

NEWS SNAPS

Two brothers receive acid burn injuries

UNB, Moulvibazar
Two brothers received severe burn injuries as miscreants threw acid on them over a land dispute at Jalalabad village in Kulaura upazila Saturday.

Locals said terrorists Tipu and Babul waylaid the two brothers, Kamal Ahmad, 36, and Rana Ahmad, 32, on their way to a village mosque to say their Fazar prayers and poured acid on them. The miscreants also stabbed Kamal and Rana indiscriminately and fled the scene. They were rushed to the Sadar hospital in critical condition.

Belongings of launch passengers robbed

UNB, Barisal
Miscreants looted cash and belongings from four launch passengers after making them unconscious by feeding intoxicants on DhakaBarisal river route early Friday.

The victims were identified as Nurul Islam of Barguna, Abdul Gani, of Jhalakati, and Masud and Alam of Barisal. The launch authority found them unconscious in the morning and rushed them to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Two youths arrested with arms

UNB, Brahmanbaria
Two young men were arrested along with arms from Ashuganj ferry ghat in Ashuganj upazila on Wednesday.

Acting on a tip off, police raided the ghat and arrested Mohammad Haris Mia, 22, and Manzil Mia of Belabo upazila in Narsingdi. The law enforcers also recovered a foreign-made revolver loaded with bullets and a sharp knife from their possession. A case was filed.

Eight-day tree fair concludes

UNB, Patuakhali
The eight-day long tree fair, organised as part of countrywide tree plantation drive, concluded here Saturday.

District Administration, Forest Department and Department of Agriculture Extension jointly organised the fair at district Gymnasium premises. Official sources said a total of 8,000 fruit bearing and timber saplings were sold in the fair.

Police foils attack on Feni journalist

UNB, Feni
Police foiled attack on a local journalist working in a leading national daily Friday night. Police said a gang of hoodlums tried to assault the Chagalnaiya correspondent of the Daily Ittefaq Sheikh Kamal, when he was returning to his College Road house at about 10:30pm. He escaped the attack hurriedly entering into his house, but later he was forced to take shelter to another place when the miscreants surrounded his house.

Tk 71.19 lakh land tax realised

UNB, Pirojpur
Revenue Department realised Tk 71.19 lakh land development tax from Pirojpur in last fiscal year exceeding its target.

Official sources said the tax was realised from 52 Tolsil offices of the six upazilas against the target of

Tk 70.92 lakh. Of the total, Tk 8.54 lakh was realised from Nazirpur, Tk 10.60 lakh from Nesarabad, Tk 2.87 lakh from Kaukhali, Tk 22.54 lakh from Sadar, Tk 5.24 lakh from Bhandaria and Tk 21.40 lakh from Mathbaria upazilas.

Tree fair begins at Kalihati in Tangail

UNB, Tangail
A weeklong tree fair 2002 began at Kalihati upazila in Tangail on Saturday. Environment and Forest Minister Shahjahan Siraj inaugurated the fair while member of BNP central working committee Begum Rabeya Siraj attended the programme as special guest. Post and Tele Communications Minister Barrister M Aminul Haque inaugurated a weeklong fruit bearing tree fair 2002 in Godagari upazila of Rajshahi on the same day.



PHOTO: AIMRAN HOSSAIN

The mighty Padma has been threatening the Dighirpar bazaar of Tongibari thana in Munshiganj where river erosion has already turned hundreds pauper. Earlier half of the bazaar had already been devoured by the river. Rest of the bazaar needs to be saved on emergency basis, otherwise the river may devour the important bazaar at any moment.

Cadres of outlawed parties make life miserable in SW dists

AMANUR RAHMAN, Kushtia

At least six outlawed parties with 2000 armed cadres have become active again in some southwestern districts including Kushtia, Meherpur, Chuadanga and some parts of Jhenidah in recent days.

They already made the life of general people in these districts miserable. They are oppressing the innocent people everyday. But none comes forward to file any case with police station against them because of fear.

Most of these members of the outlawed parties had taken amnesty from the previous Awami League

government on July 23 in 1999.

Meanwhile, a large number of armed activists of the outlawed parties have been freed on bail, went back to their respective areas and well-organised themselves further.

Some influential leaders and lawmakers of the ruling BNP have been giving shelter and patronisation to them.

The active outlawed parties are Biplobi Communist Party (BCP), Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP), Gono Bahini (JGB) of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), Gono Mukti fouz (GMF) of Sromojibi Mukti Andolon (SMA) and a newly

floated New Biplobi Communist Party (NBPC).

Of the parties, BCP, JGB, GMF and NBPC are active in Kushtia district. They have over 1500 armed cadres, while BCP and PBCP are active in Meherpur and Chuadanga and six other districts of Khulna division. A total 5000 armed cadres belong to the two aforementioned parties, sources some high police officials seeking anonymity informed.

They forcibly grab innocent people's land, collecting toll from the business establishments, abduct innocent persons for ransom, plunder people's wealth, snatch

money and valuables of men and women alike, rape and kill girls and women and commit murders, according to their will.

As members of the outlawed parties maintain close relationship with the ruling Influential BNP leaders, police never dare to nab them.

At least 200 innocent persons have already been killed within the last seven month after takeover of administration of the new coalition government in three districts by the outlawed party cadres. These armed cadres of the outlawed parties have become more active after formation of the new government.

Vegetable growers deprived of fair price in Narsingdi

BSS, Narsingdi

A good production of summer vegetables has been achieved here due to favourable climate in the current season. But the growers are not getting fair prices of their produce for want of marketing and transport facilities.

According to local people, the farmers do not bring their vegetables to the cities and other places of the country in proper time. Besides, there is no cold storage in Narsingdi for preservation of the vegetables.

So, the growers have to sell their vegetables at lower prices.

Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources said about 5000 hectares had been brought under vegetables cultivation in the district during the season.

The growers have reaped a bumper production of vegetables this year. Shibpur, Belabo and Polash upazilas are the vegetable producing areas.

The BSS correspondent while visiting different hats and bazaars of Shibpur and Belabo upazilas found

that farmers are selling their vegetables at a lower price. Lady's finger and two other items are selling at the rate of Tk 150 to 180 per maund. Cucumber and pumpkin are selling at the rate of Tk 120 to 140 per maund, brinjal is selling between Tk 200 to 220 per maund.

The growers are being deprived of fair prices.

They have urged the concerned authorities to improve the communication facilities and make proper arrangement for preservation of vegetables.



PHOTO: IQBAL SIDDIQUEE

Inmates of about 100 dwellings in the Bharthokhola "A" block area have to suffer a lot due to waterlogging even after slight rainfall in the rainy season. This is because of illegal grabbing of a portion of a canal (shown at right) of the Roads & Highways department by some influential persons. Measures should be taken by the authorities concerned to recover the illegally grabbed government land from the clutch of influentials.

NGO leaders submit memo to Mymensingh DC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The leaders and workers of local Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) of the greater Mymensingh district have called for withdrawal of stay order issued by NGO Bureau on "Assistance to other Organisations" programme of Proshika.

They brought out a procession in the district town recently and submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Mymensingh demanding immediate withdrawal of the court order.

Proshika Human Development Centre, a project of Proshika had been assisting the local NGOs of the country to implement the Non-formal Education Programme.

NGO leaders said Proshika Human Development Centre had extended its helping hand to educate poor and dropout rural children of Mymensingh, Sherpur, Jamalpur, Netrakona, and Kishoreganj districts in 2001 under a five-year plan. Now about 3900 students, most of them females had been studying in 130 schools. One hundred thirty teachers, most of them females had been engaged there, but after the stay order education of these students have been stopped, NGO

leaders said.

Earlier, a procession was brought out in Mymensingh town and the participants submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Mymensingh. Hundreds of NGO activists from greater Mymensingh took part in the rally. They urged the concerned authorities to take necessary steps immediately.

2 Indian nationals arrested in Panchagarh

UNB, Panchagarh

Two Indian nationals were arrested from Fakirganj hat of frontier Atwari upazila here on Thursday for intruding into the country.

Local people caught the two Indian nationals Shafirul Islam and Karim Box of Kazipara village of Chopra thana in Uttar Dinajpur district of India when they illegally entered into Fakirganj through Kazipara frontier.

They were later handed over to the police.

Diarrhoea death toll rises to 8 in Noakhali

UNB, Noakhali

Diarrhoea that broke out in an epidemic form in the flood-hit areas of Noakhali claimed lives of eight people and affected 3,000 others till Saturday.

The deaths were reported from Sadar, Companiganj, Begumganj, Senbag, Chatkhil and Hatia upazila where 80 unions were inundated by flood water.

Shortage of drinking water was

the main reason behind the outbreak of the disease. Civil Surgeon office said medical teams have been sent to the flood affected areas of the district.

Local MPs M Shahjahan and Joyнал Abedin Farooque visited Sadar and Senbag upazilas and distributed rice and cash among the flood affected people.

Deputy Commissioner of the district said government relief materials are being distributed in the flood-hit areas.

Workshop on road safety

Highway divider on both sides of Jamuna Bridge suggested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud said, "Road safety is the crying need of the day". Every day we read the news of road accidents.

The Dhaka-Bogra highway near the Jamuna Bridge area is the accident spot.

According to survey reports at least 500 passengers including political leaders lost their lives and thousands others sustained injuries in highway accidents. Many others have become disabled.

The state minister was speaking as chief guest on the occasion of the inaugural session of a one day workshop titled "Save Life, Save Limb Road Safety on Jamuna Bridge Approach" arranged by the Institute of Media Communication and Training (IMCT) at the Sirajganj Zila Parishad auditorium on

Saturday morning.

It was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner of Sirajganj Md Ebadat Ali while BIWTC chairman Advocate Shimul Biswas, Bangladesh Television Producer Hashim Reza, Executive Director of IMCT Mortaza Ahmed Babu and The Daily Star Correspondent of Sirajganj Akhtaruzzaman Babu spoke on the occasion. Akteruzzaman suggested for construction of road dividers on both sides of the Jamuna Bridge area from Elengata to Sirajganj Road with a view to avoiding frequent highway accidents.

BIWTC chairman Advocate Shimul Biswas said appropriate measures have been taken to curb road accidents. Police Super Anwar Hossain, local politician, professor, doctors, leaders of the truck, bus workers associations. Journalists also attended the workshop.



PHOTO: STAR

State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud speaks as the chief guest at the inaugural session of a workshop on Preparation of Action Plan on Road Safety at Sirajganj on Saturday.

3 unnatural deaths in Jhalakati in a day

UNB, Jhalakati

Three unnatural deaths were recorded in Jhalakati on Friday.

Police said Arifur Rahman, 14, son of Abdul Khalek allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from a tree at Pashchim Chechri village in Kathalia upazila.

Mizan, 10, son of Mohammad Bachchu Hawlader died from snakebite in Dakhkhin Rajapur area.

Mahfuz, 18, an HSC examinee was electrocuted when he came in contact with a live snapped wire at Keuta village in Rajapur upazila.

Another report from Barisal

adds: A day-labourer while working on the rooftop of a building on Bogra road in the town suddenly came in contact with a live electric wire and fell down on Saturday.

Locals said the victim, Sarwar, 35, was rushed to the hospital where the on-duty doctors declared him dead.

In another incident, Abdul Barek was seriously injured when he fell down from a tree at Karnakathi in Sadar upazila on the same day. He died on way to the hospital.

Also on the same day, police recovered the body of an unidentified man from a Barisal-bound launch.