

NEWS SNAPS

Jewellery shop owner chopped to death

UNB, Satkhira
Robbers chopped a jewellery shop owner to death at Shyamnagar upazila in Satkhira when they failed to loot cash from his shop on Saturday night.
Police and witnesses said some 10-12 armed bandits raided the jewelry shop of Amjad Hossain of Majati village in the upazila at dead of night and demanded keys of his iron-safe from him. They later chopped him indiscriminately with an axe killing him on the spot on his refusal to give them the keys. Hearing screaming, nearby people rushed to the spot and caught two of the gang identified as ringleader Abubakar Siddique and his accomplice Afsar along with a Chinese axe. A case was filed.

Police, copy suppliers clash:15 injured

UNB, Rangpur
Fifteen people including four police were injured in a clash between police and outsiders at an SSC examination centre in Kaunia upazila in Rangpur on Saturday.
Police said the clash ensued at Kaunia Girls High School examination centre when they caught an activist of Juba Dal red-handed while supplying copy to the examinees. Of the injured, police constable Alauddin, 34, was admitted to Kaunia Upazila Health Complex while others were released after first aid.

Palli Biddut staffers injured by terrorists

UNB, Gazipur
Eight officials and employees of local Palli Biddut office were injured in an attack by some terrorists here on Wednesday.

Palli Biddut office sources said they disconnected the electric connection of Sarkar Poultry Farm of Sytalia village for non-payment of arrear bill amounting to Tk 50,000. The owner of the farm Mizanur Rahman put pressure on the concerned officials to restore the power line. As they did not give the connection to the defaulter client Mizanur Rahman along with his men attacked DGM Monzur Morshed and injured him seriously. They also beat up other staffers of the office when they came to rescue Monzur, they added. A case was filed.

Cash, valuables worth Tk 4 lakh looted

UNB, Shariatpur
Highway robbers raided three buses at Naodoba on Shariatpur-Dhaka road and looted cash and valuables worth Tk 4 lakh from the passengers on Saturday night.

Witnesses said some 10-12 armed robbers halted the buses putting barricade on the road and looted the cash and valuables at gunpoint. Two people identified as Aslam and Gopal Chandra injured seriously by the robbers were admitted to a local hospital. Meanwhile, seven robberies were committed in Dhankathi union of Damudya upazila while four in Chamta union of Naria upazila in last one-week causing concern among the people.

Rupsha Jubo Dal leader shot dead by PBCP men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Rony Jamadder, a leader of Jubo Dal Rupsha upazila unit, was gunned down allegedly by the armed cadres of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) near his house at village Nandanpur at about 8 pm on Saturday.
One of the accused in Awami League (AL) leader Haroon Sarder and KU Treasurer Razzak Sarder murder cases, Rony, 33, was nephew of Aftab Jamaddar, president of BNP Rupsha upazila unit.
According to witnesses, at least

10 armed cadres of outlawed PBCP swooped on Rony when he came out of his house receiving a call over mobile phone from one of the armed cadres.
According to police, the slain Jubo Dal leader was closely linked with PBCP.
He might have been killed by PBCP armed cadres following a rivalry over sharing of toll money collected from different sources, police said.
But family sources said Rony was killed by Rupsha upazila-based armed cadres of Biplobi Communist

Party.
He reportedly helped police in the recent combing operation against armed cadres of BCP at Mohishaguni and Joar Badal unions.
Sarder Abdul Halim, 40, and Yasin Sadar, 44, of Bhadrhati village of Rupsha upazila were arrested early Sunday morning in connection with the killing.
Awami League has strongly protested arrest of Sarder Halim.
No case was filed in connection with the murder till 6-30 pm on Sunday.

Academic activities at Pabna Polytechnic Instt hampered

UNB, Pabna

Academic activities at Pabna Polytechnic Institute is being hampered due to some students who were admitted here violating the admission rules.
Thirty-seven students, with the help of ruling party's student front Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), forcibly took admission in the institute holding its principal hostage in January this year.
Some of them did not take part in

the admission test while others failed to qualify in the test. As a result, they did not get registration from Technical Education Board.
Meanwhile, a total of 220 students were admitted as per rules and their classes began on February 4.
But the institute does not have the facilities and logistic support to take class of additional 37 illegally admitted students who are yet to get board's registration.
With the help of some outsider

terrorists the students are now staging demonstration regularly and creating pressure on the institute authorities to manage their registration problem.
As a result, tension is prevailing on the campus and the teachers and students are feeling insecure apprehending untoward incident.
They alleged that the outsiders and unregistered students are threatening them. The principal admitted the matter, but declined to make any comment in this regard.

Marketing of essentials sans BSTI testing going on in dists

UNB, Madaripur

Essential commodities like soyabean oil, iodised salt, mineral water, bread, biscuits and cakes are being marketed in greater Faridpur and other districts without necessary testing at BSTI.
There are some 90 bakeries that do not maintain minimum hygienic standard of production, sources concerned in Madaripur said adding that there is none to look into it.
According to Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI), food items and mineral water must bear date and time of production.
Bread and loaf become unfit for consumption after 24 hours, but the

manufacturers never print date and time on the packets of the products.
The litre system for weighing liquid substances has not yet been introduced in hats and bazaars in rural areas. Buyers are being cheated while sellers are earning good profit at the cost of consumers.
The BSTI is to test and certify quality of production of food items manufactured in the country. But the manufacturers ignore approval of BSTI before marketing the goods they produce.
The Institute is also responsible for enforcing metric system of weight in the country.
Some 1,500 items like bread, biscuit, loaf, powder milk, jam, jelly, sauce, edible and coconut oil,

electric goods, match boxes, cement, cold drinks, prickles, sugar and sweetmeat are included in the BSTI list.
Of them, 130 items require BSTT certificates before marketing. But most of the goods produced are marketed without testing.
Goods imported from India such as salt, sugar, cement, rice, electronics, 'Boost', Viva' do not bear the standard test marks of Bangladesh government. As per rules, the goods are to be examined before marketing in the country.
The weight of these goods, which is usually less than what is printed on the packages and bottles, is not verified after the import.

SSC, Dakhil exams: Nine expelled from M'bazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A total of nine candidates of SSC and Dakhil examinations have been expelled from different centres in Moulvibazar on the first day of the examination on March 14, official sources said. Of the total expelled candidates, three were Dakhil examinees.
According to reports received from different upazilas, the examinations started with more or less peaceful atmosphere, though some outsiders including non-examinee students and some student leaders tried to disturb the examinees in a few rural centres.
However, this year a total of eight centres for SSC examinations, four centres for Dakhil examinations and three centres for SSC (vocational) examinations have been set up in six upazilas of Moulvibazar district under the Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board, Sylhet.

According to the examination control room, which has been set up at the Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office here, a total of 6,769 students are taking part in the SSC examinations in Moulvibazar this year while the number of Dakhil examinees are 1,028.

Laxmipur Juba League leader's house burnt

UNB, Laxmipur

The house of a local Juba League leader was burnt to ashes as terrorists set fire to it at Latifpur village in Sadar upazila of Laxmipur Saturday night.
Family sources said the miscreants swooped on the house of Juba League leader Nazrul Rahman of the village and failing to catch him set fire to his house.

Foodgrains procurement drive not progressing

UNB, Habiganj

Procurement drive of aman paddy and rice has failed during the current season.
Although the time limit of procurement has been extended up to March 31 the possibility of procuring paddy or rice is very bleak, official sources said. District Controller of food office sources said target was fixed to procure 703 mts of rice and 122 mts of paddy during the current season and the time limit was fixed from December 12 to February 28. But within that time no rice or paddy was procured in the LSD food godown. The procurement price of each kg of paddy and rice was fixed at Tk 8 and Tk 12.50 respectively including one per cent VAT.

Pottery faces extinction

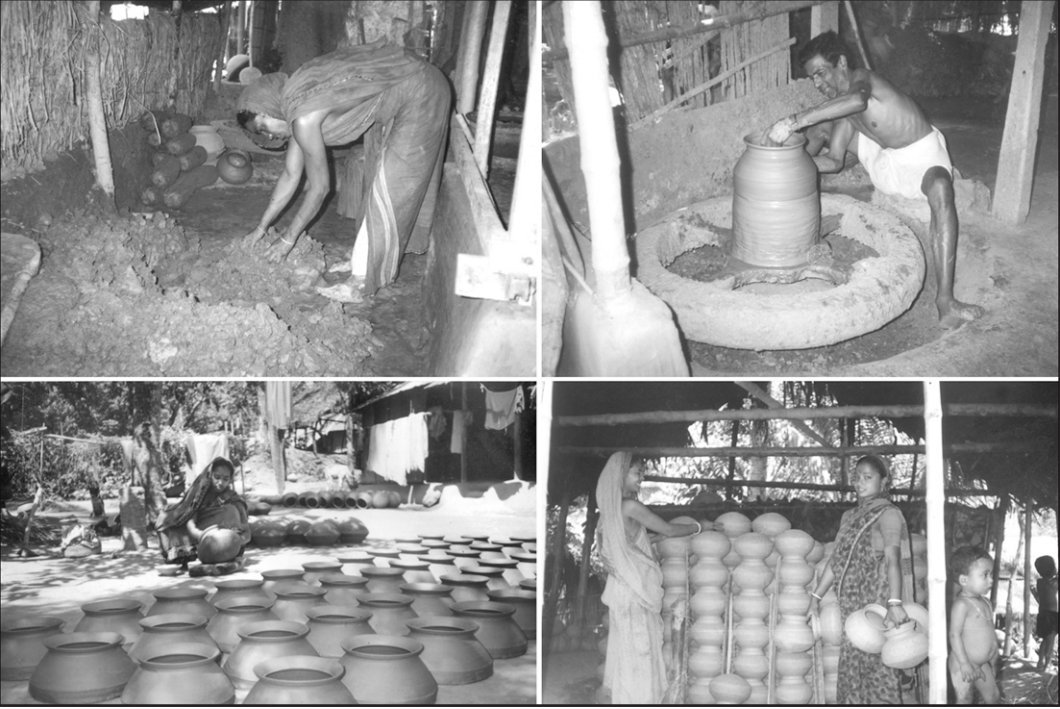


PHOTO: ALIMUZZAMAN MIAH

The traditional pottery industry is on verge of collapse. This is because of multifarious problems faced by the potters. The problems include lack of fund to carry on the cottage industry, lack of marketing facilities, non-availability of required ingredients and lack of government patronisation. Many of the potters are even deserting their age old profession and taking up some other suitable pursuits. Our Gopalganj correspondent recently visited Narail which is famous for pottery industry. He saw there a few Hindu families are still earning a living pursuing this pursuit. (Top left-right) Putul Rani Pal, a 45-year-old widow of late Satish Pal of village Degulia in Lohagara upazila is seen preparing mud at the initial stage of production while Sunil Kumar Pal, 65, who works from his boyhood in this trade is preparing cooking pots operating a fly wheel. (Bottom left-right) Purnima Rani Pal, 32, a housewife drying up the product under the sun and two other women Shefali Rani Pal, 46, and Juthika Rani Pal, 35, piling up the products before ultimate burning.



Rajshahi city mayor Mijanur Rahman Minu distributes certificates among the participants of a six-month training course for the female journalists. Centre for Communications Development (CCD) organised the training which concluded recently at the conference room of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC).

Discussion on Bangabandhu

UNB, Sherpur

The District Awami League organised a discussion in meeting at Sherpur on Sunday marking the 83rd birthday of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
Chaired by district acting president Mohammad Khorsheduzzaman, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Adv Anisur Rahman, Atiqur Rahman, Ziaul Haque, Hares Ali, Dr Abdus Salam, Mihir Kumar Saha and Bayezid Hasan. Besides, Bangabandhu Parishad arranged a painting competition and recitation programme at Shaheed Minar premises on the occasion.

Phensidyl recovered

UNB, Kishoreganj

Police recovered 430 bottles of phensidyl and 20kg hemp from a train at Bhairab railway station on Tuesday.
Police said, acting on a tip off they searched the compartments of Dhaka-bound Upaban Express from Sylhet when it reached at Bhairab station and recovered the bottles of phensidyl and hemp.