiani, Nasarani and anti-religious.

The victims include the family members of Tofazzal, Giasuddin, Hurmot Ali, Yusuf Ali, Shamsul Haq, Abdul Aziz, Rafiqul Islam, Enamul Haq, Nazrul Islam, Ashraf Ali and Abdul Latif.

"We are being tortured in various ways since the October 1 general elections," the victims alleged.



M Haideruzzaman, Managing Director of J R L Elenga Complex, a non-government tourist centre, speaking at the inaugural function of the complex at Elenga in Kalihati upazila of Tangail on Friday. Minister for Environment and Forest Shahjahan Siraj (1st from left) opened the complex while Deputy Minister, Ministry of Communication Asadul Habib Dulu (2nd from left) was present as a special guest on the occasion.