

NEWS SNAPS

Teenage girl dies of snakebite

UNB, Khulna
A teenage girl died of snakebite at Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) early Friday.
A poisonous snake bit Fatema, 12, while she was engaged in domestic work near her house at Koiya Bazaar in Sonadanga upazila Thursday night. She died after admission at KMCH. An unnatural death (UD) case was filed with local police.

Tk 21.97 cr BKB loan disbursed

UNB, Brahmanbaria
Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) disbursed loan amounting to Tk 21.97 cr, including Tk 15.24 cr farm loan, among people of Brahmanbaria during 2001-2002 fiscal.
Officials said the bank disbursed the loan through its 26 branches in eight upazilas to give a boost to farm output and eradicate poverty by creating self-employment opportunities. Besides, the bank realised its outstanding loan totalling Tk 30.53 cr during the period.

Poetry festival in Brahmanbaria

UNB, Brahmanbaria
A daylong poetry festival was held at Brahmanbaria Shilpakala Academy Wednesday.
Titas Sahitya Sangskritik Parisad organised the festival titled 'Barshamongol Kobita Utsab'. Prof Haroon-ur-Rashid inaugurated the festival with poet Shamsul Islam in the chair. Poet Dilip Das of India was accorded a reception in the festival.

Girl suffers burn injuries in Moulvibazar

UNB, Moulvibazar
A girl suffered burn injuries in an acid attack at village Baurbag in Sadar upazila Wednesday night.
Police said two miscreants broke into the house of late Chan Mia at the dead of night and threw acid on Misma Aktar, 18, as she cried out seeing them. She was being treated at Sadar Hospital.

Leader of outlawed party arrested

UNB, Magura
A leader of the outlawed Sharbahara Party was arrested along with a firearm from Gobra village in Shaikha upazila Sunday.
Acting on a tip-off, police raided a house at the village and arrested Harun Mollah, 35, leader of the party. Police said Harun of Kadirpara village in the upazila was wanted in about 10 murder cases. They recovered a pistol from his possession.

Sea truck stranded at shoal in Bhola

UNB, Bhola
Khijir-7, a modern sea truck, remained stranded at a shoal in Nazirpur in Lalmohon upazila for the last seven days.
The vessel, built at a cost of over Tk 5 cr, was commissioned on Kalaia (Patuakhali)-Nazirpur (Bhola) naval routes on June 14 to ferry passengers. Witnesses said the sea truck on its way to Kalaia ran aground at the shoal for the mistake of its operator.

Timbers worth Tk 32.86 lakh seized

UNB, Khulna
Coast guards in their drives seized timbers worth about Tk 32.86 lakh from Sharankhola in Khulna district in last few days.
The coast guards from Khulna zone carried out the drives in the area and seized some 4694.59 cubic feet of 'Sundari' timbers heaped up for smuggling. The timbers were handed over to Sharankhola forest range.

JCD-ICS panel sweeps students' union polls

UNB, Gazipur
The combined panel of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) swept the students union election of Gazipur Government University College Thursday.
The pro-BNP-Jamaat panel bagged all the seats in the election held amid tight security. Bangladesh Chhatra League, the student wing of opposition Awami League, also contested the election.

Noakhali Municipality budget announced

UNB, Noakhali
Noakhali Municipality has announced a Tk 19.63 cr budget for fiscal 2002-2003.
Municipality chairman Abdur Rahman announced the budget Tuesday in presence of local elite, government officials and journalists.
Of the total income, Tk 7.14 cr will come from municipality taxes and fees, Tk 3.69 crore from government grants and Tk 5 crore from other sources, the chairman said.

Cash, valuables worth Tk 84,000 looted

UNB, Kishoreganj
Armed robbers looted cash and valuables worth Tk 84,000 from the district Judge Court building on Wednesday. Some 10-12 masked robbers entered into the building tying up the night guards Farook and Lalmia, and breaking its grill.
They broke the lock of the strong room and took away Tk 76,000 from the safe and Tk 7,900 from the accountant's room. Police visited the spot.

Absconding bank manager arrested

UNB, Khulna
The manager of the local Shilpa Bank was arrested from the city's Banorgati area early Friday.
The law enforcers nabbed Tipu Sultan, who remained absconding for long in a CR case filed with Sonadanga police. Police, however, could not furnish the specific charge brought against the manager.

10,000 marooned in Satkhira

5000 shrimp enclosures go under water

UNB, Satkhira

Incessant heavy downpour for the last five days flooded seven upazilas of Satkhira marooning over 10,000 people.
The affected people have been passing their days in subhuman condition under the sky without food and relief materials.
Locals said shrimps worth several crores of taka were washed away as about 5,000 shrimp enclosures went under water. Low-lying areas of Satkhira town were also inundated forcing the people to leave their dwellings.

Meanwhile, hundreds of thatched houses were razed to the ground and standing crops on vast tracts of land damaged. Flood control embankments in different upazilas are also threatened by floodwater.
The embankments in Assasuni, Shyamnagar, Debhata and Sadar upazilas have become vulnerable and may collapse anytime flooding the vast areas, including Balabaria, Sovnali, Kulya, Gabra and Patakhali.
The worst flood affected villages are Nagarghata, Dhandia, Natungao, Senergati, Manikhar, Sharsha, Sarulia, Doara, Saraskati, Jugikhali, Ratkhola, Polashpol, Dangi, Balli, Singnal and Sultanpur.

ASI suspended for negligence of duty

UNB, Bagerhat

An Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of Gourambha police outpost was suspended for negligence to duty during the Wednesday's gunfire incident that left three people killed and four others wounded in Rampal.
All the policemen and ansars of the same outpost were closed earlier.
District Police Super Abdul Jalil Mondal said the punitive action against Shaymol Nandi was taken after locals alleged that the ASI did not turn up at the spot timely.

Three people -- BNP leader Aslad Sheikh, school student Rakibul and street vendor Arab Ali -- were killed and four others, including two students, received bullets as a gang of assailants indiscriminately fired shots near the Khan Jahania Secondary School at Gourambha Bazaar in Rampal.
An uneasy calm has still been prevailing in the area following the incident.
The law enforcers are yet to unearth the motive behind the killing.
Seven people were killed in Bagerhat from June 24 to July 3.

Abductor gets life term in Kishoreganj

UNB, Kishoreganj

A local court on Thursday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment in an abduction case.
According to the prosecution story in brief, Nasir Uddin, son of Syed Box at village Gaital in Sadar upazila, used to harass Nurjahan, a class X student of Kishoreganj Model Girls' School and daughter of A Hanann of the same village.
To avoid the unbecoming situa-

tion, Hanann sent his daughter to one of his relatives' house at Gobindapur village in Hossainpur upazila halting the girl's education.
Nasir Uddin aided by his accomplices kidnapped the girl at gunpoint and raped her on Jan 20, 2000.
After examining the records and witnesses of the case, Muhammad Mofijul Islam, Judge of Woman and Child Repression Prevention Special court, handed down the verdict.

Workers' clash leaves 15 injured

UNB, Savar

At least 15 people, including a Union Parisad (UP) member, were injured in a clash between two groups of workers at Narsinghapur industrial area here on Friday morning.
Witnesses said the trouble began when workers of Hamim Sweater Factory barred workers of a neighbouring factory to board their bus.
As local union parisad member Wahidul tried to settle the problem, a group of workers physically assaulted him triggering a violent clash.
On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.
Five of the injured were admitted to hospital.

Husband's abortive bid to kill wife

UNB, Shariatpur

Having failed to realise dowry, a greedy husband in Naria upazila severely beat up his newly married wife Wednesday night in an attempt to kill her.
Police said Nazrul Islam Sareng, 30, of Vojeswar village aided by his friend Abul Hossain, 32, took his wife Mukta Akhter, 24, to a nearby mango orchard tying up her hands and legs at the dead of night.
They beat up her there until she collapsed and left the place presuming her dead. Local people recovered Mukta the following morning and took her to hospital in a critical condition.
Police arrested Nazrul and his friend in this connection.

Schoolboy drowns while crossing culvert

UNB, Jhalakati

A schoolboy drowned while crossing a bamboo-made culvert over a river at Algi village in Rajapur upazila Wednesday.
Villagers said Bellal, 6, son of Mograr Ali of Chhitki village in Kathalia upazila, fell into the river as the culvert collapsed while he was passing through it.
His body was recovered the following day.
Meanwhile, another schoolboy, Ibrahim, 8, son of Abdul Hakim of Nabagram area in Sadar upazila, was critically injured as he fell down from a bamboo-made culvert at the village on the day.
He was admitted to Sadar Hospital and later moved to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

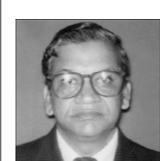
Govt building lying abandoned

UNB, Bogra

A government residential building built for one of the high officials of local Power Development Board (PDB) has long been lying abandoned causing financial loss to the government.
The residential building for an engineer of PDB, Bogra circle was constructed several years back, but the building has been lying abandoned for last one year.

Chehlum

A CORRESPONDENT, Naogaon



Chehlum of late Al-Haj Anwarul Afzal, second son of Late Khan Sahib Muhammad Afzal, prominent social worker, writer, journalist and retired senior civil servant, will be held on Friday July 12 after Jumma prayers at his ancestral home Khawtawasher-Raninagar village in Raninagar upazila.
On the occasion, milad mahfil and Quran Khwani have been arranged.
Late Anwarul Afzal served as a senior officer of Pfizer, Renata, Prime Bank and Bayera in Dhaka.
He was also the Common Room Secretary of Rajshahi University Central Students' Union (RUCSU) during his university days.



Students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) residing in Chittagong, leaders of various woman organisations and students of different schools in the port city formed a human chain on the local press club premises recently protesting the killing of Sony and demanding exemplary punishment to the killers.

Bamboo-based cottage industries on the wane

BSS, Joypurhat

Bamboo clusters and traditional bamboo based cottage industries of the northern region are gradually disappearing.
According to local people, indiscriminate felling of bamboo trees, lack of initiatives for planting bamboo plants in a planned manner, preservation and maintenance of the bamboo clusters are the main reasons behind it.
Thousands of rural people, who were engaged in bamboo based cottage industries have already changed their inherited traditional profession. This is due to less demand of their produces, presence of synthetic commodities in local markets and non-availability and high prices of raw materials.
Joypurhat, Naogaon, Bogra, Pabna, Rangpur, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Gaibandha, Natore, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Lalmonirhat, Chapainawabganj and Sirajganj were earlier full with charming bamboo clusters only two decades ago.

Bamboo based cottage industries grew up in these areas and bamboo made households were part and parcel of rural life. Thousands of families were earning a lot by making bamboo made 'kula', dhama' chatai' jhuri' chalu' duar' khali' maltha' pakha 'unia' dharai' poloi' macha' dhol' carts, mathoi', a number of toys and other necessary goods at their houses.
They were selling these goods in rural hats and bazaars at comparatively fair prices to earn their living.
There was a high demand of these bamboo made commodities everywhere, but the demand now reduced to its lowest level as local markets have been flooded with ecologically harmful and dangerous plastic made commodities with reasonable less prices.
Rise in bamboo prices compelled the rural handicrafts of bamboo made goods to sell their produces at higher prices when they faced the challenge for their survival about a decade ago. They started leaving their ancestral profession finding no other alternative. A large number of people have also become jobless as they do not know other works.
Experts said with the rise of population, more houses have been built in rural areas damaging the bamboo clusters. On the other hand, bamboo is the main construction material for building thatched houses in the rural areas.
Some houses are being built with bamboo mainly in many districts. But non-availability of bamboo has increased its price from Tk 25 to Tk 100 now per piece on average. As a result, people are making houses with tin sheets and plastic materials.
Local observers, experts and people said the government should take up an extensive bamboo plantation programme to help our ecology and the people who were engaged in bamboo based cottage industries.
They also stressed banning on carrying thousands of bamboo through river routes to the other areas daily from the region.

Afforestation drive in Jhenidah, Ctg

PHOTOS: ATAUL GANI SUMON & DELWAR KABIR

An afforestation drive started recently in Chittagong and Jhenidah. Picture on top right shows students of a girls' school in Jhenidah showing their saplings (herbal) supplied to them free of cost by the Department of Forestry on the occasion of a week long tree fair jointly organised by the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) and the Department of Forestry. (Bottom left) An afforestation drive progressing on Satkania-Sonakanika Road in Chittagong. Integrated Development Foundation and Forestry Sector project, Chittagong, Government Forestry Department jointly began the drive. (Bottom right) A colourful rally in Jhenidah town on the occasion of the fair.



Month-long afforestation drive in Khagrachhari

UNB, Khagrachhari

A month-long afforestation drive began in Matiranga upazila Thursday.
Deputy Commissioner of the district Mujibur Rahman Hawlader inaugurated the drive planting a sapling in front of Khiribari police camp.
Matiranga Upazila Nirbahi Officer and UP chairman, political leaders and government officials were present on the occasion.
Meanwhile, a two-day seminar on Regional Agriculture Research Extension concluded at local Agriculture Research Centre Thursday.
Agronomists from Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban districts took part in the seminar organised by Khagrachhari Agriculture Research Centre.
They emphasised the importance of evolving new technologies for better cultivation in the hilly areas.

Bodies of 2 housewives recovered

UNB, Manikganj

Bodies of two housewives were recovered in Manikganj on Wednesday.
Police recovered the body of Rafiza Khatun, 35, from a place adjacent to Muljan union parishad office.
Rafiza, wife of Harez of Kalampur village in Dhanrai upazila, was allegedly raped before being killed.
Khodeza Begum, 35, wife of Rabiuddin at Bathra village in Daulatpur upazila was strangled over a family feud.
In another incident, four muggers were arrested while they were fleeing the spot after snatching Tk 12,000 from a trader near Shibaly police station on Tuesday.
The arrested were identified as Liton, 28, Aminul Islam, 26, Raju Chakrawarti, 24, and Prince, 24.

SSC candidate commits suicide for poor result

UNB, Khulna

A Secondary School Certificate (SSC) candidate of Mahmudkathi village in Paikgachha upazila allegedly committed suicide Thursday by taking poison having failed to pass the examination.
Family sources said Sairon Bhadra, 18, son of Rabin Bhadra of the village, collapsed after he took pesticide Wednesday night.
He was rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital where he died the following morning.
Another candidate, Sanjida Yasmin, 17, was being treated at Rupsha upazila health complex as she took poison Thursday after hearing that she could not pass the SSC examination.
The condition of Sanjida, a student of Pithabhog High School, was stated to be critical.

Arrest demanded

UNB, Kushtia

Local journalists have demanded immediate arrest of the attackers of daily Manabjamin correspondent Nazmul Imam and expedite the activities of the case.
The journalists held separate meetings with Deputy Commissioner Fakhru Islam and Police Super Mohammad Shamsuddin Tuesday and called upon them to arrest the remaining accused who were roaming in Kushtia town on the very nose of

the law enforcers.
They said drug trader Bhoga Sohel in his statement to police confessed that he along with his four accomplices launched the attack on Nazmul Imam.
The Deputy Commissioner and the Police Super assured the journalists that the culprits would be brought to book soon.
Nazmul Imam, joint secretary of Kushtia Reporters' Unity, came under terrorist attack as he wrote a series-report in his newspaper on various crimes in the region.