

NEWS SNAPS



Khagrachhari Hill District Council in collaboration with Nestle Bangladesh Limited arranged a nutrition seminar at the Khagrachhari Hill District Council Conference Room on June 23.

Girl commits suicide in Manikganj

UNB, Manikganj
A female worker of local Akija Textile Mill allegedly committed suicide at Golra village in Sadar upazila on Friday.

Family sources said Sumi, 14, daughter of Hayat Ali, killed herself taking poison as her crippled father scolded her for the delay in lighting a lamp at their house after sundown. The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy. AUD case was filed with the police.

Jubo League leader shot dead

UNB, Khulna
A Jubo League activist was shot dead by unidentified gunmen at Baliadanga village in Boliaghata upazila Friday night.

Police said armed miscreants picked up Azmat Hossain, 38, son of Abdur Rahman, from a shrimp enclosure of Daduabazar and gunned him down at Baliadanga village. After preliminary investigation police said he was killed following a dispute over the shrimp gher. Police on Saturday recovered the body of Azmat and sent it to Khulna Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Two hijackers arrested in Jessore

UNB, Jessore
Kotwali police arrested two hijackers along with a hijacked goods laden truck from in front of a godown at Malanchi on Jessore-Benapole highway recently.

Police said arrested Ashiq Iqbal Anu of MM Ali Road and Jahangir Hossain of Chanchra Maidhyapara in the town along with their accomplices in a private car stopped the Jessore bound truck from Dhaka when it reached. Nongarpur near Khajura Bazaar on June 23 and started searching the vehicle identifying themselves as police. But at one stage they hijacked the truck at gunpoint. On information a contingent of police led by Si Khondokar Mizan rushed to the Malanchi area and arrested them while others managed to flee the scene. Police also seized the private car used by the hijackers. Police said the arrested are the activists of Awami League and the godown belongs to Jahangir. A case was filed.

Drug addict gets three years' RI

UNB, Sherpur
A speedy trial court here has sentenced a drug addict to three years rigorous imprisonment (RI) in a case filed by his father.

The court also fined the convict Mostaq Ali, 21, of Bagrar Char in Sriabordi upazila Tk 3000, in default, to suffer two months more RI. According to the prosecution, in brief, Jamshed Ali filed a case under the Speedy Trial Act against his drug-addicted son on May 9 stating that he gave him a death threat for not paying him Tk 5000 for purchasing drugs. Police after investigation submitted chargesheet against the debauch son within seven days of filing the case. After examining the witnesses and records Magistrate Mohammad Zakir Hossain delivered the judgement on June 23. Court sources said no advocate came forward to defend the accused.

Mineral deficiency affects output

UNB, Madaripur
Agricultural production is being affected adversely in four upazila of the district due to mineral deficiency in soil.

Agronomists said shortage of minerals like sulphur and zinc in soil are responsible for declining paddy production in the district in last one year. The unrestrained use of chemical fertilizers on cropland is the main reason behind the mineral deficiency. Farmers said production is decreasing in Rajoir, Shibchar, Kalkini and Sadar upazilas as about 60 percent cropland in these areas has been affected due to mineral deficiency.

Jewellery shop looted in Chhatak town

UNB, Sunamganj
Robbers looted gold ornaments and cash worth Tk several lakh from a jewellery shop in Chhatak town Thursday night.

Police said a gang of armed robbers numbering about 12 stormed into the 'Matrey Jewellery' at about 8:30 pm, held hostage shop owner Mahadev Paul and other employees at gunpoint and decamped with the booty. The bandits fired seven rounds of bullet in the air creating panic among the local people who ran for safety. Police reached the spot after an hour. MA Hanif, DIG Sylhet, Police Super Meer Shahidul Islam and ASP Ehsanul Huq visited the spot Friday. A case was filed with the police.

Missing housewife produced before court

UNB, Magura
A housewife was produced before a local court on Tuesday after 30 days of her disappearance.

Police said a gang of miscreants on May 23 kidnapped Ruma Khatun, 19, wife of Bablu Mia of village Chhoichar in Sadar upazila. Police arrested one person named Alim following a case filed by her husband under women repression and prevention act. The law enforcers acting on a tip-off rescued the housewife on the day. But she in a statement to the court denied her abduction. She said she voluntarily left with her fiancé Anju Mia of village Narogram in Sripur upazila and later married him. The woman also accused her former husband for harassing her by filing a false case. The court sent the housewife to jail hajot for further interrogation.

Young man injured in bomb blast

UNB, Satkhira
A young man was injured in a bomb explosion at Krishnanagar village in Kaliganj upazila Friday.

Witnesses said Rezaul Karim, 30, picked up quarrel with his rivals Mansur and Moslem over the sharing of money and goods looted in a robbery and he sustained splinter injuries when his bomb exploded in his hand minutes before hurling it to Moslem. Police arrested Rezaul when he was taken to upazila hospital.

Erosion renders 300 families homeless

UNB, Manikganj
Erosion by the rivers Padma, Jamuna, Kaliganga, Dhaleshwari and Ichhamoti has rendered nearly 300 families homeless in Manikganj during the last fortnight.

Erosion has taken a devastating turn with the rise in water levels in these rivers. Many areas of Garpara, Daoli, Sagordighi, Char Garpara, Char Bairol, Nayakandi, Komorpara and Palirtek villages in Sadar upazila, Jalsuka, Baraid, Agsavar, Gopalpur, Ainapur, Partilli and Char Tili in Satoria upazila and Sinjuri, Kamarajai, Char Mirjapur, Siarpur, Boikunthapur, Chakbasta and Jabra in Ghor upazila have already been devoured by the rivers. The rivers Padma and Jamuna engulfed a vast tract of land including a number of educational institutions, roads, bridges and culverts in Daulatpur, Shibabaya and Harirampur upazilas. Local people alleged that the authorities concerned took no steps so far for checking the erosion.

Advocacy meeting for religious leaders

UNB, Khagrachhari
A daylong advocacy meeting on "Involvement of the Religious Leaders in Human Resources Development" was held at Islamic Foundation auditorium here Wednesday.

The meeting dwelt on creating health awareness, reduction of birth rate, elimination of illiteracy, awareness against HIV/AIDS and elimination of gender disparity. Presided over by Deputy Director of Islamic Foundation Forkan Uddin, the meeting was addressed, among others, by deputy commissioner (DC) Mujibur Rahman Hawladar and Civil Surgeon Dr Subhash Das. The speakers laid stress on involving the religious leaders in achieving the above goals.

Tree fair at Gopalganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

A week long Tree Fair-2002 was held at the local Shilpakala Academy premises from June 22 to 28.

Goutam Chakrabarti, State Minister for Water Resources inaugurated the fair jointly arranged by local forest department and district administration.

Different Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) and social organisations, including local elite participated in the fair.

Abdus Sattar, Deputy Commissioner, Gopalganj distributed prizes among the winners on the concluding day on June 28.

Two illegal drug traders arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Two heroin and phensidyl traders were arrested by the Sadar thana police from the Mahmudpur area in Sirajganj town on Wednesday.

They were Answer Ali, 40, alias Kana and Jaman, 38. Acting on a tip Sadar thana police raided the Mahmudpur area and arrested them.

Police said they were trading Indian phensidyl and heroin from India for long and they spoiled life of many youths. At least 40 people died and 1,000 others got addicted for their crime, it is alleged.

Two killed in Gazipur road mishaps

UNB, Gazipur

Two people were killed in separate road accidents on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway Saturday.

Police said Taher, 50, was run over by a speeding bus at Mouna Chourasta and another unidentified man aged about 40 by a speeding truck at Salna. Separate cases were filed.

Body of abducted young man recovered

UNB, Narayanganj

The bullet-hit body of a young man, who was abducted on Friday, was recovered on Saturday from a jungle at Kutubpur in Fatulla upazila.

The victim was identified as Sharif, 20, an employee of a meat shop in the WAPDA pool area. Some criminals abducted him Friday night on gunpoint when he was taking dinner at a restaurant. In another incident, Shariful Islam, a police constable, sustained bullet injury in a crossfire when police and armed robbers exchanged shots at Lamapara in Fatullah Friday night. Shariful Islam was admitted to Rajarbag Police Hospital in Dhaka. A case was filed.

Flood situation improves in Netrakona

3 lakh marooned in Gaibandha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three lakh people have marooned in Gaibandha while flood situation improved in Netrakona.

Our Gaibandha correspondent reports: Flood situation in Gaibandha has deteriorated due to heavy downpour and onrush of water from the upper catchment.

All the seven upazilas have been affected by flood. Road communication has been snapped in many places. Nearly three lakh people have been marooned by flood water.

Five unions in Shaghata have been affected by flood while three unions are affected by river erosion. Water level at Alai and Katakahi continues to increase.

Besides, erosion takes an alarming turn at Garamara, Kumarpura, Haldia, Kalurpara, Patilbari and Dighalkandi situated on the bank of River Jamuna.

Several bridges at Bhutmara, Ramnager and Saitritola have been damaged.

Four unions in Sundarganj upazila have been affected badly by flood. Road communication between Rangpur-Sunderganj has been snapped when local people cut off portion of road at Bamondanga to divert the flood water.

Badly affected unions are Bamondanga, Sarbanada, Sonaroy and Sunderganj. A bridge across the River Ghagot at Charkabari which connects Bamondanga with Satibari is being threatened due to strong current. The bridge may collapse at any time.

A portion of the flood control embankment of Water Development Board (WDB) at Sarbanada in Sunderganj upazila washed away by surging water.

Deputy Commissioner of Gaibandha and Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO), Sunderganj have visited the affected areas and allocated 15 metric tons of rice for the flood victims. Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) and other organisations extended assistance with cash and dry food.

A vast tract of land has been submerged by flood water at Gobindaganj upazila. The River Karotoa fed by flood water has flooded both banks of the river. A large portion of embankment along the river at Kaiyaganj has washed away by flood water. Vast tracts of hand have been submerged. Nearly half kilometre of the highway on Gobindaganj-Dinajpur went under knee-deep water threatening the road communication. The affected areas are Katabari, Sapmara, Gumaniganj, Darbastha, Taluk-Kanupur, Nakai, Harirampur, Rakhal-Buruj, Shibpur, Salmara and Gobindaganj Municipality.

Fulchari upazila has been affected badly by erosion of the River Jamuna. All attempt of WDB to protect Fulchari headquarters spending Tk 25 lakh turned futile. Erosion has taken an alarming turn at Fulchari upazila headquarters.

Local people have appealed to the Prime Minister to save Fulchari upazila headquarters.

Meanwhile, the repaired portion of flood control embankment along the River Ghagot in Sadullapur upazila has been eroded with increase in water level in Ghagot basin.

Vast tracts of lands have been submerged by flood waters which entered through a large breach affecting standing crops and dwelling houses.

Water Development Board (WDB) has repaired the embankment



PHOTO: STAR

The science building of Kamarjani High School in Gaibandha is about to be eroded by the River Brahmaputra. River erosion has intensified in the area due to flash flood.

between Gaibandha and Sadullapur in the last fiscal. But due to defective work cracks have developed at different points. Nearly 300 feet of the embankment at village Joipur in Sadullapur upazila eroded away by the strong current of the river last year.

WDB repaired the damaged portion of the embankment in the current fiscal. But soon after completion of work the repaired portion again went under water.

WDB erected bamboo spars at different locations to save vulnerable points of the embankment. But due to high velocity of current the bamboo spars washed away.

Local people have become frustrated with the inferior quality of work of WDB and appealed to the concerned authority to look after the situation.

Our Netrakona correspondent reports: With fall in water level of four major rivers in Netrakona such as Sumeshowary, Kongsha, Mogra and Danu, the flood status has improved slightly.

In absence of relief materials the sufferings of the flood-hit people have increased. A large number of affected people rushed to the district headquarters in search of jobs.

The worst affected upazilas are Durgapur, Kalmakanda, Atpara, barhatta Modan, Mohonganj and Khaliajuri. Because of overflowing of the River Sumeshowary a vast tract of land in Durgapur upazila many people have become homeless.

Diarrhoea and other intestinal diseases have broken out in the affected areas. Affected people have been passing their days in great hardship for want of food, drinking water, medicine and other necessities.

BAU veterinary students observe strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The students of veterinary faculty of the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) observed a day long strike on June 24 at the university campus demanding allocation of fund to start their internship immediately.

No class of BAU was held on that day as the students of other five faculties expressed their solidarity with the demand of students of the veterinary faculty. Plying of the university vehicles was disrupted as the agitated students burnt tyres on the main road in front of BAU cooperative market following a big procession of 300 students which paraded the campus streets.

Later a rally was held at the foot of Bijoy' 71 which was addressed, among others, by Md Mosharrar Hossain, Vice-President of Bangladesh Veterinary Students' Association (BVSA), BVSA Secretary Abdullah Al-Mahmud and other BVSA officials and members namely Nadir, Hossain, Sadekur Rahman, Mahbubul Hoque,



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Veterinary Faculty of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) burning tyres in the Kamal-Ranjit market area when they were observing strike at the BAU campus on June 24. They were demanding fund for their internship.

Ashraful Islam, Shajahan, S M Shaheen Akhter and Taimur Islam.

Abdullah Al-Mahmud, Secretary of BVSA told The Daily

Star that they will go for tougher action if their demands are not met immediately.

There are about 600 students in the Veterinary Faculty of BAU.

Four die in separate incidents in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Four people died in separate incidents at Ullaprar, Tarash and Belkuchi upazilas in Sirajganj in two days.

The victims were Rafiqul Islam, 20, of Ullapra, six-year-old baby Alpona Khatun, daughter of Alhaj Ali of village Magura Binod in Tarash upazila, Shahin, 22, of Sakuna Digi in Tarash upazila. Identity of the other person could not be known.

Police said Rafiquel, an worker fell down from the rooftop of a four storied underconstruction building on Wednesday evening. He died on

the spot.

A six-year-old baby Alpona sunk in a ditch at her house. She died on the spot. Shahin was killed by lightning when he was working in his house on Wednesday morning.

Police recovered the body of another unknown youth from the shoal of Jamuna in Belkuchi upazila on Wednesday morning. Local people found the body in the River Jamuna.

On information police recovered the body. The youth was brutally killed by unknown miscreants. Many cut marks were found in the victim's body, police said.

Hotel manager shot dead in Cox's Bazar

UNB, Cox's Bazar

A hotel manager was shot dead in the resort town Saturday.

Police said armed miscreants gunned down Akteruddin, 34, manager of Hotel Haider, as he demanded bill from them after they had their lunch. The body was sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Two youths held with guns

UNB, Gazipur

Two young men were arrested with two home-made guns from Outpara in sadar upazila Saturday.

Jewel, 19, and Monir, 20, were moving suspiciously in the area when residents informed police. Jewel came from Kaulitia and Monir from Isar village in the same upazila.

Shashi Lodge needs to be saved from total destruction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Shashi Lodge established in Mymensingh town by the then zamindar of Muktagacha Babu Shashi Kanta Archarya Chowdhury is now in on verge of total destruction.

The Cultural Ministry or the Education Ministry should come forward to preserve the past glory of Shashi Lodge.

In 1952 Shashi Lodge has been turned into Mymensingh Women's Teachers Training College (TTC), the only women's teachers training college in the country.

Maharaja Surjakanta, first established the magnificent palace after the name of his son Shashi Kanta. But at 5.11 pm on June 1, 1897, the lodge was razed to the ground following one and a half minute earthquake. Later Maharaja Shashi Kanta constructed the lodge again. But Maharaja could not forget the "Music Stair Case" set up in the lodge which was destroyed in the earthquake. The music stair case was bought from Paris, France at the cost of Tk three lakh at that time.

Precious materials are scattered everywhere at this place. Situated on nine acres of land the design of the palace attracts the visitors much. The palace is surrounded with rare varieties of trees including Arjun, Karpoor, Kathgalap, Laxmi Bilash, and Radha Chura. There are also Rubber trees, Bakul, Champa, Kamini, Koro, Ashok, Jamrul trees planted by the Zamindars. Nagh Lingam, another variety of rare tree is also here. Its fruits were used as food for elephants.

There are 24 rooms in the Shashi Lodge. Every room is unique because of the architectural skill. The doors and windows of the rooms are decorated with various artistic pictures on glasses which satisfy the visitors at the first glance. But such valuable materials are in dilapidated condition due to lack of proper care and maintenance.

The big size hanging lights from the roofs with magnificent design are now unclean and broke down. The lights have also ruined. The wood works made in the floors of this palace are being damaged day by day.

Rain water passes through the roof for two or three days after heavy rainfall. It has threatened the existence of this palace.

There is a statue of 'Venus' made of white stone in the middle of the fountain in front of the palace draws the attention of the visitors. Another fountain inside the palace also made of white stone glorifies the palace.

The two-storied bath room on the bank of a big pond is now being used for keeping straw of cattlehead. The 'ghat' has been ruined totally and the pond has been turned into a small water body of the rural area.

When contacted, an official of Mymensingh Women's Teachers Training College, preferring not to be named told The Daily Star that the palace could not be handed over to the Archaeological Department apprehending disturbance in the educational atmosphere.



Front view of Shashi Lodge in Mymensingh town.



Another attractive fountain made of white stone inside the palace.



The statue of Venus made of white stone in front of the palace attracts hundreds of visitors.



PHOTOS: STAR

Miserable condition of Shashi Lodge with its broken doors and windows.