

NEWS SNAPS

Girl killed after rape in Pabna

UNB, Pabna
A little girl was killed after rape at Kashinathpur in Sathia upazila Monday. Police said Dukhini, 9, daughter of Elahi Fakir, was missing since Sunday morning. Villagers recovered her mutilated body the following day from a sugarcane field at the village. The little girl is believed to have been killed after rape. On information, police recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy. An unnatural death (UD) case was filed.

Four killed in Pabna road accidents

BSS, Pabna
Four people, including an infant, were killed in two road accidents in Pabna on Monday. Police said three people died instantly when a cattle-laden Dhaka-bound truck was hit from behind by another truck at about 5 am in Singh area near the town. The deads are Monsur Ali, 24, Raichuddin, 50, and Roshnai, 42. A case was filed in this connection. In another accident, an infant was crushed under the wheels of a truck at about 3:50 pm at Maligachha in Sadar upazila. Police seized the truck and arrested its driver. A case was lodged with police.

Three housewives commit suicide

BSS, Chuadanga
Three housewives of separate villages in Chuadanga committed suicide recently. Firoza Khatun, 18, wife of Sharifuddin of village Barasholua in Chuadanga Sadar upazila was tortured by her husband as she failed to bring dowry from her parents. At one stage, she committed suicide by taking poison, according to police sources.
Rozina Khatun, 20, wife of M Mukul of village Ekarpur in Chuadanga Sadar upazila and Bilkis Khatun, 22, wife of Abdur Razzak of village Kashipur in Jibannagar upazila committed suicide by taking poison following family feud. Separate unnatural death (UD) cases were registered with the respective police stations.

Child killed in road mishap at Laxmipur

BSS, Laxmipur
A child was killed in a road mishap in Chandraganj area of sadar upazila in Laxmipur on Monday. Police said the victim was identified as Labli, 6, a resident of Chandraganj area in Sadar upazila. The accident occurred when a Laxmipur-bound bus knocked her down while she was returning his residence. As a result she died on the spot. Police recovered the body and sent to the hospital for autopsy. A case was filed with local police station in this connection.

Boat sinks with two in Chandpur

BSS, Chandpur
A boat with large quantity of merchandised goods sank in the Meghna near Chandpur Railway Station on Sunday. The boat suddenly capsized due to overloading and severe current in the river, according to eyewitnesses. The boat was going to Pura Bazaar with merchandised goods. Boatman Hamid Mian, 60, and his son Imam Hossain, 8, drowned in the river.

Current nets on use defying govt ban

BSS, Chandpur
Catching of hilsha and other fish fries are continuing alarmingly in the Meghna and Padma. Indiscriminate use of current nets has become widespread in these rivers. About 2,000 current nets are used everyday to catch hilsha and other fish fries. According to Chandpur Fisheries Department sources, so far, mobile courts headed by the magistrates seized about 500 current nets worth about Tk 50,00,000 during the last three months from Haimchar to Matlab upazila area on the Meghna and Padma. The courts are active in the area for last three months. Almost every day a mobile court is conducted to check the fishing of hilsha fries. Mobile courts are also continuing in different hats and bazars to arrest the unscrupulous fishermen who are selling Jataka.

Armed robbery at commercial house

BSS, Netrakona
An armed robbery was committed at a commercial house in Netrakona town at late night on Wednesday. According to police sources a gang of armed robbers stormed into the commercial house through its one door, which was opened by an inmate of the house to respond to the call of nature. They beat the house inmates mercilessly and tied up their hands and legs and looted away cash by breaking open the locks of some steal almirahs. A case was filed with the concerned thana. However, none was arrested till filing of the report.

World breast feeding week begins

BSS, Khulna
The 'World Breast Feeding Week-2002' began in Khulna on Thursday as elsewhere in the country aimed at creating awareness among the people in general and expectant mothers about the benefit of breast-feeding. This year's theme of the week is "Breast-feeding: Healthy Mother and Healthy Baby." Elaborate programmes were chalked out in observance of the day in a befitting manner. Different organisation in the town observed the day through holding separate programmes. A colourful procession marking the occasion was brought out in the city, starting from Khulna Circuit House ground which ended at PTI crossing.

Two guns recovered with ammunition

BSS, Sirajganj
Police recovered two local made guns and four rounds of rifle ammunition from Janthar in Tarash upazila in early morning on Sunday. Police said acting on a tip-off police recovered a jute bag with two local made arms and four rounds of bullets from the roadside at Janthar in the same upazila. A case has been lodged with Tarash police station in this connection.

Six cattle traders injured in road accident

BSS, Sirajganj
Six cattle traders were injured, four of them critically in a collision with a cattle carrying Dhaka-bound truck and another truck near Jamuna Bridge west-side on Sunday. Police said, when a Dhaka-bound cattle carrying truck collided with another truck at the west-side near the Jamuna Bridge. As a result four of them were critically injured and admitted at Sirajganj General Hospital. Police seized both the trucks, but driver and helper managed to flee from the spot. A case has been lodged with Jamuna Bridge west police station in this connection.

Eight of a family convicted

BSS, Manikganj
Additional District and Sessions Judge Kabita Akhtar Shirin awarded eight persons of a family including father, sons, daughter and grand son for life-term for killing their neighbour on Saturday. The convicted are Moslem Madbar, Usuf Ali, Abdul Kuddus, Unus Ali, Isak Ali, Mamtaj, Manju, and Ahmed Ali of village Bhikora in Manikganj Sadar upazila. The case in brief, was that the accused persons called on person named Faizuddin from his house at 12 pm on August 24, 1997 and killed him and concealed the body in a sugarcane field from where it was recovered on the next morning. Mahar Ali, brother of victim, filed a murder case with Manikganj Police Station. After hearing the witnesses and examining the evidences, the judge convicted the accused persons for life-term and fined 1,000 each, in default, one month punishment.

Farmers seek fair price of jute

BSS, Meherpur
Jute growers of Meherpur have urged the authorities concerned to buy their product at fair price for the sake of the future of the natural fibre. Jute is being sold at Tk 190 to 200 per maund against the production cost of Tk 300 to the utter frustration of the farmer. The Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) has not opened its purchasing centres in Meherpur. As a consequence, middlemen are taking the advantage and compelling the jute growers to sell their produce at very low price. Jute was cultivated on about 8,000 hectares of land in Meherpur this year, Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources said.

Two-day workshop on child development

BSS, Narsingdi
A two-day advocacy and planning workshop on 'Early Childhood Development' concluded at Narsingdi circuit house on Monday. Bangladesh Shishu Academy Narsingdi unit, organised the workshop with the assistance of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), officials sources said. Director, Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Dr Jahanara Begum opened the workshop as the chief guest. Presided over by Deputy Commissioner Kazi Akhtar Hossain, the concluding session was addressed, among others, by Muksudal Hossain Khan ADC (Gen), Golam Mostafa, team leader ECD, UNICEF, Rasida Begum, district child affairs officer, Professor Pronab Chakraborty, Professor Nurjahan, Professor Halimuzzaman, Ronjit Kumar Shaha and Fahima Khanum.



(Left) A collapsed railway track at Kaiyahat of Trimohoni-Balashi Ghat section of Bangladesh Railway in Gaibandha. Surging water has damaged the 200 feet long railway track in this northern district where flood wreaked havoc, (right) a few flood victims have come back home at Zia intersection in Sirajganj from their temporary shelters elsewhere. But they are still living under the sky as their homes have been damaged by flood. Now they badly need house building materials on priority basis.

5 drown in flood waters in Sirajganj

Erosion renders 300 families homeless at Chowhali, Shahjadpur

AKHTERUZZAMAN BABLU, Sirajganj

Five persons including 2 children drowned in flood waters. Two little children namely Poribanu, 8 months daughter of Sahidul Islam of Khas Kaula in Chowhali upazila and Shafiqul Islam, 9, of Ratandiar village in Ullapara upazila drowned in flood waters. While Poribanu was sleeping in the house with parents and Shafiqul Islam was coming back home from bazaar. The flood situation slightly improved in Sirajganj Sadar, Kazipur and Belkuchi upazilas while erosion took a serious turn at Chowhali and Shahjadpur upazila areas. At least 300 families of 10 villages rendered homeless by the mighty Jamuna. They took shelter on high lands. Meanwhile, nearly 3,000 people of Sirajganj Sadar, Belkuchi and Kazipur areas returned to their homes.

On the other hand, low-lying areas at Shahjadpur, Tarash, Ullapara, Chalan beel areas were inundated. About 1500 acres of crop lands were damaged in the five upazilas. According to the district administration over 3,00,000 people have been affected in the district. Acute crisis of food and drinking water prevailed in the flood affected areas. Hundred of tubewells went under flood water. The local Water Development Board was striving hard to reconstructed the Shailabari Zia groyne. Last week the groyne washed away by the flood waters. Strong current was flowing which hit the town protection embankment. All the educational institutions in the shoal areas in the affected five upazilas remained closed. Relief from the government is too meager for a large number of flood victims.

Earning a living in the monsoon



Now is the peak period of rainy season. Sometimes the season brings misery for people and sometimes it brings opportunity for poor rural people to earn a living. As for example the seasonal umbrella traders do a brisk business in this season. (Top left) A rural trader in Magura bargaining with a client at his tiny umbrella shop, while the boatmen who remain idle at other period of the year become suddenly active at this period. (Right) As soon as the Nabaganga swelled due to incessant rains local boatmen started ferrying people all day long across the river and at the same time earn a good amount of money. (Bottom) At the advent of monsoon the manufacturers of bamboo made fish traps shun their dizziness and become very busy in making fish traps which they sell in local markets. In the markets of Magura 'Dohar' and 'G'huni', two such traps are in great demand in this ongoing rainy season.

Divisional office of Environment in Rajshahi soon

UNB, Rajshahi

The government will open a divisional office of the Environment Directorate here and upgrade Rajshahi Forest School to a college soon.

Forest and Environment Minister Shahjahan Siraj disclosed this while inaugurating a 10-day tree fair here Tuesday.

The minister told the function that a master plan would be taken for massive plantation of fruit and herbal saplings in the Barind area.

Referring to the environmental degradation caused by adverse effects of the Farakka Barrage, he said the existence of the Sundarbans, the world's largest

mangrove forest, is now at stake.

"The ongoing desertification in northern districts is also the result of the Farakka barrage," the minister said emphasising the need for regional and international cooperation in solving the problems regarding common rivers.

Chaired by Deputy Commissioner of the district, the function was addressed, among others, by Post and Telecommunications Minister Barrister Aminul Islam, State Minister for Forest and Environment Zafrul Islam Chowdhury, city Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, Dr Salek Chowdhury, MP and Chief Forest Conservator Anwar Farooq.

Goats distributed among distressed families of FFs

UNB, Thakurgaon

Thakurgaon Chamber of Commerce and Industry distributed 36 goats among 18 families of distressed freedom fighters (FFs).

The Chamber also distributed rickshaws, vans and sewing machines among seven poor families of freedom fighters.

State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir handed over the goats, sewing machines, rickshaws and vans to the freedom fighters on July 17.

Another report from Magura adds: The government under its Distressed Freedom Fighters Rehabilitation Programme distributed 235 bundles of CI sheet among 257 poor freedom fighters of Mohammadpur upazila.

Local MP Kazi Salimul Haq handed over the CI sheets to the distressed freedom fighters on July 16.



PHOTOS: STAR

Non-iodised salt on sale in Chandpur

BSS, Chandpur

Non-iodised salt is being sold in almost all markets in Chandpur defying the government order regarding production, storage and distribution of salt.

In spite of ban on selling non-iodised salt, the commodity is being sold in different markets with impurity. Innocent people are purchasing such non-iodised salt due to cheaper prices.

According to market sources, one kilogram of iodised salt is being sold between Tk 10 to 12, while the price of one kilogram of non-iodised salt is sold between Tk 8 to 9. As a result the consumers are purchasing non-iodised salt at random.

Some unscrupulous traders are selling non-iodised salt leveling those as iodised salt. Non-iodised salt which are being sold at different markets are found dirty and

unclean. Iodine deficiency causes goiter, deafness, squint-eyed and mental and physical retardation. The government has made it mandatory to convert all the salt factories into iodised salt factories.

There are about 35 salt refinery factories in Chandpur. Only 12 factories are producing iodised salt and the rest of the salt industries are not producing iodised salt.

UNICEF has supplied machines for mixing iodine with salt. But some factories have not yet installed the iodised machines. About 60 per cent people in Chandpur are taking non-iodised salt.

UNICEF organised many seminars for introducing iodised machines in all salt factories. The salt mill workers and owners were given training on mixing iodine with salt.