

NEWS SNAPS

Jamalpur BNP leader injured by terrorists

UNB, Jamalpur
A local BNP leader was injured in an attack by terrorists on Medical road in Jamalpur town Wednesday.

Witnesses said the terrorists swooped on BNP leader Milon Ansari and hit him with a sharp weapon while he was going to his office. The terrorists ran away when local people rushed to the spot. Milon was admitted to General Hospital.

VDP member chopped by terrorists

UNB, Bagerhat
A VDP member was critically injured as terrorists chopped him at Syedpur village at Sadar upazila in Bagerhat early Thursday.

Police said five terrorists came to the house of VDP member Lablu in a microbus and called him out at dead of night. They later chopped him in a nearby place. Local people rescued Lablu in the morning and took him to Sadar Hospital. Police later arrested a youth, Afzar Moral, for his alleged involvement in the attack.

Two leaders of AL, BCL arrested

UNB, Laxmipur
Two leaders of Awami League (AL) and its student wing were arrested from Sadar and Roypur upazilas in Laxmipur on Wednesday.

The arrested were identified as Sadar unit Chhatra League leader Anup Kumar Nath alias Liton and Roypur upazila AL leader Kamal Uddin Bhuiyan. Police said Liton was arrested in the Shibir leader Mohsin murder case while Kamal in other cases.

3 held for misappropriating foodgrains

UNB, Laxmipur
Three people, including an assistant education officer, were arrested on charge of giving foodgrains to students less than the allotted amount in Roypur upazila Wednesday.

The arrested were identified as assistant education officer Abul Kalam, headmaster of Madhya Keria Government Primary School Manik Lal Devnath and dealer Shahjahan Kamal. Acting on a tip-off, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Anis Mahmud and district first class magistrate M Ameen rushed to the school and caught them red-handed while distributing the foodgrains among its students much less than the allocated amount under Food-for-Education Programme. The arrested were also charged with collecting Tk 20 from each student of the school.

Miscreants throw acid on housewife

UNB, Jamalpur
A housewife suffered severe burn injuries in an acid attack by miscreants at Satkura village at Sadar upazila in Jamalpur Wednesday night.

Police said three people -- Abdul Jalil, Khalilur Rahman and Bishu -- dragged Rashida Begum, wife of Rasul Mahmud, out of her house in absence of her husband and poured acid on her body. A longstanding land dispute between Rasul Mahmud and the attackers is believed to be the reason behind the attack. Rashida was being treated at Acid Survivors' Foundation in Dhaka. Meanwhile, police arrested Khalil in this connection.

Miscreants loot 17 shallow tubewells

UNB, Pabna
A gang of miscreants took away 17 shallow pumps worth about Tk 2.55 lakh from two unions at Sathia upazila in Pabna Wednesday night.

Of the pumps, 10 were looted from Lohar Beel at Alokhia union and seven from Gayeshpurin Bhulbaria union, disrupting irrigation on about 500 acres of land. Local farmers alleged that an identified group of terrorists of the locality was involved in the looting, but nobody dared to file a case against them.

Valuables worth over Tk one lakh looted

UNB, Munshiganj
Armed robbers swooped on a house at Rarikhali village at Sreenagar upazila in Munshiganj and looted valuables worth over Tk one lakh.

Police said the bandits broke into the house of Kalai Khan at the village at about 11:30 pm and looted the valuables after locking the house inmates in a room. They also beat up a member of the family. A case was filed.

Pirates swoop on foreign ship

UNB, Cox's Bazar
Pirates swooped on a foreign ship on the Bay near Chittagong Port and looted goods and machinery worth about one lakh US dollars Wednesday.

Police said over a hundred pirates in the guise of fishermen swooped on the ship from Singapore in the afternoon when it anchored close to the port during a storm. The pirates then tied up the crewmembers of the ship, beat up some of them and decamped with electronic materials and machinery in some 12 fishing boats. A case was filed.

One arrested with 300 gms of heroin

UNB, Rajbari
A man was arrested along with 300 gms of heroin from Daulatdia ferry ghat in Rajbari on Thursday.

Acting on a tip-off, river police from Daulatdia camp searched the bag of Abul Kalam of Mirgi village in Faridpur Sadar thana and recovered the heroin. He was on way to Dhaka from Faridpur. A case was filed.

Three convicted for stabbing co-villager

UNB, Barguna
A court in Barguna Thursday convicted three people and sentenced them to 10 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) for stabbing a man in 1996.

The convicts are Jahangir, Kamal and Noor Syed of Bhawalkar village in Sadar upazila. According to the prosecution, the three people attacked their fellow-villager Alauddin and stabbed him indiscriminately on December 27, 1996. A case was later filed against them. After examining the witnesses and records, the court handed down the verdict.

Three injured by terrorists in Bholia

UNB, Bholia
Armed terrorists swooped on a house in Charfashion upazila in Bholia and looted valuables injuring three people early Wednesday.

Police said the hoodlums entered into the house of Abul Kalam Patwary, 45, at about 1 am and chopped him, his wife Rahima Begum, 35 and another inmate Fariduddin, 25, and decamped with the booty worth Tk one lakh. The injured were admitted to the upazila health complex in critical condition. A case was filed.

Clash over trifling matter leaves 6 hurt

UNB, Jhalakati
A clash between the families of two brothers over a trifling matter left six people including four women injured at village Agarbari in Sadar upazila of Jhalakati on Thursday.

Witnesses said the clash erupted between the families for damaging a bottle of edible oil by a baby. The injured were identified as Mobarak Hossain, 60, his wife Sadia Begum, 50, wife of his son Rehana Begum, 25, and Mobarak's younger brother's wife Golam Begum, 45, her daughter Khukumoni, 18 and her relation Helauddin, 28. No case was filed with the police.

'Rabi' cultivation on 15,250 hectares

UNB, Pirojpur
Some 15,250 hectares of land have been brought under cultivation of various crops in Pirojpur during the current 'Rabi' season.

Crop-wise coverage is: Mustard-3,000 hectares, lentil-1,000 hectares, mung pulse-800 hectares, motor-150 hectares, khesari-5,000 hectares, garlic-100 hectares, chili-1,500 hectares and different kinds of vegetables-3,700 hectares. Besides, onion, ginger and other crops were cultivated on a sizable quantity of land, informed local Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE). The production target has been set at 13,700 mts. To achieve the target local agriculture department distributed necessary fertiliser, seeds and insecticides among farmers.

Fertility of land decreasing

UNB, Panchagarh
Fertility of arable lands in Panchagarh has been decreasing seriously due to indiscriminate use of topsoil in different brick kilns.

Having no restrictions over the use of topsoil in manufacturing bricks created the horrible situation. Agriculture experts said these lands have almost completely lost fertility and no production would be possible in these lands in the next 50 years. An expert said topsoil is one of the most nutritious elements that needed for the crop production and the topsoil up to 12 inches deep contain the valuable elements. The owners of the brick-field purchase the topsoil of lands from the poor farmers at a cheap price and store it for one to two years.

BWDB will spend Tk 90 cr to protect Sylhet from erosion

UNB, Sylhet

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) will spend Tk 90 crore to implement a gigantic project to protect Sylhet town from erosion by the Surma river.

The project, "Sylhet Town Protection Project," now awaits the approval of Planning Ministry, official sources said.

Although six projects were implemented in last 20 years to protect the town, a vast tract of land went into the gorge of the mighty river during the period.

The worst affected areas include

Mendibagh, Kushighat, Alampur, Jhalojhora, Kazirbazar, Misty Masjid, Borokandi, Khalopar and Kanishail.

Another project, involving Tk 4 crore, was approved last month to protect the Mendibagh area and work on it is likely to begin next month.

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman and former speaker late Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury had visited the erosion-hit areas on a number of occasions and assured local people of doing something to protect the town.

Meanwhile, engineers and

officials at BWDB have conducted a number of surveys and undertaken the mega project to protect both banks of the Surma from Kushighat to Kanishail and Alampur to Khalopar.

According to the plan, all illegal establishments will be evicted from both banks of the river to set up mini tourist spots where saplings will be planted apart from setting up of sodium light.

There are over 1,000 illegal establishments along the two banks of the river and implementation of the project depends on eviction of those, officials said.

Hundreds of evicted landless living under open sky

Sirajganj administration 'patronising influentials'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj.

Hundreds of landless people who were evicted one and a half month before by the influentials from the government railway khas land near the Sadar police station in Sirajganj, are now leading a sub-human life under the open sky.

They are yet to get shelter.

The evicted people recently met the newsmen at office of a local new daily situated on Sirajganj Municipality road and narrated their plight.

The evicted persons alleged that they were also tortured by the land grabbers. Of them, landless Abdul Sheikh, Sahera Begum, Asma, Fuljan Begum, Hayatun Nessa, Bulu Begum, Khairun Begum, Vhanu, Arjona, Farida Begum, Jobeda Begum, Shefali Begum, Rima Begum, Rupa Begum and others informed that they have no source of income. They further informed the

journalists that five years ago they took shelter on the government khas land and constructed kutchi houses where they lived with their family. But unfortunately the land grabbers bribed some local politicians, touts and the Officer-in-Charge of the local thana. The influentials evicted the poor people from their places in collaboration with them.

The landless people also sought intervention of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in this regard. They sought her help because the local administration took the side of the influentials. The influentials also bribed the police personnel and members of the security agencies, the landless people alleged. 'We feel quite insecure in the prevailing situation,' the landless said.

It is worth mentioning that since independence of the country the dishonest influentials grabbed government khas lands worth crores of taka from different parts of the district town illegally.

16 killed in separate road accidents in N region

BSS, Joypurhat

Sixteen persons were killed and 23 others injured in separate road accidents in 10 days at different places in the northern region, official sources said.

An unidentified man was killed on the spot and three others were seriously injured when two loaded trucks collided head-on from opposite sides in Sherpur area of Bogra on March 21.

On March 22, Lakman Biswas, 45, was killed and three others were injured when a speeding truck struck them at Kalitola point on Rangpur-Bogra highway.

In a separate accident on the same day, an unidentified person was killed at Nasirabad point on Gobindaganj-Ghoraghat road when a bus hit him.

On March 23, Jamila Bewa, 60, was run over by a truck in Saria Kandi area of Bogra and she died on the spot.

In a separate incident on the same day, at least 10 persons were injured when a truck fell into a roadside ditch at Muroil point of Naogaon-Bogra highway.

On March 24, schoolteacher Abdul Quddus, 50, was crushed under the wheels of a truck on Potnitola-Mohadevpur road in Naogaon.

In a separate accident on the same day, Tomiz Uddin, 30, was killed on the spot after being hit by a speeding truck near Dargahat area on Bogra-Naogaon highway.

On March 26, one minor boy Saidul Islam, 8, was crushed under the wheels of a sugarcane carrier truck at Otoari in Panchagarh.

In a separate incident on the same day, wife of Sadhan Kundu in Panchbibi town in Joypurhat was killed on the spot when she fell down from her husband's motor-cycle while going to Swapnabari picnic spot. Sadhan Kundu was also seriously injured.

In another incident on the same day, Manjura Khatun, 30, was killed on the spot when she was hit by a truck loaded with sand in Chatmohar area in Pabna.

On March 27, Tarazul Islam was killed and his companion was injured when a passenger bus hit their motorcycle near Mithapukur in Rangpur.

On March 28, Rafiqul Islam, 34, was killed when a truck crushed him near village Jagatbari in Patgram upazila of Lalmonirhat.

In a separate accident on the same day, passenger Abdul Haque was killed and two others were seriously injured when a minibus carrying them fell into a roadside ditch at Chaorahat point on Rangpur-Kurigram road.

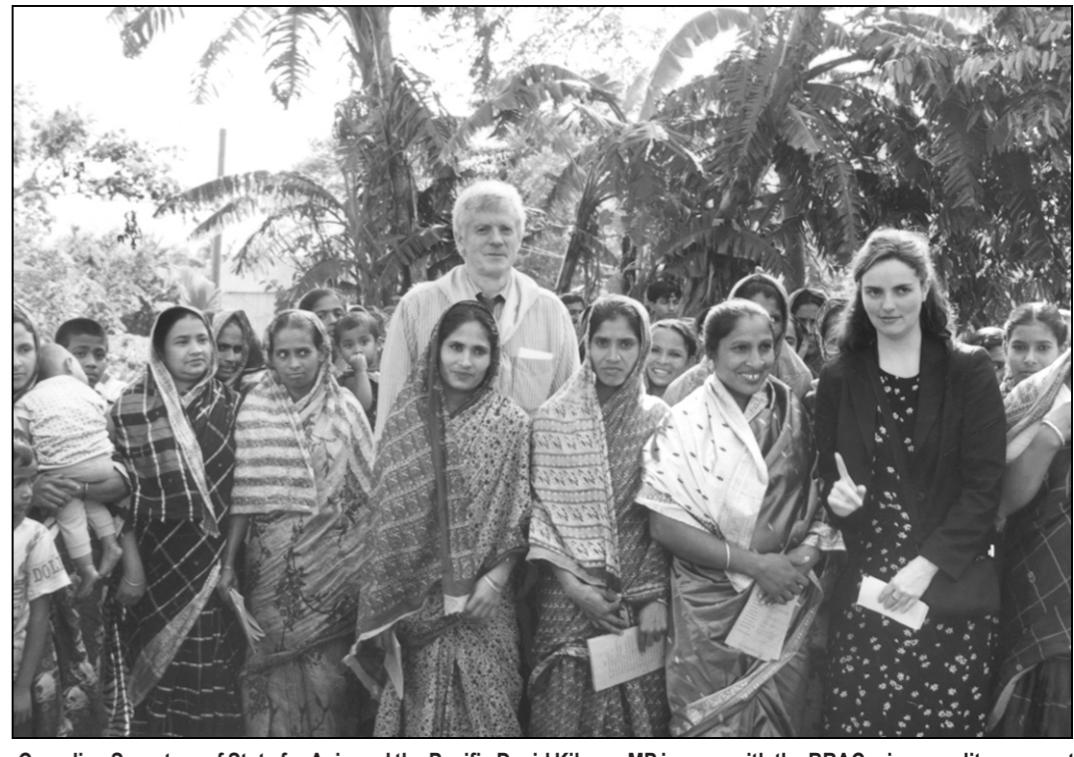
On March 29, Toslim Uddin, 60, and his wife Hasina, 50, were killed and Bellal, 32, was seriously injured when a truck hit a van cart carrying them near Dorgahat on Santahar-Bogra highway.

On March 31, motorcyclist Alam, 30, was killed on the spot and two others were seriously injured when a truck hit them at Baghpara point on Bogra-Rangpur highway.

In a separate incident on the same day, businessman Jahurul Haque, 45, was killed when a tempo hit him on the Thakurgaon-Baliadangi road.

On March 31, motorcyclist Alam, 30, was killed on the spot and two others were seriously injured when a truck hit them at Baghpara point on Bogra-Rangpur highway.

Among others, DIG of Chittagong Khandaker Mozammel Haq, C MP Commissioner Shahidullah Khan, Deputy Commissioner Abdus Salam Khan, Forest Conservator Mosharraf Hossain and Director of Environment Department Ismail Hossain were present in the meeting.



Canadian Secretary of State for Asia and the Pacific David Kilgour MP is seen with the BRAC micro credit women at Chandrai in Dhamrai. During his one-and-a-half-hour visit to Chandrai on Tuesday he along with the members of his delegation and Canadian High Commissioner David Preston, saw a micro-credit programme, Human Rights and Legal Education course of another group of women, a BRAC school and met the parents of the school.

Mahima suicide case: Bail prayers of six rejected

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Court of Additional District Magistrate (ADM) on Wednesday rejected the bail prayers of six accused in Mahima suicide case.

The accused are Ilias Hossain Ujjal, Ujjal's father Mosharraf Hossain, Musa, Khalilur Rahman, Jahangir, Abdul Motaleb and Sekender Ali.

Six other accused in the case are still at large.

Advocate Jahurul Alam and Advocate Mizanur Rahman Mizan submitted the bail petitions to the court.

The ADM rejected the bail prayers and fixed April 20 for hearing of the case.

Officials asked to stop hill cutting

UNB, Ctg

Environment and Forest Minister Shahjahan Siraj on Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to stop hill cutting and take stern action against those involved in such illegal act.

His directive came from an emergency meeting on the issue of hill cutting attended by high officials of police, administration and the departments of forest and environment in Chittagong.

Among others, DIG of Chittagong Khandaker Mozammel Haq, C MP Commissioner Shahidullah Khan, Deputy Commissioner Abdus Salam Khan, Forest Conservator Mosharraf Hossain and Director of Environment Department Ismail Hossain were present in the meeting.

Businessman stabbed to death in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

A businessman was stabbed to death by unidentified assailants at village Rujiani in Mohammadpur upazila on Tuesday night.

Police said the victim Rezaul Islam, 35, son of Abul Hashem of village Kashipur in the same upazila came under attack while he was returning home riding a motorcycle at around 9:30 pm.

The assailants stabbed in his chest, throat, hands and other parts of the body. He died on the spot.

Police recovered the body Tuesday morning and sent it to hospital for autopsy.

A murder case was lodged with Mohammadpur thana in this connection.