

NEWS SNAPS

Woman killed by younger brotherUNB, *Sirajganj*

A woman was killed as her younger brother kicked her during a scuffle at Pachil village in Sadar upazila of Sirajganj on Friday night.

Police said Salimuddin of the village kicked his elder sister Awami Bewa, 45, as she tried to prevent him from beating his wife. Awami Bewa died on the spot. Police recovered the body of the ill-fated woman on Saturday and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with local police.

Lightning kills three in MymensinghUNB, *Mymensingh*

Three people were killed in lightning in Nandail upazila of Mymensingh on Sunday. The dead people were identified as Manik, 20, son of Osman Goni of Shingdoi village, Foyzul Islam, 30, son of Morjot Ali of Telipara village, and Abdul Majid, 35, of Kalichar village. Locals said the thunderbolt struck them while they were working in the field.

Gold ornaments worth Tk 2 lakh lootedUNB, *Pabna*

Armed robbers looted gold ornaments worth about Tk 2 lakh and cash money from a house at Gopalpur area in Pabna town on Saturday.

Police said a gang of armed robbers numbering 10/12 entered into the house of retired police officer Moshirur Rahman at dead of night. They tied up the family members and took away cash amounting to Tk 50 thousand and gold ornaments at gunpoint. A case was filed.

Workshop on holding free, fair SSC examUNB, *Khagrachhari*

Aiming at holding the upcoming SSC examinations in a free and fair manner, a workshop was held at the DC office auditorium in Khagrachhari on Monday.

Ranjit Kuman Dhar, Chairman of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board of Chittagong, attended the seminar as the chief guest. Chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner M Mosharrar Hossain, the workshop decided to take different programmes to check unfair means in the SSC examination scheduled to begin on March 14. UNO, headmasters, education officers and social and political leaders were also present in the seminar.

Coal import by evading taxUNB, *Sunamganj*

Huge quantity of coal is being imported from India through Tahirpur frontier of Sunamganj by evading tax.

A good number of businessmen have been evading tax by adopting fictitious means other than the way mentioned in the Letters of Credit for importing coal. Concerned sources said the quantity of coal being imported is also three times more than quantity mentioned in the LC. It is also alleged that these businessmen also bring other illegal goods, including drug and arms, hiding those inside the imported coal.

Terrorists torch three houses in BagerhatUNB, *Bagerhat*

Terrorists torched three houses at Horitokitola in Morelganj upazila of Bagerhat on Sunday.

Police said the terrorists set fire on the house of Mujibor Shipai over a previous enmity. The fire soon engulfed two other adjacent houses. Three people -- Zakir Hossain, Sarwar Hossain and Mosharrar Hossain -- were injured while trying to douse the fire. The extent of loss was estimated over Tk 1 lakh.

Free healthcare centre opensUNB, *Rajbari*

A free healthcare centre 'Pathik' has been inaugurated at Doulatdia bus terminal in Rajbari on Monday aiming to create awareness about AIDS among the transport workers.

Inter-district Truck Drivers Union in collaboration with CARE, Bangladesh has set up the centre. On the occasion, transport workers also held a rally there. CARE Regional representative of Jessore Dipak Kanti Mistri, Dhaka Regional representative Dr Asif Altaf, representative of Save the Children M Noman were also present.

Tk 1.95cr uplift projects going onUNB, *Magura*

Some 44 projects are being implemented in Magura at a cost of Tk 1.95 crore in the current fiscal year.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is implementing the projects. Of the total, 31 projects are being implemented in Sadar, six in Sreepur, four in Shalikhia and three in Mohammadpur upazilas. After completion of the projects, people of the upazilas will get better road communication facilities.

Loan under poverty alleviation programmeBSS, *Narail*

Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) distributed Tk 22,42,00,000 as loan under Poverty Alleviation Programme in Narail.

The loan was utilised for setting up poultry birds farming, pisciculture, paddy husking and different income generating projects. With the distribution of loan, 1,024 distressed co-operators were benefited. The board recovered about eight crore Taka as outstanding loan from the borrowers during the same period.

Workshop on arsenic in BrahmanbariaUNB, *Brahmanbari*

A workshop on arsenic was held at the Goalnagar Union Council office premise Wednesday, aiming to make people aware about adverse effects of arsenic contaminated tubewell waters.

Save the Children and NGO Forum jointly organised the workshop. A total of 50 people, including up chairmen, imams, schoolteachers, NGO activists and other elite attended the workshop.

127 including 4 top terrors arrestedUNB, *Narsingdi*

Police arrested 127 people, including four top terrors, and recovered 15 firearms and 28 rounds of bullet in Sadar upazila of Narsingdi in the last month.

Police said they arrested terrorists Kazi Masud Ahmad Tippon from Shanti Vawla village along with two revolvers, Anwar Hossain Liton along with one pistol from Westkanda Para, Niran Miah from Bhelanagar area and Ripon Sarkar from the railway station area along with three firearms and 7 rounds of bullet. The other people were arrested in separate drives in the upazila on various charges during the period.

Nine killed in Satkhira road accidents in FebruaryABU AHMED, *Satkhira*

At least nine people were killed and 15 others injured in road accidents in Satkhira in February.

In the first incident on February 1, two persons were killed and seven others, injured two of them seriously, in a road accident near Atapur in Kaliganj upazila on Kaliganj-Shyamnagar Road.

The victims have been identified as Yusuf Ali Gazi, 60, and Ansar Ali Gazi, 55, both of village Uchhepara in Kaliganj upazila. Seriously injured Wahed Ali and Abdullah were admitted to Satkhira hospital.

Police said, the accident occurred when a tempo was hit by a Shyamnagar bound bus near Atapur on Kaliganj-Shyamnagar Road. The victims were travelling on board the tempo.

In another incident on February 8, two persons were killed when a bi-cycle, they were riding, was hit by a bus near the Tirish Mile point on Satkhira-Khulna road in Tala upazila.

The deads were identified as Keramat Ali, 45, son of Nawab Ali and Aminuddin, 50, son of Mana Ali. They are the inhabitant of Enayetpur in Tala upazila.

In the other accident in Bakal area of Satkhira town, Saidur Rahman, 8, son of Din Mohammad of Bakal was killed when a bus knocked him down on February 9.

On February 9, an unidentified boy aged about 12 was crushed under the wheels of a truck near Kakshiali

bridge on Satkhira-Kaliganj road in Kaliganj upazila.

Police said, the victim met the tragic end of his life while crossing the road.

On February 11, one person was killed in a road accident near Gumantali on Shyamnagar-Munshiganj road in Shyamnagar upazila.

The dead was identified as Abdul Halim, 30, son of Lutfur Rahman of village Gumantali. Police said, the victim was crossing the road when he crushed under the wheels of the truck.

In another road accident, one person was killed and two others were injured in a road accident near Kumira in Tala upazila on Satkhira-Khulna road on February 24.

The victim was identified as Fazlur Rahman, 45, of Dadpur village in Tala upazila.

Police said, Fazlur Rahman who came to celebrate Eid with his relatives at his village home at Kumira.

He was crushed under the wheels of a private car. In the last accident, one person was killed and eight others were injured in a road accident near Chuknagar on Satkhira-Khulna road on February 26.

The victim was identified as Rabiul Islam, 28, son of Erfan Ali of village Shirashuni in Tala upazila.

Police said, the accident occurred when a tempo they were travelling was hit by a truck near Chuknagar. Rabiul Islam was killed on the spot while the injured persons were admitted to Khulna hospital.

BRTC to introduce Barisal-Kuakata tourist bus serviceAROOP TALUKDAR, *Barisal*

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) is likely to introduce Barisal-Kuakata tourist bus service soon.

Alhaj Majibar Rahman Sarwar MP, and whip in the parliament has taken an initiative to introduce the service with a view to encouraging more tourists to visit Kuakata resort in Khepupara of Patuakhali.

According to BRTC sources, the organisation has earned Tk 3.43 crore, of which net profit was Tk 17 lakh this year. Meanwhile, the people of greater Barisal have demanded introduction of BRTC bus services on Barisal-Pirojpur-Khulna, Barisal-Khulna-Satkhira-Bhomra land port, Barisal-Benapole and Barguna-Dhaka routes.

BRTC will require 10 more passenger buses to meet the

requirement.

Now 26 passenger buses of BRTC are continuing their services with 46 trips in 13 routes everyday.

BRTC has spent Tk 50 lakh for ferry service this year. Now BRTC buses ply towards Khulna, Rangpur, Chapainawabganj, Kalapara and some other destinations from Barisal.

Admission test of BAU SaturdayUNB, *Mymensingh*

The written test for admission in the bachelor degree courses in all the faculties of Bangladesh Agricultural university (BAU) will be held on Saturday.

Admit cards have been issued to some 6,442 students, who secured a total of 1,301 number in both SSC and HSC examinations, to participate in the test that would begin at 10 am.



Alhaj Nurul Islam Mridah Welfare Trust recently awarded scholarships among the poor and meritorious students of Sundarban High School at Bhandaria thana in Pirojpur. The trust is run by Mujibur Rahman Mridha. State Minister for Land Barrister Mohammad Shahjahan Omar, Bir Uttam, MP, distributed cheques among the students. Police super of Pirojpur, principal of Bhandaria Government College, Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) of Bhandaria and others were present on the occasion.



PHOTO: DELWAR KABIR

Kushtia Municipality has completed the work of "Bijoy Ullash", a monument built in memory of the martyrs of the Liberation War in 1971.

Anti-social activities going on in Rajshahi hotelsABDUL WADOOD, *Rajshahi*

Flesh trade has become the main source of income in some hotels in Rajshahi. The illegal and illicit business is being done with the help of a section of corrupt police officers.

A good number of residential hotels of considerably better standard have been opened in the city. As a result, normal business of the older hotels, especially those of below standard has become dull. This is because of flesh-trade in the new hotels.

There are some hotels where boarders are not visible. Gay-girls and 'customers' are seen visiting frequently these hotels both at day and night time. There are 17, such hotels, 10 in Shaheb Bazar area, two in Laxmipur, three in Rani Bazar and two in Railway Station and Bus Terminal area. Police often arrest gay-girls and their 'customers' from these hotels.

The arrested gay-girls and their 'customers' are usually released from the thanas after negotiation with police. But the hotel-owners are seldom moved by such actions as they have good connection with police.

Sources in Rajshahi Residential Hotels Owners' Association (RRHOA) said, these hotels are to pay Tk six to 15 thousands to thanas every month.

Most of these hotels have their own enlisted gay-girls.

They have also agents who supply gay-girls and collect 'customers.'

Sources in RRHOA and police said, the illicit flesh-

trade cannot be checked due to non-cooperation of a section of police personnel. Whenever police take attempts to raid and arrest the gay-girls and their 'customers' on secret information on normal drive, the hotel-owners are informed of the drive by the corrupt police personnel earlier. As a result, most of the drives go in vain.

RRHOA general secretary Khondoker Hasan Kabir acknowledged that there were allegations of anti social and illegal activities in some hotels. "We condemn these illegal and unethical activities and demand stern actions against the evil-doers," he said adding that they had attempted to check the illicit business but failed due to non-cooperation of the members of the law-enforcing authorities.

RRHOA has cancelled membership of some hotels and has not made some other hotels its member for their alleged involvement in anti-social activities, he informed.

Police arrested four gay-girls and two of their 'customers' from Hotel Metropolitan in Shaheb Bazar on January 9.

On a secret information. Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Commissioner ordered Boalia thana to raid the hotel.

When contacted, RRHOA general secretary said that Hotel Metropolitan, run by a retired police constable, was not a member of RRHOA.