

NEWS SNAPS

Jubo League leader arrested

**UNB, Natore**  
A Jubo League leader was arrested from his residence in the town last week. Police said Matir Rahman alias Moti, president of Lalpur Union Jubo League, was wanted in connection with a smuggling case. Family sources alleged that his rival group implicated Matur in the false smuggling case.

Dakhil examinee gunned down

**UNB, Bagerhat**  
A Dakhil examinee was gunned down allegedly by his cousin in Dakkhin Satalori village in Morelganj upazila here on Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Shohag, a student of local Shafiuddin Dakhil Madrasa and son of Rustam Ali. Police said Milon Hawlader opened gunfire on Sohag as he refused to marry his sister, leaving him dead on the spot. On information, police arrested Milon along with the illegal revolver. A case was filed.

Four terrorists arrested

**UNB, Shariatpur**  
Police arrested four terrorists with firearm from south Madhyapara in sadar upazila on Monday morning.

Local people caught hold of Abdur Rahman alias Delwar, Alamgir, Golam Hossain and Jahangir Hossain at 7am when they tried to create panic brandishing revolver. They were later handed over to police.

2,134 phensidyl bottles recovered

**UNB, Chandpur**  
An infamous drug trader was arrested along with 2,134 bottles of phensidyl from Ghoshpara Koladi area in Motlab upazila last week.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the area and arrested the drug trader Bimal. They also recovered the bottles of phensidyl and some other bottles of liquor from his possession.

Bus, tempo workers clash

**UNB, Barisal**  
Some 13 people were injured in a clash between bus and tempo workers in suburban Charkaua area on Friday.

Local people said at least 10 tempos were damaged during the clash that erupted at noon as a sequel to Thursday's clash between the same groups. Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. Sixteen people, including a policeman, were injured in Thursday's clash at the same place.

UP chairman assaulted in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A Union Parishad chairman was injured seriously in an attack by his rival party men on the UP office premises at Chara Battala in Kalaroa Upazila on February 19.

Chairman of Keralkata union Firoz Ahmed Swapan, also organising secretary of Kalaroa Upazila Awami League, was assaulted allegedly by the BNP activists.

Armed with lethal weapons, the BNP men swooped on him when he reached the office and hit him with the weapons on his head.

They also warned him not to file any case in this regard. Later, the chairman was taken to hospital in a critical condition.

The incident whipped up a wave of discontent among the members and staffs of the union parishad.

Satkhira district AL and Kalaroa Upazila AL condemned the attack and demanded arrest of and punishment to the culprits. A case was filed with Kalaroa Police.

Acid attack on housewife in Feni

UNB, Feni

A housewife sustained severe burn injuries when assailants threw acid on her at village Katakhill in Sonagazi upazila on Saturday.

Police said the hoodlums threw the corrosive substance on Momena, mother of a five-year-old child, at dead of night when she came out of her room.

Momena was admitted to Sadar hospital in a critical condition.

Momena's husband Nizamuddin has been serving in a company in Oman. Reason behind the acid attack could not be known immediately.

Moulvibazar municipal commissioner arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Sadar police arrested Masud Ahmed, a commissioner of Moulvibazar Municipality, on charge of extortion and terrorism following a case filed by one Badrul Alam of village Baharmorden under Sadar upazila on February 14.

Meanwhile, Moulvibazar Municipality chairman Alhaj Mahmudur Rahman demanded immediate release of the commissioner, saying that police have arrested him without any investigation into the allegation.

In a press conference at his office on February 16, the chairman said Masud has always fought against terrorism and illegal toll collection. And he also cooperated the police in containing terrorism in the town, he added.

In another press conference on February 17, Badrul Alam, who filed the case, alleged that commissioner Masud has a network of toll collection and he is one of the victims.

Meanwhile, a 51-member committee has been formed with Alhaj Sheikh Abdul Kadir as its convenor to launch action programmes to press its demand for the release of Masud Ahmed.

Newly wed young man murdered

UNB, Nilphamari

An influential father, failing to restrain his daughter from marrying the son of a poor peasant, allegedly got the son-in-law killed within five days of the couple's wedding.

Ironically, police refused to register the case of murder. Instead, they recorded an unnatural death (UD) case under influence in what appeared as a bid to change the course of justice.

It all happened on Eid-ul-Azha night (February 23) at village Goda in Kishoreganj upazila of the district.

UNB correspondent Siddique Kazal visited the village and talked to a cross-section of people about the murder of Aynul Haq, 23, the bright son of Nazrul Islam, a peasant of Goda village, that created sensation in the area.

Pappi, 18, daughter of Patu Mia, fell in love with her neighbour, Aynul Haq, Patu Mia and his most influential brother, Aliar Rahman Mia, reluctantly agreed to the marriage fearing that Pappi may elope with the boy. The marriage took place on February 18.

The father-in-law, Patu Mia, invited Aynul on the Eid day. The happy couple went to his house. After dinner, they were returning home at night. Three sons of Aliar Mia -- Shah Alam, Sharif and Philip -- caught hold of Aynul unawares on the way at about 9:30 pm.

In presence of Pappi, they beat him mercilessly. Finally, they poured poisonous pesticide into Aynul's mouth despite Pappi's fervent pleading to her cousins to spare the life of her young husband.

Terrified by the horrendous acts of her cousins, Pappi raised an alarm. Soon the villagers rushed to the spot and they took Aynul to hospital where doctors declared him dead.

The following morning, Nazrul Islam went to thana but police refused to file the case for murder of his son. For police has already registered a case of unnatural death (UD) of Aynul (No. 1 dated 24.2.2002) on information from Pappi's guardians.

Residents said post-mortem of Aynul's body was done in the hospital, but the report was not available till Feb. 25. They alleged that Aliar Mia, father of the accused, has been exerting influence to prove that Aynul committed suicide by taking poisonous pesticide.

Nazrul Islam, the poor father of Aynul, told this correspondent that the guardians of Pappi have filed an UD case in connection with the murder of his son to suppress the truth.



Sundarban Dibas Udjapan Parishad brought out a procession at Satkhira recently to mark the Sundarbans Day.

Tk 45 cr loan sanctioned for development of tea gardens

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The Ministry of Finance has sanctioned a grant of Tk 45 crore for the development of tea gardens.

Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has received this grant from the ministry to distribute loans among the tea gardens. But the sick and least developed units are not eligible for this loan.

The Project Development Unit (PDU) of Bangladesh Tea Board has formed a Local Technical Committee to recommend tea gardens seeking loans.

After verifying the needs of the interested tea gardens, the committee has already recommended distribution of Tk 36.99 crore among 70 tea gardens. Cases of 17 other tea gardens are under consideration

by the committee, a high official of PDU said.

According to the directive of the Finance Ministry, the total loan amount will be disbursed in three consecutive fiscal years. And the committee has recommended distribution of Tk 11.71 crore in the first year, Tk 14.00 crore in the second year and Tk 11.28 crore in the third year.

Secretary of the Bangladeshiya Cha Sangsad (BCS) at Chittagong told this correspondent over telephone that Tk 45 crore has been sanctioned for the overall development of tea estates, excluding sick and least developed tea gardens.

Terrorists become active again in SW region

UNB, Benapole

Despite 158 police camps set up in the country's southwestern region to curb terrorism, top terrorists here became active again, deteriorating law and order situation.

Almost all the listed terrorists, out of 210, who had surrendered till July 31 in 1999, got released on bail and are moving scot-free, people alleged.

Most of the terrorists were released before October 1 election

and came back to their previous profession.

A police source said members of the extremist groups killed some 478 people in the southwestern zone last year.

Sometimes, the terrorists kill their associates following disputes over establishing supremacy.

Terrorist groups shot dead four people at Kuchlia in Monirampur upazila of Jessore district on February 4.