

NEWS SNAPS

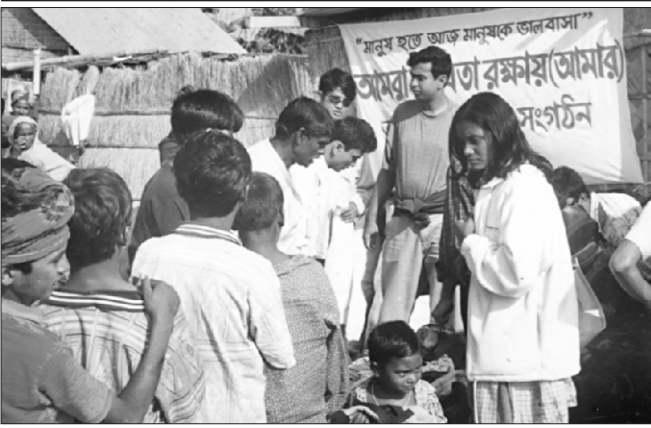


PHOTO: STAR

Amra Manabata Rakhyae (AMAR), a juvenile organisation, on Monday distributed 700 sets of winter clothes among the Padma erosion victims of Shalipur area in Char Bhadrasan upazila in Faridpur.

Jubo League leader killed in bomb attack

UNB, Satkhira

A Jubo League leader was killed in a bomb attack at Kismat Ilshpur village in Kolaroa upazila of Satkhira on Saturday night.

Police said the gang led by JCD activist Bahauddin attacked Tuhin, 30, President of Keralkata union Jubo League, when he was returning home from a local bazaar and hurled bombs as a sequel to previous enmity. Tuhin died on the spot. Police arrested three JCD cadres including one with blown wrist, which he lost when a bomb exploded in his hand during the attack, from frontier Ichhamati village on Sunday. The arrested were identified as Mozammel Haq, 28, Abdur Rahim, 30, and Methor, 27. A murder case was filed.

Two allegedly commit suicide

UNB, Habiganj

Two people allegedly committed suicides in Chunarughat and Nabiganj upazila of Habiganj on Friday.

Police said Harilal Mongol, 26, an employee of Rema tea garden, committed suicide by taking poison in Chunarughat. On the same day, Azad Miad, a day-labourer, also committed suicide slaughtering himself at Rahaipur village in Nabiganj. Reasons behind the suicides could not be known immediately. Separate cases were filed.

Pneumonia claimed 129 children last yr

UNB, Jessore

At least 129 children died of pneumonia in Jessore during the last year.

Health Department sources said over 6,500 children were afflicted with the disease during the period adding that the victims died mainly due to ignorance of health awareness of their parents and wrong treatment of rural quacks. When contacted physicians of the Sadar hospital said in most cases the guardians, due to ignorance, rush to the quacks and homeopaths for the treatment. They bring their kids to the registered doctor or hospital at the eleventh hours.

BDR jawan closed

UNB, Comilla

A BDR jawan of Satghoria camp in Chowddagram upazila of Comilla has been closed to Battalion Headquarters in Courtbari for his alleged attempt to rape a housewife at Chandipur village Sunday night.

Officials said the jawan, Abdul Karim, entered into a house close to the camp on the night and tried to rape the 30-year-old housewife. Hearing her screaming, local people rushed to the spot, rescued her and caught Karim red-handed. He was later handed over to high officials. When contacted, an official of Battalion office confirmed the incident.

Four Bangladeshi nationals handed over

UNB, Brahmanbaria

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) recently returned four Bangladeshi nationals to BDR who were arrested for illegal intrusion into India.

BSF on Friday arrested Siraj Mia of village Sejamura in Sadar upazila from Agartala border area and through a flag meeting handed him over to BDR here Saturday. BSF in another flag meeting on Jan 24 handed over Awal Bhuiyan, Naim Parvez and Uzzal Mia of Nawabganj upazila in Dhaka to Cosba BDR company commander. They entered into Agartala through Cosba border on Jan 23. BSF recently tightened up patrolling across the border to prevent illegal intrusion.

Aman procurement drive not progressing in 16 dists

ANWAR ALI, Natore

The aman procurement drive of the government in 16 northern districts is about to end in a failure due to the price hike of aman paddy and rice in open markets following a dismal harvest.

Not a single grain of aman was purchased in all the 17 upazilas of Natore and Naogaon till filing this report on January 24 while the Food Department managed to purchase only 7,445 metric tons of rice against its target of 99,420 metric tons in the 16 districts.

Aman rice in selling between Tk 13 and Tk 14 per kg in local markets now against the government procurement rate of Tk 12 per kg.

Aman paddy is also selling at higher prices than the government rate of Tk 8 per kg making many of the growers and suppliers reluctant to proceed towards

LSD godowns.

The Food Department, however, collected 27,553 metric tons of paddy in the 16 northern districts so far since the beginning of the drive on December 7. The department is scheduled to purchase 1,09,540 metric tons of aman paddy within January 31.

Many of the millers of this region are reluctant to sell paddy and rice to the LSD godowns because of much less quantity of allocation given to some selected millers, a senior official said.

The growers also, are reluctant to supply their products to government godowns due to non-availability of necessary quantities of gunny-bags and comparatively high rate of carrying cost, he added.

In many cases, supply of rice with over 14 per cent moisture in rejected by the godown officials, he said.

Two-day literary confce ends in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The two-day literary conference concluded in Mymensingh on Friday.

Darji Abdul Wahab, an eminent literateur and researcher opened the conference on Thursday.

The inaugural session was attended, among others, by local member of parliament (MP) Delwar Hossain Khan Dulu, Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Mymensingh and Mahmud Al-Noor Tarek, Chairman of Mymensingh Municipality.

In the inaugural session a reception was accorded to some young poets. They are Billal, Mehdi, Mahmud Milon, Oatono Tias, Safda Faraji, Chandan Saha Ray, Kamal Mohammed, Tipu Rahman, Real Jahed, and Saddu Hasan.

In the evening session a seminar titled "Mentality of the people of Bangladesh" was arranged which was addressed, among others, by Mahfuz Anam, Editor of The Daily Star, Dr Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, an eminent educationist and columnist, literateur Ahmed Mustafa Kamal and Professor Julfikar Rafiq Ranju.

Earlier, in the morning, a colourful rally was brought out in Mymensingh town.

On the concluding day of the conference a reunion of writers was held with professor Mokarram Hossain in the chair. The function was addressed by Ata Sarker, Poet Samsul Foyez and Salim Hasan.

Rickshaws create traffic jam in Jhenidah



PHOTO: STAR

A scene from Jhenidah Post Office area at noon. Rickshaws have created jam in the area hampering smooth plying of vehicles. But who cares?

DELWAR KABIR, Jhenidah

Rickshaws are creating traffic jams in Jhenidah Municipality area.

But the municipality authority is indifferent to mitigate the sufferings of the town dwellers, allege local people.

At least 5,000 rickshaws and over 2,000 rickshaw-vans have been plying in Jhenidah town. The paddlers of the three-wheelers park their wheelers here and there caring less about others. Some town dwellers alleged, the rickshaw pullers stop their rickshaws at any place, any time. As a result it creates traffic jam.

A good number of rickshaw pullers said, the number of parking lots in the town is very few which can not meet the demand of increasing

number of vehicles. The existing parking spot can hardly most maximum 15 per cent of the rickshaws. It compels them to park the rickshaws according to the whims. While talking to the chairman of Jhenidah municipality, he said to this correspondent that a good member of rickshaw and rickshaw-vans have been plying without proper registration. The illegal and unskilled paddlers create traffic jams in the town, he said.

Furthermore, most of the rickshaws and rickshaw-van paddlers do not use light at night. As a result the rickshaw pullers face accidents.

The chairman said, action will be taken against those responsible for illegal parking and who do not carry light at night.

Woman, child repression Court dismisses most cases because of lack of witness

KM REZAUL HAQUE, Gaibandha

Most of the cases filed under Woman and Child Repression Act proved to be false and fabricated in Gaibandha.

Many cases were filed just to harass the opponents on trifle matters. Although the tendency of filing such cases were increasing, but in courts most of the case were found meritless which got dismissed for want of adequate witnesses finally.

During the last one year till January 14 this year, a total 456 cases under Woman and Child Repression Act were filed with the respective courts and police stations.

A total 92 cases were filed with Sadullapur police station and 100 cases were filed with Gaibandha Combined Criminal Court. Out of those punishment was awarded to only three persons while 10 cases remained still under trial and 78 cases were dismissed after acquitting the accused. A total of 101 cases remained under investigation with respective police stations.

In Sunderganj upazila, 30 cases were filed with the police station and 42 other cases were filed with the respective court. The accused were acquitted in 33 cases, 39 others still remained under trial.

In Fulchari upazila eight cases were filed with police station and nine other cases were filed with the respective court. Eight cases were acquitted, three cases remained under trial, four cases lied with police for investigation and two persons were sentenced.

In Shaghata upazila 15 cases were filed with police station and 22 others were filed with respective court. Twenty were acquitted, seven cases remained under police investigation and 10 others remained still under trial.

In Gobindaganj upazila 17 cases were filed with the respective police station and 25 others at respective court. Twenty were acquitted, four cases remained under trial. One person was sentenced and 17 other cases remained under police investigation. Only three remained under trial.

In Palashbari upazila 13 cases

were filed with the respective police station and one was acquitted, 35 other cases remained under police investigation. A total of nine cases remained under trial in the respective courts.

In Gaibandha sadar upazila 14 cases were filed with the respective police stations and 37 other cases lied with the respective court. Out of those 25 were acquitted, 23 cases remained under police investigation. Only three remained under trial.

According to report of police stations, most cases filed under Woman and Child Repression Act were found to be false and fabricated which were dismissed in trial of court.

However, in village areas a tendency develop among the people to file such cases just to harass the opponents whatever it may be family disagreement or property disputes.

When doctors avoid village postings...

UNB, Gopalganj

When the doctors are usually unwilling to go to the rural areas, a noted gynecologist has come forward to provide treatment facilities to the poor people in Sadar upazila of Gopalganj.

Meanwhile, a six member medical team headed by gynecologist Dr. Hafizur Rahman visited different areas of the upazila and started providing healthcare facilities to the poor free of cost.

Proposed Hamida Begum Hospital, Training and Research Centre organised the healthcare programme under the Society of Under Privileged Farmers for Happiness and Improvement (Sukhi), a healthcare project.

The other members of the team included medicine specialist Prof Mahmudur Rahman, child specialist Dr ANM Salahuddin, ENT specialists Dr Quamruzzaman and Dr Mamun Morshed and gynecologist Dr Zulfu Ara Haider.

Faridpur DIARY

Body of youth recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Police recovered a dead body of a youth from a crop field at village Dhutrahata in Nagarkanda upazila recently.

The body was identified as that of Abdul Latif, 30, of the same village. Several mark of injuries were found in the body.

A case was lodged with Nagarkanda thana in this connection.

Quilt vendors doing brisk business

Quilt vendors are making brisk business in and around Faridpur town during this winter season.

Rush of customers at the quilt making shops are increasing day by day with the winter getting bitter.

When contacted some quilt vendors told this correspondent that a big size quilt is being sold here at Tk 450 to Tk 500, a medium size quilt at Tk 400 to Tk 450 and a single one at Tk 350 to Tk 400 depending on their qualities. Quilt covers are selling here at Tk 150 each.

"There are over 150 quilt shops in the town, all the shops are very busy making quilts on orders placed by the customers. One of the vendors said adding that quilt and mattress selling reach at the peak in the month of "Push" and "Mugh" when marriage ceremonies are held most and the brides get quilt and mattress from their father's houses as nuptial gifts.

Degree examinees frustrated

A complete frustration and dissatisfaction is prevailing among a large number of examinees of on-going Degree (Pass and Subsidiary) examination over the questions of general English (compulsory) which, they said, were very hard.

Some examinees of Faridpur Rajendra College centre met this correspondent recently and said that no such hard questions in general English were set in the final examination under National University (NU) before.

They urged the concerned authority to grant considerable grace-mark in the subject (general English) to get them passed.

Terrorism up at Alipur, Goalchamot

Armed clashes, stabbing, hurling and blasting of bombs and extortion of money are the regular feature in Faridpur town, especially is Alipur and Goalchamot areas.

The two rival groups exchanged gun fires for long time during the last three consecutive nights to establish their supremacy in the area. People of these areas are seized with panic apprehending killing and bloody incidents.

Police are not reportedly taking any measures against these terrorists.

Valuables worth Tk one lakh looted

A gang of terrorists attacked the house of Rafique Islam at village Char Chadpur Jamir Hajir Dangi in Sadarpur upazila of Faridpur and looted away valuables worth over Tk one lakh at arm's point on the night following Monday.

They beat the inmates of the house when resisted. The inmates of the house are now feeling a sense of insecurity badly.

Shibir activists go on rampage on CU campus

UNB, Ctg

Activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir on Sunday demonstrated on the Chittagong University campus demanding removal of its Vice Chancellor.

Urging VC Fazlee Hossain to quit, the Shibir activists under the banner of 'General Students Council' also threatened to disconnect power, gas and water supply lines to his residence and office on Monday.

Campus sources said the unruly Shibir activists laid siege to the VC office and locked banks and educational institutions like schools and colleges on the campus, paralysing all administrative activities.

The Shibir men will also hold rallies and take out processions on Monday although the authorities imposed a ban on holding rallies or staging demonstrations on the campus nearly a year ago.

The Jamaat-backed student organisation is demanding resignation of the VC for what they said his failure to smoothly run the university and attacked the VC Bhaban Saturday night, prompting the authorities to reinforce police.

All classes and examinations under the university remained suspended since July 13, 2001.