

NEWS SNAPS

Bodies of two women recovered

UNB, Chapainawabganj

Police recovered the bodies of two unidentified women from the bank of the river Padma in Alatuli area in Sadar upazila of Chapainawabganj on February 13.

Police suspected that the women aged about 45 and 18 years were killed after rape.

Four youths with arms arrested

UNB, Munshiganj

Police arrested four youths with arms while trying to collect tolls from a boat on the Dholeswari river near Munshiganj town on Monday.

They were Nazrul, Habib, Sohel and Sujon. The arms recovered from them were shutter gun and revolver and five rounds of bullet.

Three-day agri-fair concludes

UNB, Panchagarh

A three-day agricultural fair concluded at the premises of the local Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) on Monday.

Chairman of Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank M Ruhul Kabir Rizvi inaugurated the fair as the chief guest on Saturday. Some 10 stalls were set up and over 200 high yielding agricultural products were displayed in the fair.

Second phase of TLM begins

UNB, Gopalganj

Second phase of Total Literacy Movement (TLM) under the title "Spondito Gopalganj" began in Gopalganj on Thursday.

Additional District Magistrate Shahid Ullah inaugurated the programme at Tungipara Khansahib Sheikh Mosharrif Hossain High School. Under the three-month programme, which will be continued till April, 13,808 people will be taught in 951 centres of five upazilas of Gopalganj.

Workshop on soil fertility

UNB, Thakurgaon

A daylong workshop on "Integrated Soil Fertility and Fertiliser Management" organised by Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) was held at Ranishangkhol upazila in Thakurgaon on Thursday.

Local MP Hafizuddin Ahmed attended as the chief guest while the deputy director of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) was special guest. Deputy Director of Thakurgaon agriculture department Abdus Salam presided over the workshop while Ranishangkhol upazila agriculture officer Shafiq Alam presented report on the project. A total of 150 farmers from different parts of Thakurgaon took part in the workshop.

Smuggled goods worth Tk 77 lakh seized

UNB, Joypurhat

Bangladesh Rifles in separate drives in Joypurhat-Hili frontier areas seized Indian smuggled goods worth Tk 77 lakh during the first fortnight of this month.

The seized goods included sugar, salt, cumin, orange, cosmetics, fertiliser, bicycle, saree, lungi, three-piece, medicine, egg, toys, bedcover and power milk. The border guards also filed 175 cases against the smugglers with the police during the same period. BDR sources said in one of the drives on Thursday on Hili bazar post office road they seized a Dhaka-bound truck with 5,400 kgs of powder milk worth Tk 3.63 lakh. None was arrested in this connection. The seized goods were handed over to the local Customs.

Five outlaws arrested

UNB, Bagerhat

Five activists of outlawed Purba Bangla Communist Party were arrested from Boro Bahirda village in Fakirhat upazila of Bagerhat on Friday.

Locals said the terrorists went to the house of Abdul Majid in his absence and demanded Tk 14,000 as toll from his wife. When the villagers came to know it, they caught the extortionists and handed over them to the police. The arrested were identified as Mintu Sheikh, Ruhul Amin, Rabiu and Hafizur Rahman of Rupsha, and Aiyub Ali of Boro Bahirda village.

IRRI-boro farming faces setback

UNB, Sirajganj

IRRI-boro farming in country's northern districts is facing a setback due to price-hike of urea fertiliser and erratic power supply.

Farmers apprehended that this year's target of production would not be achieved if steps were not taken immediately to ensure supply of the fertiliser at fair prices. They also alleged that dealers stopped supply of fertiliser on various pleas although there is a buffer stock of fertiliser in many godowns, including the Baghabari godown. As a result, price of urea fertiliser has shot up, causing concern among the poor farmers. Now, a 50-kg sack of fine granule urea fertiliser is being sold between Tk 325 and Tk 335 and fertiliser of Jamuna fertiliser factory between Tk 360 and Tk 380 in the local markets.

16 uplift schemes going on

UNB, Madaripur

Zila Parishad, Madaripur has been implementing 16 development schemes costing Tk 40 lakh in the current fiscal year.

The schemes include metalling of roads, repair of primary school buildings and construction of bridges and culverts. The work is expected to be completed by June next. Meanwhile, work on three uplift schemes at a cost of Tk 3 crore is progressing fast at Kalkini municipality. The schemes include supply of pure water among the dwellers, development of sanitation and drainage systems.

Orientation meeting on child labour

UNB, Sherpur

An orientation meeting on riskiest jobs for child workers was held at the RDS office premises in Sherpur Thursday.

RDS, a local NGO, and Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) in cooperation with International Labour Organisation (ILO) and IPEC organised the programme inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner Abul Hossain. The meeting was told that the country's children are forced to do 401 odd jobs of which 47 are risky while 11 riskiest. The meeting emphasised the importance of birth registration to eliminate child labour and recommended amendments to section 8/1 of the constitution terming it as a "barrier" to ensuring child rights.

3,000 crimes committed in Bogra last yr

UNB, Bogra

Some 3,000 crimes, including 100 murders, took place in Bogra last year, indicating that the administration needs to do more to improve the law and order situation.

According to police records, four people were killed in political violence while 96 in non-political incidents. Besides, police recorded 20 incidents of robbery, 151 of rape, eight of acid attack, 25 of abduction, 639 of women repression, 36 of violence, 135 of stealing and 1,748 of other crimes during the period. Some 6,736 people were arrested under Special Power Act during the year.



PHOTO: STAR
BNP central committee member and noted social worker Principal Rabeya Ali receives a bouquet from a girl while inaugurating the Agricultural, Industrial and Business Fair-2002 at Netrokona recently.

Devastating fire in 3 dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Increasing fire incidents have raised great concern among the people in three districts of Barisal, Narayanganj and Sylhet.

Cash and valuables worth crores of taka have been gutted in the aforesaid places.

UNB from Sylhet reports: A devastating fire gutted 12 shops at Babur Bazaar in Jokiganj upazila of Sylhet injuring two businessmen critically Monday.

Fire Brigade sources said the fire originated from a petrol and kerosene selling shop and soon engulfed nearby 11 other shops including clothes, stationery and grocery shops.

On information firefighters from Sylhet Fire Service rushed to the spot and doused the blaze with the help of local people.

Two sibling brothers -- Mikul Mia and Bipul Mia -- suffered burn injuries and got admitted to Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Our Staff Correspondent from

Barisal reports: At least four people have been injured and 120 shops including other establishments have been gutted in a devastating fire incident at Patarhat Bazaar in Mehendiganj thana of Barisal on Sunday night.

Valuables and cash worth Tk 10 crore have been gutted.

According to fire brigade, police and local people, fire originated from an electric short circuit from a shop in the bazaar which spread around and engulfed the nearby shops mostly stationeries, wholesale stores, restaurants and in the area within a short period.

The fire incident started around 8 pm and lasted for about five hours, locals said.

Mehendiganj thana headquarters remained almost snapped from Barisal and other places for hours together. This is because of shifting of police wireless set and arms from the thana during the fire incident.

The thana is situated near the place of occurrence.

Fire fighters from Barisal went to

the spot with three marine rescue vessels headed by an additional police super at about 9:30 pm.

Md Abdul Hossain, State Minister for Finance and Planning, cancelled his Dhaka tour and stayed on the spot.

UNB reports from Narayanganj: A devastating fire at a garment factory burnt valuable chemicals worth several lakhs of taka near Bhulta in Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj on Sunday.

The fire originated at the godown of Harvest Rich Garments at 6 pm and soon engulfed nearby areas creating panic.

Local people first rushed to the spot to douse the fire when five of them sustained burn injury.

The blaze, however, brought under control by the fire fighters from Demra and Hajiganj fire services after three hours frantic efforts. Though the garment owner claimed loss was Tk one crore, but another source estimated the loss to be about Tk 50 lakh.

Six hurt as Skid ghat handling workers clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Six persons were injured in an armed clash between two rival groups of skid ghat handling workers' union at station road at about 11 am Tuesday.

The injured identified as Sekander, 36, Abdul Khaleque, 30, Noor Islam, 34, Haroon, 32, Rafiqul, 28 and Abdus Salam, 27, were admitted to sadar hospital.

The clash took place when Ershad Shikder faction of handling workers union brought out a procession protesting attack on Selim Sader, joint secretary of the union on Monday evening.

Supporters of Gaffar Biswas faction attacked processionists with daggers and lethal weapons, police and witnesses said.

Two of the injured persons belonging to Ershad Shikder group were stabbed. Their condition is stated to be critical, hospital sources said.

Supporters of both the factions fighting for capturing leadership of the union were found taking preparation with all kinds of weapons in the evening at different points of skid ghat and railway colony areas.

Both the factions of the union are being backed and blessed by two rival groups of city BNP. But leaders of city BNP, when contacted, denied their involvement in incident.

Police arrested handling worker Mizan, 30, for stabbing Sekander and Khaleque. Additional police forces have been deployed in skid ghat area to avert further violence.

Bid to snatch cattle from trawler in N'ganj: 15 held

A CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Police arrested 15 people while they were trying to snatch sacrificial cattle from a trawler in the river Shitalakhya on Monday night.

According to police, a gang of 15 terrorists swooped on a cattle trawler in Kalagachhia area of the river at about 10 pm and tried to snatch cattle from the trawler at gunpoint.

A patrol team of police led by SP Shafiqul Islam reached the spot and arrested Dost Mohammad, Liton, Mohammad Mia, Anisur Rahman, Monir Hossain (1), Monir Hossain (2), Ibrahim, Alamgir, Bachchu, Nur Islam, Sabuz Mia, Kawsar, Wasim, Maslem and Kanchan.

Listed terrorist held with arms in Munshiganj

BSS, Munshiganj

A listed terrorist of Munshiganj was arrested and a revolver loaded with five bullets recovered from his possession by Sreenagar thana police from Jahanabad in Baghara union in the early hours of Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided an abandoned house at village Jahanabad at around 3:15 am and nabbed Abdur Rob alias Raba, 48, son of Rashid Bepari of the village. There are 11 cases against him, including murder, terrorism and extortion, police said.

Acid attack on mother, her 2 children

BSS, Panchagarh

A mother and her two children were critically injured as a gang of miscreants threw acid on them at a village in Debiganj upazila of Panchagarh on Sunday night.

Police said the miscreants threw acid on Anibala, 20, and her children -- Shymali, 5, and Shymal, 2 -- as she did not respond to their indecent proposal.

They entered into the house of Anibala by cutting the fence and threw acid on them while they were asleep.

The critically injured Anibala and her two children were admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.



PHOTO: STAR

Iqbal Hasan Mahmud, State Minister for Power receives the first issue of "The Daily Chand Tara", a Sirajganj based Bangla daily newspaper from its editor Akhteruzzaman on Friday. The daily is being published by Aklima Haque.

Shortage of teachers at Saroda Sundari College

ABDUL MATIN FAKIR, Faridpur

Acute shortage of teachers has been prevailing Government Saroda Sundari Mahila College in Faridpur. As a result, the academic of the institution is being hampered seriously.

This college is the only residential women's college in the southwestern region of the country. A good number of meritorious students from different places of the region get admitted to the college for proper education. But some of them alleged that their classes on different subjects are not regularly held owing to paucity of teachers. The honours students are the worst sufferers.

When contacted, the principal of the college told this correspondent that honours courses have been introduced in the college in two subjects English and Social Welfare a few years ago. But he regretted that the English department has only one teacher and the Social Welfare department has three teachers as against at least eight teachers required in each department in which honours courses are taught.

The principal added that there is no teacher in the Geography and

the Home-Economics departments.

Besides, there is only one teacher in the Mathematics department though B.Sc course has been introduced three years back.

The concerned authority should take immediate steps to create the required new posts and fill in already created posts in every department of the college for the greater interest of education of the students.

Distribution of rice under VGF

UNB, Brahmanbaria

Government has allocated 510 metric tons of rice for the distressed people of Brahmanbaria on the occasion of the holy Eid-ul-Azha.

Official sources said rice is being distributed under Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme of the government to help the hapless people celebrate the Eid. Under the programme rice would be distributed among 51,000 VGF cardholders at the rate of 10 kilogram per card. Local administration has already started distribution of rice.