

NEWS SNAPS

Woman strangled in Pabna

BSS, Pabna

One young woman was strangled after rape by unidentified ruffians at Darishoripur village in Bera upazila on June 14.

The victim was identified as Salma Khatun, 17, daughter of Abdus Salam of the village. He went to the house of neighbour for watching TV. But she did not go back home, police sources said. Police recovered the body from a cropland near her house next morning. Police suspected that she was strangled after rape. Two persons Arman, 22, and Lokman, 25, were arrested for their alleged involvement in the murder.

A murder case was filed with Bera thana.

Two killed in Jhenidah road mishap

UNB, Jhenidah

Two people were killed in a road accident, on Dhaka-Khulna highway in Sadar upazila Saturday.

The deceased were identified as Hasan, 32, of Hudadauti village and Shudev, 30, of Bishoykhali village in Sadar upazila. Witnesses said they died on the spot when they fell down from the rooftop of a running bus.

Housewife strangled by 'husband'

UNB, Brahmanbaria

A housewife was allegedly strangled by her husband over a trifling matter at Pikepara Bank Colony in Brahmanbaria town on Saturday.

Family sources said Ratan Dev picked up a quarrel with his wife Lipy Dev, 20, mother of a child, for not boiling rice properly. At one stage of altercation Ratan beat up Lipy mercilessly and strangled her. Ratan fled away after the incident. Police recovered the body and arrested Ratan's mother in this connection. A case was filed.

Teenaged girl allegedly commits suicide

UNB, Nilphamari

A teenaged girl allegedly committed suicide by taking pesticide at Kundupukur union in Sadar upazila on Sunday, a day ahead of her marriage.

The victim was identified as Keya, 18, daughter of Amjad Hossian of the union. Family sources said she committed suicide, as her father settled her marriage with a youth of the town against her will. The marriage was scheduled to be held Monday. An unnatural death (UD) case was filed.

2 police officials accused of taking bribe

UNB, Narayanganj

Two police officials have been accused of taking bribe from a poor family at Nandipara in Narayanganj town on the pretext they are engaged in illegal activities.

The victims -- Jatindra Saha and his son, Ratan Saha, at a press conference on Thursday alleged that the town officials raided their house and demanded Tk 20,000 to relieve them of the charge. Finally, they settled for Tk 500 and left the house. When contacted, Sub Inspector Tanveer denied the allegation of taking bribe and said they had raided Jatindra's house to arrest an accused person. Jatindra and his son are engaged in making candles.

Double murder: Chargesheet submitted

UNB, Sylhet

Police submitted chargesheet against 10 people on Sunday in a sensational double murder case in Sylhet town after 16 months of the incident.

The accused are Mijibur Rahman Kala, Saleh, Abdul Hannan, Tojoi, Ahmed Ibne Islam Chamok, Fokhor Ahmed, Jainal Abedin, Sattar, Farouk and Motalab. A gang of muggers killed Anowara Begum, wife of businessman Azab Ali of Mirabazar area in the town, and her maid Jobeda in absence of other members of the house and looted valuables including Tk one lakh in cash and gold ornaments on February 18, last year.

Abducted factory manager rescued

UNB, Khagrachhari

A factory manager who was kidnapped by tribal miscreants was rescued after two days on Sunday from a house in Matiranga upazila.

On information, police raided the house located in a deep forest and rescued Abul Hasem, 35, manager of Plywood Factory at Polashpur in the upazila. Police said the hoodlums, said to be the members of United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF), kidnapped him Friday night as he refused to pay them tolls.

AL leader murder: One arrested

UNB, Jhalakati

Police arrested a man in Jhalakati on Sunday in connection with the murder of Awami League (AL) leader and college teacher Mono Das.

When produced the court rejecting his bail prayer sent arrested Delwar Hossain to jail hajat on the same day. Earlier, police arrested Delwar's son Nasiruddin Pintu in connection with the murder, which occurred on June 2 and interrogated him taking him on remand.

Two injured in separate attacks

UNB, Barisal

Two people, including a trader, were injured in separate attacks by miscreants in Barisal on Saturday.

Witnesses said a gang of miscreants swooped on a youth, Sanu Akand, at Kaunia area in the town and cut off tendons of his leg and hand. They also chopped him indiscriminately. Later he was admitted to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. The cause behind the attack could not be known immediately.

Construction of cross dam completed

UNB, Patuakhali

Water Development Board (WDB) completed construction of 9.42 km cross dam in Mirzaganj upazila under Food for Works Programme during the current fiscal year.

Official sources said 1,000 metric tons of wheat were utilised to complete the work taken under Mirzaganj-Rampur Sub-project. The ambitious project that was taken up in the last fiscal year also include construction of 45.46 km cross dam, 15 km canal excavation and re-excavation, eight sluice gates and 200-metre flood protection embankment. After completion of the project, 3,660 hectares of farmland are expected to be saved from the tidal surge and salinity and huge quantum of additional crops will be produced in two unions of the upazila.

774 bottles of phensidyl recovered

UNB, Brahmanbaria

Detective Branch of police recovered 774 bottles of phensidyl from Dubla area in Sadar upazila on Saturday night.

They also arrested two people identified as Babul, 32 and Mohammad Farouk, 27, in this connection. The value of the seized drugs was estimated at Tk 1.5 lakh. A case was filed against them and further investigation was on.

Three listed criminals arrested

UNB, Narayanganj

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) jawans in their raids arrested three youths from Fatullah and Shiddhirganj upazilas recently.

The arrested were identified as Ruhul, 29, Jamal, 24, Maniruzzaman, 42. Police said the arrested are listed criminals. Police said Ruhul was arrested from Mizmizi area of Shiddhirganj while Jamal and Maniruzzaman were nabbed from Bhuihagar area of Fatulla. A case was filed against them.

395 uplift schemes implemented

UNB, Bogra

A total of 395 development schemes were implemented in last 10 months at a cost of Tk 2.91 crore and 2,260 metric tons of foodgrains.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) implemented the schemes under different development programmes. Of the total, 45 schemes were implemented under Rural Infrastructure Maintenance Project, three under RR MIMP-2, one under Flood Rehabilitation Project and 346 under Food for Work Programme, officials said.

Valuables worth Tk 10 lakh looted

UNB, Laxmipur

Armed robbers looted valuables worth about Tk 10 lakh from four houses at Charpagla and Torabganj villages in Ramgati upazila recently.

Locals said the bandits swooped on the houses of Chand Mia Bepari, Abdul Malek and Abdul Kalam of Torabganj and Dr Foyez of Charpagla and looted the cash and valuables. The robbers also beat up eight members of these families. Two of them, Chand Mia, 70, and Yunus Mia, 72, were admitted to Laxmipur Sadar Hospital.

Waterlogging a permanent problem in Mymensingh

Sufferings of town dwellers multiply in rainy season

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Sufferings of town dwellers in Mymensingh go beyond description during the rainy season because of faulty drainage system and pitiable conditions of roads.

Mymensingh Municipality has been upgraded into a first class municipality without increasing the civic amenities. Drains and roads of the district town are still in dilapidated condition.

Most areas of the district town are flooded or overflowed after slight or heavy shower. It takes hours together to recede the rain water after moderate rainfall.

Many areas in the district town including Fire Service and Civil Defence Office remained inundated for several hours during recent rainfall.

Rain water takes at least six hours or more to recede. Even plying of rickshaws and other vehicles remained suspended for hours together due to overflowing of the roads.

For lack of proper drainage system areas like

Macchua Bazar, Boro Bazaar, Station Road, Durgabari, CK Gosh Road, Rutiwala Para, Naumohal, Ganginar Par, Notun Bazaar, Aamlapara, Swadeshi Bazaar, Char Para Road, College Road were submerged.

As the drains are not cleared regularly water-logging turned the situation worse. Once some canals and kutcha drains were constructed in front of the houses or markets, but these canals or drains are now filled up with soil and garbages due to lack of proper care of the authorities concerned.

Moreover, lifted garbage of sewerage are left for days together on the roads creating an unhealthy situation. It creates sufferings to the passers-by.

An official of Mymensingh Municipality told The Daily Star that many buildings and other structures have been constructed on the municipality land adjacent to drains, so the drainage system has become faulty.

The town dwellers told that the authorities concerned are indifferent about the problems.



PHOTO: S9TAR

Submerged Naton Bazaar area in Mymensingh town due to recent rainfall. Faulty drainage system in the district town is the reason behind this scene. Water-logging has become a permanent problem for the inhabitants of Mymensingh town. But there is no way to get rid of this problem, because the municipality authority is quite indifferent to their woes.

7 inter-dist robbers arrested

UNB, Gazipur

Police in separate drives arrested seven activists of an inter-district gang of robbers from different parts of Dhaka recently.

Acting on a tip off, Joydebpur police raided Uttara area of Dhaka on Saturday and nabbed Altaf Hossain, 35, for committing armed robbery at a garment factory in Board Bazar area of Gazipur in February last. Later following his confessional statement they raided Gulshan, Badda, Mirpur and Keraniganj areas of Dhaka Sunday and arrested Siddiq, 40, Milan, 19, Makbul, 27, Bablu, 35, Shahjahan, 32, and another one. Besides the law enforcers recovered various looted garments machinery worth over Tk lakh from the house of Dulal Chowdhury of Mirpur in Dhaka.

Miscreants slaughter young man

UNB, Jessore

A young man was slaughtered by miscreants at Krishnanagar in Bagarpara upazila recently.

Police said a gang of miscreants kidnapped Kohinoor Rahman, 22, son of Zahabaksh Mandol, from Bagarpara Bazaar at about 9 pm and slaughtered him at a nearby field.

Police recovered the body Tuesday and sent it to Jessore General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately. A case was filed with police in this connection.

Top dying disease destroying Sundari trees in Sundarbans

ABU AHMED, Satkhira

Thousands of Sundari trees in the Sundarbans, the biggest mangrove in the world, are being destroyed because of 'top dying' disease.

This is due to adverse effect of ecological imbalance.

The disease has been affecting the Sundari trees in the Sundarbans since 1965.

A survey conducted by the Forest Department in 1965 revealed that the Sundari trees covered 60 per cent of the total area of the Sundarbans. In 1983 the Sundari trees decreased to 53, which further decreased to 50 per cent in 1994. The Sundari trees decreased further to 45 per cent in 2000.

The number of Sundari trees fell from 60 per cent to 45 per cent.

If immediate measures are not taken to prevent the disease, it is apprehended that at one stage Sundari trees, the most valuable trees in the Sundarbans, will vanish in future, experts said.

Because of the adverse effect Farakka, salinity in the Sundarbans increased abnormally, according to a forest official. As a result, the trees are being attacked with the disease.

For the normal growth of Sundari trees, water must contain 12 ppt and soil must contain between 8 to 10 ppt, but experimental study shows that at present water in the Sundarbans contain 28 ppt while the soil contains between 18 to 22 ppt, an amount of salt being too high for the trees to survive.

A team led by an expert named Dr Gibson conducted a research in 1985. He advised to cut down the

trees already attacked with 'top dying' disease.

According to Dr Gibson, repeated natural calamities, excessive salinity and massive siltation in and around the forest may be the cause of the disease.

Betar artiste honoured in Assam

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar



Rupak Goswami

Assam, India as the chief guest recently.

Rupak attended the 15th Anniversary programme of Beenachandam Sangeet College at Silchar, the district headquarters of Cachhar in Assam on May 30 and 31 in Assam.

He performed the folk songs of Sylhet region and took part in the discussion session on music.

He also participated in various stage programmes at different Bengalee populated areas in Assam. The programmes were organised in honour of the Bangladeshi artiste.



A participant reciting a poem at a programme of Anupras, a poetry recital organisation in Mymensingh. The programme was organised on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the organisation. Syeeda Quaraishee inaugurated the programme at the auditorium of Udichi, Mymensingh on June 14.

Private clinic agents harassing Magura Sadar Hospital patients

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

Private clinic owners in Magura have posted 'agents' at the sadar hospital to lure patients in the name of better treatment.

These agents enjoy free access to the hospital premises. With convincing promises to the patients and their attendants these agents admit the patients to the private clinics.

Most of these agents live in Doarpar, Parnanduali, Parla, Nizanduali, Bhaina and Darimadura in Magura town. They are mostly found in front of the emergency wing and entrance of the hospital.

The presence of agents is hampering the normal activity of the hospital, local people said. Most often the patients coming from rural areas are harassed by the agents, they added.

During this correspondent's visit to the hospital some brokers were

found wandering in the hospital premises. Some of them admitted they receive money from the clinic owners for luring patients.

"As doctors are involved in the process, I never consider it unethical" said an agent requesting not to be named.

When asked how much he gets for the job, Habibullah, an agent said he receives Tk 200 to 250 from the clinic owner after a patient is admitted.

"I earn Tk 2000 to 2,500 per month for the job from different clinics. It is the only source of income to maintain my family", said an agent.

When contacted with the Residential Medical Officer (RMO) of the hospital, Akteruzzaman Talukder, he said adequate measures have been taken to prevent brokers from entering the hospital.

However, some staffers of the hospital, who were not willing to be named, said, agents are still active.

The agents enter the hospital premises in guise of patients' attendants, they added.

Patients and their attendants alleged that a section of doctors and staff at the hospital also work for the interest of private clinics. Some patients who are refused admission in planned way, are advised by some doctors to get admitted to certain clinics, for 'better treatment'.

Meanwhile, Magura Sadar Hospital has been facing other problems including water scarcity and shortage of doctors.

Concerned sources said, at least nine posts of physicians have been lying vacant for a long time.

The number of beds for patients in the 100-bed hospital is not adequate. Many patients have to stay on floors due to shortage of beds.

Patients also have urged the authorities concerned to solve immediately the problem of water crisis they are facing.

Poor telephone service in Chandpur

BSS, Chandpur

The telephone subscribers of Chandpur town have been suffering for a long time due to poor telecommunication service of Chandpur T and T office.

Chandpur telephone exchange is based on analog system. There are two telephone exchanges at Chandpur -- one is at Naton Bazaar and another at Puran Bazar.

The Puran Bazaar exchange was established in 1960. The cable line of this exchange laid under the river Dakatia is very old. Most of the machinery is full of defects as the office building is in dilapidated condition. The subscribers can not connect from three digit to five digit numbers.

The work on the new digital telephone exchange was started in January this year with 3,000 lines.

The setting up of underground cables has already been completed under the supervision of Chinese experts. But the digital system could not be introduced as yet for reasons only known to the authorities.

About 500 applications are lying pending with T and T office for new connections. The telephone subscribers of Chandpur have been facing a lot of inconveniences, as the sets do not work properly. Frequent cross connections, disturbances like wrong numbers and noisy sounds are regular phenomenon, according to T&T office.

Besides, over billing and mismanagement are causing immense trouble to the subscribers. There is no bill office at Chandpur. All bills are issued from Comilla office. So subscribers have to go to Comilla with their

complaints.

Businessmen at Puran Bazaar alleged that trade and commerce of Chandpur district with the capital and other commercial places have been facing a setback due to lack of proper tele-link facilities.

Chandpur based correspondents of different newspapers and news agencies complained that they were facing a lot of problems as they can not send their news over telephone and fax because of frequent disturbances.

Earlier, digital telephone was introduced in Kachua and Hajiganj upazilas out of seven upazilas of the district. People of the remaining upazilas namely -- Chandpur Sadar, Matlab, Haimchar, Shaharasti and Faridganj have urged the government to introduce digital telephone system immediately.

Durgasagar Dighi yet to be developed as a tourist spot

AROOP TALUKDAR, Barisal

Durgasagar Dighi at Madhabpasha, 15 kilometres (km) away from Barisal town still attracts many tourists from home and abroad as well as thousands of migratory birds alike.

The lake is yet to be developed as an attractive place for tourists, anglers and guest birds. Madhabpasha, an union of Barisal, is known to all for its heritage.

Kings of Chandradweep ruled their kingdom for nearly 200 years from here. Still there are many buildings and temples, though dilapidated, used by the kings and their inheritants.

Durgasagar Dighi has unending natural beauties. There is an interesting story on Durgasagar Dighi. It is said that the then Raja Sib Naryan Roy of Chandradweep died in 1120 BS.

But his death created a confusion because he had no family member to succeed him after his death except Rani Durgabati.

By then, as usual, they had to obtain new 'Sanad' (declaration) from the capital to rule the kingdom of 'Chandradweep' in absence of Raja Sib Naryan Roy. Rani Durgabati at that time was carrying a child.

An unanimous decision was taken in such a way that the declaration will be taken in the name of the child, whom Rani Durgabati was carrying. Following the decision, Ranajibon

Roy, the most faithful 'Dewan' of the estate recieved the declaration tactfully in the name of Durga Narayan Roy as the successor of Raja Sib Naryan Roy.

He was later renamed as Jay Narayan Roy. According to demand of people of Chandradweep, Rani Durgabati excavated a 'dighi' (lake) on 47 across of land with an expenditure of three lakhs of rupees at Madhabpasha in 1187 BS.

Later, after the name of Rani Durgabati, Durgasagar Dighi was named. After completion of excavation of the 'dighi' a colourful festival was organised on the occasion of the inaugural ceremony of the 'dighi'. Several lakhs of people from Mithila, Drabir, Karnatak, Purbasthali, Bhatpa, Nabadweep, Kashi, Agra and so many other places of the then India attended.

After the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971, the then government of Bangladesh undertook a project named Durgasagar Development Project in 1972.

Under that project a small green island was created in the middle of the lake to make it more beautiful and attractive for the migratory birds and the tourists alike. A green belt was also created with coconut, Shishu, Mehgan, nut and some other trees around 'Durgasagar'.

The Fisheries department undertook a programme to attract the anglers. But the programmes are yet to be materialised.



PHOTO: STAR

A green island in the middle of Durgasagar Dighi is a safe haven for migratory birds. This island was created in 1972 by the then government under a project named Durgasagar Development Project. But the successive governments did not implement the project work fully. A plan of the Fisheries Department to turn it into an attractive fishing spot also shelved for reasons unknown to all.