

NEWS SNAPS

Two killed by lightning in Rajshahi

BSS, Rajshahi

Two persons were killed by lightning at Dampura village in Niamatpur upazila of Naogaon on July 11.

According to local people, Hablu, 35, son of Ibrahim of Beguntara village and Akhter Hossain, 30, son of Fazif Uddin of Samapur village, both under Niamatpur upazila died on the spot as thunderbolts struck them at about 4.30 pm. Meanwhile, one little boy identified as Rassel, 13, who sustained fatal injuries when he fell from a tree in the Hetemhka area of Boalia thana, died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) on July 11 night.

Two killed in separate road accidents

BSS, Rajshahi

Two persons were killed in two separate road accidents on July 10 night at Boraigram upazila and sadar upazila in Natore, police and hospital sources said.

An elderly woman Korful Begum, 75, of Nowdazary village in Boraigram upazila, suffered severe injuries when a speeding motorbike knocked her down while she was crossing the road near her house. She was rushed to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) where she succumbed to her injuries on July 10 night. Another youngman Deel Haque, 25, son of Abdul Qudus, a resident of Beeltungi village in sadar upazila, was killed when a bus collided head-on with a trolley at the town's bypass road on July 10 evening. He died on way to the local hospital. Two separate cases were filed with the respective thanas.

Two killed in Naogaon road mishap

BSS, Rajshahi

Two persons were killed and three others injured seriously when a microbus knocked down a rickshaw van in which they were travelling in the Ranipukur area on Rajshahi-Naogaon highway Thursday night, police and hospital sources said.

The ill-fated victims were identified as Suzan, 18, son of Rajendra and Belal, 22, son of Khoka, both of Khorda Narayanpur village in the same upazila. The injured persons were identified as Bhuthnath, 20, son of Anil, his brother Supath, 15, and Gour, 25, son of Amulyia Chandra, all of the same village were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH).

Old man killed in train accident

BSS, Joypurhat

An old man sitting on the rooftop of a running train was killed when he fell down near Teghor Rail Ghumti in Joypurhat recently.

According to police sources, Iskar Rahman, 70, of village Komar in Joypurhat sadar thana fell down from a Parbotpur-bound running train and was critically injured. He was rushed to Joypurhat Sadar Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. An unnatural death (UD) case was filed in this connection with Santahar Government Railway Police (GRP) thana police.

Dagonbhuiyan Municipality budget

BSS, Feni

Dagonbhuiyan Municipality has announced Tk 2.55cr balanced budget for 2002-2003 fiscal last Saturday.

MAkbar Hussein, newly elected chairman of the municipality announced the budget at a simple ceremony at Ataturk High School auditorium here. Local MP Jinal Abedin was present as the chief guest. Ward Commissioners, officials, elite and journalists were present on the occasion. In the budget Tk 80 lakh was earmarked for the development sector.

Abducted housewife rescued

BSS, Joypurhat

Khetlai thana police rescued an alleged abducted housewife from the residence of Alampur Union Parishad member Atoar Rahman on Monday last.

According to police sources, housewife and other of three children Pratima Rani Burman, 35, was missing since July 3. Her husband filed an abduction case with Khetlai thana police in this connection. Police, acting on a tip, raided the house of Alampur UP member Atoar Rahman on July 8 and rescued the housewife. The UP member is now absconding, police said.

Two hand grenades recovered

BSS, Joypurhat

Akkelpur thana police recovered on Friday two hand grenades, presumed to be of the time of the Liberation War.

According to police sources, some labourers found the two hand grenades while digging a well in the old Thana Bhaban area. The matter was immediately brought to the police. They rushed to the spot and recovered the grenades. Police further informed that the grenades would be handed over to the army as per law.

Work on road development going on

BSS, Panchagarh

Development work on 15 km road under the Rural Development-21 project in five upazilas of Panchagarh is going on in full swing.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is supervising the work at a cost of Tk 4.95 crore. According to official sources, the work is expected to be completed within December.

RAKUB launches tree plantation drive

BSS, Rajshahi

Tree plantation programme of Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) was launched in Rajshahi city on July 11 as part of the government's tree plantation drive.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of RAKUB Ruhul Kabir Rizvi attended the inaugural ceremony as the chief guest and opened the programme. Managing Director Dr Mujibur Rahman Khan, Director Aziz Uddin Ahmed, Director and Commissioner of Rajshahi Division Abdul Kayum Thakur and Director Lutfor Rahman also attended and addressed the function. Speaking on the occasion Rizvi called upon the officials and employees of the bank to plant more trees at the adjacent areas of their respective branches to make the programme a success.

12 uplift projects implemented at Boda

BSS, Panchagarh

Newly established Boda Municipality executed 12 projects in the municipality areas for its development at a cost of Tk 9.44 lakh during the last fiscal.

According to official sources, the projects included construction of roads, bridges, culverts and drainage system. After completion, the infrastructures of the municipality have been improved to great extent.

Workshop on ORT programme

BSS, Shariatpur

A daylong workshop on ORT programme was held at the local Circuit House recently.

Deputy Commissioner of Shariatpur inaugurated the workshop arranged by the UNICEF. About 40 journalists of different newspapers and local newspapers attended the workshop. Among others, Civil Surgeon, UNICEF coordinator, district correspondent of BSS M Mahabubur Rahman, Nurul Islam and Sakir Hossain Badal spoke on the occasion.



PHOTO: STAR
A leader of the Action Council for the Implementation of Chittagong Engineering University reads a statement at a press conference arranged recently in the port city. The council wants to turn the Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Chittagong into a full-fledged university.

Rising rape incidents raises concern

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Majura

Incidents of rape and torture on women are increasing alarmingly in four upazilas of Magura.

The general people are quite concerned at the alarming trend.

According to official sources, a total of 14 incidents of rape and two incidents of acid-violence have been recorded since October 9, 2001 to July 5 this year.

Two school girls of 14 and 15 years in village Palpara of Sreepur upazila have been gang-raped by a group of miscreants namely Mijan, Zahangir, Bablu and their associates of village Sbadalpur in the same upazila on October 9, 2001.

Police and locals said, the miscreants forcibly entered into the house and raped them one after another in front of the family members.

A case had been filed with Sreepur thana in this connection, police arrested the principal accused Mijan.

A little girl was raped at village Pikel in sadar upazila on October 16, 2001. A case was filed with sadar thana in connection with the rape of a girl of 5 years.

In another incident a housewife of village Ber-Aksi in sadar upazila was raped on Nov. 11, 2001.

Local people said, the victim went to pluck brinjal from a field. An unknown culprit picked up her and took her inside a nearby bush where he raped her. A case was lodged with Magura sadar thana in this connection.

A mentally disabled girl of 5 years of village Boraldah in Sreepur upazila was raped by one Mannan of the same village on Dec. 5, 2001.

On December 23, a house wife of village Alukdia was raped by a culprit of the same village at dead of night.

Police said, when the victim

came out of her house in response to the call of nature the culprit caught her and took to a nearby bush where he raped her.

A case had been filed with Magura sadar thana in this regard.

A school girl of 15 of village Mondolgati had been gang-raped by Kashem and his associates of the same village in Mohammadpur upazila on March 14, this year.

Police said Kashem became angry with the father of the victim on refusal of marital proposal. At dead of night, Kashem and his 15/20 armed associates stormed into the house of the victim by breaking open the door and raped her one after another in presence of the family remembers at gun-point.

On March 22, a little girl was raped in the police line area in Magura town by Moniruzzaman of the same area. Police said, the seven-year-old girl had been taken to a lonely place and raped. Police arrested Moniruzzaman.

On March 24, a school girl of 11 of village Kalupara in sadar upazila had been raped by Nazmul, 20, and Bablu, 19, of the same village.

Police said, the culprits picked up the girl to bush while she went to bring her goal from a nearby field. A case had been filed with sadar thana in this connection. Police arrested the culprits on the following day.

On the night of April 13, a mentally handicapped girl of 11 of village Niznanduali in sadar upazila had been raped by Fazlu and Salahuddin of Magura town.

Police said, the victim had been returning home and reached near Chourongi-square of Magura town when the culprits caught her and took her to the rooftop of a market and raped her. A case had been lodged with Magura sadar thana in this regard. Police arrested the culprits.

31,197 arrested from 10 dists in Khulna div

UNB, Magura

Police in their special drive arrested some 31,197 people on different charges from 10 districts of Khulna division in last six months ending June.

The districts are Magura, Jessore, Narail, Jhenidah, Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Kushtia, Chuadanga and Meherpur.

The law enforcers also recovered 395 firearms and 685 rounds of bullet from the districts during the drive.

Of the arrested, some 591 were the activists of different outlawed parties, of which 236 belonged to Biplobi Communist Party while 20 to Purbha Banglar Sharbahara Party, 228 to Purbha Banglar Biplobi Communist Party, 56 to Sramajibi Mukti Andolan and 51 to Gana Bahini.

Female drug trader nabbed

UNB, Magura

Police nabbed a female drug trader from a house at Doarpara of Magura town and recovered 21 bottles of phensidyl on Wednesday.

Police, on information, raided the house of Chunnu Sheikh and arrested Rupali Begum with the contraband items.

A case was filed.

On June 15, an unidentified woman of about 30, had been raped and killed at a jute field in Meerpara area in Magura town by some unknown miscreants. Police recovered the body and sent for autopsy on the following day.

A girl of 11 years of village Alidhani in sadar upazila had been raped by an unknown miscreant on June, 29, A case had been filed with sadar thana in this connection.

On July 5, a college girl of village Boroichara had been killed after being gangraped by some miscreants of the same village in Sreepur upazila. A case had been registered with Sreepur thana in this regard.

Police said, the miscreants caught her and took to a nearby lonely place where they raped her one after another and strangled her. The principal accused of the case was handed over to police by his elder brother.

On July 8, a divorced housewife of 21, of village Atharokhada in sadar upazila had been raped by her former husband Emdadul. A case had been registered in this connection.

Family sources said, the culprit went to the paternal house of the victim in absence of other members of the family and raped her forcibly.

Besides, Rita Rani Shah, 14, a school girl of village Borokhori in sadar upazila received burn injuries as miscreants threw acid on her through the window when she was sleeping in her room.

Meanwhile, on December 22, of the same year a housewife identified as Shirina Begum, 21, of village Dhoayeeel in Mohammadpur upazila suffered acid burn injury as her husband Serajul Islam Babu poured acid on the lower portion of her body.

A case had been filed with Mohammadpur thana in this regard.

Darsana Sugar Mills workers announce 15-day movement

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Chuadanga

The Darsana Sugar Mills Workers and Employees Union has taken up a programme of 15-day movement in support of their four-point demands including withdrawal of the government's denationalisation programme of sugar industries.

The movement programme was declared at a press conference of the Darsana Sugar Mills Workers and Employees Union leaders held at the Darsana Sugar Mills training complex on July 12.

The conference was addressed by Md Abdul Khaleque, president, Darsana Sugar Mills Workers and Employees Union and Md Masudur Rahman, general secretary, Darsana Sugar Mills Workers and Employees Union.

The four-point demands of the union include stoppage of import of sugar by private sector for saving the rural agro-based sugar industry and invest on the sugar industry, stoppage of denationalisation of sugar industries, payment of all the facilities like tiffin allowance, medical allowance, arrear bonus and other facilities to the workers employed in sugar industries and

payment of sugarcane to the growers within seven days of supply of sugarcane in the mills.

The 15-day movement scheduled to start from July 16 include, gate meeting, demonstration, handing over memorandum to DC and UNO sit-in strike in front of the mills, rally and protest rally, torch procession, blockade of highways and railways and rally of cultivators and workers and handing over memorandum to the prime minister on July 30 in Dhaka.

Lightning kills 2 of a family

UNB, Meherpur

Two members of a family were killed and another one sustained injuries by lightning at Sharbati Porapara village in Gangni upazila Saturday.

Neighbours said Rahima, 30, wife of Jahiruddin and their daughter Julia died on the spot when lightning struck them.

Jahiruddin was injured and the lightning killed two of their cows.



PHOTO: AKHTERUZZAMAN BABLU

A demonstration of female clients of the Sirajganj branch of Sonali Bank in front of the main gate of the regional branch of the bank on SS Road in the district town. While demonstrating they locked up the main gate of the branch and kept the officers and employees hostage for an hour. Earlier, they submitted a memorandum to the Assistant General Manager (AGM) of the bank with a demand for immediate operation of a female branch of the bank.

2 robbers held with arms, ammunition

UNB, Jhenidah

Police raided a microbus at Garaganj bus stand in Shailakupa upazila Sunday and arrested two robbers along with arms and ammunition.

A police constable was also critically injured when the robbers chopped him with a Chinese axe during the scuffle.

The law enforcers, on a secret information, intercepted the microbus and arrested Rezaul Islam Reza of Ramchandrapur village and Sher Ali of Shingnagar village of the upazila, with four shotguns and eight rounds bullet.

Ripon, another member of the gang managed to escape.

Police said Reza belonged to an outlawed group and was wanted in connection with a number of criminal cases.

Three including housewife commit suicide

UNB, Magura

Three people including a housewife allegedly committed suicide in separate incidents in Magura on Wednesday.

Of them, Begum, 20, wife of Badsha Mia of Kadirpara village in Sripur upazila, and Ebadat Hossain, 18, of Dharmadah village in Sadar upazila committed suicide by hanging themselves.

In yet another incident, Shariful, 20, son of Idris Ali of Shatakhalia village in Shakhila upazila, took his own life by taking poison.

IU teacher suspended

IU CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The Islamic University (IU) authorities has suspended a teacher of the university on charge of sexual harassment on female students.

As per the Employment Act of this university, IU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Mustafizur Rahman has suspended Assistant Professor Ashrafur Alam of the Al-Hadithe and Islamic Studies Department temporarily and asked him to reply within July 18 why he would not be suspended permanently. The suspension notice was handed over him on July 11.

Earlier, Education Minister Dr M Osman Faruque issued a written order on July 10 for immediate action against the teacher for his 'fault'. The ordered was issued against a complaint lodged by a

female student to the minister.

A probe body was formed on January 23 to investigate the alleged involvement of Assistant Professor Ashrafur in harassing sexually the female students since long.

Earlier, a report was published on The Daily Ittefaq in this regard. On the basis of various reports from the victims, the committee headed by IU Treasurer Professor Dr Mosharraf Hossain submitted report on July 9 to the VC. It had been revealed that the teacher was harassing sexually female students in his chamber since long by promising them more marks in his courses.

The report suggested punitive action against him.

When contacted with the concerned teacher, he flatly denied the allegations against him.



Vice Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) Prof M Mustafizur Rahman receives cash amounting to Tk One lakh for the treatment of distinguished educationist Prof Khundaker Sirajul Islam from noted social worker Sharfuddin Ahmed Shantu of Ujirpur, Barisal.