

NEWS SNAPS

Youth chopped to death in Pabna

UNB, Pabna
A young man was chopped to death by unknown assailants at Dhulauri village in Chatmohar upazila of Pabna Friday night.

Police said the miscreants hacked Zahurul Islam, 20, son of Mozahar Ali, to death as a sequel to village politics. Local BNP claimed that Islam was an activist of BNP. Later, police recovered the body from the spot and sent it to the hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed but no arrest was made.

BAU, Japanese university sign MoU

UNB, Mymensingh
A memorandum of understanding (MoU) on "Education, Research and Student Exchange" has been signed between Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) and Shinsu University of Japan.

BAU Vice Chancellor Prof Mustafizur Rahman and Prof Dr Hirotsuda signed the MoU on behalf of their respective sides. The BAU Vice Chancellor exchanged opinions with the three-member delegation of the Japanese University over the expansion of education, research and training of the BAU. Prof Mustafiz also handed over crest and publications of the university to the Japanese delegation.

Ten shops gutted at Kanaipur

BSS, Faridpur
At least 10 shops were completely gutted in a fire at Kanaipur Bazaar on Dhaka-Khulna highway, nine kilometres away from Faridpur early Saturday.
Fire Service and police officials said the fire apparently caused by a electric short circuit engulfed a part of the wayside Kanaipur Bazaar blazing 10 cloth and hardware shops. Fire fighters immediately rushed to the spot and saved rest portion of the market.

BCP regional leader arrested in Jhenidah

BSS, Jhenidah
Jhenidah police recently arrested a regional leader of an outlawed party from a village in Shaikakupa upazila and recovered a firearm from his possession.
The arrested extremist was identified as Yunus Ali. He is in-charge of Jhenidah and Kushtia district units of the outlawed Biplabi Communist Party. Acting on a secret information, police arrested him from a field at Kacherkol-Mirzapur and seized a shutter gun from him. He is an accused in dozens of criminal cases, including murder and extortion in different thanas of Jhenidah, Kushtia, Chuadanga and Rajbari.

Murderer gets life term RI in Sirajganj

UNB, Sirajganj
A court in Sirajganj has sentenced a man to life term rigorous imprisonment (RI) for murdering his father.
The court also fined the convict Lutfar Rahman, 35, of Jagtala village of Shahajadpur upazila Tk 5,000, in default, to suffer one year more RI. According to the prosecution, the convict murdered his father Lal Sheikh, 60, on May 5, 1995, as he refused to give him (Lutfar) mustard for selling. After examining the records and witnesses, district and sessions judge Alhaj Matiar Rahman handed down the verdict on Thursday.

Four-day cub campoori ends in Jhalakati

UNB, Jhalakati
The four-day second cub campoori of Sadar upazila scouts concluded in Jhalakati on Sunday through different programmes.
A total of 78 scouts including 12 girls of 13 primary schools of sadar upazila attended the campoori. Thirteen unit leaders along with the president and the general secretary of Sadar upazila scouted their respective teams.

Moazzem murder in Natore

One placed on remand

ANWAR ALI, Natore

One of the three arrested persons in the Moazzem murder case in Lalpur was placed on a three-day remand on Saturday by a magistrate court in Natore.

The investigation authorities submitted the remand petition for Abdul Matin before the court of magistrate Nazimul Islam.

Moazzem Hossain, a university student was gunned down by the alleged BNP backed men on February 28.

The family of Moazzem was preparing to get Moazzem married and they planned to go to Bogra to choose a bride for him on Friday. But now a dreadful silence was prevailing at his house at Habibpur of Lalpur upazila since the night when he was shot dead by terrorists belonging to the ruling BNP.

Moazzem Hossain, 32, an amiable youth and loveable to all in the area became a victim of political rivalry. He appeared his Masters examination under Rajshahi University this year and was never active in politics.

The only guilt he did was that he was born in a family that belongs to Awami League said his tear-choked mother.

The reason behind the murder of university student Moazzem was 'completely political', said observers and sources in the police.

The president of Arbab union Awami League and chairman of the union parishad Ishaq Ali, AL leader Shamim Reza and Bangladesh Chhatra League leader Mustafa of Habibpur were the main targets of the terrorists allegedly belonging to the ruling BNP, locals said.

The trio became the target of the terrorists as they were the witnesses in a case of terrorist attack and Kashem murder case filed against BNP cadres Alam, Shamim and Arbab UP member Abdul Khaleque, informed a source in Lalpur.

On the fateful night, the terrorists, being failed to find

out their targeted persons, rampaged several houses at Habibpur village leaving Moazzem shot dead and five persons, including two housewives wounded.

After the incident, Abdus Shukur Mridha, father of the victim, in a petition to the Officer-in-charge of Lalpur thana on Friday requested not to send the body of Moazzem to the morgue for autopsy and refused to file any case in this regard.

Mridha showed reasons his petition that the terrorists belonged to the ruling BNP.

Mridha apprehended that he as well as his family might face further attack if he lodge case against the terrorists.

He questioned if he would get justice when the identified terrorists were often seen roaming with the ruling party leaders and police personnel.

Alam, the main accused in Kashem and his cousin Mahmuda murder case, and the sports minister Fazlur Rahman Potal were seen on a same platform at a function at Raghunathpur High School field in Lalpur on February 21. Potal was the chief guest in the function.

AL worker Kashem was hacked to death on October 27 and Mahmuda, a cousin of Kashem was slaughtered to death a month before the election.

However, Mridha at last registered the case of his son's death with Lalpur police accusing 23 BNP men.

Earlier, the deputy inspector general of Rajshahi Range police Shahidur Rahman Bhuiyan visited the house of Moazzem and assured the bereaved family of proper investigation into the matter and immediate arrest of the guilty persons.

Police, however, arrested three of the accused while the main accused remained absconding. The arrested were Ziaul, Zamil and Motiur.

AL, JCD men clash at Pirojpur: 10 hurt

UNB, Pirojpur

At least 10 people were injured in a clash between the supporters of Awami League and BNP's student wing Chhatra Dal at Club Road in Pirojpur town recently.

Witnesses said the clash erupted at about 7.30 pm when the activists of AL and JCD brought out separate processions. A dozen of bombs were blasted, but none was injured.

Later, police arrested district Jubo League convenor Ziaul Hasan from the spot. Additional police were deployed to fend off further trouble.

Manhandling of Natore Christian leaders

Bail prayers of two rejected

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

The magistrate court in Natore on Saturday rejected the bail prayers of two persons arrested for beating three Christian community leaders at Bhabanipur Christianpara in Boraigram upazila on Thursday.

The persons are-- Nazrul Islam and Abdur Rahman Ali.

Magistrate Begum Zaheda Parveen rejected the bail petitions on ground that the accused would be charged in the Special Powers Act.

On Thursday morning, a group of eight youths allegedly belonging to the ruling party attacked the house of Ashok

Koraiya, president of the village's Christian community demanding a toll of Tk 25,000.

They beat up Ashok, Herot Koraiya, and vice-president of the village's Christian community and another leader Sentu Kosta for refusal of the toll.

Ashok filed a case against the eight persons under Sections-147, 149, 323, 385, and 114 of the Bangladesh Penal Code (BPC).



Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain (right) presiding over a meeting of upazila development coordination committee on Tuesday at Daudkandi Upazila Parishad (council) at Daudkandi in Comilla.

Shortage of teachers hampers primary education in Sylhet

UNB, Sylhet

Posts of 1,500 primary school teachers have been lying vacant for the last three years hampering the elementary education in four districts of Sylhet division adversely.

According to Directorate of Primary Education there are 3,346 government primary schools in Sylhet, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar and Hobiganj where some 1,210 posts of assistant teachers in 1,000 schools remained vacant.

Besides, posts of headmasters in 290 schools, 12 posts of Education Officers and 46 posts of Assistant Education Officers are also lying vacant in these districts.

Official sources said the rate of

enrolment in all the government primary schools in the division has increased during the last three years and their attendance was satisfactory, but the teachers' crisis hampered primary education.

M Nurul Amin Chowdhury, Primary Education Officer of Sylhet admitting the fact said that teaching at many schools is being hampered seriously.

A high official of Education Directorate called for special measures for recruiting headmasters and assistant teachers in the division.

"Teachers' crisis in the division is turning acute day by day owing to promotion, transfer, retirement and resignation of the teachers," he said.

Posts of 1000 teachers could not be filled up, as requisite number of qualified candidates for the posts in the recruitment test in 1988 and 1999 was not available.

An education official said that less than 40 per cent candidates failed to qualify for the posts in the recruitment exam during the last three years.

In view of the prevailing crisis in the educational arena in the division, Abdul Basit Muhammad, divisional coordinator of Bangladesh government primary teachers association, called upon the concerned authorities to fill up the vacant posts immediately.

Plan to bring Pabna under gas supply network

UNB, Pabna

An extensive scheme has been undertaken by the government to bring Pabna under gas supply network.

In the first phase Pabna and Iswardi municipality will be brought under the network by July-August this year by giving gas connection to some 2,000 subscribers primarily, Western Region Gas Company Ltd in Pabna said.

Work of installing a 50-km underground pipeline is going on in full swing at a cost of Tk 17 crore for supplying gas in the municipality areas.

Meanwhile, work of installing 82-km main gas pipeline from Baghabari to Iswardi EPZ areas has already been completed.

After setting up gas pipeline in the internal roads of the two municipalities by the current month, six gas control stations will be established

from Baghabari to Iswardi EPZ in secondary stage of the first phase.

After completing work of riser and service connection, gas will be supplied to the subscribers in residential, commercial and industrial areas during the stipulated time.

Meanwhile, the company has permitted 67 business organisations to give gas connection to the intending subscribers.

Under the scheme, some 5,000 subscribers will be given gas connection through extending 250-km pipeline in Pabna by 2004 in the second phase.

Shanthia, Bera, Atakula, Pakshi and their adjoining areas will be given priority for supplying gas, official sources said.

Meanwhile, the company submitted a project paper to Petrobangla in January last for starting the second phase of the ambitious project.



PHOTO: STAR

Participants at a gathering of Janata Bank (JB) clients at Moulvibazar. The main branch of JB, Moulvibazar and Ekatona branch of JB jointly arranged the meeting recently.

JB clients' gathering

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A views exchange meeting and Janata Bank (JB) clients gathering was held at Ekatona Bazaar in Moulvibazar recently.

The meeting was presided over by Chand Mahmud Talukder, Manager of Moulvibazar main branch of Janata Bank.

Sunil Kumer Khan, Assistant General Manager (AGM) of Moulvibazar regional office of JB attended the function as the chief guest. The meeting was also addressed, among others, by Kamal Krishna Goswami, JB Ekatona branch Manager, Md Abdul Hamid, officer of JB Moulvibazar regional office, MA Karim, senior officer of foreign exchange cell of JB Head Office, Syed Humayed Ali Shaheen, secretary of Moulvibazar press club and Rajat Kanti Goswami, vice-president, Moulvibazar Press Club.

200 shanties gutted in Rangamati

A CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

At least 200 shanties were gutted in a devastating fire at jetty ghat in Kaptai upazila of Rangamati on Friday.

The fire that broke out at 3:30pm damaged assets worth about Tk 2 crore, sources in the Kaptai Fire Brigade said.

But the fire brigade officials could not confirm how the fire originated.

However, another source said a cigarette butt might have ignited the fire that engulfed the slums at Kaptai jetty ghat and at the nearby labour lodge. A biscuit factory was also burnt.

The naval fire brigade and security personnel with the backup of the local people contained the fire.