

NEWS SNAPS

Lightning kills boy in Brahmanbaria

UNB, Brahmanbaria
A boy was killed and two other children were injured by lightning at Jalpur in Sadar upazila in Brahmanbaria on Friday.

The thunderbolt struck the children while they were playing near their house killing Sumon, 7, son of Shamsu Mia, on the spot. The injured - Mashuk and Beauty - were rushed to sadar hospital in critical condition.

Sexagenarian stabbed to death

UNB, Mymensingh
A sexagenarian was stabbed to death over collection of toll at Paratongi in Muktagachha upazila in Mymensingh Thursday night. Police said the hoodlums stabbed Dulal at about 9pm in a sequel to his denial of paying toll to some influential people of the village.

He was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) where he succumbed on the same night. A case was filed with Muktagachha police in this connection.

Hawker electrocuted during heavy rains

UNB, Mymensingh
A hawker was electrocuted when he came in touch with a torn live electric wire during heavy rains and storm in the frontier Haluaghat upazila in Mymensingh on Friday.

The deceased was identified Fazor Ali, 32, of Pagla Para village. Some 500 dwelling houses were damaged in a storm and rains that continued for 8 hours from 4am onward. The incessant downpour and hilly waters from across the border also submerged Pagolpara, Barodaspara, Dharshapara and Bepari para areas damaging standing crops and seedbeds.

Obscene porno films on show

UNB, Nilphamari
Obscene scenes (Cut piece) of porno films are being shown in different cinema halls of Nilphamari while screening Bangla film.

Guardians of school- and college-going students expressed grave concern over the rushing of their wards in the cinema halls leaving their classes. Police in a surprise raid arrested a man along with porno cut pieces from Malaj Mahal cinema hall in Nilphamari town on June 10 while Bangla film Jogi Thakur was screening. But police later freed the man and filed a case after seizing the cut pieces.

Woman abducted in Nilphamari

UNB, Nilphamari
A field officer of National Tobacco Company allegedly abducted a housemaid from the residence of her master in Kishoreganj upazila headquarters in Nilphamari on June 6.

Police said, Muslem Uddin, 22, son Rabiul Islam of Birampur upazila in Dinajpur, took away the housemaid of schoolteacher Sontosh Kumar promising her to marry. Sontosh Kumar filed a case with the Kishoreganj police.

Abducted girl yet to be rescued

UNB, Chandpur
A madrassah girl student allegedly abducted on Tuesday from village Bolshid in Shaharasi upazila in Chandpur was yet to be rescued till Friday.

Police arrested a woman, Mahfuz Khatun, after the victim's father filed a case with police on Friday. Family and police said the culprits abducted Nasrin Sultana, 14, a student of class X and daughter of Motahar Hossain of the village, following refusal of a marriage proposal by the girl's father. The other accused in the case are: Zakir Hossain, Harun-ar-Rashid, Munir Hossain and Mizanur Rahman.

Alleged miscreant arrested

UNB, Khagrachhari
An alleged miscreant was arrested from Pankhalyapara in Khagrachhari town Thursday.

The arrested was identified as Shampriti Chakma alias Goldy of the town. Police said Goldy, who was accused in a case filed under Arms Act, was released on bail and had long been committing various crimes, including extortion. Meanwhile, a gang of armed miscreants kidnapped businessman, Abul Hasem, 30, from Palashpur area in Matiranga upazila Thursday, police said.

Three alleged robbers arrested

UNB, Narayanganj
Three alleged robbers were arrested along with arms while they were trying to commit an armed robbery at Baktabali in Fatulla in Narayanganj on Wednesday night.

Locals said a gang of armed robbers stormed into a house in the area at dead of night and started looting valuables. Hearing the hue and cry of the inmates, villagers chased the hoodlums and caught Mamun, 22, Babul, 20, and Masum, 18. The villagers also recovered a pipe gun and a sharp weapon from the robbers. They were handed over to police.

'Exortionist' caught red-handed

UNB, Narayanganj
An alleged extortionist was caught red-handed by the employees of local Telegraph and Telephone (T&T) office on Wednesday while he was trying to kidnap one of their colleagues from the office.

Police said the T&T employees caught Azmal, 30, in the evening when he was trying to pick up their colleague Akter Ali Sikder following his refusal to pay tolls. He was handed over to police and a case was filed against him under Summary Trial Act.

Four murderers get life term in Rangpur

UNB, Rangpur
A court in Rangpur sentenced four people to life term imprisonment in a murder case on Wednesday.

The court also fined them Tk 5,000 each, in default, to suffer three months more rigorous imprisonment (RI). According to the prosecution, Anwar Hossain, Amad, Afzal and Khalilur Rahman beat up Abdul Quaim to death over a land dispute at Garabere village in Pirgonj upazila on March 14, 1997. The Additional District and Session Judge Syed Enyat Hossain pronounced the verdict after examining the records and witnesses.

Work on uplift projects going on

UNB, Patuakhali
Work on 183 development projects are nearing completion at Mirzaganj upazila in Patuakhali.

The works include construction and reconstruction of roads, bridges and renovation of religious institutions and earth filling. District Relief and Rehabilitation office said 341 metric tons of rice and wheat were allocated for implementation of 31 special and 17 general projects under Food for Work Programme (FWP). Besides, 87 special and 48 general projects are being executed under Test Relief with allocation of 168 metric tons of rice and wheat. Moreover, three small bridges were constructed at a cost of Tk 30 lakh in three unions of Mirzaganj upazila in April.

325 industries closed in 16 northern dists

One lakh fifty thousand workers become jobless

A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

More than one lakh fifty thousand workers of 325 closed industries are now jobless in 16 northern districts of the country.

Investment Board, government and other sources said that the industries have been closed due to manifold reasons including lack of running capital, marketing facilities, workers' unrest, inefficiency of the management, smuggling of Indian products, higher production cost and bureaucratic indecision.

An amount of 2 thousand 2 hundred crores of taka invested in the industries has been blocked without any possibility of return.

Government sources said that at least four industries of Jamil group, 13 industries of Bhandari group and 150 other industries including Tajma

Ceramic Industry of the industrial district of Bogra have been closed during the last 21 years. Rahatin Industry in Rangpur, Ultra silk in Nagoan, Liquid Sugar Industry, Northern Distillery in Joypurhat, Mollah furniture in Gaibandha, Ropun oil in Dinajpur have been closed.

Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) sources said that 80 industrial units have been closed in 16 BSCIC industrial areas. Opel Biscuit Industry in Sirajganj, Al-haj Re-rolling Industry in Pabna and Parag Sugar Industry in Rajshahi have stopped production.

Rahatin consumers vegetable oil producing industries in Rangpur is one of the industries which has been closed down for the last six years for want of required running

capital. In Bogra four industries of Jamil Group are closed down for a long period due to workers' unrest.

Twenty-six textile mills in Bogra have been closed due to smuggling of Indian clothes. Joypurhat liquid sugar industry has been closed due to bureaucratic indecision.

Labour office informed that about 75 thousand skilled and unskilled workers have been unemployed and now leading a sub-human life.

One worker of Bogra cotton spinning committed suicide and some others died without treatment and diet. A good number of skilled workers of Jamil group are now rickshaw pullers.

Gobindaganj a safe route of illegal drug smuggling

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Gobindaganj upazila in Gaibandha has become a safe route of illegal drug smuggling.

A good road communication with Bangla Heely near the Indian territory has encouraged the illegal drug traders to establish their strong network.

Heely Gobindaganj is a safe route of smugglers since long. Everyday liquor of different kinds are being smuggled into the Bangladesh territory through Heely border. Smuggled items are being stored at different locations of Gobindaganj which are dispatched to different destinations including the capital city. The smugglers have developed their network due to

smooth road communication. At present Gobindaganj upazila headquarters has become the transit point of liquor smuggling. The liquor traders are so influential that they even challenge the members of the law enforcing agencies very frequently.

Everyday under the cover of plastic containers huge liquor like phensidyl, rectified spirit, beer, sedative drugs and heroin are being smuggled from the Indian territory and stockpiled at Gobindaganj for sending elsewhere.

At least five godowns are being used as safe storage of liquor items secretly situated in and around Gobindaganj.

The liquor traders engage labourers, both males and females and children to gear up the retail

sales of liquor. The liquor traders use their own transport vehicles like car, microbus, pick-ups, tempo and rickshaw vans for safe transportation of liquor. Besides, a number of customers from distant areas gather at different spots with their transport for taking delivery of illegal drugs. The dens of illegal liquor trade are Gobindaganj sadar and its adjacent areas such as Dalar Durga and Motipara.

Gobindaganj police are aware about known about the trade of illegal drugs and whereabouts of smugglers, but they are apathetic to combat the illegal practices, because they get bribes from the smugglers regularly.

Growers keen to cultivate jute in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

The farmers in Jhenidah have been showing keen interest in cultivating jute in the current season.

This is because of good price of jute last year and banning of polythene.

According to sources related to Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), they have brought a total of 9,850 hectares of land under Tossa variety of jute instead of 8,115 hectares last year.

In Jhenidah sadar, 1,585 hectares to land have been brought under jute farming, 1,250 hectares in Kaliganj, 550 hectares in Kotchandpur, 2,540 hectares in

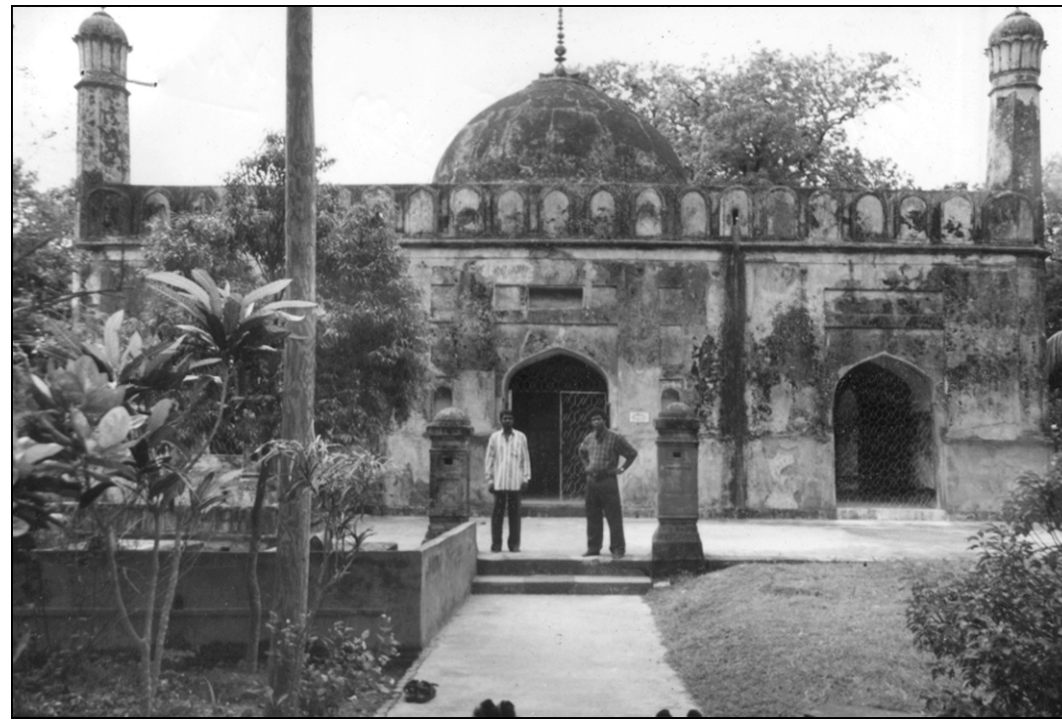
Moherpur, 675 hectares in Harinakundu and 3,250 hectares in Saikupa upazila this season. The government fixed a target to produce 158,000 bales of jute on a total of 14,325 hectares of land in Jhenidah. DAE sources said because of good rainfall this season prospect of jute farming has become bright.

Abdul Kader, 38, of village Gobindapur in Jhenidah sadar upazila said, he brought his 90 decimals land under jute cultivation this season instead of 50 decimals of land last year. The farmers sowed seeds between March and April this year. The farmers said they got good price of jute last year. So, they have become interested to cultivate jute

this year.

Ban on polythene shopping bags has encouraged the farmers to bring more and more lands under jute farming. On average, the farmers received Tk 400 per maund of jute last year. This year they expect at least Tk 600 per maunds of jute, he hopes.

Belal Seikh, 43, a farmer at village Bijoypur in the same upazila said, the farmers get jute sticks for at least Tk 1,200 from a piece of land through cultivation of jute. Betel leaf growers usually purchase jute sticks. Many rural people also use jute sticks to make kutcha houses.



The neglected mausoleum of Hazrat Shah Niamatullah in the old city of Gour, the then capital of Bengal at Shibganj upazila in Chapainawabganj. The mausoleum needs proper care and attention, otherwise it will be destroyed in near future.

Workshop

UNB, Sherpur
A daylong workshop on "Formulation of an Action Plan for Non-Formal Employment Generation in Bangladesh" was held in Sherpur on Thursday.

District administration organised the workshop in collaboration with the Planning Commission.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Revenue, Khondoker Anwarul Islam presided over the workshop while Divisional Chief of the Planning Commission M A Sattar Bhuyian was present as the chief guest.

Historical relics need proper preservation

A CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

The historical spots and relics in the northern region of the country need to be preserved by the department concerned of the government.

The Sona Masjid, three-domed mosque, mausoleum of Hazrat Shah Niamatullah, Shah Suja Palace, mazar of Shah Shaheb Hazbatullah Lhan, the Subedar of the then Bengal and two mazars of two unknown vaient soldiers (fully covered with black stone) who embraced martyrdom in the ancient city of "Gour", the then capital of Bengal, in Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj have developed cracks due to lack of proper care and attention by the department concerned.

The Royal Palaces of Puthia and Natore, have, however, been taken over by Archaeological Department. But, 17 temples and palace buildings of Puthia, adorned with terracotta, however, are yet to be repaired. As a result, part of these historic setups are withering away or being stolen.

But these people were not coming out of the vicious circle of poverty due to lack of proper education and training.

revolutionaries during the Swadeshi movement.

The Palace of Raja Bijoy Sen and a temple of Deoraj, some seven kilometres off Rajshahi city, is getting ruined as well.

Although the establishments have been taken over by the Archaeological Department, the temple got vanished. The relics of Rajbari are also about to vanish.

Also at Godagari, the fort built by Nawab Alibordi Khan at the confluence of the Padma and the Mahananda crumbled into ruins a decade ago.

The historic Pundrabardhan city continues to be neglected, although a museum has been built at Mahasthangarh in Bogra.

Similarly, the Ghoraghat Fort, Chelhelgazi Mazar and the palace in Dinajpur, Chowdhuran's palace and other places of interest at Tajhat in Rangpur, Pagoda (moth) of Bhabani Pathak in Nageswari, Kurigram are going to be lost in oblivion.

Last but not the least, many of rare collections of the Chalan Beel Museum in Gurudaspur upazila are also getting damaged because of proper care and attention of the concerned department.

Three killed In separate incidents

UNB, Pabna

Two little girls drowned while another was killed in a road accident in Pabna on recently.

Locals said Jesmin, 5, daughter of Jalal and Shantana, 6, daughter of Khalil, drowned while taking bath in a ditch at Hothatpara of Uttar Komorpur in Sadar upazila. Besides, Al-Minara, 8, daughter of Sayeed Sheikh of Hatbaria village in Sathia upazila, was run over by a locally made three-wheeler vehicle 'Nasimon'. The unauthorised vehicle, run by the engine of shallow tube-well, was seized, but its driver fled.

Workshop on tech transfer of oilseeds

UNB, Gazipur

A workshop on 'Technology Transfer of Oilseeds' was held at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) recently.

Among others, BARI director general Dr M Shahidul Islam, Dr Abdus Siddiq and Dr Motiur Rahman addressed the workshop chaired by director of the institute M Abdus Sattar. Officials of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) and Oilseed Research Institute attended the workshop. The participants discussed on the production and technology of oilseeds produced by BARI.

Anti-social elements rule Faridpur Medical College Hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Anti-social elements rule Faridpur Medical College Hospital (FMCH), situated at Harukandi, four kilometres west of Faridpur town.

These elements come from the neighbouring villages of West Khabashpur, Harukandi and Bara Bari and stay at the hospital premises almost round the clock and take undue advantage from the physicians under duress, said some employees of the hospital requesting anonymity.

Patients' admission to the hospital and discharge from it depend, in most cases, on their sweet will.

Patients are trapped by the anti-social elements. Most patients have to pay a good amount of money to get admitted into the hospital, alleged some patients.

Some nurses alleged that the terrorists take different kinds of drugs in the late hours of night and try to play fool. No physician dares to challenge them.

Poor patients have to bear the brunt of the nuisance being created by the anti-social elements.

Healthy atmosphere in the hospital should be restored for the cause of the ailing humanity.

700 patients treated free of cost

UNB, Gopalganj

Some noted physicians treated over 700 patients free of cost at Lal Mia City College and Satpur Gaudi Chandra High School grounds in Sadar upazila on recently.

SUKHI, a voluntary organisation, took the noble initiative to provide treatment facility to the people from all walks of life. The physicians are Dr AKM Hafizur Rahman, Dr Mainul Hafiz, Dr Prof Mahmudur Rahman, Dr Mamun Morshed, Dr Mezbahuddin Ahmed, Dr Azizul Hafiz, Dr Faridul Hasan, Dr Sheikh Fariduddin Ahmed and Dr Farida Begum.

Kaptai lake needs dredging

UNB, Rangamati

The Kaptai Lake is being silted up by the soil eroded from the hills and it has been losing navigability fast.

Concerned officials said dredging of the lake has become essential and afforestation programme should also be taken up for maintaining ecological balance in the area.

Soil of adjacent hills has become loose due to the destruction of forests.

The depth of the lake had been upto 109 MSL, but now it has been decreased by seven feet threatening the operation of Kaptai Hydro Electric Plant and pisciculture project.

This lake is important for establishing communication with the remote upazilas of Rangamati and Khagrachhari hilly areas.

But due to siltation of the lake, the movement of water vessels is being hampered causing sufferings to the common people.

Baisabi festival of Marma community



The Marma community observed their traditional Baisabi festival recently. They observe the festival annually for their peace and prosperity. (Top left) Marma children perform their bottle dance, (middle left) hill people pray for peace and prosperity (right) a large number of people enjoy the pitcher dance on the auspicious occasion. (Bottom left) Marmas take bath in Nunchhari pond on the first day of the festival to get rid of kinds of sin, (middle right) people of all communities irrespective of caste and creed parade the streets in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) in a colourful procession on the occasion of Baisabi and (right) a colourful rally of the Marma community led by young Marma women on the occasion.

Filing of false case protested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Journalists in Nilphamari have strongly protested the filing of false case against Dimla correspondent of The Daily Sangram.

Correspondents of different national dailies and agencies, including Janokantha, Akker Kagoj, Sangbad and UNB, held a rally at Dimla Press Club on Monday in protest against filing 14 false cases against Sangram correspondent Bazul Haq Sardar and his family.

Local Awami League leader and Balapara Union Parishad Chairman Tabibul Islam filed the cases and allegedly threatened Sardar following publishing of a series of reports on violence and different irregularities committed by him.

The journalists held meetings with the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of the concerned police station and demanded appropriate action in this regard.

Obituary

UNB, Barisal

Alhaj Syed Abdul Latif, a renowned social worker and philanthropist, died of old age complications at his Nathoi village home in Gournadi upazila in Barisal recently. He was 96.

He left behind his wife, four sons, four daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was laid to rest at his family graveyard after najam-e-janaza at the mosque adjacent to his house.

Dhaka-Rajshahi Customs, Excise and Vat Executive Officers' Association, Dhaka (South) Commissionerate Committee president Md Nurul Amin Mukul and general secretary Md Abdur Rahman expressed deep shock at the death of Syed Abdul Latif.

They prayed for salvation of the departed soul and extended their sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Discussion on uplift of Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A discussion titled "Development of Mymensingh Problems and Prospect" was held at Mymensingh Press Club auditorium on June 7. Mymensingh Reporters' Unity (MRU) organised the discussion meeting.

State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharrif Hossain addressed the function as the chief guest with Md Sultan uddin Khan, President of MRU in the chair.

Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Mymensingh, Prof Abul Quasem, Vice-president of Mymensingh Press Club (MPC) Mosharrif Hossain, Secretary of MPC, Ataul Karim Khokon, Secretary of Mymensingh Union of Journalists (MUJ), among others, addressed the function.

Abdul Quasem, Vice-president of MRU delivered the welcome address while Saiful Islam, Secretary of MRU conducted the function.