

NEWS SNAPS

Two killed in Feni road accident

UNB, Feni

Two people were killed and two others injured in separate road accidents in Feni on Tuesday.

Police said Swapan, 15, son of Khokon Mia of village Jaudugi in Laxmipur, died when a speeding truck knocked him down at Mahipal on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at noon. In another accident at the same place, a Chittagong-bound truck collided head-on with a covered van coming from opposite direction killing an unidentified man on the spot and wounding two others in the early hours on Thursday. Police later seized both the truck and the covered van.

Magura DC faces show cause

UNB, Magura

A District Court in Magura on Thursday issued notice upon the Deputy Commissioner (DC) to show cause why his order for eviction of prostitutes in the town should not be declared illegal and void.

The court order came upon a petition challenging the eviction order. Shilpi, on behalf of 350 prostitutes of the red light area at Natun Bazar in the town, filed the petition. Nital Chandra Shaha, Assistant District Judge, asked the DC to show cause within 7 days. Town dwellers on April 24 brought out a procession demanding eviction of the prostitutes and ban on sale of alcohol, hemp, phensidyl and all such drugs that are injurious to health and causing moral degradation.

Two stabbed in Laxmipur

UNB, Laxmipur

Hooligans stabbed two people and beat up a woman in separate incidents in the district on Thursday.

Police and hospital sources said a gang of hooligans raided the tea stall of Delwar Hossain, 29, at Parbatnagar Bazar in Sadar upazila at dead of night and stabbed him mercilessly as a sequel to previous enmity. They fled the scene when local people rushed to the spot hearing his screaming. He was rushed to the Sadar hospital in a critical condition. Police arrested a man in this connection. Another gang waylaid businessman Abul Hashem, 40, of Mandari Bazar in the same upazila while he was returning home at night. They stabbed him indiscriminately. Later locals rushed him to the same hospital. Earlier in the afternoon, a gang of extortionists abducted a housewife identified as Mobasshera Begum, 40, of village Rajipur for her refusal to pay tolls. Later they took her to a club near Tukamia bridge and beat her mercilessly. She was also admitted to the same hospital.

Three murderers get life term

UNB, Thakurgaon

Three young men were sentenced to life term imprisonment in Thakurgaon on Sunday in a murder case.

The convicts, Anwar, Joinul and Montaz of Paharbhanga village in Sadar upazila killed Aminul, 18, son of Asiruddin of the same village on June 29, 1995. The court also awarded each of them five years more jail for concealing the victim's body after the murder. After examining the case records and witnesses District and Sessions Judge Tapan Kumar pronounced the verdict on Sunday.

Jobless youths get Tk 43.52 lakh as loan

UNB, Shariatpur

Youth Development Department so far distributed Tk 43.52 lakh as soft loan among 490 unemployed youths in Shariatpur in the current fiscal year.

The loan was given for initiating various income-generating projects including cattle and poultry farming, cow flattening, pisciculture, forestry and nursery. The department has also imparted training to 3,041 youths in different trades. Shariatpur Municipality also took up four development projects involving Tk 34 lakh for creating job opportunities and upgrading health and education status of the people.

Scheme for providing safe drinking water

UNB, Shariatpur

Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) is implementing a programme for providing safe drinking water and sanitary latrines in Shariatpur.

Under the programme, DPHE will also test waters of 1,271 tubewells to check arsenic contamination. DPHE so far installed 991 deep tubewells and 131 shallow tubewells, reinstalled 269 shallow tubewells and sold 1,405 sanitary latrines in six upazilas of Shariatpur. The department also distributed 3,491 sanitary latrines free of cost under the post-flood rehabilitation programme.

Training programme on making sweetmeat

UNB, Habiganj

Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) is conducting a 15-day training programme on making sweetmeat.

A total of 20 women are taking part in the training programme which was inaugurated on April 27. The course will continue till May 11, BSCIC officials said.

RAKUB realises Tk one cr farm loan

UNB, Thakurgaon

Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) has realised farm loan amounting Tk one crore from the borrowers of Thakurgaon through its 15 branches.

Of the total, Tk 46 lakh are classified loan. The money was recovered under a special programme in which each of the 15 branches arranged a daylong 'loan recovery camp' between April 20 and 29. Although the farmers suffered loss in wheat cultivation this season, they came to the respective branch and repaid their loan, officials said.

Work on Shibpur UP complex going on

UNB, Brahmanbaria

The construction work of a Union Parishad (UP) Complex at Shibpur union in Nabinagar upazila is going on in full swing.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is implementing the project involving Tk 25 lakh. So far 90 per cent construction work was done and the remaining work is likely to be finished by the current fiscal year, official sources said.



PHOTO: STAR

(Left) A nor'wester damaged border outpost of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) is seen at Kalasadek in Companyganj upazila in Sylhet. The disaster occurred on Tuesday. (Middle) Inmates of a house witness the extent of damage caused by Friday's calamity at village Baspur in Saikupa upazila in Jhenidah. (Right) An affected government primary school at Uthuri in Gafargaon upazila in Mymensingh. The natural calamity happened here on Friday night. Nor'westers have played havoc in 15 districts during the last three weeks.

Nor'westers kill 32 in 3 weeks in dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nor'westers have killed 32 persons in three weeks in 15 districts.

Our Jhenidah correspondent reports: At least 400 dwelling houses, standing crops on thousands of hectares of land damaged while one person was killed and 25 others injured when a cyclonic storm swept over four upazilas of Jhenidah on Friday night. The two-hour-long storm left many families homeless. Now they are living under the open sky. The relief materials supplied by the district administration is too inadequate to meet the demand of the affected people.

Storm affected villages are Gobindapur, Sutli, Paikpara, Harisankarpur, Bhagabanmagar, Narayanpur in Jhenidah Sadar upazila, Shahbajpur, Falia, Baspur in Saoilkupa upazila, Elangi in Kotchandpur upazila and

Parbotipur and some other villages in Harinakunda upazila.

Baromoni, a nine-year-old boy was killed on the spot when a wall made of mud collapsed. At least 25 persons received injuries during the storm. Some of them were rushed to the local hospitals.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Abu Bakar Mohammad Shahjahan, superintendent of police (SP) Manjur Kader Khan, Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNOs) visited the affected area and assured of all possible help for the victims. The local administration distributed 13 kg to 16 kg rice, 500 taka in cash were distributed among each affected family as part of the rehabilitation programme. CI sheet, more rice and money will be supplied to the victims of storm soon, the district administration said.

The district administration could not provide the exact information

about damage of property as concerned union parishad chairman did not supply them the same, they said.

Many local development organizations engaged themselves in relief activities.

Our Mymensingh correspondent reports: A nor'wester that lashed Gafargaon and Bhaluka upazilas caused serious loss to standing crops, mainly to boro crops on April 26 night.

The storm also swept over the entire district on the same night.

At least two persons were killed and over 100 were injured during the nor'wester in Gafargaon and Bhaluka upazilas.

The victims were identified as Safar Jaan, 60, of village Pachua who was buried under the collapsed earthen wall of her house and Hasen Banu, 65, wife of late Azim Uddin of village Uthuri was killed in a

storm related incident.

Of the injured four identified as Siraj, 45, Abdul Jabber, 50, Monwara, 40, and Umar Ali were admitted at Gafargaon Health Complex.

The nor'wester lashed over 15 unions of Gafargaon upazila that started at 9 pm on Friday night (Apr. 26) and continued for about an hour. Of the affected unions -- Panchabagh, Rawna, Jessora, Moshakhali, Rasulpur, Barabari and Kushthi were worse affected. Some 3,000 kutchha houses were damaged totally while 7,000 damaged partially, according to primary report. At least 20 educational institutions were damaged. Of those, Uthuri government Primary school, Pachua Rabeya Begum Junior High School, Hatikhala Girls' High School, Dakhin Pukuria Rashidia Dakhil Madrassah and Char Maslinda Kachari Para

Adarsha Bidya Niketon were affected very seriously.

The nor'westers also damaged Boro crops on about 5,000 hectares of land. Many Boro fields which are now at the ripping stage were damaged.

Over 50 thousand trees including fruit bearing trees were up rooted.

In Bhaluka upazila, about 400 houses were damaged and at least 10 persons were injured. Of the injured -- Kamruzzaman, 25, and Fajila, 35, were admitted at Bhaluka health Complex.

Standing crops, mainly Boro also faced a damage here.

Electricity supply was disrupted for hours together, traffic remained suspended for about five hours as uprooted trees blocked the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway.

In Bhaluka upazila, 20 educational institutions were affected. Bharadova High School, Bandia

Adarsha High School and Dithpur Ebtadaye Madrassah were badly affected.

The nor'wester also swept over Muktagachha, Trishal, Phulpur, Nandail, Gouripur, Phulbaria, Haluaghat and Iswarganj upazilas.

Torrential rains with heavy wind flooded standing crops mainly in the low-lying areas of the district. The fields of Boro and other summer crops went under water in many areas.

The Boro paddy will take more time to get to ripe if such rainfall continues, said Abdur Razzak, a farmer of the shoal area in Sadar upazila.

BSS reports: At least 30 persons were killed, over 160 were injured crops and properties were substantially damaged from frequent incidents of nor'wester in 13 northern districts during the last three weeks.

Erosion renders 400 families homeless in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

About 400 families have been rendered homeless and 1,000 acres of land washed away by erosion of the rivers Mogra, Kongsha and Sumashowary in Durgapur, Barhatta and Atpara upazilas in Netrakona district during the recent flash flood.

The rivers Mogra, Kongsha and Sumashowary swallowed a vast tract of land at Shunajur, Nazirgonj bazaar, Gonjar bazaar,

Modhuakhali, Norbotkila and Dewesree in Atpara upazila, Khamarkhali, Shibgonj bazaar in Durgapur upazila, and Dashdar bazaar in Barhatta upazila.

Local people dumped sand, bamboo and timber to protect the areas from the erosion. But all of their attempts went in vain due to strong current of the rivers.

Local people of the areas have urged the authorities concerned to look into the matter and take necessary action immediately.