

NEWS SNAPS

Village headman succumbs to injuries

UNB, Sirajganj A village headman of Bil Mahika village in Belkuchi upazila who was stabbed by miscreants on Friday died in Sadar hospital Sunday.

One allegedly poisons wife to deaths

UNB, Sirajganj A man allegedly poisoned his wife to death for dowry at Bellatpur village in Ullahpara upazila Thursday.

Family sources said Abdul Jabbar married Nurunnahar, 20, a few months back and demanded Tk 50,000 as dowry from his wife. On the fateful day when pressed she expressed her intention to meet the demand and later Jabbar tactfully mixed poison with her meal causing her instantaneous death. A case was filed. Jabbar went into hiding after the incident.

RAKUB earns Tk 26.22 cr profit

BSS, Rajshahi Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) earned a record profit of Tk. 26.22 cr during the last 2001-2002 fiscal year, official sources said. The bank recovered loan worth Tk 473.67 cr which is 101 per cent more than that of the targeted amount while the amount of loan disbursement was Tk. 479 cr which is 102 per cent more than that of the disbursement target. Out of the disbursed loan Tk. 281.54 cr was crop loan. Besides, RAKUB also realised Tk. 100 cr default loan which is Tk. 15 cr more than that of the previous fiscal. The bank has not only exceeded the target, but also surpassed the earnings of the previous 2000-2001 fiscal year by 23.79 cr sowing a 9.27 per cent growth. The profit of the previous fiscal Tk 2.43 cr.

Anti-dowry workshop in Naogaon

UNB, Naogaon In an effort to create awareness among the people about the ill effect of dowry a non-governmental organisation, arranged an anti-dowry workshop in Naogaon recently. Association for Community Development (ACD) organised the workshop titled "Dowry is a Social Problem" at the district council auditorium. Presided over by the Executive Member of ACD Hosne Ara Hena, people from all walks of life including the teachers, lawyers and journalists attended the workshop.

Valuables worth Tk 3 lakh looted

UNB, Sirajganj Armed robbers looted valuables worth Tk 3 lakh from four houses at Lautia village in Tarash upazila Saturday. Police said a gang of armed bandits numbering 25 swooped on the house of Maydan Ali at dead of night and looted valuables and cash at gunpoint. They later also looted valuables from the adjacent houses of Badsha, Chand Ali and Anwar Hossain on the same night. Police arrested four people in this connection and a case was filed.

Woman gangraped in Jhalakati

UNB, Jhalakati A woman was gangraped at Tarabunia village in Rajapur upazila on Wednesday. Police said the culprits identified as Churnu, 25, Pema, 30 and Dulal, 25, raped the victim after tactfully calling her husband out of the house. They fled away when locals rushed to the spot hearing the screaming of the woman. A case was filed with the police.

Foundation training course at BPATC

UNB, Savar A foundation-training course began at the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) at Savar on Sunday. Education Minister Dr M Osman Farouk inaugurated the 29th training course presided over by BPATC Rector Dr Kamal Uddin Siddique. A total of 220 field officials of nine cadres are taking part in the course.

Indian goods worth Tk 13.86 lakh seized

BSS, Rajshahi Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel of 35th battalion in two separate anti-smuggling drives in Rajshahi seized huge Indian smuggled goods worth about Tk 13.86 lakh on Thursday night, BDR sources said. Acting on a tip-off, BDR personnel from Godagari BOP conducted a search at Mohishbari hat area in Godagari upazila at about 3:30 am and seized five sacks loaded with different brands of Indian smuggled medicine worth about Tk 12.78 lakh. None claimed the ownership of the seized goods which was later deposited to the local Customs authorities by BDR. In another drive at Pirojpur frontier area in Charghat upazila at about 12:15 midnight BDR personnel from Charghat BOP seized 1100 bottles of phensidyl worth about Tk 1.10 lakh but none was arrested in this connection. The seized goods were destroyed.

Artificial crisis of iodised salt

UNB, Nilphamari Many people in 16 northern districts of the country are suffering from various diseases due to deficiency of iodine. According to report of World Health Organisation (WHO) about four lakh people in 16 districts including Nilphamari, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Panchagarh, Dinajpur, Lalmonirhat, Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Thakurgaon, Pabna, Kurigram are suffering from goitre and other diseases due to the reason. About 15 thousand people in Sirajganj are suffering from goitre, the report added. The report also says that iodised salt is hardly available in the markets of these districts. Moreover, people prefer to buy non-iodised salt as per kg normal salt is sold at Tk 6 while iodised salt at Tk 10. It is alleged that a section of dishonest traders create artificial crisis of iodised salt in the market to earn windfall profit. Besides, people are not conscious about the utility of iodised salt.

11 including 7 women injured in clash

BSS, Barguna At least 11 persons including seven women were injured seriously in a clash over a piece of disputed land at village Takhalai in Amtali upazila on Friday noon. The injured persons are Rammath, 50, Harendra Nath, 45, Sorojini, 45, Bipul, 20, Usha Rani, 40, Sita Rani, 42, Pran Gobindo, 45, Mahoda, 48, Aruna Bala, 80. They were admitted to Amtali and Patuakhali hospitals. A case was lodged with Amtali thana in this connection. Police were deployed to the spot to control the situation.

5 get 7-year RI for keeping foreign goods

BSS, Panchagarh Five persons were sentenced to seven-year rigorous imprisonment RI and fined Tk 5,000 each, in default, to suffer RI for further one-year for keeping illegal foreign goods by special tribunal-3 Judge Nazmul Talukdar on Thursday. The prosecution case, in brief, was that police arrested Rabbani, Amiruddin, Estekhar, Ajimuddin, Lalu and Mozammel at Boda bus stand with huge quantity of illegal foreign goods. A case was filed with Boda thana. ASP circles M Mozammel Haq after investigation submitted chargesheet against them. The judge after examining the witness and evidences found the accused guilty and awarded them the aforesaid punishment. Mozammel was not found guilty and acquitted from the charge.

Bandits loot night coach

BSS, Jhenidah A band of armed robbers swooped on a night coach and looted cash and valuables worth about Tk three lakh near Hatgopalpur on Dhaka-Khulna highway Tuesday. Passengers said the bandits numbering 10 boarded the Khulna-bound night coach from Dhaka in guise of passengers and took control of the bus when it reached near Hatgopalpur on Dhaka-Khulna highway in Sadar upazila at night. They beat the passengers indiscriminately and looted cash and other belongings leaving five passengers injured.

Folk-cultural festival begins July 10

BSS, Faridpur A four-day long folk-cultural festival organised by Faridpur Shilpakala Academy begins in Faridpur on July 10. According to official sources, the four-day long festival will include folk song, bhawiya, jarigan, sar, astagan, kabigan, marriage-songs and murshida. Besides, an exhibition depicting folk culture will be also held in the festival. About 25 troupes will participate in the festival. The main object of the festival is to project the varied and rich cultural heritage of Faridpur. A souvenir will also be brought out to mark the festival.

Three upazilas in Narail inundated

Flood situation worsens in Netrakona

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Flood situation has deteriorated in Netrakona district while three upazilas in Narail have been inundated.

Our Netrakona Correspondent reports: The flood situation has further deteriorated in Netrakona. About two lakh people in six upazilas have remained marooned in this district.

Water level of the rivers Sumashowary, Kongsha, Mogra and Danu, four major rivers of the district have registered sharp rise. Flood waters from the Meghalayas in the neighbouring India and heavy rainfall during the last few days have caused the flood.

Six out of seven unions in Durgapur upazila, six out of eight unions in Kalmakanda upazila, three out of seven unions in Mohongonj upazila, four out of seven unions in Modan upazila, two out of seven unions in Atpara

upazila, three out of eight unions in Barhatta upazila and six unions of Khaliajuri upazila have gone under five to seven feet water.

Road communication between the district headquarters and Durgapur upazila Sadar has been disrupted. Satpai, Goruhatta, Bilpar Nagra areas have gone under three to four feet water.

BSS from Narail reports: Heavy rainfalls for the last few days inundated the low-lying areas in three upazilas that also caused extensive damage to dwellings and standing crops.

The worst affected upazilas are Narail Sadar, Lohagora and Kaliia.

Hundred of thatched houses were damaged and trees uprooted due to torrential rain. Most of the low-lying areas were inundated causing sufferings to common people.

The flood control embankment on the River Nabaganga at Chanderchar-Suktogram in Kaliia upazila was cracked and eroded

at some places. Flood control embankment on the river Modhumoti at Kotakhol and Ghaga in Lohagora upazila was also cracked and eroded at some places.

Baliakandi thana OC suspended

UNB, Thakurgaon

The Officer-in-Charge (OC) and a Sub-Inspector (SI) of Baliakandi thana have been suspended on various charges including negligence of duty, abuse of power and corruption.

Police Super Amir Uddin said OC Moshirul Islam and SI Abdul Hannan were closed on Thursday after receiving complaint from Rafiqul Islam whose brother was killed allegedly by his in-laws recently.

Jhenidah Cadet College steals the show

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

The candidates of Jhenidah Cadet College (JCC) have performed brilliantly in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination from Jessore Education Board this year.

This year a total of 50 candidates appeared at the SSC examination from this college, of which 38 from Science group and the rest 12 from Humanities group. Of them five candidates have secured A+ and the rest 45 have got A.

The particulars of fortunate five A+ scorers are given below.

Sharif Towfique Atique, Roll No 151597 of Jhenidah Cadet College wants to join army. His father Dr Sharif Jahangir Atique is a physician. He serves at the district sadar hospital, Satkhira. His mother Tawfiqa Hossain is a housewife. Atique used to read for four hours daily. His favourite hobby is reading books and periodicals.

AKM Imtiaz Akand, Roll No 151607 of the same college wants to join the Bangladesh Army. His father Major Abdur Rashid Akand is now posted at Dhaka Cantonment. His mother Mazida Begum is a housewife. Usually Imtiaz used to read for four and a half hours daily. His hobby is playing cricket, collecting information about various games and sports and reading books.

Md Shahedul Amin, Roll No 151611 desires to join army and serve the nation. He used to read for four hours daily. His hobby is reading books and magazines. His father Md Rezaul Karim and mother Begum Fatema Karim lives in Mujgunni residential area in Khulna town.

Gazi Masud Md Mahenoor, Roll No 151620 wants to join army after completion of his education. His father's name is Gazi Md Abdul Mannan. His mother Hasina Begum is the Principal Officer of Sonali Bank, Jessore Cantonment branch. Mahenoor read for four and a half hours daily. His hobby is reading of books.

Protik Biswas is also determined to join army after completion of his studies. His roll number was 151628. His father Sushil Kumar Biswas is a physician at village Tekatia in Bagerhat. His mother Rama Biswas is a housewife. Protik read for four hours daily. His hobby is reading books.

Ringleader of outlawed party arrested in Satkhira

UNB, Satkhira

Police arrested a ringleader of an outlawed party along with arms after an exchange of gunfire at Khariadanga in Sadar upazila Saturday night.

Police said when a gang of extremists of Purba Bangla Communist Party came to realize tolls from the fish enclosure of one Amin of the area patrol police chased them. At one stage gunfire ensued between them for about one and half-hours and police managed to arrest ringleader Mizanur Rahman, 30, along with a gun.

Ansar Abdul Hamid who sustained bullet injuries during the gunfire was rushed to the Sadar hospital. A case was filed.

Decomposed body of schoolboy recovered

UNB, Tangail

The decomposed body of a schoolboy was recovered from a pond after 12 days of his missing near Agbatho area in Sadar upazila Saturday.

Police said Hasan, 15, a student of class X was allegedly killed by his friends and then dumped in the pond. The murder is suspected to have been committed following an affair with one of his female classmates. Hasan remained missing since June 25.

Police arrested his classmates Jahangir Alam, Monirul Islam and Nazrul Islam Sunday in this connection.

Malaria claims 242 lives in 6 months in 3 hill dists

UNB, Khagrachhari

The killer disease, Malaria that broke out in an epidemic form in three hill districts, claimed lives of 242 people and affected about 1,12,000 others during the last six months.

Health department sources said, children and women were the worst affected and the victims died within 24 hours of the attack.

The treatment is being seriously hampered due to shortage of doctors and insufficient supplies of medicine, locals said.

According to hospital sources, in Khagrachhari about 94 people died of malaria in eight upazila hospitals and private clinics during the period.

About 33,000 others were afflicted with the disease and they got treatment from different hospitals and private clinics.

Eightyone people died in 10 upazilas of Rangamati and 42,000 others were affected during the same period.

In Bandarban about 67 people died in seven upazilas. During the period about 37,000 people were affected with the disease.

Local leaders and public representatives said the killer disease has been spreading in new areas creating panic among the local people.

They urged the government to supply necessary medicine to combat the spread of the disease.

More vocational training instts to be set up in dists

UNB, Bogra

A daylong regional seminar on Vocational Education was held at NOTRAMS auditorium in Bogra Saturday.

State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haq Milon inaugurated the seminar as the chief guest while Deputy Minister for Education Abdus Salam Pintu was special guest.

Speaking on the occasion the State Minister said a nation couldn't prosper without vocational education. He said the present government laid special emphasis on vocational education and has already started distribution of

25,000 computers in educational institutions.

He said considering the demand of vocationally educated manpower in the Middle East the government has decided to set up more vocational training institutes in the country.

Presided over by Education Secretary Mohammad Shahidul Alam, among others, BNP joint secretary general Tarique Rahman, Helaluzzaman Talukdar MP, Kazi Rafiqul Islam MP, and deputy commissioner Shafiz Uddin Ahmed addressed the seminar.

A total of 110 teachers related with Vocational Education took part in the seminar.

Faulty vehicles cause serious health hazard

Drivers sans license pay Tk 80 to Tk 130 to traffic police per week in Naogaon

UNB, Naogaon

Despite a strict restriction, a large number of faulty and unfit vehicles are plying on the roads in Naogaon town causing serious health hazards to the dwellers.

A number of drivers without license, on condition of anonymity, told that they have been paying Tk 80 to Tk 130 to traffic police per week.

Locals said the worn out vehicles are plying on the roads emitting black smoke everyday 'managing'

the traffic police and other concerned officials.

A survey of report of a non-governmental organisation revealed that more than 30 vehicles run per minute in the main road of the town emitting black smokes and most of these vehicles are using hydraulic horns.

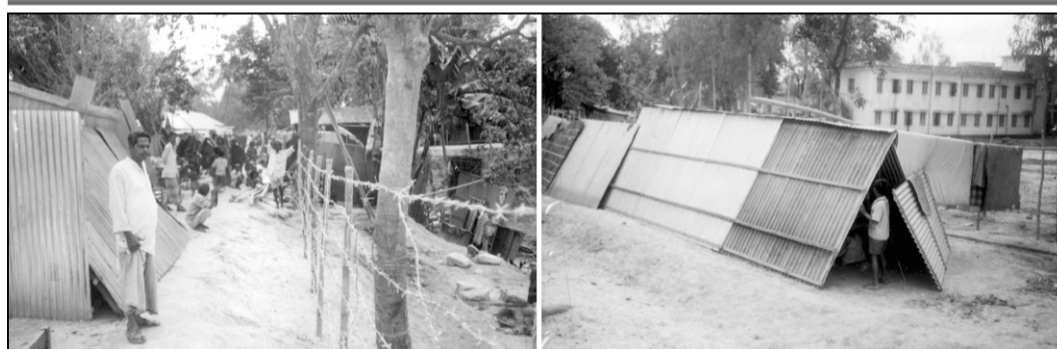
Local people alleged that although there is a separate government office to examine the fitness of the vehicles no activities of the office were visible here.

Some local elite complained that

the officials concerned in many cases issue fitness certificates to unfit vehicles in exchange of bribe.

UNB correspondent concealing his identity when contacted an official of the local Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) for a driving license, he asked him to see him personally outside the office.

Besides, most of the passenger buses have no aid boxes, insurance policy for the passengers. About 60 per cent tempos are plying on the roads without registration and most of the drivers have no license.



Influentials have grabbed government khas lands near the Sadar thana in Sirajganj town recently. But the authorities concerned are indifferent to the incident.

Sundari timber, contraband seized from coastal areas

UNB, Khulna

Members of Bangladesh Coastguard in their drives seized smuggled Sundari timber worth Tk 27.49 lakh and foreign wine, whisky and white orange worth Tk 2.36 lakh from the coastal areas last week.

Acting on tip off, the coastguard of Khulna zone seized 3927.04 cubic feet Sundari timber from Sharankhola area in Bagerhat district. The seized timbers were handed over to Sharankhola and Tiarchar forest range.

The coastguard of Chittagong zone in their drive in Potenga area seized 530 bottles of foreign wine, whisky and white orange.

The seized contrabands were handed over to the Department of Narcotics Control.

2 BCL leaders held for damaging educational instts

UNB, Laxmipur

Two leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were arrested on Sunday for allegedly being involved in setting fire and damaging an educational institutes two years ago.

The arrested were identified as Moffazal Hossain Jewel, former president of the district unit and Sumna, vice president of Sadar upazila unit of BCL.

Miscreants set fire to the Lamchari Darul Aman Academy and its adjacent Chhatra Kalyan office in Laxmipur Municipality on July 22, 2000. President of Islami Chhatra Shibir filed a case against 51 people including the then municipality chairman MA Taher and his three sons in this connection.

Influentials grab railway land in C'nawabganj

UNB, Chapainawabganj

Several hundred acres of land of Bangladesh Railway have been grabbed by some influential people depriving the government of huge revenue.

Railway Amnura Estate Office sources said most of the 819 bighas of agricultural and non-agricultural land in Nawabganj and Rohanpur

rail stations and Amnura rail junction have been occupied illegally.

Locals said the railway lands were grabbed with the connivance of some dishonest officials of the Estate Department.

They said shops and slums have been set up illegally on 150 bighas of non-agricultural land near Chapainawabganj Rail Station.

7 killers get life term in Kushtia

UNB, Kushtia

A court in Kushtia has sentenced seven people including three brothers to life term imprisonment in a sensational municipality commissioner murder case.

The convicts are Jinnah, Swapan, Nazrul, Manirul and three brothers Abul Kalam Azad, Zia and Raja of Naodapara in Bheramara upazila.

According to prosecution, in brief, Bheramara municipality commissioner and BNP leader Amirul Islam was attacked by the miscreants at No 2 GK project bridge on his way to attend a funeral of his cousin on August 11, 1999.

They beat and stabbed him indiscriminately following a previous enmity and left the place leaving him seriously injured. He was profusely bleeding. He was rushed to Sadar hospital and later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he succumbed on Aug 14.

A murder case was filed and after investigation police submitted chargesheet against them.

The Additional District and Sessions Judge, Anwar Hossain after examining the witnesses and records awarded the punishment on Wednesday.

RAKUB disburses Tk 22.38cr loan among 10,118 farmers

UNB, Chapainawabganj

Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) disbursed loans amounting to Tk 22.38 cr exceeding the target by Tk 13.90 lakh during the last fiscal.

Bank sources said the loans were disbursed among 10,118 farmers in Chapainawabganj. Of the total amount, over Tk 15.30 cr was disbursed for cultivating crops, over Tk 1.94 cr for purchasing bullocks, Tk 8.78 lakh for pisciculture, Tk 6.59 lakh for irrigation machines, Tk 2.20 lakh for buying goats and over Tk 4.97 cr in other sectors.

The bank during the same period realised outstanding loan amounting to Tk 23,57,83,000 exceeding the target by Tk 13,65,83,000, which is 118 percent. The bank set the realisation target of classified loan at Tk 3.50 cr but it realised Tk 4,54,66,000 which is 130 per cent.

The bank has been disbursing and realising loans through its 16 branches.



M Naser Rahman MP speaks as the chief guest at the inaugural function of a family based micro credit distribution programme of Janata Bank, Ekatura Bazaar branch in Moulvibazar

Extortionists swoop on wedding function, loot ornaments, valuables

UNB, Noakhali

A gang of extortionists swooped on a wedding function at a house at village Monpura in Begumganj upazila, assaulted three people and looted valuables worth about Tk two lakh on Friday.

Police and locals said the terrorists from Rajganj union of the upazila stormed into the house of Nirmal Karmakar and demanded Tk 50,000 as tolls from him for the marriage ceremony of his son Jhantu Karmakar.

On refusal they first tried to kidnap the bridegroom. But when the members of the house tried to resist them the extortionists beat and stabbed three of them, ransacked three houses and took away one colour television, ornaments from the body of the bride and other valuables in presence of the invited guests.

The seriously injured Kanulal Karmakar was rushed to the general

hospital in a critical condition. Police on information chased the extortionists and arrested two of them identified as Mizanur Rahman, 20 and Khorshed Alam, 22. A case was filed.

Int'l workshop begins at BAU

UNB, Mymensingh

A five-day international workshop on "Management and Utilisation of Field and Laboratory Data for Breeding Support Services to Livestock Farmers" began at Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Extension Centre Sunday.

Dean of Veterinary Faculty Professor Monoj Mohon Sen presided over the workshop while former Dean Professor Dr M Monsurul Amin was present as chief guest.



An Imam addressing at a seminar titled "Involving Religious Leaders in Human Development" at the office of Islamic Foundation, Gopalganj recently.