

NEWS SNAPS

Young man commits 'suicide'

UNB, Noakhali

A young man allegedly committed suicide by taking pesticides at Bibbag area in Senbagh upazila of Noakhali Friday.

The deceased was identified as Sabuj, 25. Police said Sabuj took pesticides following an altercation with his wife Nargis over a family feud on Thursday night. He was rushed to Daganbhuiyan Hospital. But after treatment he was taken back to his house but he died the following morning. AUD case was filed.

Two Buddhist monks arrested

UNB, Cox's Bazar

BDR jawans arrested two Buddhist monks from a bus at Teknaf border in Cox's Bazar on Friday while smuggling illegal injections and audio and videocassettes into the country.

BDR sources said they caught Dharmananda, 25, and Tejalangara, 22, monks of Bandarban while smuggling the contrabands item into the country from Myanmar through Damdama Check post. A case was filed with Teknaf thana under Special Powers Act. Both the arrested were sent to jail hajat after producing before the court on Saturday.

Four with forged band roll arrested

UNB, Sirajganj

Police raided a private car at the western side of Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge and arrested four people including its driver with forged band roll worth Tk 65,000 on Friday night.

Police said when the car reached the 'gol chatar' area they intercepted it and arrested Mansur Ali, Tukia Mia, Nannu Mia and driver Shahidul Islam at 8 pm. All of them hailed from Bogra. A case was filed in this connection.

Forest Deptt employees deprived of salary

UNB, Patuakhali

Some 864 employees of Forest Department under Forest Resource Management Project are living in uncertainty as they are not getting their salary for the last few months.

Their salary and allowances remained stopped from Dec 31 last year following expiry of the project. Some 1,264 officials and employees were working under the 2nd afforestation and forest resource management scheme. Of them, jobs of 400 officials and employees were placed under the revenue sector putting the fate of the rest 864 others into uncertainty. The affected employees urged the authorities concerned to take necessary steps to disburse their outstanding salary without further delay.

Good potato output expected

UNB, Madaripur

Some 5,710 mts of potato are expected to be produced on 500 hectares of land brought under cultivation in four upazilas of Madaripur this season.

Of the total, 50 hectares of land have been cultivated in Sadar, 200 hectares in Kalkini, 200 hectares Shibchar and 50 hectares in Rajpur upazilas. Meanwhile, Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) has provided fertiliser, seeds and other agricultural inputs to the farmers to make the programme a success. Besides, 25 demonstration plots have been set up to encourage the farmers.

PBS will install 120-km power line

UNB, Madaripur

Palli Bidyut Samiti (PBS) will install 120 kms of electricity line in four upazilas of the district in the current fiscal year.

Officials said PBS would install the power line under Rural Electrification Programme launched in Madaripur in 1983. Under the programme, electricity to 345 villages in Sadar, Kalkini, Rajpur and Shibchar upazilas has been provided installing 1,835 kms of line. There are now 48,295 subscribers in the villages. Of the total power connections, 39,632 are residential, 5,142 commercial, 546 industrial and 2,280 in irrigation sector.

5,517 farmers receive BKB loan

UNB, Pirojpur

Bangladesh Krishibank BKB disbursed over Tk 8 crore as loan among 5,517 farmers of Pirojpur in the first six months of the current fiscal year.

Of the total, Tk 4.77 crore was given for aman, boro, potato, sugarcane and banana cultivation, Tk 1.75 crore for marginal farmers, Tk 23.75 lakh for buying bullocks and Tk 1.38 crore for other purposes. During the same period the bank realised Tk 8.77 crore outstanding loans.

Rabi cultivation on 75,550 hectares

UNB, Narisingdi

A total of 75,550 hectares of land have been brought under Rabi crop cultivation in six upazilas of Narisingdi during the current season.

Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) said a total of 52,650 hectares of land have been brought under boro paddy cultivation during the season. Besides, wheat will be cultivated on 5,600 hectares, mustard on 5,200 hectares, potato on 2,500 hectares, maize on 2,100 hectares and vegetables on 7,500 hectares of land. The production target of boro paddy has been fixed at 1.15 lakh metric tons, wheat 15,300 mts, potato 52,000 mts, mustard 9,300 mts and maize 3,100 mts.

5 Chapainawabganj farmers get agri-loan

UNB, Chapainawabganj

The 338th branch of Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) was opened at Jambaria union of Chapainawabganj on Saturday.

Local MP Syed Manjur Hossain inaugurated the new branch as the chief guest while RAKUB General Manager KM Jahangir and Deputy Commissioner Nurul Haque attended as special guests. The programme was chaired by Regional Manager of RAKUB, Chapainawabganj, Akramul Haque. On the first day, the bank disbursed Tk 62,000 as agri-loan among five farmers.

Coir industry facing extinction

ABU AHMED, Satkhira

coir industry, one of the important cottage industries of the country, is on the verge of extinction.

Lack of capital and patronisation of the government and other non-government organisations have hampered the progress of this industry.

The south and southwestern parts of the country produce huge quantity of fibres from coconuts which form the raw materials for the coir industries. A large number of coir industries had been set up by private entrepreneurs in 1987 along the coastal belt of the country. Coir ropes also found ready markets in foreign countries, it is learnt.

Many farmers took part time job in the coir industries. At home coir-ropes are used for a long time to erect kutcha houses. Coir ropes are strong ropes which can be used for many purposes.

Despite its good qualities, the most important coir industry is being neglected. As such many of them have been closed down. Many artisans have deserted their

occupation and have become day labourers.

This correspondent recently visited Barguna bazaar in Dumuria of Khulna and found about 35 farmers of different villages of Dumuria and Assassuni upazila of Satkhira selling coir ropes in one corner of the small market.

When asked Abdur Rashid of village Barguna told that his forefathers used to make coir ropes. But now many people of the area have deserted their occupation. Like many others he had no capital to buy coconut fibre. Other members of his family can efficiently produce coir-ropes. But they are now passing their days idle.

The villagers also told that lack of marketing facilities had been another reason which led to closure of many coir industries.

With a view to saving the cottage industry, the government should make capital easily available through banks and other money lending organisations. The artisans should be trained on how to use improved modern machinery and improve quality of the products.



PHOTO: A K M MOHSIN

Traders doing brisk business at a wholesale market of fish at Bholta in Narsingdi. The market usually sits in the morning every day. Bholta wholesale fish market is a famous one in this region.

10 unnatural deaths in six districts in one week

UNB, Dhaka

Ten unnatural deaths were reported from Rangpur, Comilla, Jessore, Madaripur, Barisal and Magura districts in last one week since March 2.

Of the victims, four females - Arefa of Rangpur, Parbati Biswas of Jessore and Rozina Begum of Magura allegedly committed suicide.

Of the remaining six deceased five were identified as Anna of Madaripur, Mizanur Rahman Jhilon of Comilla, Taslima of Barisal and Al Mamun and Apu of Jessore.

Two people, including Jhilon, were murdered in Comilla on Thursday night.

Police said a gang of robbers rented a microbus from Mirpur area in Dhaka and killed its driver Mizanur Rahman Jhilon when it reached at Mostapur area in Sadar upazila Wednesday.

Family sources said Taslima committed suicide but police suspected that she was kept hanging

after killing.

In Magura, Rozina Begum of Goalkhali and Hamida Khaton of Stadium Para in the town allegedly committed suicide over family trouble on March 4.

On Tuesday, Parbati Biswas of Boliadanga Malopara in the outskirts of Jessore town committed suicide hearing death news of her fiancé.

Earlier in the same day, her lover Al Mamun hailed from Narail district was killed in a motorbike accident at Dhalgram area along with his friend Apu.

UNB Madaripur correspondent adds: Two-year-old Anna, daughter of Babul Bepari at Panchkhola village, drowned in a river at Charkukail in the poura area on March 2.

Separate cases were filed with respective police stations.

Narail Municipality dwellers deprived of basic amenities

UNB, Narail

facing agonising traffic jams.

The situation has taken a serious turn in recent times as the number of vehicles has increased abnormally.

The all the roads in the municipality area are narrow and cracks and potholes have been developed at many points hampering movement of vehicles as well as pedestrians.

The long route coaches that occupy the narrow road at the entry point in the town create the traffic congestion regularly. In the absence of a truck terminal in the town, the municipality dwellers have been

causing health hazards. In the absence of measure, some dishonest butchers slaughter ailing goats and cows every day.

Welding shops and various shops, including restaurants, set up illegally on the roads often cause fatal road accidents.

Moreover, the drains are not cleaned regularly and some of them have no covers. The ditches and derelict ponds in the town full of water hyacinths are the breeding centres of mosquito.

Mosquito menace has increased in the recent times. The town folk could not recollect when the municipality authority had sprayed insecticides.

The students are worst sufferers as mosquitoes in swarm buzz around and bite them. Even at daytime the mosquitoes do not spare the people.



The reporters of different national dailies and news agencies parade the campus streets of Rajshahi University on Thursday in a silent procession. They were demanding immediate arrest of the killers of journalist Harun-or-Rashid Khokan, who was gunned down in Khulna on March 2.

IU first year honours classes from today

Freshers will face session jam, other problems

RAHAT AHMED, Kushtia

three male and two female students' dormitories.

A large number of students have to come from Kushtia and Jhenidah towns by university or public buses. Buses are quite inadequate to meet the demand of students.

Students in various departments especially those of Applied Science and Technology Faculty have to face an acute shortage of class rooms.

In the Science faculty, students of several departments have to wait one after another for a vacant class room.

Freshers are also afraid of political violence in the campus which is a common feature here.

IU convocation
Last date of registration now March 18

IU CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The last date of registration for the Third Convocation of Islamic University (IU) has been extended up to March 18.

Earlier, it was fixed on March 10. The convocation will be held on March 28. The students who completed their honours and masters courses in 1996 and 1997 are eligible to take part in the convocation.

The students who passed honours in 1998 from the Theology, Business Administration and Law faculties and passed masters in 1998 from the Theology faculty are also eligible to attend the convocation.

Moreover, some more students will also be admitted in the ward quota of university teachers, officers and employees.

The classes will begin two months later than the previous 2000-2001 session.

BSCIC loan for entrepreneurs

UNB, Madaripur

Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) has disbursed Tk 1.20 crore among the entrepreneurs of Madaripur under its self-employment project.