

NEWS SNAPS

Mother allegedly kills baby

UNB, Panchagarh

A mother allegedly killed her two-day old baby by pouring poison into his mouth at Barunidanga village in Boda upazila of Panchagarh.

Police said, Fatema Begum, 20, wife of Fazal Mia, gave birth to a son after five months of her marriage and killed the baby on January 13. She told her husband that she had mistakenly given pesticide into the mouth of the baby instead of honey. But the husband filed a case against his wife and police arrested her. During interrogation Fatema told police that she had an illicit affair with her cousin Nabi and conceived before four months of her marriage. As the villagers started whispering following the untimely birth of the child she killed the baby, police said.

Youth killed in Manikganj road mishap

UNB, Manikganj

A youth was killed in a road accident near Kalampur bus stand on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Manikganj on Thursday.

The victim was identified as Saddam Hossain, 12, of the area. In another incident, a middle-aged woman was critically injured in an attack allegedly by her younger brother at Dashchira village of Shiblalaya upazila on the day. Witnesses said Lokman of the village chopped his elder sister Rokeya Begum, 40, with an axe as she refused to give him Tk 4,000 which he demanded. She was admitted to Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. Meanwhile, a squad of local Narcotics Department raided different parts of the town and arrested two people along with huge illegal drugs Wednesday night.

Double-barrel gun looted

UNB, Khulna

A double-barrel gun along with 15 rounds of bullet was looted from a house at Rahimnagar in Rupsha upazila Wednesday night.

Police said a gang of armed terrorists, numbering 10, swooped on the house of a businessman and looted the gun and the ammunition. In another incident, Masud Sikder was gunned down by one of his rivals at Aichgati village in the same upazila on Tuesday.

Science varsity to be set up in Faridpur

UNB, Faridpur

A Science and Technology University will be set up in Faridpur soon.

Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf said this while inaugurating the month-long 'Faridpur Agriculture, Industrial and Trade Fair' at Rajendra College playground on Sunday. The minister accused the past Awami League government of shifting the place of the proposed university from Faridpur to another district violating the government policy. The varsity will be set up on 100 acres of land at a cost of Tk 400 crore.

One gets 10-year RI in arms case

UNB, Jessore

A court in Jessore has sentenced a man to 10 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) in an arms case.

The convict was identified as Mizanur Rahman of Jhum Jhumpur Madhyapara in Jessore town. The case is in brief, Mizan had long been involved in manufacturing and selling arms in Sultan Textile Mill area and police arrested him on March 25, 1999 along with a loaded revolver, one knife and two other sharp weapons. After examining the witnesses and records, the Additional District and Sessions Judge Islam handed down the judgment on Sunday.



British American Tobacco Bangladesh arranged a voluntary blood donation campaign in Comilla on January 18. The company demonstrated its commitment to local communities by sponsoring the campaign which was presided over by Alhaj Fariduddin Ahmed. Seventy bags of blood were collected in the drive.

Mustard farming on 60,000 hectares in 10 dists

Cultivators expect bumper yield

ABU AHMED, Satkhira

About 60,000 hectares of land have been brought under mustard cultivation in 10 districts of Khulna division in the current season.

The farmers of the region are expecting a bumper yield of mustard during the season.

Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources said that the farmers have cultivated mustard on 60,000 hectares of land in this rabi season with a production target of 58,000 tonnes of mustard.

The districts are Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Narail, Magura, Jhenidah, Jessore, Kushtia, Meherpur and Chuadanga.

According to DAE sources, 6000 hectares of land have been brought under mustard cultivation with a production target of 6000 tonnes in Satkhira. The cultivated lands are 300 hectares with a

production target of 3000 tonnes of mustard in Khulna. The cultivated lands are 16000 hectares of land with a target of 14000 tonnes in Jessore. The cultivated lands are 7000 hectares of land with a production target of 7000 tonnes in Jhenidah, the cultivated lands are 6000 hectares of land with a production target of 6000 tonnes in Magura. The cultivated lands are 5000 hectares of land with a production target of 5000 tonnes in Narail. The cultivated lands are 5000 hectares of land with a production target is 5000 tonnes in Kushtia. The cultivated lands are 5000 hectares of land with a production target of 5000 tonnes in Chuadanga and the cultivated lands are 4000 hectares of land and the production target is 4000 tonnes mustard.

The bumper yield is attributed to favourable climate condition and

other associated factors. The farmers have received loans from different banks for cultivation of mustard during the current rabi season.

Coal found in Madaripur

UNB, Madaripur

Many residents of Madaripur and adjacent Gopalganj these days hardly use firewood in cooking as 'dhap' or coal is found in the region in plenty.

They said they could easily collect 'dhap' from various places of Rajoir upazila of Madaripur and a vast track of land in Gopalganj surrounding Chander Beel.

Local elite feel that government needs to take necessary measures to extract the coal.

Four AL leaders, workers 'beaten' by BNP cadres

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Ruling BNP cadres allegedly beat up four Awami League leaders and workers at Karbala of Boraigram upazila in Natore on Sunday afternoon.

Abdul Zaili, General Secretary of the upazila AL and three other associates Abdus Satter, Moazzem and Feroz were rushed to Boraigram Hospital.

A group of 10 BNP cadres including Dulal, Arif and Kamal allegedly swooped on the AL leaders and workers at Karbala while they were going to Zoary union by two motorbikes to attend a meeting.

The miscreants threatened to kill them if the case filed against some BNP cadres, for ransacking AL office and damaging portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bonapara last month, is not withdrawn.

Police confirmed the report. However, no case has been registered so far.

Contradictory opinions on use of coal ash

UNB, Lalmonirhat

What's the use of coal ash? The question arises as huge quantity of coal ash is being imported from India through Sona Masjid Land Port.

The importers and general people gave contradictory opinions on its use.

Importers claimed that the ash is imported by the cement companies for producing cement, but people said the ash is being used for adulteration purpose of cement.

Prospect of mango production bright in Chapainawabganj

BSS, Rajshahi

Prospect of mango production appears to be very bright this year in the prevailing favourable weather condition.

Mango trees in Chapainawabganj, famous for the best mango variety, have started budding.

Soil and climate of Chapainawabganj are favourable for cultivation of mango. Last year's production of mango was over one-lakh metric tons.

According to Mango Research Institute (MRI), the country harvested over two lakh metric tons of mango last year.

Dr Mohammad Golam Mortuza, Principal Scientific Officer (PSO) of the country's lone Mango Research Institute at Chapainawabganj said high temperature and less humidity are very helpful for mango production. "This year some positive signs are there for bumper mango harvest," he added.

He said mango cultivation is more profitable than other crops like paddy, wheat, jute and some times the return from mango harvest is four to five times higher than any other crop.

MRI was established in 1985 on 12.48 hectares of land at Chapainawabganj to identify problems in increasing mango production, provide training, and transfer of technology to the farm-

ers.

Dr Mortuza said mango hybridisation programme has already been initiated and some high yielding seedlings have been developed and tested in the research field in 1994. Most of the high yielding seedlings are now in bearing stage and some of them promising.

Thirty-two high yielding varieties and commercial variety of mango have been developed, he said, adding that some 38 mid season variety seedlings have been imported from the Philippines and other countries of the world which match with the weather of Bangladesh.

The SPO said mango research is a very lengthy process. Sometimes it is very difficult to continue because of lack of well-equipped laboratory, skilled manpower and proper financial support.

Bangladesh exports a small quantity of mango to Middle East. Dr. Murtaza, however, is optimistic of earning of a good amount of foreign exchange from export of mango in future.

Some commercial variety of mango like BART Mango-1 (Mahananda), BARI Mango-2 and BARI Mango-3 (Amrapall) have already been developed to achieve this target. All these varieties are high yielding regular bearer with attractive skin colour to impress the consumers.



PHOTO: STAR

General students of Chittagong University observed a token hunger strike at Chittagong Press Club recently demanding immediate reopening of the university.

Prices of essentials up in Madaripur

UNB, Madaripur

Prices of essentials have shot up in the markets in four upazilas of Madaripur during last few days compounding the miseries of the common people.

A market survey at Puran Bazar of Madaripur showed that 'Bhozon' and 'Kazla' varieties of rice are being sold here at Tk 14 per kg against the previous rate of Tk 12.

Nazrul Islam, a grocery shopkeeper, said per litre soyabean oil is being sold at Tk 40 whereas the previous price was Tk 36 per litre.

Per kilogram garlic sells at Tk 70 due to its short supply, traders said. Onion also has become dearer with adding Tk 2 per kg while green chili Tk 5 to Tk 6 per kg.

Besides, price of different kinds of fish like Shoul, Gozar, Pabda, Puti, Taki has risen due to its short supply.

Beef is being sold in the market at Tk 80, an increase by Tk 10 than that of the previous price of chicken which also shot up by Tk 10 per kg.

31 out of 46 posts of BCS (Admin) vacant in Pabna

UNB, Pabna

Some 31 posts, out of 46, of BCS (Administration) cadre have been lying vacant in Pabna since long hampering the administrative and judicial activities.

District Administration sources said 31 posts, including the posts of ADC (Revenue), ADC (General), Revenue Deputy Collector (RDC), LAO, Assistant Director of LGED, General Certificate Officer (JCO), Nezarat Deputy Collector (NDC), First Class Magistrate (3 Posts) and seven posts of Assistant Commissioner (Land) are lying vacant.



PHOTO: STAR

A street drama by Bangladesh Institute of Theatre Arts in Deverpar area of Chittagong. The institute arranged the drama recently to create awareness among the people about health and environment.

Mystery shrouds death of coconut seller

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A green coconut seller succumbed to his burn injuries at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) on Wednesday night shrouding mystery in Natore town.

Police quoting witnesses said, the victim Ramjan Ali, 38, a green coconut seller of Ghoshpara near Dighapatiya Palace in the town allegedly received severe burn injury on Wednesday morning when he climbed top of an electric pole and accidentally got electrocuted at Sheellai (Naldanga) in Sadar Upazila.

Ramjan's relatives, however, speak of the mystery. His daughter Rima, a Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinee and his sister Joshna claimed that Ramjan told them before his death the names of his killers.

Ramjan was missing since Tuesday morning when

he went out home for his business, claimed the relatives of the victim.

Their neighbor Jewel and three of his accomplices poured kerosene over the victim's body and set him on fire. The killers also hanged him at the top of an electric pole at Sheellai to prove that he had been electrocuted, claimed the relatives.

Ramjan's relatives, however, admitted that he had feuds with Jewel and Nazrul Islam over a piece of land.

Jewel often teased Rima making her father infuriated and once a few weeks ago Ramjan warned Jewel. Meanwhile, Jewel along and his family have been missing from their Ghoshpara house since Monday.

Police arrested Jewel's brother Rafiqul Islam in this connection under section 54 of Cr PC. However, no case has been recorded with the Sadar thana in this regard.