

NEWS SNAPS

Miscreants kill young woman

UNB, Magura

Miscreants killed a young unidentified woman, 25, after rape and left the body at jute field at village Ghoranas in Sadar upazila in Magura on Friday night.

Local people found the body the following morning and informed the police who sent the body to Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

The body bore makes of severe injuries.

Girl raped, killed in Kushtia

UNB, Kushtia

A little girl of Bhadolia in Daulatpur upazila in Kushtia was allegedly raped and killed on Sunday.

Police said the hoodlums picked up 9-year-old Shaloka, daughter of Noor Ali of the village, when she was returning home from field.

On the next day (Monday), local people recovered her body from a jute field. The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with local police.

Body of young girl recovered

UNB, Rajbari

Police recovered the body of a young girl from a sugarcane field at Ahladipur village in the same upazila on Saturday morning.

Police suspect that the assailants after rape broke her hands and legs brutally and strangled her to death on Friday night. The body was sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy and a case was filed.

Two commit suicide in Chuadanga

BSS, Chuadanga

Two persons of Damurhuda upazila in Chuadanga committed suicide on June 8.

According to police, the victims were Laltu, 21, son of Golam Hossain of village Chaighoria and another Sheuli, 25, wife of Rashidul Islam of village Kurulgachi in Chuadanga. Laltu committed suicide by taking insecticide in a crop field while Sheuli committed suicide by taking poison at her residence. Both of them committed suicide following quarrel with the members of their family.

Adulterated fertiliser on sale in Narail

UNB, Narail

Spurious and adulterated fertilisers are being sold in open market in Narail by unscrupulous traders before the eyes of the law enforcement agencies.

The farmers alleged that the adulterated fertilisers are coming from different neighbouring districts and border areas, which are being sold by the selected dealers re-packing in Chinese sacks. They said the adulterated and sub-standard phosphate and potash fertilisers smuggled in from India are also on sale in the market. These fertilisers mixed with salt, rubbles and dust are first stored in some particular godowns in the town. Later after re-packing in fine Chinese sacks these find their way in the market. The farmers urged the authorities concerned to look into the matter and take necessary steps immediately to stop selling of spurious and adulterated fertilisers.

Girl sustains severe burn injuries

UNB, Rangpur

A female student sustained severe burn injuries as a youth threw acid on her at Maliganj in Rangpur town on Friday night.

Aktaron Nahar, 19, a second year student of Chemistry Department of Rangpur Carmichael University College received serious burn injuries on her face and back. Police said Motaleb of the same area threw acid on Nahar for refusing his love proposal. Aktaron Nahar was admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) in a critical condition. Police arrested Motaleb. A case was filed.

Two 'rapists' arrested in Narail

UNB, Narail

Two culprits were arrested for raping a college girl at a village in sadar upazila in Narail last week. Police said the victim of Kazla cluster village in Majipara union was abducted by co-villagers Saiful Mollah and Bahadur Mollah on June 9 while she was going to attend private coaching in the morning. They took her to a nearby farm and raped her one after another. Hearing her screaming the villagers rushed to the spot and caught the rapists red-handed. Later they were handed over to police. A case was filed in this connection.

Old man arrested in dowry case

UNB, Jhalakati

An old man was arrested from Isapasha village in Nalciti upazila in Jhalakati on Friday in a dowry case filed by his daughter-in-law.

The arrested Rustom Ali Howladar, 60, said Mahinur Begum, wife of his son Badal Hawladar filed the false case when she failed to keep Badal at her father's house permanently. The old man said that Mahinur also indicted him for dowry. He said Badal married Mahinur, daughter of Rafiq Howladar of nearby Ranaphasha village three years back.

Work on Naria bridge going on in full swing

UNB, Shariatpur

Work on the Naria bridge in Naria upazila in Shariatpur is progressing fast at a cost of about Tk 25 crore.

Official sources said the 226-metre bridge is likely to be opened for traffic in the middle of next month.

On completion of the bridge, road communication with different parts of Shariatpur district will be improved.

One arrested with arms, ammunition

UNB, Tangail

A man was arrested along with arms and ammunition from Kutubpur village in Shakipur upazila in Tangail on Sunday.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the house of Selimuzzaman Bidyut and arrested him along with a foreign made gun and two rounds of bullet.

Man arrested for killing baby child

UNB, Rajbari

Police arrested a man on charge of killing his four-month-old boy by immersing in a pond at Uttar Baliakandi village of Baliakandi upazila in Rajbari on Saturday.

Police said Sukur Ali was arrested after maternal aunt of the infant lodged complaint. Sukur Ali confessed his guilt to the police who are now trying to find out the cause behind the killing.

Three youths held for teasing girls

UNB, Jhalakati

Three youths were picked up from different parts of Jhalakati town for teasing school-going girls on Saturday.

The arrested were identified as Imon, 18, Ripon, 17, and Salam, 19. Police conducted the raid upon allegation from guardians of the municipality area.

100 destitutes deprived of VGD food

UNB, Thakurgaon

About 100 destitute mothers are being deprived of foodgrains under VGD card in Nargun union of sadar upazila in Thakurgaon as food distribution remained suspended for the last four months.

The distribution was suspended following an allegation of irregularities in distribution of foodgrains by the local authorities. A total of 95 VGD cards were allocated in the union under a project of the World Food Programme and 30 kgs of wheat was allocated against each card.

The officials of the project while visiting the area found irregularities in distributing foodgrains among the destitute mothers. Later, distribution of food under VGD card was suspended according the directives of the Directorate of Relief.

Phensidyl recovered from BRTC truck

UNB, Narayanganj

Police recovered 2,600 bottles of phensidyl syrup from a Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) truck in Bandar upazila on Dhaka-Chittagong highway on Sunday.

Police raided the truck at Keudhala and seized 52 cartons of phensidyl kept inside some 37 bundles of papers of BG Press.

The truck driver, who was arrested, told police that two people loaded the cartons into his truck during a stopover at Miabazar in Chaudagram.

A case was filed with Bandar police.

Jute farming increasing in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Cultivation of jute has increased in Mymensingh though the production fell short of target during several years previously, DAE sources said.

A total of 10,800 hectares of land has been brought under jute cultivation in Mymensingh with a production target of 252752 bales of jute.

Official sources said, jute had been cultivated on 8,500 hectares of land in 2000-2001 season and 6,800 hectares in the 1999-2000 season.

However, the recent nor'wester has also affected 1,409 hectares of jute field and 500 hectares of vegetable lands.

An official of DAE told The Daily Star that due to ban on polythene bags the farmers have shown their great interest in cultivating jute. He also told this correspondent that if

the government can create a favourable market for jute goods, the grower will be encouraged and jute will get back its past glory as "golden fibre of Bangladesh".

Meanwhile, Mymensingh district has faced a loss of 83,690 metric tons (MT) of rice in the boro season due to heavy rainfall with hailstorms. Several nor'westers lashed the district severely, Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources said.

The DAE sources also said that though excess quantity of rice has been produced in Mymensingh than the target, the district has incurred a loss of 83,690 MT of rice.

As many as 24,982 hectares of land of boro have been affected totally or partially by the nor'westers.

According to DAE sources, 1,86,600 hectares of land had been

cultivated against the target of 1,80,200 hectares of land. The sources also informed that 10,75,707 MT of rice have been produced in Mymensingh against the demand of 667281 MT while 4,08,426 MT of rice remains excess.

The sources also added that the government will procure 3,727 MT of boro paddy and 17,782 MT of rice in Mymensingh at the rate of Tk 8.40 and Tk 16.25 per kg respectively.

However, High Yielding Variety (HYV) seeds will be distributed for the coming Transplanted Aman (T-Aman) season.

The sources said, 125 MT of BR-11, 10 MT of BR-30 and 30 MT of High Yielding Variety (HYV) seeds will be distributed among the growers at the rate of Tk 16.50, Tk 14.50 and Tk 14.50 per kg respectively.



A jute field at Char Gobindapur in Sadar upazila in Mymensingh. Farmers are now taking more interest in cultivation of jute because of ban on polythene bags all over the country.

Ailing Kotalipara Health Complex needs proper treatment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

Kotalipara Upazila Health Complex in Gopalganj is beset with manifold problems hampering the healthcare service.

Everyday a large number of patients from remote areas come to this health complex, but they have to go back disappointed in absence of proper healthcare facilities, it is widely alleged.

Insufficient doctors, shortage of bed, lack of medicine, unhealthy drainage system, absence of ambulance and polluted environment have shattered the health service. Ramshackle doors and windows of the health complex have also added to the problem.

For carrying patients, vans and pushcarts are being used as the ambulance of the health complex is out of order. Shortage of doctors are

hampering the treatment facilities. Most of time there remains no doctor in the health complex. It is alleged that most of the doctors of the health complex are found busy with their own private practice.

Patients alleged only simple ailments like common cold, dysentery, headache are being treated in the health complex.

Patients having complex diseases are being deprived of better treatment here. On the other hand, poor patients have to buy medicine from outside.

A doctor said the allocation of medicine gauge, bandage, cotton and other necessities in the complex are too meagre than the actual requirement.

Local people have complained to this correspondent that government doctors remain busy with private practices in different clinics neglect-

ing their official duties.

As a result private clinics, pathological laboratories are doing brisk business taking advantage of the situation.

There is also shortage of pure and safe drinking water at the health complex.

Moreover, most of the ceiling fans are out of order here. Shortage of X-ray films are also prevailing. Most of the toilets are dirty.

Because of erratic power supply operation has become very risky as the health complex has no power generator of its own.

Local people and suffering patients have urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to mitigate the suffering of the patients to ensure healthcare facilities to all.



The inhabitants of second lane of Muhmudpur area in Sirajganj Municipality have been marooned by water of recent rainfall. Earlier, construction work of a pucca road started in the area at a cost of Tk 5 lakh, but the work was shelved half-way. The municipality authority should take immediate steps in restarting the unfinished work and mitigate the sufferings of local people.

Jamuna erosion makes 6 lakh homeless in six years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

The number of homeless people is rising alarmingly in Sirajganj due to continuous erosion which is going on along the eastern bank of the mighty Jamuna.

About six lakh people in six upazilas have been rendered homeless during the last six years.

When contacted with the district administration they disclosed that they had already constructed a few cluster villages in some areas with the financial support of a foreign agency to rehabilitate the victims. But the measure is too inadequate in comparison with the demand of the victims. The administration sources think if the government takes up a pilot programme to

rehabilitate the erosion victims then they will be benefited in right sense.

According to a survey conducted by a Non-governmental Organisation (NGO), every year particularly from the month of June to November water coming from the upstreams affects the entire area and washes away hundreds of homesteads and crops of fields. There is no end to erosion.

Sometimes vast tracts of lands are devoured in the river bed within a moment. As a result poor people are getting poorer. Sometimes their new homesteads are devoured time and again during their life time.

Most affected upazilas are Sirajganj Sadar, Kazipur, Belkuchi, Chowhali and Shahjadpur. The mighty Jamuna flows close through

these upazilas.

Standing crops like paddy, jute, wheat and other cash crops on 21,747 hectares of land went into the gorge of the river in six years.

Besides 3,725 square-kilometers area of land has already been devoured. Twenty per cent of the homeless people have migrated to Dhaka and other unknown destinations. They are now living in inhuman condition as they became pauper.

When contacted with the district administration and officials of Water Development Board (WDB), they revealed that embankment, cross dam are being constructed but the mighty Jamuna has been spoiling the endeavours.

Female students of Faridpur Medical College feel insecure

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

The girl students of Faridpur Medical College left their newly built dormitory (new hostel) on the outskirts of Faridpur town, four kilometres away from the original medical college building on Friday morning in fear of being harassed by notorious criminals. The main college is situated in the heart of the town.

The girl students, when interviewed, told this correspondent that 28 girl students of old first year, 10th batch (session 2000-2001) were sent recently to the dormitory to reside there. On the same day some anti-social elements taunted the girl students while they were going inside the dormitory.

Next evening a group of anti-social elements of the locality wanted to enter inside the dormitory, but the guard prevented them. But the culprits left the place threatening the guard that they would come next evening to visit the newcomers of the dormitory. Accordingly they, numbering four, appeared at the gate of the hostel and tried in vain to force their way to the hostel owing to

strong resistance put up by the night guards. This frightful incident terrified the girl students. There was no hostel super or any other college teachers in the campus to protect them from any undesirable incidents. Passing the night in dreadful fear in the dormitory they left it in the morning bag and baggage and came back to the old hostel where they had been living for a year. But the hostel authority is not allowing them to enter inside their respective rooms saying that they (girl students) must go to the new hostel first and the security measures and other facilities they demanded for would be considered next. But the students without complying the authority's directive, staged sit-in demonstration in front of the college office room demanding their stay in the old hostel. "Four point demands are to be met up before going to the New Dormitory" they said:

The demands include the staying of hostel super with family in the new hostel campus, building for boundary walls of the hostel, making arrangement of strong security measures round the clock, provision of transport facilities between the

new hostel and the college campus situated four kilometres apart and ensuring electric and telephone connections.

This correspondent tried to meet the principal of the college and the hostel super, personally as well as over telephone, but they were not available.

However, a powerful teacher of the college on condition of anonymity asserted that no demands would be met up until the students go to the new hostel.

The male students of the college expressed their solidarity with the four-point demands of the demonstrating girl students.

Mentionable here that a lot of untoward incidents including murders, manhandling of the doctors and nurses took place in the medical college hospital campus where the new dormitory for the girls had been set up.

The Sensible guardians are of opinion that the girl students should be transferred to the new dormitory building after its completion with topmost security measures.

625 MT of HYV wheat seeds produced

UNB, Rangpur

Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) produced 625 metric tons (MT) of high yielding variety (HYV) of quality wheat seeds valued at Tk 7,500,000 in the current season in Rangpur region through contract growers.

BADC sources said that of the total seed, 620 mts is Kanchan variety while five mts Provaty variety.

This year the seed production target was fixed at 1,000 metric tons through 850 listed growers in Rangpur, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Nilphamari and Lalmonirhat districts under the zone.

BADC sources said the target was not achieved due to unfavourable climate.

Boy killed in Pabna road accident

UNB, Pabna

A little boy was killed in a road accident at Ataikula Bazar in Sadar upazila in Pabna on Sunday.

Police said Suman, 10, was injured when a shallow-engine driven vehicle, locally known as "Nasimon", hit him while he was crossing road.

Suman succumbed to his injuries on way to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH). Police arrested the driver of "Nasimon".

In another incident, an alleged terrorist was shot dead near Taziapara graveyard in Ataikula on Saturday night.

Police said gunmen sprayed bullets on Sadeq Ali, 43, son of Anar Ali and an accused in a number of cases, when he was returning home from the upazila headquarters.

The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately. A case was filed.

Youths throw acid on domestic help in Sylhet

UNB, Sylhet

A domestic help sustained burn injuries as some youths threw acid on her at Kazol Shah in Sylhet town on Monday.

Locals said unknown hoodlums threw acid on Hasina Begum, 16, of Jhamlabag in Sadar upazila, when she was working in the kitchen.

Hasina, who has been working at the house of Kamunnahan in the area, was admitted to Osmani Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

Miscreants shoot one for giving shelter to divorcee woman

UNB, Meherpur

A man was injured when miscreants shot him for giving shelter to a divorcee woman at Garabaria village in Gangni upazila in Meherpur on Sunday night.

Locals said the terrorists shot Harun, 35, as he gave shelter to the divorcee named Shikha at his home. They also stabbed Harun's brother-in-law when he tried to resist them.

Shikha took shelter at the house of Harun on Friday when her husband Shahi divorced her after nine months of their marriage.

Earlier, the youths asked Harun to hand over Shikha to them, but he refused to do so and sent Shikha to her parents' house on Saturday.

Mymensingh Narcotics Deptt needs logistic support

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Personnel of the Department of Narcotics Control in Mymensingh are unable to conduct rapid operations in many cases against drugs traders and users due to lack of manpower and vehicles.

Though selling and using of narcotic drugs of different kinds including hemp, wine, phensidyl and heroin have increased alarmingly in different areas of the district town and its adjoining areas, the concerned department is unable to control the bad trend.

Mymensingh Regional Office of the Department of Narcotics Control has to look after three districts Mymensingh, Netrakona and Sherpur. But it has no vehicle to conduct operations. Even the lone official jeep of the department is lying out of order for about one year.

So, the officials have to depend on rented cars for their movement which proved fruitless to hold criminals in most cases.

An official of the department, preferring not to be named, told The Daily Star it is not easy to arrest drugs traders and users as they have to wait for hours for a rented car and police force from thanas. He also asked, "Do you think that they (the criminals) will wait for us for hours to capture them?" For this reason many drives go fruitless though we try our best to capture drug traders and users. We have identified the most vulnerable area of drug trading, the official added.

But it is widely alleged that the drug trading goes on unabated under the shelter of certain police

officials to whom drug traders pay monthly, weekly or daily.

Due to lack of sufficient officials and sepoy, the anti-drug operations are being hampered. As the sub-Inspectors have to file or investigate the cases and they have to appear in courts also, sometimes we can not go for rapid actions, said another official.

However, the Department of Narcotics Control here seized 92.83 kilograms of hemp and 9,431 hemp plants and filed 82 cases against its traders. The department also seized 4785 litres of wine of different kinds and filed 75 cases. The personnel of the department seized 2867 bottles of phensidyl and filed 21 cases. They also seized 40 grams of heroin and filed four cases till December 31, 2001.

They also seized 20 kilograms of hemp and 4147 hemp plants and filed 24 cases. They recovered 982 litres of liquor of different brands and filed 17 cases. They seized also 888 bottles of phensidyl syrup and filed 19 cases. Personnel of the department seized 576 grams of heroin and filed six cases from January to March of the current year.

Recently personnel of the department arrested heroin user identified as parvez, 22 from the jute godown area in Mymensingh town and arrested three young drug traders identified as Sujon, 22, Harun, 25 and Quasem, 28, with 52 grams of heroin and 13 bottles of phensidyl syrup, official sources said.

But the recovery rate of drugs is very poor, it is alleged.

Discussion on BR Ambedkar

UNB, Jhenidah

Bangladesh Guru Rabidas (Dham) Mission, Joypurhat district branch recently held a discussion meeting in observance of the 111th anniversary of birth of Dr B R Ambedkar, the legendary leader of low caste Hindu under privileged community, says a press release.

It was presided over by Zindaram Rabidas while Director General of Bangladesh Guru Rabidas (Dham) Mission Kanailal Rabidas Mohanta attended as the chief guest.

The speakers discussed at length the life and struggle of Dr Ambedkar towards emancipation of the lower caste Hindus from the oppression of the upper caste.

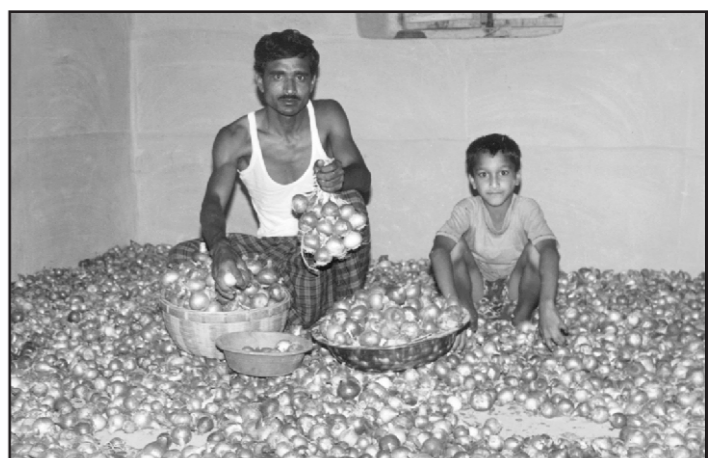
Miscreants ransack Faridpur telephone exchange

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A group of miscreants recently went on rampage in the digital telephone exchange building in Faridpur town.

A gang of miscreants numbering five tied the night guard of the exchange building at arms point and ransacked 12 rooms including that of the divisional engineer.

A case was lodged with Kotwali thana in this connection.



An onion grower of Tanore in Rajshahi sorting his produce with child at his home. A bumper harvest of onion has been reported in Rajshahi region this season.