

NEWS SNAPS

Body of unidentified woman recovered

UNB, Manikganj
Police recovered the body of an unidentified woman from a canal behind a godown at Mohadebpur in Shibalaya upazila of Manikganj on Sunday.
The body of the woman aged about 30 years bore marks of injury. Police suspect that miscreants killed her after rape and later dumped the body into the canal. Another report adds: Sixteen people were injured in a clash between two rival groups of villagers over occupying a house at Charitli village in Saturia upazila on the same day. Of the injured, Manikjan, 45, Kamaljan, 50, Sonamia, 40, Ershad, 17, and Shahid, 25, were admitted to the Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

Housewife killed in road accident

UNB, Manikganj
A housewife was killed and 18 other people were injured in separate road accidents on Dhaka-Ancha highway Sunday.
Sonaburu, 60, wife of Ahmed Ali of Dhusharia village in Harirampur upazila in Manikganj, died on the spot when a speeding bus ran over her near Tepra bus stand. In another incident, 18 passengers of 'Nosiman', a local three-wheeler vehicle, were injured when the driver of their vehicle lost control and fell it into a ditch at Nokhonda. On them, critically injured Bishna Rani, 30, Puti Rani, 25, Salam, 15, Thandu, 23, Rokman, 25, and Chhabai, 25 were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

51 Mongla Port workers go on retirement

UNB, Bagerhat
Fifty-one workers of Mongla Port went on voluntary retirement on Sunday under the golden handshake programme of the port authorities.
The port chairman handed over cheques of Tk 7.65 lakh to them in the evening. The benefit received by the retired workers ranged from 15 to 40 thousand taka. Sources said 381 more workers are in the retirement list. A total of 426 workers were sent to retirement under the golden handshake programme last year.

JP (Manju) leader injured by miscreants

UNB, Jhalakati
A local leader of Jatiya Party (Manju) was injured after a group of miscreants beat him up mercilessly at Chhoto Koilbartya village of Rajapur upazila of Jhalakati on Friday night.
Family sources said M Elias, who is also member of Galua Union Parishad had been hiding since the October 1 general election on apprehension of being attacked by local BNP supporters. But on that night, the miscreants swooped on him, beat him mercilessly and broke one of his legs. He was admitted to Pirojpur Sadar Hospital.

23 abducted in Kushtia in four months

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Incidents of abduction for realising ransom increased alarmingly following deterioration of the law and order in Kushtia in four months till January this year.
According to newspaper reports, at least 23 people were abducted in six upazilas of the district since October 30 last year till the end of January this year. Of the total, five people were killed while some others tortured because of realising money from their families.
Some identified organised gangs remained involved in such abduction incidents in Kushtia. But the law enforcers were yet to take stern measures against the culprits to save the innocent people from their clutches, local people observed.
When contacted with the top police official of the district, he said to this correspondent that the law and order in Kushtia was up to the mark despite some sporadic incidents of abduction.

Gas supply Installation work of pipeline going on in Pabna

UNB, Pabna

Installation work of pipeline for gas supply in Pabna municipal area is going on in full swing aiming at giving domestic and commercial gas connection by next June.
Official sources said, under the work that began in the first of week this month, main gas pipeline would be installed on 56 roads and lanes by April.
They said the supply of gas to houses and business establishments can be possible from June after the installation work of rider (sub-line) in the second phase.
Mentionable that four organisations -- Nation Builders, Technique Construction, Nix Construction and Dhaka Gas -- are allowed to install the 50-km-long main-gas pipeline while Tanmoy Traders was permitted to give gas connection to the consumers.
Meanwhile, Western-region Gas Company has compensated over Tk 29.36 lakh to Pabna Municipality for digging various roads in the municipality area.

New provost of IU hall

IU CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Mohammad Hasanath Ali of Accounting Department took over the charge of the office of provost of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall of Islamic University (IU).
IU VC Prof. Mustafijur Rahman appointed him on January 1 for a one-year term replacing Dr Mohammad Hussain of the Accounting Department.

The gangs remained engaged in picking up people at gunpoint and demanded ransom from their relatives. According to victims, the abductors already realised a good amount of money from the family members of victims.
The victims were identified as Nazmul, Babul, Babu, Enamul, Shahidul, Karim, Siddik, Firoj, Faruque, Ratna, Javed, Sariful, Safiqul, Kafil, Lalon, Jalal, Uttam, Krisna, Sanjib, Asaduzzaman, Ali and Shohel. Of them, the kidnappers killed Ratna, Asaduzzam, Latif and Shohel.
The rest were released on payment of ransom.
The number of abduction victims stood at nine during the period of September 30, 2000 till January 1, 2001. Of them six were killed while one remained missing and the rest were released after payment of ransom money.
According to records, a total of 18 incidents of kidnapping took place in 1999 while the number was 28 in 1998.

Among the victims, Nazrmul, 20, son of Biswas was abducted at gunpoint in early October and he was released following payment of Tk 1 lakh as ransom on October 5.
Babul, 21, another victim was abducted and released after payment of Tk 1 lakh.
A college student Babu, 23, was abducted by "Mander Bahini" and he was released after payment of Tk 2 lakh on October 16. The miscreants kidnapped Enamul Haq on October 24.
Police admitted about the incident, but the victim remained untraced since then.
Karim Mondal, 27 was abducted on way home and he was released after payment of Tk 60,000 on the last day of October.
In another incident, Faruq, 20, was abducted for ransom and released after payment of Tk 1 lakh.
Siddiq, 29, was abducted from his Mirpur upazila residence and released after payment of Tk 1.5 on November 13.
On the same day Firoj was

abducted from Daulatpur upazila and released after payment of Tk 65,000.
A housewife named Ratan was kidnapped and killed by a gang of terrorists and murdered after being raped on November 18.
Ataur, a businessman was abducted on November 19 and released on 22 the same month after payment of Tk 2 lakh.
Javed Mondal and two sons Sariful and Shafiqul both school students were abducted and released after payment of Tk 2 lakh on November 27.
On the same day Kafil and Lalon were also abducted by "Mander Bahini" and released after payment of ransom money.
Jalal Uddin, a schoolteacher was kidnapped from Daulatpur and released after payment of Tk 1 lakh on November 22.
On the same day Sanjib, 45, and his two sons Uttam, 22 and Krisno, 28, were abducted and released after payment of Tk 2 lakh on December 8.
Abductors kidnapped Asaduzzaman Bhutto, 30, on December 12 and his body was recovered on the following day.
An egg trader Syed Ali was abducted on December 23 along with Tk 90,000 and he was released after payment of additional money amounting to Tk 1.50 lakh.
A local contractor Latif was abducted by a gang of abductors on December 26. His severed head was found on the following day from the Mojampur area. Sohel Rana, 25, was abducted from his village at Ziaroky in Sadar upazilla on January 28. Abductors demanded Tk 1 lakh as ransom, but his father failed to provide the money. Ultimately he was chopped to death by the abductors.
Families of the victims did not file any case in fear of reprisal by the criminals.
The trend of abduction is still continuing and people of the area feel insecure.

1,446 crimes recorded in Netrakona last year

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

A total of 1,446 cases of various crimes were filed in 10 upazilas of Netrakona in 2001, police sources said.
Of those, killings -53, rapes-57, armed robberies-7, acid attacks-4, woman repressions-94, child repressions-3, abductions-9, attack on police-1, burglary-47, cow lifting-30,

pillage of electric wire-3, other thefts-52, arms cases-10, intoxicant cases-23, smuggling cases-10, others-959.
An unofficial source, however, said at least 2,000 crimes occurred during the period.
Some crimes are also ssettled through village arbitration.

Contractors lock up WDB chief engineer's office in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Hundreds of contractors of Water Development Board (WDB) on Monday staged a demonstration and laid siege to the office of the chief engineer and other engineers of WDB, Rangpur in demand of their arrear bills amounting to Tk 20

crores.
The demonstrating contractors also locked all the offices of WDB in the district town.
President of WDB contractors' Welfare Association Lokman Hossain Mondol and Secretary Amirul Huq Khokan alleged that all the contractors WDB did not get the bills of their work which completed in 1999-2000. Instead of sanctioning fund for the on-going projects, the present government diverted fund elsewhere, alleged the WDB contractors' leaders.
They demanded immediate sanction of required funds for payment of their outstanding bills.
When this correspondent contacted the WDB chief engineer, he told that he already faxed to higher authorities in this regard.

JCD armed cadre held at N'ganj

A CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Police arrested an armed cadre of JCD from Chashara area in the town Thursday morning.
Police said JCD armed cadre Lablu, 30, was wanted in seven cases, including terrorism and extortion.
Fatullah police raided the Chashara area at around 11am and arrested Lablu. They also recovered 13 bullets from his possession.

Smugglers beat BDR personnel, loot rifles

UNB, Rajshahi

Three BDR personnel were injured and their rifles looted by smugglers near Muktarpur frontier village in Charghat upazila on Thursday morning.
During the attack, the smugglers also abducted one BDR man.
The Battalion Commander of 35 Rifles said a gang of 60 smugglers attacked a four-member patrol team of BDR and beat them in the area.
The smugglers took the abducted BDR man across the border, he said. BSF guards rescued the BDR man and recovered the rifles in the afternoon.



Jyotirindra Bodhipriyo Larma, Chairman, Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council inaugurating a Nutrition Seminar organised by Nestle Bangladesh Limited in association with Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council at the Rangamati District Council conference room on Sunday.

Seminar to create awareness about nutrition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nestle Bangladesh Limited organised a seminar on nutrition at Rangamati on Sunday.
The seminar was held at the district council conference room, Rangamati in association with Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council.
Jyotirindra Bodhipriyo Larma, Chairman, Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council inaugurated the seminar as the chief guest. In his address Larma appreciated the effort of Nestle in holding such an important programme at Rangamati which will go a long way in developing nutrition awareness among the people of this region.
Mirza Golam Hossain, Manager, Business Intelligence and General affairs of NBL delivered the address of welcome.
Two nutrition specialists from the Institute of Nutrition and Food Science, University of Dhaka were the keynote speakers.
Among others, Manik Lal Dewan, Chairman, Chittagong Hill Tracts District Council, Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO), Thana Family Health officers, Thana Family

Planning officers, Union Parishad chairmen, tribal headmen, headmasters of schools, representatives of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and local elite took part in the seminar.

Having failed to realise toll ...

UNB, Barisal

Extortionists set fire to a house at Quazirchar village in Muladi upazila of Barisal on Thursday, burning down property worth over Tk one lakh.
Having failed to realise toll from Khalilur Rahman of the village, the hoodlums set his house ablaze at dead of night, damaging huge valuables.
Rahman said the miscreants had demanded Tk 20,000 as toll from him a week back.
In another incident, a youth was critically injured when miscreants chopped him on Sadar road near Kotwali thana on the day.
Witnesses said 7-8 armed terrorists attacked Prodip Ghose, 19, at noon, as he was busy selling goods at his shop in the area. He was admitted to a local hospital in a critical condition.
In another incident, police recovered the body of a young man from the river Arialkha in Muladi upazila Wednesday night five days after he went missing.

Cocktails hurled at CU teachers' bus

BSS, Ctg

Two cocktails were hurled at a teachers' bus of Chittagong University (CU) in Baijit Bostami area of the city on Thursday.
Police said, a group of students allegedly belonging to Chhatra League hurled the cocktails at the bus carrying some teachers to the campus.
The bus was partially damaged and there was no report of injury.
The authorities of the CU filed a case with Khulsi police station on Thursday night in this connection.
Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) imposed an indefinite strike on CU campus since November 3 to press home their demands which include punishment to the killers of its senior vice-president Ali Murtoza and arrest of those responsible for campus violence on the day.

12 vessels seized for polluting Karnaphuli

UNB, Ctg

A mobile court of Chittagong Port Authority on Thursday seized 12 vessels from different points of Karnaphuli for polluting the river, evading tax and other charges.
The court also fined the vessels Tk 1.38 lakh during the operation conducted from Shah Amanat Bridge to Shikolbaha. Of the total, seven are cargo-ships, one barge, three trawlers and one oil-tanker.