

NEWS SNAPS

One shot dead by forest guards

UNB, Habiganj

A man was shot dead allegedly by forest guards at Kalanga Forest Bit of Chunarughat upazila in Habiganj on Monday.

The deceased was identified as Farhad Mia, 25, who was accused in several cases relating to forest crimes. Police said some people called him out of his house Monday morning and then he was found dead in the reserved forest. Family sources alleged that forest guards shot him dead. Father of the victim filed a case against seven people of the Forest Department.

Fish trader shot, injured by extortionists

UNB, Bagerhat

A fish trader was shot and injured by some extortionists at Nowapara village in Sadar upazila of Bagerhat Tuesday night.

Police said the extortionists waylaid Abdul Latif Sheikh, 40, and demanded a handsome amount of toll. When we refused to give the money, they shot him.

Later, villagers rescued Abdul Latif and admitted him to Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. Police arrested three people -- Asaduzzaman, Wadud and Johur Khan -- in this connection.

Injunction on power disconnection

UNB, Gaibandha

A court in Gaibandha issued an interim injunction on disconnecting electricity of over 50 rice mills of Gaibandha by the Power Development Board (PDB) and Rural Electrification Board (REB).

Court sources said the sub-judge court on Thursday asked the local PDB and REB not to disconnect electricity lines from these rice mills upon a petition filed by president and the general secretary of Saghata Rice Mills Owners' Association. The PDB and REB authorities took steps to disconnect the electricity lines for handing over of power lines to each other.

Work on uplift schemes going on

UNB, Pirojpur

Work on 111 uplift schemes spending 1,114 metric tons of wheat is progressing fast in Pirojpur in the current fiscal year.

Of the total, 16 schemes are being implemented in Bhandaria, 10 in Kaukhali, 38 in Mathbaria, nine in Nazirpur, 25 in Sadar and 13 in Nesarabad upazilas. The schemes under Food for Works Programme include construction and reconstruction of roads, culverts, embankments and earth filling and excavation and re-excavation of ponds and canals. Meanwhile, construction work of two bridges in Sadar and Nazirpur upazilas is being implemented at a cost of about Tk 5.02 crore. Official sources said Nazirpur Bridge on Kaliganga river linking Sadar-Nazirpur-Matibhanga road is being built at a cost about Tk 3.77 crore and while Mitebhanga Bridge on Pirojpur-Illurkani road costing Tk 1.25 crore.

39 arrested in different cases in Tangail

BSS, Tangail

Tangail police arrested four persons and recovered 103 bottles of Indian phensidyl from a Dhaka-bound passenger bus coming from North Bengal in Bangabandhu Bridge area on Friday.

The arrested were identified as Faroque Hossain, Abulkalam, Abdullah and Emdadul hailing from Rajshahi. Besides, police arrested 35 persons as per courts warrants on the same day from different parts of Tangail under the special drives.



Staffers of Syngenta Bangladesh Limited pose for photograph at their Chittagong factory recently on the occasion of their annual picnic party.

Opinion exchange meeting in Rajshahi
People of northern region cannot enjoy benefits of Jamuna Bridge

UNB, Rajshahi

Speakers at an opinion exchange meeting in Rajshahi on Thursday said expected developments of the northern region were not done even after inauguration of Jamuna Bridge and poverty of this area was increasing for lack of desired investment.

The people of this region cannot enjoy the benefits of the Jamuna Bridge. Aiming at overall development of the northern region and to protect the "obvious desert", the speakers demanded to set up "Padma Barrage" and initiating "Northern Rajshahi Irrigation Project" in the region.

They said though road communications have been established and raw materials of the region are going freely to capital Dhaka, setting up of new industries and investment in different sectors here are still a far cry.

People's Empowerment Trust (PET) organised the opinion exchange meeting on "National Poverty Reduction Strategy: What, Why and for Whom" at Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) auditorium Thursday morning in collaboration with Actionaid Bangladesh.

PET chairperson and eminent economist Prof MM Akash presented the keynote paper on the topic. PET executive director Shishir Shil and Director (Operation) of Actionaid Bangladesh Shafiqul Islam also addressed the meeting.

City Awami League leader Alhaj Rafiq, reporter of The Daily Ittefaq and executive director of CCD Shah Anisur Rahman, Civil Surgeon of Rajshahi Dr M Shukur Uddin Mridha, former professor of Rajshahi Medical

College Jubaida Khatun, among others, took part in the discussion.

In his keynote paper, Prof Akash said ownership of land in the northern region of the country is more unequal and deprivation of northern region, specifically of Rajshahi, is well spelled.

He said 17 per cent of the total government khas land of Bangladesh is located in Rajshahi division, but only 0.73 acre of khas land has been scheduled to provide for each family though the number of landless is very high here.

He said that though the government failed to supply gas in the northern region, they are planning to export gas to India. Many areas of the northern region are suffering from heavy drought and an "economy of trafficking" has been developed in the wide-range border areas.

The speakers proposed to formulate law regarding minimum wages for labourers, taking timely and realistic steps for the economic development of women, including Adibasi (tribal) women, facilitating agro-based employment opportunity and projects for the poor segments of society.

They also suggested facilities of pisciculture for the poor in the ponds of rich people using container. Other suggestions include taking necessary steps to reinvest savings of the northern region within the region, provide equal health facilities of the government hospitals and health complexes to the people and allocation of khas land among the genuine landless people.

Rajshahi Medical College Teachers' Assoc body

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

BNP and Jamaat supported panel won uncontested in the election of Rajshahi Medical College Teachers' Association.

The new office-bearers of the association for the term of 2001-2002 are president Prof Lutfar Rahman, vice presidents -- Prof Mabub-ul Alam, Prof Syed Wahidur Rahman and Prof Abul Hossain, general secretary -- Dr Latifur Rahman, Treasurer -- Dr AKM Monuaurul Islam, organising secretary -- Dr Abu Jafar, joint-secretary -- Dr Asgar Hossain, literary secretary -- Dr Shah Mohammad Bodruddoja, cultural secretary -- Dr Sujjan Al Hasan and executive members -- Prof Fazlur Rahman, Prof SM Akram Hossain, Prof MH Haidary, Prof Sirajul Islam Patwary, Prof Abul Kasem Sarker, Prof Abu Bakr Siddiqui, Dr Azizul Haque, Dr Shahin Sultana and Dr ASM Akhtaruzzaman Shamim.

Corruption case filed

UNB, Khulna

The authority filed a corruption case against a leader of the Agrani Bank employees association for embezzling Tk 1.78 crore of the bank.

Khan Lutfur Rahman, General Secretary of Agrani Bank Karmachari Sangsad and Bangabandhu Parisad, went into hiding since the matter of embezzlement came into limelight.

Narsingdi BNP denies involvement in clashes

UNB, Narsingdi

Local BNP denied its involvement in Wednesday's bloody clashes at Kacharikandi village in Raipura upazila of Narsingdi saying that the troubles were at personal levels.

Over establishing supremacy over the area, the long-feuding Barabari and Fakirbari groups locked in clashes killing at least two people, said party central leader and former MP Abdul Alim Mridha at a press conference at local press club on Thursday evening.

He denounced press reports describing the fighting as intra-party. "The news is completely motivated and false. BNP has no connection with this. It's just a personal-level clash," said Mridha, also president of the Jatiyatabadi Tanti Samity.

There was no dispute in the party's local unit, he claimed and said the people of Fakirbari were responsible for the attack.

However, a large number of people have fled homes into nearby Bancharampur, Nabinagar and Brahmanbaria sadar areas to escape policy arrest.

Over Wednesday's incident one person named Khalilur Rahman filed a case against 81 persons. 1

Identify persons responsible for session jam, IU VC asks students

RAHAT AHMED, Kushtia

Vice Chancellor of Islamic University (IU) Prof Mustafizur Rahman asked the students to identify those responsible for session jam which varies from one year to three years in various departments of the university.

He told this while addressing the students of the university for the first time following his appointment here recently.

He also announced the new campus timing from 8am to 8 pm. During his speech he asked all the persons who are studying or working in this university to strictly abide by the Islamic code of conduct otherwise, they need not desirable here, he declared.

Registrar Dr Moslem Uddin introduced the new VC to the students.

Treasurer Prof Mosharrar Hossain was in the chair.

"Not only religion related subjects, but subjects related to science and technology along with theology will also be studied here, said the VC. He promised the students that he would implement the Islamic University Acts strictly.

"This university will produce a lot of Islamic revolutionary leaders", declared the VC.

He advised the students not to boycott any scheduled class or examination. He warned that punitive actions would be taken against the irregular teachers.

During his address he disclosed that Chancellor Begum Khaleda Zia

asked him to work for turning this university into an international university. So, he urged all to work relentlessly for fulfilling the desire of the Chancellor, he told.

Meanwhile, non-Muslim teachers and students including the progressive forces of the university expressed their grave concern at the VC's directive to abide by the Islamic code of conduct.

About 500 non-Muslim teachers, students and employees were present on the occasion.

Once the female and non-Muslim students and teachers were barred from studying and working in Islamic University, according to the Acts of this university.

However, now females and non-Muslim students, teachers and employees are allowed to study and work in this university from the 1990-'91 session by changing the university Act during the tenure of the then VC Prof Dr Sirajul Islam.

2 killed in clash in Sundarbans

UNB, Khulna

A fierce clash between two groups of bandits in the deep forest of the Sundarbans left two of their members killed on Tuesday.

Police confirmed the incident, which occurred in Koira upazila. However, the identity of the victims could not be known. The bodies were brought to Khulna General Hospital for autopsy.