

NEWS SNAPS



PHOTO: STAR

Child artistes dancing at a cultural function organised recently by the World Vision, Mymensingh at the local Ram Krishna Asram on the occasion of the prize distribution ceremony among the staffers of the Area Development Project (ADP) of the organisation for their good performance.

Flood damages crops on 55,000 acres

UNB, Sunamganj Standing crops on some 55,000 acres of land in Kharchar Haor (water body) in Biswambarpur and Sadar upazilas were damaged by flooding triggered by incessant rain and the collapse of Badertek Dam.

Witnesses said water from the Chalati River in Biswambarpur upazila poured into the areas as the dam collapsed early Friday following heavy rain in the district for the last one week. Besides, the water level in the Surma river may cross the danger mark anytime if the rain continues to fall. Meanwhile, local administration has opened a control room to monitor the situation.

Terrorists beat up father of newsman

UNB, Pabna A gang of terrorists attacked the house of a journalist and beat up his father at Atghoria upazila in Pabna Wednesday.

The terrorists, allegedly led by Mujibar, Jabbar, Sohrab and Belal, swooped on the house of Prothom Alo district correspondent Faruq Hossain Chowdhury and beat up his father Abdul Hye Chowdhury before ransacking the house. Police visited the spot. Local press club president Anjan Chowdhury and general secretary ABM Fazlur Rahman condemned the attack and demanded immediate arrest of the terrorists.

Two school girls kidnapped in Patuakhali

UNB, Patuakhali Two schoolgirls were kidnapped from Mirzaganj and Dashmina upazilas in Patuakhali on Monday-Tuesday.

Police said Bellal Khalifa of Purba Shubidkhali in Mirzaganj aided by Jasim, Suman, Jewel and Nasir picked up Dolly Begum, 13, a class VII student of Shubidkhali RK Girls' School, Tuesday. A case was filed with Mirzaganj thana against five people and police arrested Suman. Earlier Monday, Mahmuda Akhter, 15, a class IX student of Dashmina Girls School, was kidnapped by some youths while she was going to her school. Police arrested two of the youths for their involvement in the abduction.

Armed terrorists abduct teenage girl

UNB, Natore Armed terrorists abducted a teenage girl from Sadar upazila in Natore Monday. Police said miscreants picked up Kohinoor Begum, daughter of Wahed Mollah of Kafuria village, in broad daylight while she was returning home from the nearby village. Police arrested a youth, Mahtab, in this connection but they could not yet rescue the girl. Meanwhile, another teenage girl of Jhaupara village in Gurudaspur upazila was missing since she went out to go to her madrasah. The girl was identified as Ruksana Sumi, daughter of Jahangir. A case was filed.

40 injured in separate clashes

UNB, Jamalpur Some 40 people were injured in separate clashes in Sadar upazila in Jamalpur Thursday. Witnesses said a clash between two rival groups of people of Haripur Uttarpara and Nayapara over a trifling matter left 30 people injured. The injured were admitted to General Hospital. At Lahirikanda Kashaupara village in the upazila, 10 people were injured when two groups of villagers fought with each other over a land dispute. The injured were being treated in Sadar Hospital.

Juba League leader murder: 36 acquitted

UNB, Laxmipur All 36 accused, including former MP Advocate Khairul Enam, were acquitted in the case of murder of local Juba League leader Liton about five years ago. District and Sessions Judge Moinul Islam Chowdhury in his verdict on Wednesday acquitted the accused in the absence of specific evidence and prosecution witnesses. Awami League backed Juba League leader Liton Dey of Barpara village in Sadar upazila was gunned down in his home on June 6, 1997. Police after investigation submitted charge sheet against 40 BNP men. Four accused have died during the lengthy trial.

Law and order worsens in Gaibandha

KM REZAUL HUQ, Gaibandha

The law and order situation in Gaibandha has been deteriorating day by day. Incidents of murder, snatching, rape, land grabbing and stabbing are on rise in different areas of Gaibandha.

Samina Begum, 16, a domestic aid of Professorpara at Palashbari was found hanging in the kitchen of her employer on April 4. Police suspects the victim was tortured to death and later hanged to prove the case as that of suicide.

Samina was working at the house of Dilruba Harun, a school teacher. Her husband Harun-ur-Rashid, an employee of the Education Department was posted in Dhaka. Dilruba served as an assistant teacher of Choto Simulta Primary school. On return home at 5 pm on the fateful day she found Samina hanging in the kitchen. She informed the matter to police who visited the spot and sent the corpse to morgue for autopsy.

Local people alleged that Dilruba had an illicit relationship with one person named Helal who frequently tortured Samina. Police arrested seven persons for interrogation. Later police took Dilruba and Mizanur Rahman who is now in police custody.

A seven-year-old boy Manik of village Kumargari in Palashbari upazila was sodomised by Oraf, 22, of the same village on April 3. The accused lured the victim with biscuit and took him to an abandoned house where he did the mischief. Later local people recovered the victim and sent him to Gaibandha sadar hospital. A case was filed with the local thana.

A case was filed against 12 persons including Shawkatuzzaman Babu, President, Palashbari Awami League and his son Biplob on charge of illegally grabbing seven newly constructed shops on April 3 along the highway. The shops belonged to Niher Ranjan, a college teacher in Palashbari upazila.

According to police, on April 1 afternoon Shakawataman Babu and his son along with some other accomplices swooped on the newly constructed shops adjacent to Palashbari bus stand. Babu and his accomplices kept all the shops under lock and key. The actual owner informed the Police Super (SP) about the matter who broke open the shops and returned those to its owner.

Tinni, a student of Class-VII of village Bishnupur in Gaibandha Sadar upazila was raped by Kamrul of the same village after taking her into a bamboo cluster at 8 pm on the fateful day. The victim was recovered from the bamboo cluster. A case was filed with the Sadar thana in this connection.

On March 31, Mohibur Rahman Rabbi, a student of Class-VIII of Gaibandha Government High School was stabbed by his class mates over a trifling matter. Because of disagreement among the classmates, the rival group attacked him on way and stabbed with deadly weapons. The victim was removed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) in a critical condition.

A teacher was caught red-handed while attempting to rape a housewife at village Talukmandua in Gaibandha Sadar upazila. The victim, wife of Younus Ali, a day labourer left for Sylhet in search of work leaving his wife alone. Local teacher Mohsin Ali proposed her a bad proposal. On the night of the incident Mohsin entered into the room of the victim and attempted to rape her. On hearing the hue and cry, local people rushed to the spot and caught the accused red-handed.

On March 31, Narwuttum, a leader of Sadullapur upazila Chattrra League went to the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Sadullapur thana and demanded toll for holding a national conference.

There ensued hot exchange of words between the OC and the BCL leader. At one stage police arrested him and sent him to jail hajot. According to local BCL leaders Narwuttum went to police station to know the position of a case, but the OC arrested him under Section 54.

On April 1 Sadullapur police arrested a notorious armed robber who was wanted in an arms case and remained absconding for a long time. Identity of the armed robber is Sekender Ali of village Baro Chattragachi in Sadullapur upazila.

Three persons were stabbed and an amount of Tk 13,000 was mugged by a gang of terrorists at Naldanga in Sadullapur upazila. The alleged terrorist resisted Khalequzzaman and snatched away Tk 13,000 at arm point. When some others tried to resist the victim the gang stabbed them indiscriminately. As a result three persons sustained injuries.

Jehena Begum, a housewife of village Simultair in Shgahpta upazila was stabbed to death by some unknown assailants. Her body was recovered from the roadside bamboo cluster which was profusely bleeding. A case was filed with Shaghata thana.

On April 4, a gang of terrorists led by Romel entered into Gaibandha TB Clinic and tried to cut down a mango tree. The consultant of the clinic, Shamsuzzoha Khandker, who is also the President of BMA, Gaibandha unit resisted the terrorists. At this stage the terrorists assaulted the consultant. They also threatened him to harm him in near future. Gaibandha BMA in a meeting expressed concern at the increasing trend of terrorist activities in the district and demanded punishment to the attackers. Police On April 5, police arrested Romel from Gaibandha town in this connection.

Sirajee: A great name in anti-British movement getting lost in oblivion

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

The name of Ismail Hussain Sirajee is everfresh in memory of the freedom loving people of Indo-Bangla-Pak sub-continent. This is because of his vital role in the freedom movement against the British rulers.

But now his memory is being lost in oblivion. At present no befitting programmes are chalked out in his memory. Only a simple monument has been erected on his grave and a road has been named after him in Sirajganj town.

Sirajee suffered imprisonment several times for awakening the freedom loving people, especially for the backward Muslim community of this sub-continent. He awakened people through his ardent writing. He was poet, novelist, essay writer, historian, politician, journalist and above all a good speaker.

Poet Sirajee came from Diardhangara in Sirajganj. He was born on July 15 in 1879. His father was Shah Syed Abdul Karim and mother was Nurjahan Khanom. Both of them came from noble families.

Sirajee sacrificed the golden period of his life in anti-British movement. He marched forward despite various odds.

A poem of our national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam inspired him to get involved in anti-British struggle. He sent an amount of Tk 10 to poet Nazrul to express his gratitude to him. At that time the value of Tk 10

was much more. He wrote to Nazrul that he had been sending him Tk 10 only to express his gratitude to him. He urged him not to return the amount of money. He further said to him that he would be hurt on return of the money.

However, Sirajee got himself admitted in Anandadaini School in 1888. He was a regular reader of The Weekly Sudhakur which was first published in 1691. His literary pursuit began from this weekly. He began to write poems and essays from his school days.

In 1895 he went to Turkey which was a centre of Islamic education. On way he met with journalist and literature Reazuddin Ahmed who lived at 4 Korea Gorosthan Road in Calcutta. After some time he came back home from Turkey and engaged himself in writing poems and essays.

In 1899, famous social reformer and writer Munshi Muhammad Meherullah came to attend a meeting at Sirajganj from Jessore. Sirajee recited from 'Anal Prahaba' and from other poems at the meeting venue. Munshi Meherullah was very impressed at his performance.

To inspire Sirajee, Munshi Meherullah published the first edition of 'Anal Prahaba' of Sirajee and 11 other poems written by him in 1307 Bangla year. The freedom loving people was inspired by his writing and ultimately they rose to the occasion. Then the British gov-

ernment banned 'Anal Prahaba'. The British Government sentenced him to two years imprisonment on charge of so-called subversive acts against the state.

Sirajee was freed from jail on May 14 in 1912. At that time All India Medical Mission led by Dr Mokhter Ahmed Ansary was formed in Delhi with a view to assisting the Balkan War. As a member of the mission he came back home on July 15 in 1913 with the title of Gazi-e-Balkan given by the Sultan (ruler) of Turkey on December 2 in 1912. He again engaged himself in his holy mission to awaken the freedom loving people through his speeches.

Moulana Abdur Rashid Tarkabagish was one of his ardent followers. Sirajee appealed to the Muslims of the sub-continent to educate themselves keeping pace with time. He exposed the stories of torture and exploitation on our people by the British government. Sirajee opposed the tendency of keeping women away from the mainstream of society. He also opposed the traditional veil system, especially among the Muslim women.

Sirajee edited first the monthly Noor from 33/A Bonpukur road in Calcutta in February, 1920. At that time the British rulers banned the magazine "Muhammad" and imprisoned Moulana Muhammad Akram Khan in 1922. Then Sirajee was engaged in organising public opin-

ion against the British rulers. He actively participated in the Khelafat Movement in 1921. He also worked in the weekly Soptan which was edited by Moulana Muhammad Muniruzzaman Islamabadi in 1922. Sirajee presided over the reception committee of the Muslim Conference in Sirajganj in 1923. He also presided over the All Bangla Activists Conference in Calcutta Albert Hall on August 15 and 16 in 1923. He contested in the Bengal Provincial council election in 1929. Again he was imprisoned for actively participating the civil disobedience movement.

In prison his health condition deteriorated and he breathed his last on July 17 in 1932 at the age of 52 only.

Later on our national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam paid rich tributes to this great son of the soil at a meeting at Sirajganj.

His famous works are (Poetry) : Anal Prahaba, Moha Shikkhya Kabbyo, Dhodhon, Nabo Uddipon, Uchhash, Spain Bijoy Kabboya and Pramanjalee while his famous novels are Rainandini, Nur Uddin, Firoja Begum, Bangla Biswakosh and Tarabain. Adab Kaida Shikkhya, Saclinta, Stree Shikkhya, Naree Jeebon and Swajatee Prem. Turoska Bhamon is the most popular travel story written by him.

14 more arsenicosis patients detected

UNB, Jhalakathi

At least 14 people have been suffering from arsenicosis in Bhandaria upazila of Jhalakathi

The patients were detected during the recent survey conducted by Ahsania Mission of Dhaka. Of them, four were detected in Bhandaria Sadar, five in Nadmula, three in Dhaoa and one each in Gouripur and Ikri unions.

They were identified as Salam, Altaf, Runa, Ruhul Amin, Mosharrif, Paritosh, Nurul Islam, Bimal, Mansur Ali, Ambia Khatun, Hira Aktar, Billal, Rokeya and Fazlul Huq.

Most of the tubewell waters of the upazila have been found to be containing arsenic beyond permissible limit. Anxious people in these areas have been desperately trying to collect water from deep tubewells, which are few and far between.

The survey found 60 per cent of shallow tubewells in the upazila containing water with arsenic beyond permissible limit. Five unions out of seven have been affected, the survey said.

Locals said most of the affected persons are poor and in the absence of treatment facilities in the upazila, they are passing their days

in anxiety.

Meanwhile, most people in the area where deep tubewells do not exist are using contaminated pond and canal water since the outbreak of the disease in the upazila.

Killer gets life term imprisonment

UNB, Sirajganj

A man was sentenced to life term imprisonment in absentia by a court in Sirajganj Wednesday for killing a little boy in 1996.

The convict was identified as Anisur Rahman of Rajapur village in Sadar upazila. According to the prosecution, Anisur Rahman called Humayun Kabir, 7, out of his house at the same village on June 29, 1996 and killed him following enmity with his father Soleman Ali Sheikh. He later dumped the body into a pond and went into hiding. A case was filed and police after investigation submitted charge sheet against him. After examining the witnesses and records, the District and Sessions Judge handed down the punishment.



Little painters of Dano drawing competition pose with the country manager of Arla Foods Ingredients Milko Bangladesh Ahmed Kabir who distributed prizes among the winners of the contest at the school ground of Madhuprobhati Kindergarten, Chowdhurypara, Joypara, Dohar, Dhaka recently. Chairperson of the school Begum GS Chowdhury and principal Abdur Rahman are also seen with them.

Acid attack: 3 jailed for 14 yrs each in Satkhira

UNB, Satkhira

The district court has sentenced three youths to 14 years rigorous imprisonment and fined Tk 5000 each for throwing acid on a girl.

Those convicted are Aminur Rahman, 19, Mokhlesur Rahman, 22 and Bablu, 18, of Satani village in

sadar upazila.

According to the prosecution, they threw acid on Sabina Khatun, 17, daughter of Tabarak Master of the same village at 9 pm on March 28 in 1998. The entire body of the victim was burnt.

District and Sessions Judge Afzal Hossain pronounced the verdict on Monday after a lengthy hearing.

2 thieves beaten to death in Sirajganj

UNB, Sirajganj

Two alleged thieves were killed in mass beating at Kalidasgati village in Sadar upazila on Friday night.

Locals said a gang of thieves stole valuables from the house of one A Rahim and when they went to the adjacent house for stealing local people rushed to the spot hearing the hue and cry of the house owner.

The villagers caught hold of them and beat Yasin, 30 and Abdur Rashid, 40 to death on the spot. Police recovered the bodies on the following morning.

A case was filed.

26 bales of Indian saree seized

UNB, Chapainawabganj

BDR jawans seized 26 bales of Indian saree worth Tk 73 lakh from Chunakhali area in Sadar upazila in Chapainawabganj Sunday, according to a delayed report.

Acting on tip-off, the BDR troops raided an abandoned house in the area and seized the sarees.