

NEWS SNAPS

Killer bus driver arrested**BSS, Rajshahi**

Detective Branch (DB) of police of RMP arrested the driver of the killer bus 'Modern Enterprise' Sultan Sheikh Chand, 27, who ran over the meritorious teacher of Jahangirnagar University Kaosar Hossain in front of the varsity on Friday.

Acting on a tip-off, DB police led by Assistant Commissioner Habibur Rahman raided the residence of the driver Sultan Sheikh Chand in Tikapara area of Boalia thana in the town on Sunday night and arrested the driver. He was handed over to Boalia thana police. It may be mentioned here that JU teacher Kaosar Hossain was killed when a Dhaka bound bus 'Modern Enterprise' from Rajshahi knocked him down.

KNM officials go on hunger strike**UNB, Khulna**

A good number of retired officials, employees and workers of Khulna Newsprint Mill (KNM) went on a hunger strike at the mill gate on Monday morning demanding immediate payment of their dues.

They said some 250 officials, employees and workers retired from the mill in recent years but they are yet to receive their retirement benefits like provident fund, gratuity and pension amounting to Tk 8 crore. They threatened to continue their fast unto death. When contacted the mill authorities said they had informed BCIC about the dues of the 250 retired officials and employees.

Miscreants damage five vehicles**UNB, Rajshahi**

Miscreants damaged five passing vehicles on Rajshahi-Dhaka highway at Choddapai in Mithar thana of Rajshahi on Tuesday.

Witnesses said the vehicles were damaged as a sequel to a conflict between two factions of local transport workers. Police arrested two people – Tareq and Jamil – for their involvement in the incident. A case was filed.

Ferry services introduced**UNB, Barisal**

Ferry services on the river Kalabazar has been introduced enabling the residents of Bhola to avail of direct bus services with other parts of the country.

The ferry service introduced seven months ago was opened recently after removing some obstacles.

Bridge to be constructed over Dhaleswari**UNB, Munshiganj**

The government will construct a bridge over the Dhaleswari river at Kharakandi in Keraniganj upazila of Munshiganj.

State Minister for Health Aman Ullah Aman laid the foundation stone of the bridge Sunday. Speaking on the occasion Aman said a smooth communication network is a precondition for the development of the country and the present government has undertaken programmes to construct roads, bridges and culverts across the country.

Youth with fake notes arrested**UNB, Brahmanbaria**

A youth was held from a bazaar in Brahmanbaria on Sunday while trying to shop with counterfeit notes of Tk 50.

Police said locals caught Jahangir, 20, with 13 fake notes as he went to pay for sweets he bought from a shop at Awlia Bazaar in Sadar upazila. He was later handed over to police along with the fake notes. In recent months, a number of criminals were caught with fake notes, including those of Tk 500, Tk 100, Tk 50, from different banks and business places as supply of forged notes from the neighbouring India has marked an unusual rise.

Robbers break into Rajbari Collectorate**UNB, Rajbari**

Armed robbers broke into the district collectorate building and damaged huge documents early Monday.

Police said four masked robbers stormed into the building tied up its two night guards and then broke into the ADC's (General) chamber and other rooms, and damaged documents kept in 10 steel almirahs. However, they did not take any money from the offices.

Five-day assembly of scouts in Rajbari**UNB, Rajbari**

A 5-day assembly of scouts began at local Railway Maidan Tuesday with much enthusiasm.

Some 400 students from 45 schools took part in the assembly with a slogan 'Scouting Against Terrorism.' Joint Secretary of the Directorate of Non-formal Education Kazi Farid Ahmed inaugurated the assembly.

IRRI-boro farming loses momentum**UNB, Narsingdi**

IRRI-boro paddy farming in Kishoreganj, Brahmanbaria and Narsingdi has lost momentum due to sudden price-hike of diesel and erratic power supply.

According to agriculture officials, cultivation of IRRI-boro crops on about 8 lakh acres of land in the three districts is being hampered as fuel supply in the region declined sharply in the last two weeks. A fuel dealer said diesel supply now stands at 170 to 200 litres a day against the demand of 2,000 litres in the districts. Diesel is now selling at Tk 19-20 against the government rate of Tk 17 per litre, affecting irrigation. Meanwhile, 40 per cent shallow and hand-driven tubewells have gone out of order due to quick fall in groundwater level, worsening sufferings of the marginal farmers.

Nine killed in Satkhira in January

ABU AHMED, Satkhira

Nine persons including four housewives were killed in Satkhira in the month of January this year.

On January 1, 2002, a housewife Kajal Rani Das, 18, wife of Dilip Das of village Kachua in Assassuni upazila was beaten to death by her husband. The killer husband demanded dowry which the victims's parents failed to pay. As a result he beat her mercilessly. As a result she died on the spot. Police arrested Dilip Das. A case was filed with Assassuni police station.

One person was allegedly killed by unidentified assailants on January 8, near Nattabazar in Kaliganj upazila. The victim was identified as Israful Islam, 50, of village Magurakhali in Kaliganj upazila. The victim while returning home from Nattabazar at about 8:30 pm. The miscreants attacked him and he died on the spot. None was arrested in this regard. A case was filed with Kaliganj police station.

In the other incident, an unmarried teen-aged girl who became pregnant, was killed by her lover at village Alipur in Sadar upazila on January 12. The victim was identified as Zamila Khatun, 18, daughter of Ahadul Sarder of village Alipur in Sadar upazila.

Amjad Ali, son of Babar Ali of village Shushilgasi in Sadar upazila offered love and proposed to marry Zamila Khatun in a bid to win the heart of the beautiful girl. Daughter of a poor family, she could not refuse his repeated offer of love and marriage, nor resist the temptation of a happy life with Amjad. She agreed and met him secretly on several occasions to make love. In the process Zamila got conceived. She pressed her lover to marry her. He refused to marry her and tried several times for abortion. As she refused Amjad beat her mercilessly and she died on the spot. police arrested Amjad. A case was filed with Satkhira PS.

In the other incident on January 13, one person who is also an armed robber was killed by a group of armed robbers at village Benadona in Kaliganj upazila.

The victim was identified as Abdur Rahim alias Abdul Dacoit of village Benadona in the same upazila.

The victim's wife said, her husband along other bandits after taking meal went out of his house at night and the following morning the body was found lying near a bridge of the village. Dispute over distribution of looted goods among the other dacoits of the same gang, is the cause of the killing, police apprehended. A case was filed with Kaliganj PS. None was arrested till writing of this report.

In another incident, a housewife was beaten to death by her husband at village Bhomra in Sadar upazila On

January 15.

The victim was identified as Bilkis Begum, 23, wife of Rejaul Islam of Bhomra in Sadar upazila.

Police said, soon after marriage, Rejaul Islam off and on used to beat Bilkis for bringing dowry from her parents who failed to pay Tk 25,000 as demanded. On the day of the incident he beat her mercilessly and she died on the spot. Police arrested Rejaul in this connection. A case was lodged with Satkhira PS.

On January 20, Ayub Ali, 28, son of Abdul Bari of village Gayeshpur in Sadar upazila was killed by his rivals.

Police said, the victim while harvesting in a disputed land, the opposite party attacked him with lethal weapons and he died on the spot. A case was filed with Satkhira PS.

On the following day, on January 21, house wife Sarathi Rani Mondal, 22, wife of Hiramondal of village Balika in Sadar upazila was beaten to death by her husband.

Police and villagers said, the killer husband demanded dowry amounting to Tk 20,000 which the victim's father failed to pay and he beat her mercilessly. She died on the spot.

A case was filed with Satkhira PS.

On January 25, police recovered a body of an unidentified youth aged about 26 from Mariala beel in Assassuni upazila. The body bore several marks of injuries.

a case was filed with Assassuni police station.

In the last incident, a local Juba League leader was murdered by a group of miscreants at dead of night on January 26 at village Kismat Uishpur in Kalaroa upazila.

The victim was identified as Tofayel Hossain Tuhin, 27, son of Khaibar Hossain of the same village.

Police said, Tofayel Hossain, president of Keralkata Union Juba League while returning home and reached near his house, a group of miscreants led by Bahauddin, son of Moksed Gazi of the same village attacked him. They threw bomb on the victim as his head was blown away. He died on the spot.

Mozammul Hossain alias Mofa was arrested in this connection.

A case was filed with Kalora police station.

Centenary celebration of Queen Victoria Public Library

ANWAR ALI, Natore

A three-day centenary celebration of the historic Queen Victoria Public Library in Natore started from Thursday (February 7).

'Pathagar hok alor Dishari' (library be our guide to be lighted)... with this slogan, the library authorities

have drawn up an elaborate programme to celebrate the centenary of the library.

A colourful rally of locals and invited guests from other parts of the country was held on the occasion.

Book fair, remembrance, reception to noted literatures, discussion meeting, cultural functions and art, recitation, hand-writing, music and dance competitions are arranged to mark the occasion.

A cultural function has also been arranged which will be followed by a medal distribution ceremony.

Medals will be distributed to the contributors of the century-old library.

Late king of Natore Moharaja Jagadindranath Roy is likely to be honoured with a posthumous veneration medal for his contribution. He had donated five decimals of land in Nature town to establish this library in 1901.



PHOTO: STAR

Chittagong City Mayor A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury recently inaugurated the 'Education Fair 2002' at M A Aziz Stadium gymnasium auditorium in Chittagong.

Natore DIARY

Bomb recovered from cinema hall**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore**

Natore police recovered a country made powerful time bomb from the VIP box of a cinema hall in Natore town on Thursday.

Yunus Ali, a cleaner of the cinema hall first noticed a polythene bag carrying the bomb beneath a seat of the box and informed the police. "The bomb could not explode as its time machine went out of order following weak batteries," told a senior police official. A general diary has been filed in this regard.

Attack on Naboti Industries Ltd

Some hired goons recently attacked the office of Naboti Industries Limited (NIL) at the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) industrial estate, Natore leaving one employee injured.

Manju Mia, and employee of NIL received first aid at a local clinic. The miscreants ransacked and damaged the office of NIL.

Four Bangladeshis languishing in Indian jails

UNB, Panchagarh

Four Bangladeshis, including a newly-wed couple, have been languishing in Indian jails even after completion of their prison terms in December last for lack of initiatives of the authorities to bring them back home.

Family members of the ill-fated detainees brought the matter to the notice of Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar recently who was learnt to have directed the BDR authorities to take necessary steps for their immediate return. But no step has been taken yet in this regard.

Another handicapped 25-year-old man, Fazlu, of Hajjipara village in Boda upazila has also been languishing in Jalpaiguri district jail for the last one month. BSF troops from Bangram BOP picked him up while he was returning home on Jan 1 from the frontier area and sent him to the jail.

The family members of the detainees have sought the Home Ministry's help to bring them back home as soon as possible.

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But Indian police from nearby Chopra thana with the help of BSF arrested them from inside Bangladesh territory and sent them

Driver with molasses loaded truck missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A molasses loaded truck along with its driver remained missing since January 18. It was proceeding towards Narayanganj from Natore.

Ananda Gopal Shaha, a molasses trader of Chalkbaydonath area in Natore town rented a truck (No-Dhaka-Metro-Da-6614) through the Truck Arrangement Brokers' Office, Natore on January 18 for delivery of sugarcane and date molasses worth Tk 2,25,042 to Abdul Zabber Khan of Pragati Traders Ltd in Narayanganj.

Driver of the truck Md Haider Ali started for Narayanganj on the same night, but he remained missing with his molasses loaded truck.

A case has been filed with Sadar thana in this connection.

Freedom fighters' rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Muktiyoddha Dal (BJMD), Boalia thana unit organised a gathering of freedom-fighters at a local community centre in Rajshahi city recently.

Presided over by Abu Sayeed Sarker, the gathering was addressed by city mayor Mijanur Rahman Minu as the chief guest. The meeting was also addressed, among others, by the central secretary general of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Central Command Council Advocate Moyenuddin as the special guest, Nazrul Islam Khoka, Masud Hossain, Nur Mohammad Penu, Harun-ur Rashid, Sadrul Amin and Alauddin Ahmed.

Later, a 21-member committee of BJDM, Boalia thana unit was formed with Abu Sayeed Sarker as the president and Shah Jamal Khan Paltu as the general secretary.

Body of youth recovered in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Police recovered the body of a young man from the Saheeb Quarter Park area in Mymensingh town on Sunday.

The victim was identified as Farid, 28, son of late Abdul Hakim of 24, Makarjani by-lane, Noumahal Nandi Bari, Mymensingh town. He was the owner of Farid Engineering Workshop at Sarada Gosh Road in the town.

Family sources said, Farid was called out of his business centre by one unidentified person at noon on Saturday. But he did not return. Later police recovered the body with marks of severe injuries. Both of his eyes were gouged out.

The body was sent to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) morgue for autopsy.

It is worth mentioning that Farid was scheduled to go to Singapore on Monday.

Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Narayan Chandra Das Chaklader, father of Ratan Kanti Chaklader, General Secretary of Moulvibazar unit of Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity and District Correspondent of The Daily Lal Sabuj died of old age ailments at his home at Moulvibazar town on January 19. He was 88.

His funeral ceremony was held at Moulvibazar Municipality burning ground on the same day where hundreds of people attended. The deceased left two sons and a daughter including a host of relatives to mourn his death. He was a businessman. He retired from his service at Moulvibazar Municipality as an accountant.