

NEWS SNAPS

Housewife allegedly killed by husband

UNB, Bogra

A housewife was killed allegedly by her husband at Depuin village in Kahalu upazila in Bogra on Monday.

Police said Abdus Salam stabbed his newlywed wife Ripa Khatun, 20, to death as she came to know about his extramarital affairs. Meanwhile, police arrested Abdus Salam, son of Abdur Rahim.

Separate road accidents claim two

UNB, Manikganj

Two people were killed and 12 injured in separate road accidents in Manikganj on Dhaka-Aricha highway on Monday and Tuesday.

Witnesses said an unidentified man, aged about 50, was run over by a car at Zoka on Monday. In another accident on the road, a 70-year-old man was killed at Uchutia on Tuesday. Besides, 12 people were injured when a tempo overturned at Zoka on Tuesday. Five of the injured, Shahjahan, Abdul Latif, Fazlu Mia, Awlad and Rashid, were first admitted to sadar hospital and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition. Separate cases were filed.

One killed in attack by miscreants

UNB, Jhenidah

A man was killed and four others were critically injured in an attack by miscreants at Doubia village at Harinkunda upazila in Jhenidah on Tuesday.

Police said the armed miscreants dragged Kamal, 35, out of his house and took to the nearby road where they stabbed and shot him. He later died from his wounds at Kushtia Sadar Hospital. The miscreants also stabbed Kamal's wife, son, brother and brother's wife when they came up to rescue him. A case was filed.

Terrorists spray bullets on fish trader

UNB, Rangamati

A fish trader was critically injured in an attack on his boat in a lake at Kalabunia village in Barkal upazila on Tuesday.

Witnesses said unknown terrorists sprayed bullets on Mizanur Rahman, 22, as was going to the town along with one of his friends. The motive behind the attack could not be known. He was being treated at Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Timber lifters rule reserve forests in coastal belt

Block raids by army suggested

UNB, Noakhali

A section of people logged thousands of trees worth Tk 32 crore in a number of shoals in Noakhali during the last three years, clouding the prospect of developing mangrove forests in the coastal areas.

Officials in Noakhali feel that the authorities need to conduct block raids by the army to recover thousands of sophisticated arms and ammunition from the criminals to save the reserve forests in the coastal belt.

Official sources said Forest Department planted huge saplings in Char Jobbar, Char Alauddin, Char Habib and Char Bata in 1969 to develop mangrove forests to help protect the ecosystem.

They said some 2200 saplings were planted on each acre of land in the shoals while a large number of trees grown naturally. Saplings on over 50,000 acres of land were planted in Char Jobbar alone.

Apart from maintaining the ecological balance, the coastal forest helped

over 30,000 families to graze their cows, collect honey and firewood.

Logging of trees in the shoals started in the 1990s. Trees on Char Alauddin and Char Bata were indiscriminately felled in 1997.

Trees worth over several crores of taka felled on about 10,000 acres of land in Boyarchar and other coastal areas.

There is an organised gang of 1000 people who also sell lands of the shoals to landless people at Tk 5000 to Tk 6000 per acre after logging trees.

They said over 60 officers and employees of the Forest Department were injured in attacks by timber lifters when they tried to prevent them from logging trees in the shoals in the last three years.

Forest officer, Abul Kashem, was shot dead in December 2001.

These days, police can hardly arrest any timber lifter as information passed to them through mobile phones before launching any drive. They always monitor the activities of police and forest officials.

Terrorists ransack 10 houses at Rupganj

A CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Armed terrorists ransacked 10 houses at village Rupshi in Rupganj thana of Narayanganj Monday morning.

During the attack, the terrorists allegedly belonging to the ruling party looted valuables from the houses, beat up the inmates and allegedly raped three girls. At least 25 people were injured in the attack.

Witnesses said about 200 people equipped with hockey sticks and pistols stormed into the houses of Haji Mostafa and Aslam, Amzad, Mofiz, Siraj, Habibullah, Lal Mia and Kalam at about 11 am as a sequel to previous enmity over lifting of sand from Shitalakhya.

Of the injured, seven were identified as Manik, Amzad, Maqbul, Jewel, Masud, Kalam and Zahid.

Later, police arrested two BNP activists -- Mohammad Ali and Abdul Khaleque -- in connection with the clash.

11 terrorists held with arms at Kushtia

UNB, Kushtia

Police arrested 11 alleged terrorists along with firearms and ammunition from Amlapara Jam-e-Mosque in Kushtia town on Thursday.

On information, police raided the mosque and nabbed Mahbubur Rahman, Razan, Bipul Kumar, Saklai, Shankar Das, Rajibul Had, Mehdi Hasan, Bashir, Sujan, Shudev Adhikari and Rajesh from its rooftop.

The law enforcers also recovered one pistol, two shutter guns, one pipegun, two different arms and 18 bullets from their possession.

Police said the arrested persons were involved in terrorist activities, including drug trading.

Mymensingh AM College faces shortage of teachers



PHOTO: STAR

A view of Mymensingh Ananda Mohan College. Studies of the students are hampered greatly because of manifold problems including shortage of teachers.

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Mymensingh Ananda Mohan (AM) College, one of the two top listed university colleges of the country has been facing various problems including shortage of teachers, library facilities, class rooms and furniture.

Established in 1908 on 15.75

acres of land after the name of the golden son of greater Mymensingh Ananda Mohan Basu, the college was nationalised in 1964. Now the college has been conducting honours and masters courses in 18 subjects including English, Sociology, Social Welfare, Geography, Political Science, Islamic History, Islamic Studies,

Botani and Zoology.

But many important departments are being run amid shortage of teachers which frequently hampers the academic activities.

The college is being run with the staffers of 1984 though the number of students have increased several times during the past few years. The sanctioned posts for every department are four. A department which conducts honours and masters courses needs a teaching staff of 12. The total sanctioned posts of the college are 159. Of which, 26 are lying vacant for long.

Now over 15 thousand students are continuing their studies in this college. But due to lack of teachers some departments such as Philosophy, Geography, Sociology, Social Welfare, Islamic Studies and Islamic History are now facing serious problems.

Only one teacher is running the Sociology Department, two teachers are running the Islamic Studies Department and three teachers each are running the Geography and Islamic History Departments. There are four teachers in Social Welfare and Philosophy Departments.

All the departments conduct honours and masters courses with around 900 students in each department. The studies of students are being hampered greatly because of the problems.

SSC examinee stabbed to death at Pabna

UNB, Pabna

An examinee of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) was stabbed to death in Pabna town while returning home after Mathematics examination on Thursday afternoon.

Police and relatives said some terrorists stabbed Rokan, 16, near Isamoti High School in the town. The pedestrians rushed him to the hospital at about 2 pm where the doctors declared him dead.

It is suspected that the killing was a sequel to enmity.

IU VC's obstinacy

IU CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The vice-chancellor (VC) of Islamic University (IU) did not place any wreath at Muktobangla (a liberation war memorial on the campus) on the Independence Day.

Teachers and students of the university protested the vice-chancellor's apparent disrespect towards the liberation war martyrs.

Immediately after the guard of honour by the cadets of Bangladesh National Cadet Corps (BNCC) on March 26, the vice-chancellor, Prof Mustafizur Rahman, left the Independence Day procession without placing wreath at the memorial, witnesses said.

However, IU Treasurer Prof

Mosharraf Hossain placed the wreath prepared after the name of the vice-chancellor.

Different teachers' and students' organisations protested the VC's attitude.

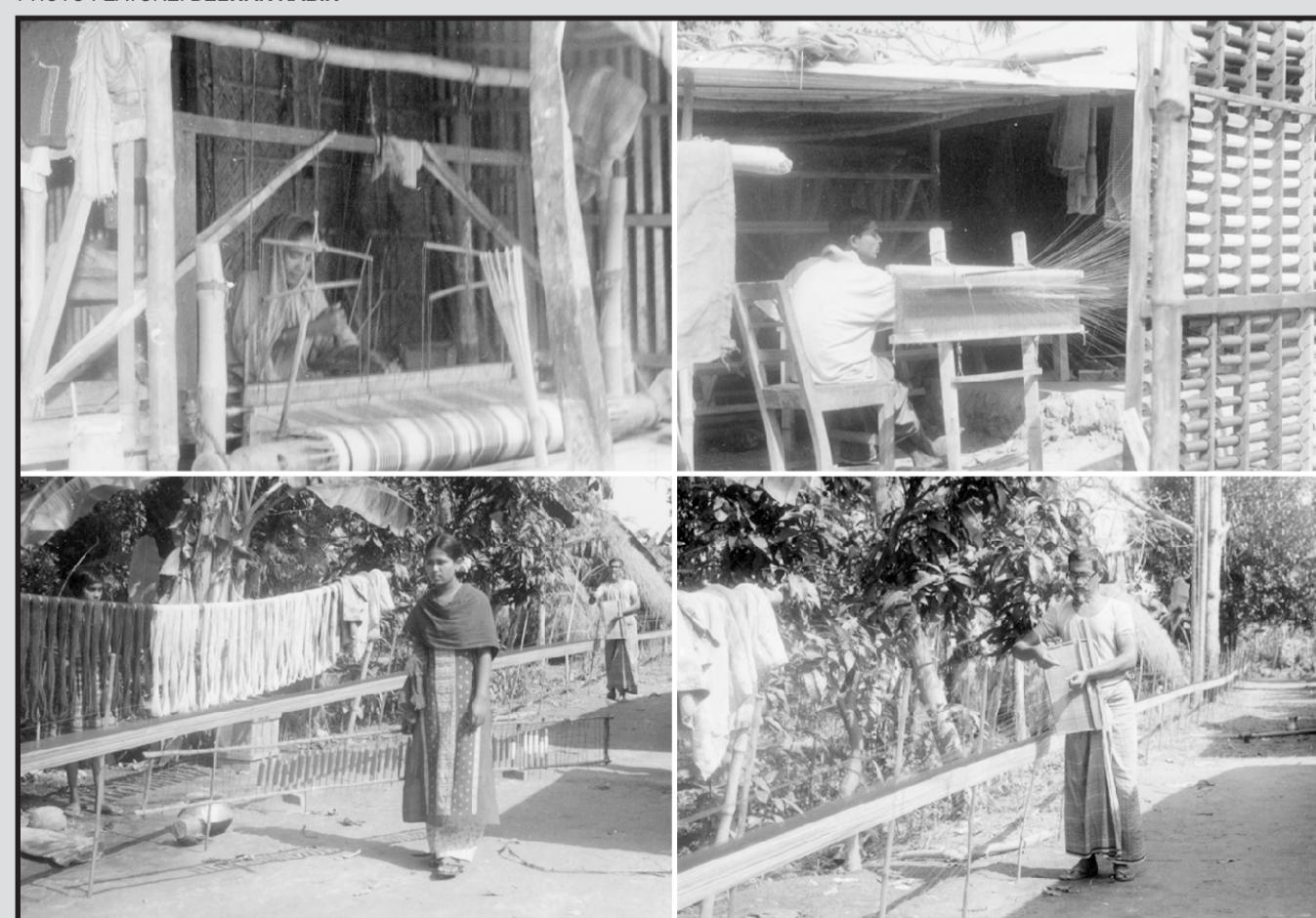
In different press releases, the Islamic University Teachers Association (IUTA), Bangabandhu Parishad, and left-leaning Shapla Forum criticised the VC's act.

Bangladesh Chhatra Union and Bangladesh Chhatra League protested the VC's act.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Organising Secretary Humayun Babor Feroz said, "The VC's act has hurt the national sentiment."

Decaying weaving industry of Jhenidah

PHOTO FEATURE: DELWAR KABIR



The traditional weaving industry of Jhenidah has been facing extinction due to various reasons. The reasons include lack of patronisation of the government, shortage of fund, lack of marketing facilities and higher production cost. In the meantime, many weavers have left their forefather's profession finding it unprofitable and taking up new profession. A few others who still stick to their age old pursuit are passing very hard time. (Top left-right) A female weaver running her handloom factory shunning the taboo of the old society while a young weaver matching thread with his 'thread drum'. (Bottom left-right) A girl helps her weaver father in pulling a pulley while one weaver is seen selecting colour thread for making 'Lungi', the traditional dress of farmers and rural people.