

NEWS SNAPS

Three UP chairmen suspended in Sakthira

BSS, *Satkhira*
The Ministry of Local Government Rural Development and Co-operatives suspended three UP Chairmen out of five union parishads in Debhata upazila of Satkhira recently.
According to official sources, they were suspended temporarily on charge of several cases. Suspended chairmen are M Asadul Haque, Kulia Union Parishad, M Abdul Goni, Noapara UP and Golam Fharuq Babu, Parulia Union Parishad. Earlier, local administration submitted allegations to the concerned ministry to take steps against them. Ministry, after investigation, found them guilty and suspended them.

UP chairman beaten by terrorists in Bhola

UNB, *Bhola*
A union parishad chairman was injured in beating by terrorist in Tojumuddin union on Friday.
The attack on Nur-e-Alam, 27, Sonapur union chairman in-charge, was a sequel to establishing supremacy in local BNP. He is now undergoing treatment in sadar hospital.

Motor Workers Union election held

BSS, *Rajshahi*
Rafiqul Islam Tota and Sairul Islam have been elected president and general secretary respectively in 2-year term executive committee election of Rajshahi Motor Workers Union on Tuesday.
A total of 86 candidates vied for fixed 21 posts in the election. A total of 1204 voters cast their franchise out of 1580 in election. Other office bearers are: Rafiqul Islam Rofique Vice-President, Abdul Helal Vice-President, Razzak Khan AGS, Anisur Rahman AGS, Sri Tomol Chandra Treasurer, Abdul Malek, Organizing Secretary, Atikul Islam Asst Organizing Secretary, Mominul Islam Office Secretary and Anoar Parvez Cultural and Sports Secretary.

Tax evasion by govt, other organisations

UNB, *Jessore*
A sum of Tk 39 lakh has been lying outstanding as municipal tax to a number of government, semi-government and non-government organisations since long.
On the other hand, the authorities could not pay the salaries of a few hundred employees for months together creating much sufferings to the employees. Official sources said the taxes remained outstanding to 48 government, semi-government and non-government organisations. Some employees alleged that the authorities did not take any strict measures to realise the outstanding taxes.

1575 bottles of liquor seized from Bhola

UNB, *Bhola*
District Narcotics Control Department in separate drives on Thursday and Friday seized 1,575 bottles various types of liquors from different parts of Bhola.
A special team of the department conducted the drives in Lalmohon and Sadar upazilas and also arrested one person.

Steps soon to eliminate filaria

UNB, *Thakurgaon*
Worried at the high prevalence of Filaria in Thakurgaon, State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhru'l Islam Alamgir announced that an effective programme would be launched soon to eliminate the disease.
He made the announcement while addressing a discussion titled "Filaria and its Prevention" on Feb 25. Shafiuddin Foundation and Jagriti Unnayan Sangstha organised the discussion, which was attended, among others, by Senior Consultant of Dengue Fever Prevention Project Dr Towhidul Islam, the Civil Surgeon and NGO officials.

Workshop on fertiliser management

UNB, *Brahmanbaria*
A daylong workshop on "Integrated Soil Fertility and Fertilizer Management" was held in Nabinagar upazila parishad premises in Brahmanbaria on Thursday.
The workshop was arranged for farmers in order to make them aware about adverse effects of chemical fertiliser on croplands. A total of 200 farmers attended the workshop chaired by the upazila Agriculture Officer. Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture Extension Ratan Kumar Das was present as chief guest. Speakers laid emphasis on proper use of chemical fertiliser and benefits of compost manure in increasing land fertility.

Young woman suffers burn injuries

UNB, *Rajbari*
A young woman suffered serious burn injuries in an acid attack at Narua village in Kaliakandi upazila of Rajbari Monday night.
Family sources said a group of miscreants threw acid at Dalia Khatun, 17, when she along with her sister were asleep in their house. She was undergoing treatment at a local hospital with injuries in her face. A case was filed.

Abducted girl rescued

UNB, *Patuakhali*
Police rescued a nine-year-old girl from Barguna Sadar Hospital in Patuakhali Tuesday two days after her abuse by miscreants.
The girl who was raped by a local youth in the district town was being treated at Barguna Sadar Hospital under police protection. It was not clear who took the girl to the hospital. Meanwhile, the parents of the ill-fated girl were missing after police launched a manhunt for the alleged rapist, Selim. Although the police could not yet arrest Selim, they picked up his brother, Yakub, following a statement of the girl.

Burglary at Pabna Press Club

UNB, *Pabna*
Thieves broke into local Press Club and took away the fax machine, a cassette recorder, cash and other important files Sunday night.
Club sources said the incident of stealing is the first since its inception in 1961. Meanwhile, local political leaders, including Dhaka University teacher Prof Mozaffar Ahmed, visited the club and demanded arrest of the culprits. Police Super of the district Amjad Hossain also visited the club.

Five-day eye camp begins

UNB, *Gazipur*
A five-day eye camp began at Jogitala Primary School in Gazipur Tuesday.
Gazipur Municipalities Chairman AKM Mozammel Haq inaugurated the camp jointly organised by local unit of Rotary Club and Sobhan Welfare Foundation. On the first day of the camp 30 patients were selected for operation after examining the eyes of 300. Another report from Barguna said: a weeklong eye camp concluded at Purakota in Barguna on Feb 10. A total of 419 patients were treated at the camp organised by Community Development Centre (CDC). Sixteen visually impaired people were also operated upon in the camp.

Alleged terrorist arrested

UNB, *Jhenidah*
An alleged terrorist was arrested along with a shutter gun and some bullets from Hatfazilpur Bazar in Shailakupa upazila of Jhenidah Sunday.
Police said local people caught Abdul Alim, 30, when he pointed the shutter gun at a grocery shop owner when he refused to give him cigarettes free. He was later handed over to police. A case was filed.

Rampant stealing of STW machines

UNB, *Netrakona*
Lifting of shallow tubewell (STW) machines has become rampant in the haor (water body) areas of Khaliazuri, Mohonganj, Madan and Kalmakanda upazilas in Netrakona hampering irrigation seriously.
The villagers said organised gangs lifted 25 shallow machines from different areas during the current Irri-Boro season. They apprehended that the target of Irri-Boro cultivation might not be achieved this season if the stealing of the pumps is not checked immediately. They also suspect that some shallow machine spare parts sellers are connected with the stealing of the machines. They said cattle lifting is also on rise and a large number of cattle were stolen during the last one month.

Workshop organised by Gopalganj Scouts

UNB, *Gopalganj*
A daylong workshop organised by Sadar upazila scouts was held at local Nazrul Public Library in Gopalganj on Friday.
Chaired by UNO Dharendra Chandra Das, the workshop was addressed, among others, by Deputy Commissioner Ekram Ahmed, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) Nurunnabi Talukder, Enayet Hossain, Mrinal Biswas, Abdur Rahim and Probnat Kumar Dey. A total of 78 teachers from 39 secondary schools and madrasahs of Sadar upazila took part in the workshop.

Piracy on alarming rise in rivers of S region

AROOP TALUKDAR, *Barisal*

Piracy is on rise in different rivers of the southern region in recent days.
According to fishermen and police, about 100 piracies were committed in the rivers Baleswar and Bishkhali in Barguna, Meghna, Tetulia in Bhola, Sandhya in Jhalakati, Kacha in Patuakhali and Baleswar in Pirojpur during the last two months.
Pirates looted merchandise including oil, cement, money and other valuables from the businessmen and fish, fishing nets and money from the fishermen worth over Tk 10 crore during the period.
About 40 fishermen were injured, 10 of them were thrown into the rivers during swoops, fishermen and trawler owners said. Six fishing trawlers were also taken away by the pirates, they disclosed.
Some 'Shutki' (dry fish) traders of Kuakata informed that 'Shutki' worth Tk 50 lakh were looted by a gang of armed pirates when it was being taken to Chittagong from Kuakata two weeks ago.
Yusuf Mridha, Nur Alam, Fazlul Haq, all dry fish traders of Kuakata said that they came under attack by the armed pirates in Sandwip area on way to Chittagong.
Fishermen in Bhola became frightened after being attacked by the armed pirates in the Meghna and Tetulia rivers several times in last three weeks.

Sashiganj bazaar area along the vast Meghna river situated 58 kilometres away from Bhola town is almost deserted now.
Selim, Jahangir and Rashid of the area, who fell victims of armed piracy said, about 30 incidents of piracies were committed in the Meghna river only last month. The armed pirates looted fishing nets worth about Tk 70 lakh, seven engines, diesel, clothes including fish and cash amountint to Tk 40 lakh from 28 fishing boats and trawlers, they said.
The pirats used 35 to 40 horse powered trawlers during the piracy in the rivers.
According to local sources, there are some five to six groups like Jahangir group, Rab group, Millat group, Khaleque Majhi group, Helal group who are involved with the deep sea and riverine piracy in Bhola area. They are well-connected with the local ruling party high-ups. They possess huge black money and continue their misdeeds in different areas escaping the hands of police and other law enforcers.
When this correspondent contacted with police, they said that they have no well equipped and speedy riverine vessels by which they can chase and catch the pirates after being informed by the fishermen or from any other source. Their hired trawlers are also not so speedy as the high powered vessels of the pirates.
Regular coast guard activities are a must to curb river piracies.

Simple, cost-effective method to solve arsenic problem

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

NGO Forum for Drinking Water and Sanitation through their partner NGOs have engineered the technology combining tubewells with dug wells.
"It's easy and simple. All we did is dig in about 70 feet deep wells and sealed it with concrete to keep it away from external contamination. A hand pump was attached to the well to pump out fresh water while an exhaust pipe linked to the well lets out all the gases," said an engineer working for NGO Forum.
Experience says that since many villagers still do not want to kick the habit of using waters of tubewells, but sinking new tubewells pose great risks of health hazard since in many areas it was found out that uncontaminated tubewells eventually pumped out contaminated water from the same level where it was thought to be safe.
So, experts dealing with drinking water have attached tubewells to pump out water.
After tubewell technology, dug wells in general have long been forgotten and domestic use of drinking water from the dug wells is almost lost from memory.
To put such conventional technology back in use, a number of small non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have successfully demonstrated that people are ready to accept the dug wells while tubewells are still there.
The technology is simple and hardly cost any additional money.

convenient," said Shamsuddin.
He also said, "It cost not much. In addition to cost of a tubewell we paid for digging of the well which is very small amount, but this tubewell is 80 -20 share, which means we paid 20 per cent of the total cost while GSS paid the rest."
Such tubewells have been installed on pilot basis as part of action research programme in a number of houses where arsenic have been found more than the permissible level in their tubewells.
Out of 303 houses in Belita village about 40 per cent tubewells have been found to be contaminated with arsenic. "We hope that all the houses with contaminated tubewells in this village will install such technology," said an official of GSS.
"People here have widely accepted the technology. There is no doubt about it. But we are now working on how to further bring down the costs," said the official.

Because of 'negligence' of doctor

UNB, *Gaibandha*

A newborn baby died for alleged negligence of a doctor at Matrimongal and Shishu Kalyan Kendra in Gaibandha Tuesday.
Local alleged that Rina Begum, wife of Aminul Islam of Pirganj, came to the hospital with labour pain but she was denied treatment. Rina gave birth to the baby on the hospital floor at noon on the day who later died for lack of necessary treatment.



PHOTO: STAR

Rajshahi city mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu MP, recently opened the newly constructed building of Government P N Girls' High School in the divisional city.

30 pc primary students in Jhenidah yet to get text books

DELWAR KABIR, *Jhenidah*

Thirty per cent primary students of Jhenidah did not receive their text books this year till now.
As a result studies of primary students is being hampered greatly.
According to a source related to District Primary Education Office (DPEO), Jhenidah, they have received 545,248 new books and they distributed 480,018 books. Furthermore, they also distributed 35,336 books of the previous years among the students. Upazila-wise

break -up of distribution of new books is as follows.
DPEO distributed 177,750 books in Jhenidah Sadar. In Kaliganj the department distributed 81,217 books out of received 128,507 books. A total of 29,717 books were distributed out of received 60,165 books in Kotchandpur upazila. In Mohespur 68,520 books out of 139,055 books were distributed among primary students. A total of 128,240 books out of received 181,090 books were distributed among primary students

in Sailkupa.
In Harinakundu. 42,269 boks out of received 87,213 books were distributed among primary students till February 20.
Students of class five received so far books on English and Mathematics.
While talking to the district primary education officer, he told this correspondent that enrollment of more students in primary schools may be hampered this year due to such trend.