

NEWS SNAPS

Cow trader strangled in Bogra

UNB, Bogra
Terrorists strangled a cow trader on the bank of the river Manat at Dhanut upazila in Bogra and took away his purchased cow Tuesday night.

The body of the victim, Shahjahan, son of the late Jalaluddin of Guaduhari village of the upazila, was found hanging from a tree. On information, police recovered it Wednesday. Police said the hoodlums killed him when he was returning home from Goshabarhat of the upazila at about 8 pm.

Housewife 'killed' at in-law's house

UNB, Pabna
A housewife was allegedly killed at her in-law's house at Dariapur village at Sujaganar upazila in Pabna on April 6.

Police said Nasrin Akther Eti of Sadar upazila was married with Arun Kazi eight years back, and Arun went abroad after the marriage. As Eti's mother-in-law and other members of the house used to torture her, she returned to her father's house. Returning home on March 1, Arun brought Eti back to their house but he also used to beat his wife. On the fateful night Arun and his family members beat Eti and at one stage of their physical torture she died.

Housewife allegedly commits suicide

UNB, Jhalakathi
A housewife allegedly committed suicide at Bihangal village in Nolchiti upazila on Thursday to get rid of her husband's torture for dowry.

Family sources said Sheuli Begum was married with Hafiz Arindar of the village four years back. At the time of marriage, her father gave Tk 10,000 as dowry to Hafiz. But Hafiz used to torture Sheuli to bring more Tk 50,000 from her parents. Being failed to endure the repression, Sheuli took pesticide on Wednesday. Her parents took her to hospital where she died on the following day.

Number of arsenic victims increasing

UNB, Comilla
The number of arsenic affected people has been increasing in Comilla creating concern among people.

Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) office sources said United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), DPHE and Arsenic Mitigation Project have so far carried out survey in 2,347 villages in 12 upazilas of the district and detected about 3,000 arsenic affected patients examining the members of 204,492 families. Of the affected people, 2,302 were found in Laksam, 420 in Daudkandi, 44 in Barura, 152 in Muradnagar and 2 in Chandia upazilas.

Widow allegedly raped by youth

UNB, Sathkira
A 50-year-old widow was allegedly raped by a youth at Bashirampur village at Ashashuni upazila in Sathkira on Tuesday.

Police said Mahram Sana, 21, entered into the house of the widow for having a glass of water in the evening on the day. Finding her alone, the hoodlum forcibly raped her. Hearing the outcry of the widow, local people rushed to the spot but the rapist managed to flee the scene. A case was filed with local police in this regard.

Two rescued after 4 hours of abduction

UNB, Feni
Two people were rescued after four hours of their abduction from Sharasia village in Sadar upazila Wednesday.

Police and locals said a gang of terrorists numbering 8/10 abducted Jolodhar Das, son-in-law of Faz Lal Das and his friend Sudev from Dhakkin Gobindapur village at gunpoint. On information, police launched a drive in the area to rescue them. Sensing police presence, the terrorists fled away leaving the kidnapped people at the aforementioned village, 6 km away from the spot. Later, police rescued them.

Rapist teacher gets life imprisonment

UNB, Rangpur
A court in Rangpur Sunday sentenced a schoolteacher to life imprisonment for raping a female student at Nutaram village in Badarganj upazila.

According to the prosecution, Delwar Hossain, an assistant teacher of Badarganj Girls' School, called the victim at his house alluring her of giving notes for SSC examination and raped her on December 21, 1998. Father of the victim filed a case with local police in this connection. After examining the records and witnesses, the judge pronounced the verdict.

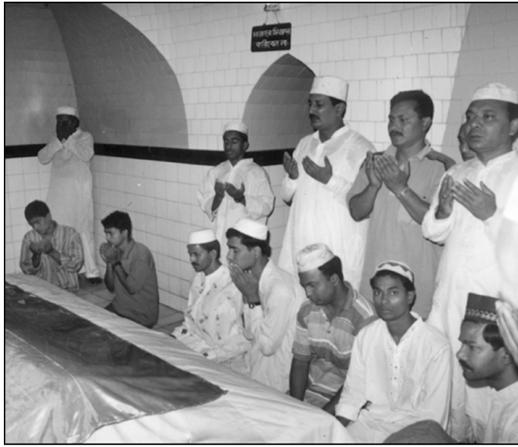


PHOTO: ABDUL WADOOD

(Left) The BNP-led four-party alliance supported mayoral candidate Mijanur Rahman Minu MP, offers fateha at the mazar of Hazrat Shah Makhdum Rupash (R) prior to beginning of his election campaign in Ward No 9 in Rajshahi city, while (right) leaders of the newly formed Shachetan Nagarik Committee introduces the 11-party Unity supported candidate Fazle Hossain Badsha at a meeting held recently at Bhuban Mohan Park in the city. Minu and Badsha are considered to be the main contestants in the mayoral election of Rajshahi City corporation (RCC) scheduled to be held on April 25.

Barchhara Land Customs station

High on revenue earning, low on facilities

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Barchhara Land Customs station situated at the Indo-Bangla border in Tahirpur upazila in Sunamganj lacks minimum basic facilities.

Though the Customs Department earns over Tk one crore per annum as revenue through the station, no step has yet been taken

for its development over the years. Even there is no electricity.

Out of 200 registered importers, about 80 are regularly involved with the import of coal from the Indian state of Meghalaya, through this station.

About two lakh tons of coal are imported through Barchhara Land

Customs station every year, officials informed. About 15,000 tons of coal are imported every month. About 80 Indian trucks loaded with coal enter into the Bangladesh territory. Thousands of people are directly or indirectly involved with the process of coal import. But they suffer seriously due to absence of a road link

and other facilities. As there is no electricity, the entire area plunged into darkness after sunset. A small police camp is also there.

The importers face acute problem due to absence of a bank branch here. For payment of government revenue, they have to make bank drafts in Sunamganj, which is about 35 Kilometres off. It takes at least two to three hours to reach Barchhara by motor-bike in the dry season. In monsoon, boat is the only means of communication.

While talking to this correspondent, Nizamudin, employee of an import firm claimed that, the revenue would go up further, if a bank branch is established here. Due to lack of security arrangement, many importers avoid this station, he added.

Besides, there is no dumping ground for storing the coal imported from across the border by trucks. Some people took lease of the

KCC mayoral candidates vow to work together

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

All the mayoral candidates for the Khulna City Corporation (KCC) elections have vowed to work together for the greater interest of people of the metropolitan city.

The three candidates had been seen at a discussion meeting on "Development of Khulna City" at Khulna Press Club auditorium Thursday evening.

At a meeting of Khulna Unnayan Sangram Samannoy Committee, an action committee for the development of Khulna, Advocate Shaikh Tayebur Rahman of the four-party alliance reiterated his commitment to carry out the unfinished tasks, if elected.

Advocate Enayet Ali of Khulna Nagarik Samaj said that he is in the KCC polls fray to work for implementation of his 11-point

programme, which includes a people-oriented administration of the KCC.

At the meeting attended by about 300 people, Advocate Feroze Ahmed of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) promised the city dwellers a pollution-free Khulna city and a corruption-free city corporation.

The candidates spoke vehemently against privatisation of the four state-owned jute mills, Khulna Newsprint Mills and Hardboard Mills.

Storm damages 30 pc wheat in Thakurgaon

UNB, Thakurgaon

The hopes of the farmers in Thakurgaon have been shattered following a violent storm that lashed the district on April 2, damaging standing crops, including wheat, on a vast tract of land.

Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources said the storm accompanied by hails damaged up to 30 per cent standing wheat in sadar upazila.

The Agriculture Officer of Ranishongkoil upazila said various crops, including wheat and watermelon, were damaged in the storm at Nonduar, Nekmorod, Dharmagarh and Kashipur unions in the upazila.

The other worst effected upazilas are Haripur, Pirganj and Baliadangi.

DAE fixed a target to bring 63,000 hectares of land under wheat cultivation this season with an output target of 2 lakh metric tons of wheat.

But the farmers cultivated wheat on 70,000 hectares of land exceeding the target.

DAE sources said the farmers of the affected areas are harvesting at least 30 per cent less wheat per acre compared to the previous years following the storm.



PHOTO: STAR

The underconstruction Doarika bridge on Barisal-Faridpur highway. Work on the vital bridge in this region is progressing fast.

Work on Doarika, Shikarpur bridges goes on in full swing

AROOP TALUKDAR, Barisal

Construction work on two bridges -- Doarika and Shikarpur over two erosion prone rivers Sugandhya and Sandhya on Barisal-Faridpur highway is going on full swing.

China Harbour Limited, a Chinese construction company took the responsibility for the construction work of the bridges under the supervision of the Department of Roads and Highways (R&H). The company started work from December, 1999 last with an estimated cost of 98 crore taka which rose to 110 crore taka with a revised estimate of over 8 crore taka.

Doarika bridge over the Sugandhya river is 388-metre long, 10-metre wide with 40 girders and eight spans at the rate of 48.5-metre distance each while Shikarpur bridge is 291-metre long, 10-metre wide with 30 number of girders and six spans at 48.5-metre distance each.

Besides the Chinese Company, a team of experts of international level has been selected to inspect the overall progress of the bridges.

Earlier, DCD, a company was given the responsibility for selecting the bridge site including drawing and design of bridges considering river erosion, changing of river flows along the bridge site.

Because of continuous erosion

of these two rivers hundreds of acres of land along the river side devoured into the rivers every year.

According to project profile made by DCD, the project was finalised and the places of Doarika and Shikarpur bridges were selected at 2.5 kilometres and 1.5 kilometres down stream from the present Doarika and Shikarpur ferryghats respectively. Both the sides are being threatened by river erosion.

Preferring anonymity, some experts told that actually, selection of sites are not fullproof.

Earlier, the scheduled time for completion of the works was September, 2002. Regarding the approach road he said, 80 per cent works of 3.5 kilometres road up to Rahamatpur and 7.5 kilometres road at the other side of the rivers -- 11 kilometres in total have already been completed.

Abdul Mannan also said, steps should immediately be taken by the WDB authorities to halt erosion of the rivers. Because, he said after some years, erosion may be a big problem for existence of the bridges in some areas.

Angry people block traffic on Dhaka-Natore road for 3 hours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Angry people injured policemen, damaged vehicles and blocked Natore-Dhaka highway for three hours after a passenger bus ran over a local youth at Boro Harishpur in the town Tuesday morning.

Shahjahan Ali, 25, son of Akram Ali of the area, was crushed under the wheels of a passenger bus at 8:30 am.

Following the accident, local people assaulted some motor union workers at the bus terminal. They also pelted brickchips at policemen, injuring several including Sub-Inspector Azhar Ali of Sadar thana.

The angry people put up barricade on Natore-Dhaka highway at Boro Harishpur crossing disrupting traffic.

When contacted Nazrul Islam, Superintendent of Police (SP) of Natore confirmed the report.

Abducted teenage girl rescued in Ctg: 5 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police rescued a kidnapped girl within two hours of abduction and arrested five criminals in Chittagong on Monday night.

Police said a teenage girl was abducted from Polytechnic Institute adjoining Kalam Colony in Khulshi thana in the city at around 8:30 pm. On information, a joint taskforce of Detective Branch (DB) of police and Khulshi thana police launched a drive and rescued the victim from Madunaghat area in Hathazari thana in the district at 10:30 pm. Police also arrested five abductors identified as Shahjahan, 22, a taxi driver, Alauddin, 37, Ala Uddin, 22, Maksud, 20, and Sujan, 20. A case was filed with Khulshi thana in this connection.