

NEWS SNAPS

Eyes of alleged armed robber gouged out

UNB, Jhalakati

The eyes of an alleged armed robber were gouged out by villagers at Sonautha village at Kathalia upazila in Jhalakati recently.

The villagers caught Selim Talukder while preparing to commit an armed robbery on the night of March 22 and gouged out his eyes. He was then left in front of the house of an influential man of the village in an unconscious state. Pedestrians rescued him the following day and sent to Amua Hospital, where he was being treated under police custody. Police said Selim was wanted in four cases.

Thousands drink arsenic water

UNB, Comilla

Thousands of people in 22 unions of Muradnagar upazila in Comilla are drinking arsenic contaminated water as the government has failed to come up with remedial measures.

Grameen Shikkha, a local Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), recently tested water of 30,199 tube-wells of the upazila and found that 28,234 of the tube-wells were pumping out arsenic contaminated water. The NGO carried out the test in cooperation with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Public Health Engineering Department.

Three policemen injured by terrorists

UNB, Bagerhat

Three members of law enforcing agency were injured in a terrorist attack in Barabari area of Chitalmari upazila in Bagerhat on Thursday evening.

Police said criminal Wahiduzzaman alias Panna and his associates launched the attack when they went to arrest him (Panna) at a local market. With critical wounds SI Shawkat and two Ansars, whose identity could not be known immediately, were admitted to Chitalmari Upazila Health Complex. Police super visited the spot.

Over 1m become victims of river erosion in Bangladesh every year

BSS, Sirajganj

Every year more than one million people across Bangladesh become victims of erosion by big rivers and their tributaries. Of them, thousands of silent disaster victims live in various parts alongside the banks of grand river Jamuna.

"The homeless people never find adequate shelter and fresh hovels appear in already overpopulated villages. Victims of river erosion migrate to city slums or endure deprivations on the shoals of inhospitable new land rising mostly as islands from the river silt -- which, in turn, will fall to erosion again," delegates of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRCS) told quoting observations made in the World Disasters Report-2001.

Indira Kulenovic, sub-regional reporting delegate of the IFRCS, observed that river erosion is one of the biggest natural disaster in Bangladesh. It is a slow and silent disaster and does huge damage to socio-economic condition of the country but vastness and complexity of the problem scares off the international development partners and donors, she said.

Engineers of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) engaged in river bank protection project in Sirajganj said the continued west bank erosion by the Jamuna not only affected the people of Sirajganj but also gripped people of upstream points in Sariakandi

and other upazilas in Bogra, and also the people of Gaibandha and Kurigram during high floods.

"Due to several engineering interventions and effective river training efforts annual river erosion near Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (JMB) area has been controlled. But if the existing engineering establishments on the bank of the Jamuna (Brahmaputra) river is not maintained properly and if additional steps are not taken at appropriate time, the consequences will be very dangerous and unimaginable," BWDB executives said.

They said the Bangali river in Sariakandi (Bogra) is flowing parallel to the Jamuna and the distance between the two rivers is very small.

The engineers said near Debdanga mouza the distance between Bangali and the Jamuna is only 670 meters. If the unification process of the two rivers are not prevented then protection measures alongside the JMB in the downstream will be ineffective. Some one lakh hectares of crop will be lost in Bogra and Sirajganj during floods.

The BWDB officials quoted World Bank-funded studies on Brahmaputra (Jamuna) River Training as saying that the consultant groups have identified 10 locations to be very prone to bank erosion. The locations are -- Kamarjani, Fulchari, Hatserpur-Hasnapara, Sariakandi, Mathurapara, Chandanbaisa, Kazipur, Shimla-Sailabari, Sirajganj and Beti-Jalalpur.

Female SSC examinee commits suicide

UNB, Jessore

A female Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinee in Keshabpur upazila of Jessore allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on Wednesday following her expulsion from the examination for adopting unfair means.

Police and family sources said Jhorna Chowdhury, daughter of Monoranjan Chowdhury, committed suicide as she was expelled for adopting unfair means in Mathematics examination.

The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy. A UD case was filed with local police.

Another report adds: Police recovered the body of Manaranjan Kunda, 65, of Khalisa Khali in Tala upazila, Sathkira from near Sutighata Bridge in Kotwali thana on Thursday.

Police said terrorists picked up and killed Manaranjan when he was going to his daughter-in-law's house on Wednesday.

After killing the elderly man, the criminals hanged his body with a tree.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Jessore General Hospital for autopsy. A case has been filed with Kotwali police.

Nazrul murder case: Five get life term

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Sirajganj District and Sessions Judge Court last week convicted five people and sentenced them to life term imprisonment in the sensational Nazrul Islam Murder Case.

The convicts Shahadat Hossain, 29, Abdul Halim, 27, Mukul, 26, Buddha, 28, (absconding) and Mokles, 30, (absconding) were also fined Tk 5,000 each, in default, to suffer one year more rigorous imprisonment (RI).

According to prosecution, Nazrul Islam, 18, of village Chandnagar in Kazipur upazila was murdered by the convicted persons on 15 March, 1999. After his murder his brother Aynul Haque Mondal filed a case against them. Police submitted chargesheet against the convicted persons.

Sirajganj District and Sessions Judge Alhajj Motiar Rahman declared the verdict last week after examining 15 witnesses and records.

Public Prosecutor (PP) Advocate Rezaul Karim Talukder conducted the case on behalf of the government and Advocate Sanwar Hossain conducted the case for the accused.

Two-year-old boy drowns in pond

UNB, Manikganj

A two-year-old boy drowned in a pond in Bakjuri area of Manikganj municipality on Friday.

Police quoting family sources said Jahanur, son of Izzat Ali, drowned in the pond adjacent to the house when he was playing there.

Besides, six people became ill taking poisons in different areas in the district on Friday.

With critical condition Selina, Khaleq, Ripon, Amena, Firoj and Moyuri were admitted to sadar hospital.

Police seized a truck loaded with smuggled fertiliser from Polashbari in Gaibandha on March 24 night.

The truck loaded fertiliser was brought to store at a godown at Polashbari before sending it to India. But acting on a tip off, police challenged the truck, arrested three people and seized the truck along with 280 bags of fertiliser.

Youth commits suicide at fiancee's house

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

One youth committed suicide at the house of his fiancee after being humiliated by her parents at Namobuddha Uttarpara in Rajshahi city on Sunday.

Nadir, 20, son of late Amjad Hossain of the area committed suicide by hanging from the ceiling-fan hook using a umer (scurf) of her fiancee.

He was trying to have an affair with Arifa whom he met two weeks ago on one of his relative's house. "And Arifa, 18, daughter of a day labour Abdus Salam of the area also had some weakness for him", said the investigation officer (IO) in the case Md Azhar Hossain.

On Sunday morning, Nadir went to her house when there was none. At around 10 am, Arifa's father Salam returned and got angry

seeing them gossiping in a room. As her father questioned Nadir, he proposed to marry her daughter. Aklima Khatun, mother of the girl, on returning home, rebuked him.

A few hours later the parents agreed to get their daughter married to Nadir. They (parents) giving him assurance of the marriage, went out to call the local dwellers putting the main entrance under lock and key.

Apprehending humiliation from the local dwellers, Nadir forced Arifa out of the room and hanged himself.

"Nadir was insisting to arrange the marriage at his sister's house in Sirajganj when the parents wished to arrange it at their own house", said the IO quoting the mother.

Police, however, arrested Arifa and her mother Aklima Khatun and recorded an unnatural death (UD) case in this regard.



Participants at a lively dialogue titled "Odhikar: Peshajibi Nari" (Rights: Professional Women) arranged recently by Sabolombi Unnyan Samity, a local development organisation, at its Shibganj Road office in Netrakona to commemorate the International Women's Day.

Violent storm lashes Sadar UZ in Madaripur

UNB, Madaripur

A violent storm lashed Sadar upazila of Madaripur Tuesday night leaving a man dead and huge standing crops damaged.

Locals said Narayan Chandra Baroi, 60, of Purba Kolagachia village was killed in a house collapse during the storm.

Besides, some 200 houses were damaged while a good number of trees uprooted.

Another report from Kushtia adds: A severe nor'wester accompanied by hailstorm lashed Daulatpur upazila Tuesday night damaging over 4,000 dwelling houses and standing crops on a vast tract of land.

Ten people were injured and Chilmari BDR camp was also damaged during the storm.

About 100 houses were damaged as a nor'wester hit Kachua upazila in Chandpur Monday night.

Thirty people were injured during the storm. Of the injured eight were admitted to hospital.

SSC examinee held for taking away answer scripts

UNB, Rajshahi

Police Thursday arrested an examinee for taking away the answer script from the examination hall in Charghat upazila of Rajshahi.

Officials said two examinees -- Rajab Ali and Nazmul Hasan of Sarda Centre fled with the answer scripts on Wednesday. In Bagha upazila, another paper went missing from Arani Centre.

On Thursday, police arrested Rajab Ali and recovered a paper following his confessional statement.

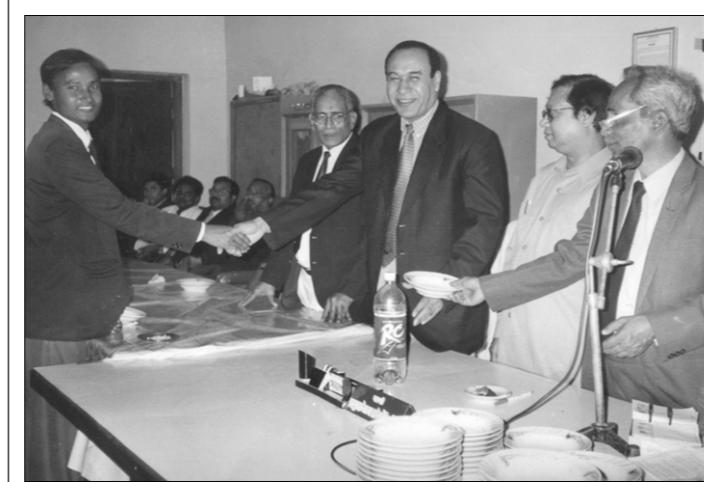
Demolishing image of God Shiva: 11 arrested

UNB, Barisal

Police arrested 11 people in connection with demolishing the image of God Shiva of the Sangkarmath in Barisal town Thursday night.

Miscreants damaged the statue uprooting from the temple earlier in the day.

Besides, police arrested 16 people more from the town on various charges.



The Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Joypurhat hands over award to a member of Joypurhat Bar Association Babul Rabidas. The bar association recently arranged a prize distribution ceremony for the meritorious lawyers.