

NEWS SNAPS

Young man commits 'suicide'

UNB, Noakhali
A young man allegedly committed suicide by taking pesticides at Bizbag 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 Damdamia Check post. A case was filed with Teknaf thana under Special Powers Act. Both the arrested were sent to jail hajjat 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 chattrar' area they intercepted it and arrested Mansur Ali, Tuku 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 its 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 Rajoir 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, Rajoir 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 Krishi Bank 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, Narsingdi
A total of 75,550 hectares of land have been brought under Rabi crop cultivation in six upazilas of Narsingdi 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, Sathkira

Coir industry, one of the important cottage industries of the country, is one 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 Sathkira 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-rope. 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.

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 Khatun and Hamida Khatun 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.
On information, police arrested Mokbul Hossain and Abdul Goni from Senanibash Market in Cantonment on Friday and recovered the microbus from one Mizanur Rahman's house at Mynamati area.
House owner Mizanur Rahman was arrested but sensing presence of police two of his accomplices, Salauddin and Humayun, fled the scene.
In another incident, an unidentified man was killed in Sadar upazila.
Housewife Arefa of Badarganj upazila in Rangpur allegedly committed suicide under a running train following a family dispute over dowry.
In Barisal, body of the mother of three children Taslima, 29, was recovered in hanging condition from a house at Char Abdani 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 Khatun of Stadium Para in the town allegedly committed suicide over family trouble on March 4.
On Tuesday, Parbati Biswas of Baliadanga 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 Charkukrail in the poura area on March 2.
Separate cases were filed with respective police stations.

Narail Municipality dwellers deprived of basic amenities

UNB, Narail

Narail Municipality established in 1972 is beset with multifarious problems depriving the dwellers of basic civic amenities.
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 facing agonising traffic jams.
The situation has taken a serious turn in recent times as the number of vehicles has increased abnormally.
The bus terminal built in a short space covering the main road in between Rupganj and Narail town is also plagued with many problems. The rickshaw and rickshaw vans are parked hither and thither and the pullers have no fare charts thus occurring disputes regarding fare with the passengers.
Meats are being sold here and there beside the main roads in the town before the nose of the authority



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 Khokon, who was gunned down in Khulna on March 2.



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.

IU first year honours classes from today

Freshers will face session jam, other problems

RAHAT AHMED, Kushtia

Classes of first year honours courses for 2001-2002 academic year in Islamic University (IU) will begin from today (March 11). A total of 1,090 students have been admitted in 18 departments of five faculties. Besides, 30 more students have been admitted though freedom fighters' quota and tribal students' quota, 25 in players' quota and 15 in cultural activists' quota.

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.

At present the total number of students of the university is 8,200 while it was 6,996 in June last year. Unfortunately eight batches are confronting session jam here. No body knows what will be the fate of freshers in 2001-2002 session. The jam varies from one year to three and a half years in various departments.

The freshers will face an acute accommodation problem because the student dormitories are limited. The university is situated in a village area, in the middle of Kushtia-Jhenidah town. Only 16 per cent students get the chance to reside in

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.

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, who got M. Phil and Ph. D degrees till February, 2002 can also apply for participation in the convocation.
Several sub-committees are working relentlessly to hold the convocation peacefully.

