

NEWS SNAPS

Two unnatural deaths in a day

UNB, Barisal

Two unnatural deaths were reported from Barisal and Barguna Tuesday. Of them, Babulal Das, 30, of Uzirpur upazila in Barisal committed suicide by taking poison while Abdul Berek Molla of Amtoli upazila in Barguna died after he fell down from a tree. Besides, four people were injured when two vehicles collided on C&B Road in the town earlier in the day. One of the injured was being treated at a local hospital.

Young man stabbed to death in Rajshahi

UNB, Rajshahi

A young man was stabbed to death at Shaheb Bazaar Monichattar in the town Monday night. Police said the miscreants attacked Noman, 30, following a bitter quarrel with him at the bazaar. He succumbed to his wounds after admission to a local hospital. Police arrested three people - Rashed, Kalam and Taslim in this connection.

Khulna PDB earns Tk 45 cr revenue

UNB, Khulna

Local office of Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) collected Tk 45 cr in revenue during the month of June.

Official sources said PDB earned Tk 364.70 cr in revenue in the just concluded 2001-2002 fiscal, which was 15.05 per cent higher than the previous fiscal. The average system loss of PDB stood at 18.09 per cent here in the last fiscal, showing a decline by 1.97 per cent.

Five-member UGC team visits Bogra

BSS, Joypurhat

A five-member team led by the Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Dr. ATM Johurul Hoque visited the proposed Pundru University of Science and Technology (PUST) premises in the Bogra township recently.

Officials of the proposed university informed that the five-member UGC team studied the feasibility of setting up of the full-fledged university and its physical structures and facilities. The team visited PUST's offices in the township, its temporary campus at Thengamara, five-acre plot for permanent campus at Matidali and expressed their satisfaction to approve the proposal. Among others, former Agriculture Minister Mahbubuzaman, Chairman of the Managing Committee of PUST Architect MHM Shahjahan, Vice President Professor Hosne Ara Begum, members Amjad Hossain Tazma, HM Golam Rosul Khan Rana, Zahedur Rahman Jadu and Vice Chancellor of PUST Professor Lutfar Rahman were present during the visit.

Bid to encourage female education

BSS, Shariatpur

The local Education Department has distributed Tk 5.04 crore among 65,759 girl students in four thanas as part of encouraging female education.

According to official sources, under the Girl-students Sub-stipend Project, the amount was distributed among the female students in different schools. Of the total amount, more than Tk 3.71 crore was given among the girl students for purchasing school stationery and dresses while over Tk 1.32 crore was given for tuition fees of 168 schools and madrassas in Shariatpur.

Training course on disaster management

BSS, Barisal

A three-day training course for the secondary school teachers on "Disaster Management", ended here at the Abdur Rab Semiatat Teachers' Training College premises on Monday.

A total of 40 teachers from different schools of five districts in Barisal Division took part in the training course. Director General of Disaster Management Bureau Khatish Chandra Kundu inaugurated the training course as the chief guest. Presided over by the Deputy Director of Barisal region of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Hosne Ara Begum, the function was attended by Deputy Commissioner Sheikh Abdul Kalam.

545 bottles of phensidy recovered

UNB, Naogaon

Some 545 bottles of phensidy were recovered from Patnitala upazila recently. Acting on a tip-off, local Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) along with police rushed to the Shekhpara area and recovered the aforementioned phensidy left behind by drug traffickers.

358 uplift projects implemented

UNB, Pirojpur

Some 358 development projects were implemented in Pirojpur in the last fiscal year, utilising some 537 mts of rice.

Relief and Rehabilitation Department implemented the schemes under the government-funded Rural Infrastructure Maintenance Project. Of the projects, 52 were implemented in Bhandaria, 54 in Kauhali, 68 in Mathbaria, 52 in Nazirpur, 73 in Sadar, 59 in Nesarabad upazilas.

Tree fair begins in Gazipur

UNB, Gazipur

As part of the nationwide plantation drive, a tree fair began here Tuesday. Industries Minister MK Anwar inaugurated the fair jointly organised by Department of Agriculture Extension, Forest Department and district administration. Various species of saplings have been put on display in 60 stalls of the fair.

A colourful rally, led by the minister, was brought out on the occasion. Under the drive, some 22 lakh saplings will be distributed.

Tree plantation programme in Narail

BSS, Narail

National Tree Plantation Programme 2002 was launched in Narail on Saturday. Former Member of Parliament (MP) and Director of Bangladesh Shilpa Bank Advocate M Maqbul Hossain, inaugurated the programme as the chief guest at a meeting at RI Pasha Primary School. Speaking at the meeting M Hossain said tree gives us Oxygen as well as wood, firewood, housing materials, medicine. He called upon the participants to plant at least five timber and fruit bearing trees each on fallow lands, especially on the sides of ponds, roads and nearby houses. Organized by Department of Agriculture Extension, Lohagora Upazila Nirbahi Officer Aktaruzman Mohammad Mostofa Kamal presided over the meeting.



PHOTO: A K M MOHSIN

A little girl fetches water from a tubewell in the hilly Tamabil area in Sylhet where tubewells are rare. The underground level of this remote area is full of stones where tubewells cannot be installed easily. Still, some organisations have come forward to install some tubewells to supply pure drinking water to poor villagers.

Dhunat Municipality budget

UNB, Bogra

A Tk 3.5 crore budget for the newly declared Dhunat Municipality has been announced.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader Akhtarul Alam Selim, who is in charge of the municipality, announced the budget in presence of commissioners, officials, elite and journalists.

Five including 2 women held with phensidy

UNB, Comilla

Police arrested five people including two women along with 304 bottles of Indian phensidy from different areas in the town Wednesday.

Police said they arrested Amanullah Khan and Khoken along with 110 bottles of phensidy from Sripur area of the town.

In another raid they also arrested Fazlul Haq, Jarina Begum and Shahnaj Begum from the Tomchoh bridge area along with 194 bottles of phensidy.

Separate cases were filed.

Unusual power outage 3 injured as villagers attack Palli Bidyut Samity office in Munshiganj

UNB, Munshiganj

Outraged by unusual power outage, villagers attacked the Palli Bidyut Samity (PBS) office here Saturday leaving three security men injured.

According to a delayed report, the attackers ransacked the office rooms and damaged five motor cycles.

2,395 killed in 10 districts of Khulna division in 6 yrs

UNB, Narail

A total of 2,395 people were killed in 10 southwestern districts in Khulna division in the last six years.

Political rivalry, land dispute, previous enmity, establishing supremacy and active operation of underground parties were among the main reasons behind the killings, official sources said.

Of the total, 346 people were killed in 1996 while 442 in 1997, 552 in 1998, 340 in 1999, 328 in 2000 and 387 were killed in 2001.

According to the month-wise

breakup in 2001, 23 persons were killed in January, 12 in February, 33 in March, 37 in April, 35 in May, 29 in June, 30 in July, 45 in August, 30 in September, 26 in October, 33 in November and 54 people were killed in December.

The six-year statistics of killing shows that on average more than one person was killed in a day in the 10 districts of Khulna division.

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

Newsmen working in great panic in SW region

2 Cox's Bazar journalists flee home in fear of hoodlums

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Chakoria upazila correspondents of two Bangla national dailies have left their homes for security reasons following threats by the miscreants.

Meanwhile, at present the working journalists in the southwestern region of the country have been performing their duties amid great panic and with a sense of insecurity.

UNB reports from Cox's Bazar: The two newsmen -- Mainuddin Hassan of Prothom Alo and Zahurul Islam of Jugantor - are now living in undisclosed locations in the town as the armed hoodlums searched their houses for them on a number of occasions.

They were outraged when a report on leasing out of a shrimp enclosure to a local Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader was published in the Prothom Alo recently.

Our Magura correspondent reports: A total of 11 journalists

were killed by criminals in seven years.

The recent murder of Shukur Hossain has heightened the tension among the journalist community.

Shukur Hossain, crime reporter of 'Dainik Anirban' in Khulna was abducted by the Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) men on the night of July 6, and shot dead when he tried to flee, local people said.

Those who were killed by miscreants in seven years are: Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury, staff correspondent of Sphulingo and Faroque Hossain, a correspondent of Daily Runner published from Jessore. They were killed in 1994 and 1995 respectively.

SMAlauddin, the editor of Dainik Patradut, Satkhira was gunned down at his office after a few days of the general election in 1996.

The journalist of 'Din Bodaler Kagoj' of Chuadanga, Bozrul Rahman was killed on June 12, 1998. In July the same year secretary of Kaliganj Press Club in

Jhenidah Rejaul Karim was murdered by the miscreants.

In the same year, on August 30, Saiful Alam Mukul, Editor of "The Daily Runner" published from Jessore was killed at his office in Jessore town.

Mir Ilias Hossain Dilip, Editor of Dainik Birdarpan of Jhenidah was gunned down on January 15, 2000 while on July 16 of the same year, Shamsur Rahman, special correspondent of 'Janakantha' was murdered when two armed men stormed into his office in Jessore town and shot him point blank.

On April 10, 2001, Nahar Ali a correspondent of the Khulna based 'Daily Anirvan' was beaten to death by the members of the outlawed Biplobi Communist Party men.

Besides, Harun-ar-Rashid Khokon, crime reporter of Khulna based 'Daily Purbanchal' was gunned down by the miscreants while he was going to his work place riding on a motor-bike on March 2 this year.

New upazila in Sylhet soon

UNB, Sylhet

The government is considering to form a new upazila comprising nine unions of south Suma in Sadar upazila.

People of the nine unions have long been demanding that a separate upazila, comprising the unions, be declared for them.

During the October 1 election campaign, local Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader Shafi Ahmed Chowdhury had assured that their demand would be met if BNP voted to power.

The PM office was learnt to have instructed the concerned ministry to take necessary measures to form a separate administrative unit comprising the nine unions.

Fazil exam answer script in madrasa teacher's house?

UNB, Bagerhat

An answer script of the recently held Fazil examination was recovered from the house of a madrasa teacher in Rampal upazila Tuesday.

On information, police searched the house of madrasah teacher Muhammad Ali at Sriphaltala and recovered the answer script of English. None was arrested in this connection. "We are looking for clues how this paper came to his house from Rampal examination centre," said a police official.

Two arrested along with sophisticated gun, bullets

UNB, Patuakhali

Two people were arrested along with a sophisticated gun and five rounds of bullet from Sadar Road in Kolapara upazila Monday.

The arrested were identified as Selim, 40, of Keshabpur in Sadar upazila and Muslim, 38, of Ballavpur. Another report from Jhalakati adds: Police in a drive arrested three alleged miscreants along with lethal weapons from Uktar Palot village in Rajapur upazila on the day.

When dowry becomes an endemic problem...

UNB, Nilphamari

When dowry has become an endemic problem in the society, Soheli, son of a poor employee, has set an example.

He married Zannatin Tanzin on July 6 without taking any dowry from her parents.

Mofizuddin, a low paid employee of Chilahati Government Girls' High School, said he was moved by frequent reports in newspapers about repression on women for dowry that resulted in death in some cases.

He told that he had forbidden his son from demanding or accepting any dowry at the time of his marriage.

The marriage of Soheli was solemnised with Tanzin, daughter of farmer Abdul Karim, in presence of elderly villagers. They highly praised Soheli and his father.

Bid to snatch away seized timbers

UNB, Habiganj

Four forest guards and a policeman were injured during exchange of gunfire with villagers in Chunarughat upazila on Sunday.

Police said the clash ensued when about 200 people attacked police and forest guards in an attempt to snatch away timbers, which were seized from Hatunda village.

The forest guards also fired four rounds of bullet to disperse the attacking mob.

Police and forest guards in a joint drive seized about 150 cft timbers of Segun tree from the village.

Of the injured, driver of the patrolling car Harunur Rashid was admitted to Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

Other injured were ASI Sajjad, forest guards Sirajul Haq, Abdul Karim and Abid.

Abducted Bangladeshi school girl languishing in Indian jail

UNB, Nilphamari

A teenaged schoolgirl, abducted at gunpoint and held by the Indian police while being trafficked across the border, is languishing in jail for more than a year.

All efforts of her poor father and local officials of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) for securing the return of Mariam, 14, have failed.

Hanif Khan of village Chhoto Khata in Dimla upazila told that his daughter, Mariam, was a student of Class IX in Gayabari High School.

Shital Kumar Roy, son of Narendra Nath Roy of adjoining Tapa Kharibari village, abducted her at gunpoint when she was returning home from school on May 18 last year for trafficking across the border.

Soon after crossing the border, Mariam and three traffickers, including Shital Kumar, were arrested by Dhupwori police in Jalpaiguri district, and sent to jail on the same day.

Hanif, who was trying to locate his daughter and secure her return, said Indian women traffickers got

release of Shital Kumar and his accomplices from the jail on bail. But Mariam is still languishing behind the bar.

He said he had repeatedly appealed to the District Magistrate and the district jail authority of Jalpaiguri, India, to return his daughter, but all the efforts went in vain.

BDR officials at Nabinagar in Lalmonirhat said they had proposed the Border Security Force (BSF) on the other side for a flag meeting to secure the return of Mariam, but there was no response as yet.

"The matter has been informed to the higher authorities," said the BDR company commander.

Hanif said BDR at Lalmonirhat told him that high level contacts between the two countries would be required to secure the release of Mariam from captivity in Indian jail.

He filed a case with Dimla police against 10 alleged traffickers. That enraged the all-powerful traffickers' gang and its agents issued threat asking him to withdraw the case, said Hanif.