

NEWS SNAPS

Youth stabbed to death by criminals

UNB, Bogra

A youth was stabbed to death by criminals at Rameshwarpur in Gabtali upazila in Bogra Thursday night.

The dead was identified as Milon, 18, son of Motraj Ali Mondal, of Bidupara village in Sadar upazila. Police said the criminals indiscriminately stabbed Milon at about 8 pm when he tried to protect his cousin, Sayeduzzaman, from the attack launched by the hoodlums. The criminals attacked Milon's cousin Sayeduzzaman following an altercation over gambling in Chaitali Bazaar in Rameshwarpur village on April 17. Milon died on the spot at about 8.30 pm. Later, police recovered the body and sent it to the hospital morgue for autopsy. Victim's elder brother filed a case with local police indicting eight people.

One killed in Rangpur road mishap

BSS, Rangpur

One person was killed and three others injured critically in a road accident at dracaena crossing on Rangpur-Dinajpur highway in Sadar upazila of Rangpur on Saturday.

Police and local people said the accident occurred when a passenger bus coming from Dhaka braked turtle and fell into a roadside ditch. As a result, an unidentified man aged about 55 died on the spot and three others were injured critically. The injured persons were admitted at Rangpur Medical College and Hospital (RMCH).

Pabna brought under Internet service

UNB, Pabna

Pabna has been brought under Internet service.

A discussion was held at local Banomali Institute on the occasion. Documentary on Internet service was also displayed. Chaired by DC Ashraf Maqbul, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Post and Telecommunications Minister Barrister Aminul Haq, and parliament members Reza Habib and KM Anwarul Islam.

20 injured by criminals in Pabna

UNB, Pabna

Twenty people, including six BNP activists, were injured in an attack by criminals at Kadinbhanga in Sadar upazila in Pabna Sunday night.

Police said the criminals swooped on the BNPmen at a meeting at Kalamore Bazar in the morning. One of the injured, Khallur Rahman, was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in a critical condition and five others to General Hospital. BNP leaders blamed Awami League activists for the attack, an allegation denied by Awami League leaders.

JCD-BCL clash leaves 19 injured

UNB, Sirajganj

At least 19 people were injured in a clash between Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists at Tarash Degree College Monday.

Police said the clash ensued at about 11 am when the JCD activists prevented the Chhatra League workers from entering the college campus. JCD leader denied the allegation. Eight of the injured were admitted to Tarash Upazila Health Complex. A case was filed.

Clash over land dispute in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

Krishnapur village in Barura upazila wore a deserted look, abandoned by villagers, following a fierce clash on Saturday in which some criminals were involved.

Over 100 people of 10 families of the village had fled their homes in apprehension of police action on the village in search of the criminals. Police, however, did not come and the criminals also fled the village. Witnesses said trouble erupted at about 10 am on the day as a sequel to land dispute between two cousins. A number of houses were torched during the clash. The district correspondent of Prothom Alo Nasiruddin and its photojournalist also came under attack during the clash.

Traffic movement on highway disrupted

UNB, Bagerhat

Traffic movement on the busy Dhaka-Mawa-Khulna highway was disrupted for about 4 hours following clashes between bus and tempo workers at Fakirhat which left at least 15 people injured.

Movement of vehicles restored at 3 pm on April 22 when the Deputy Commissioner intervened and assured of resolving the dispute. Witnesses said the clash ensued when bus workers beat up Shahidul Islam, a tempo driver, at Rupshaghat in the morning. The clash spread when 73 tempos and two buses were damaged.

Six criminals arrested in Feni

UNB, Feni

Police in a pre-dawn raid arrested six notorious criminals from a village in Daganbhuiyan upazila in Feni Tuesday.

Being tipped off by locals, police laid seize to the residence of Patwari at Boitharpar village and arrested Jasimuddin, Rafiq, Absar, Sirajuddin Saiful and Selim. The arrested, known as the armed cadres of the ruling party, were wanted in various cases, police said. They said there were 11 cases against Siraj, five warrants against Jasim and a number of cases of toll collection against all of them. Witnesses said Rafiq and Jasim along with their associates looted fish from a pond at Bhabanipur in broad daylight on April 13. They also collected toll amounting to Tk 5 lakh from the innocent villagers in last few months, according to police.

Youth arrested for raping schoolgirl

UNB, Kushtia

A youth was arrested from a village in Sadar Upazila in Kushtia Tuesday on charge of raping a schoolgirl.

Police said they arrested Shaheen, 22, son of Dr Omar Ali of Old Kushtia village, for raping a class IV student of local BRAC School on April 16. But her father, a worker of a bidi factory, could not file any case against the accused until Tuesday due to pressure by a section of influential people of the village. On Saturday, they arranged an arbitration meeting and fined the youth Tk 20,000. They released Shaheen after whipping him with a twin-cane for 17 times. But Shaheen and his family later refused to pay the fine prompting the local newspapers to run a story on it. When the news was published in local dailies, police arrested Shaheen. A case was filed against him Tuesday.

'Corruption' in Rangpur Municipality: Chairman's non-cooperation makes probe committee ineffective

MOZAMMEL HUQ, Rangpur

The inquiry committee formed to probe the 'corrupt practices' in Rangpur Municipality while implementing the ambitious Nine-town Water Supply and Sanitation Project is unable to work properly due to 'non-cooperation' of the municipality authority.

Headed by the additional district magistrate, Rangpur, a three-member enquiry committee was asked to submit report within 10 days which expired on April 6. But the committee is still trying its best to complete the task within extended time-limit. It is unfortunate that despite repeated intimations, the municipality chairman or his representatives so far did not appear before the inquiry committee after being directed by the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (LGRD & Coop) under a letter vide memo no "Pauro-2/U Pro (No) 39/98/170(2) Dt 19/2/2002".

It is worth mentioning that the Rangpur municipal authority initiated the work of implementing the Asian Development Bank (ADB) aided Nine-town Water Supply and Sanitation Project to provide pure drinking water to citizens. A fund of Tk 10 cr was released so far by ADB for implementation of the schemes of the project. The schemes included construction of three over-head tanks, six deep tubewells, one water treatment plant, replacement of old and damaged 65 km long asbestos pipe line, new house

connections to 4,050 residences and installation of 90 shallow tubewells.

But the municipality authority resorted to massive corruption in

executing the project by misappropriating huge money out of the allocated ADB fund. This has resulted in total failure of the project and wastage of the entire ADB

fund.

A 1,50,000-gallon newly built overhead tank out of three tanks has already developed holes and cracks. The other two overhead tanks so far left untouched fearing similar incident. The newly constructed water treatment plant, deep tubewells and house connections remain inoperative. The scheduled replacement work of 48 km long old unfit asbestos pipe line is yet to be completed while the ADB's entire 10 crore taka fund has already been exhausted by the municipality authority.

Incidents of such corrupt practices of Rangpur Municipality were published many times in different national dailies including The Daily Star. Acting on the press reports of alleged corrupt practices, the ministry concerned directed the Rangpur district administration to form an inquiry committee which immediately started functions.

But it is apprehended that due to non-cooperation of the municipality authority the inquiry committee would yield no result.

Immediate steps must be taken to constitute a high powered inquiry committee to compel the Rangpur Municipality authority to appear before the probe body, local people demanded.

It is to be stated that the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) provided technical assistance to the municipality in implementing the project.

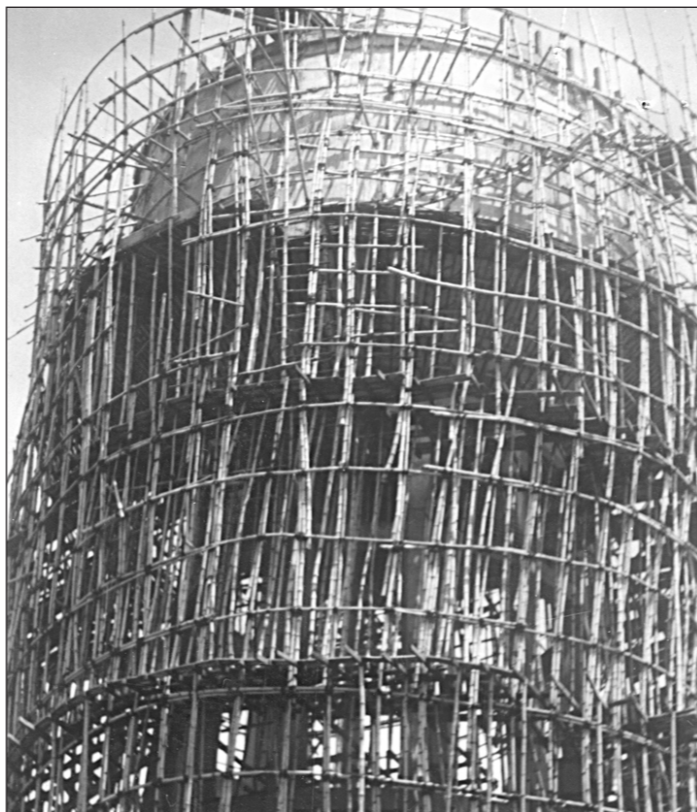


PHOTO: STAR

Fault has been detected in this giant underconstruction tank in Dhapshyamoli area in Rangpur town due to alleged corruption of the Rangpur Municipality authority which is implementing the ambitious Nine-town Water Supply and Sanitation project funded by Asian Development Bank (ADB).

20 Sramik Dal, Jubo Dal leaders hurt in clash with JCD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

At least 20 leaders of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, Jubo Dal and Tarun Dal were injured, eight of them seriously, in a clash with JCD activists in Paikgacha upazila of Khulna recently.

Police and local people said the clash was a sequel to intra-party rivalry.

The seriously injured were admitted to Paikgacha upazila health complex.

A tense situation is prevailing there following the incident. Additional forces have been deployed at all key points apprehending further violence.

Jubo Dal leader murder: 14 held at Dumuria

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Dumuria thana police have so far arrested 14 people in connection with the killing of Jubo Dal leader Molla Sirajul Islam.

The arrested persons include Nooruddin Al Masud, Chairman of Sharabpur union of Dumuria upazila.

Molla Abul Kashem, elder brother of slain Jubo Dal leader and convenor of Dumuria upazila unit of BNP has lodged a case naming Abu Taleb and Babul, armed cadres of BCP.

The complainant has stated in the FIR that there are 15 unidentified people who were in the killing mission.

Police seized a motor cycle, six live and 20 used bullets from the place of occurrence. The motor cycle was used by the leader of the killing mission, police said.

Villagers clash with armed robbers: 10 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

At least 10 people including two college students were injured in a clash between villagers and armed robbers in Tuilla Notun Bazaar area in Gafargaon upazila in Mymensingh in the early hours of April 12.

Of the injured, the two college students identified as Masudul Haque Masud, 20, and Fariduzzaman Roman, 18, were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) with bullet injuries.

Police and locals said a group of armed robbers numbering 15-20

looted valuables from the houses of Nuru Member and Dengu Member of village Tuilla and then went on to loot some shops at Tuilla Bazaar. When the shopkeepers raised the alarm, villagers rushed to the scene and surrounded the armed robbers, resulting in a clash that left 10 villagers injured by bullets and sharp weapons.

In another incident, three muggers identified as Kamrul Islam, 22, Golam Dastagir, 23, and Shaheen, 18, were held with a pipe-gun by people from the residential area of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) on April 12 noon. They were handed over to police.



PHOTO: STAR

S M Nefaur Rahman of Kanchannagar Model High School, Jhenidah who stood second in this year's Primary Scholarship Examination poses for photograph with his parents.

Barisal zonal office faces shortage of passport books

UNB, Barisal

An acute shortage of passport books has been prevailing in the zonal passport office in Barisal causing sufferings to the common people.

The zonal passport office remained closed for four days recently due to shortage of passport books.

Now the passport office is taking applications for urgent passports only from those who could prove their urgency.

The authority is taking more than 15 days for issuing the urgent passport instead of 12 days.

On average, 2,000 people apply for passport every month in the local passport office. But not more than 500-700 passport books are supplied from Dhaka against the local demand. Moreover, this minimum supply remained stopped for the last one month.

At present, there are only 40-50 passport books in the stock of the office and the authority has stopped issuing of the passport.

When contacted, Assistant Director of the passport office admitted the fact saying instead of issuing new passport books, Dhaka office took away the books from the local stock.

DTW regulation policy to be reformed

UNB, Thakurgaon

The government has taken an initiative to reform its Deep Tubewell (DTW) regulation policy to make hundreds of inoperative deep tubewells under 'Uttar Bangladesh Deep Tubewell Project' operative, kindling hopes among beleaguered farmers.

A committee, headed by State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, was formed to formulate a policy, which is expected to restore momentum in the flagging agricultural activities of the region.

Apart from local MPs, the committee also includes one representative each from Barind Project, Power Development Board (PDB), Water Development Board (WDB) and Palli Biddiyut Samity (PBS) while two from the farmers' community. The committee was constituted

at a high-level meeting of Water Resources Ministry with its minister LK Siddiqui in the chair on March 5.

The committee, which will be looking for ways to smoothly run 1,217 deep tubewells under the Uttar Bangladesh Project, has been asked to submit its report in a month.

The meeting also decided to restore power reconstructions to the inoperative deep tubewells when 25 per cent of their outstanding bills are paid.

Over 700 deep tubewells currently remained inoperative in the region, mainly because of disconnection of power lines for nonpayment of bills, officials said.

Deputy Director of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) Abdus Salam told that most farmers could not cultivate boro paddy this season as over 700 tubewells remained inoperative in the region.