

NEWS SNAPS

Two housewives commit suicide

BSS, Rajshahi

Two housewives committed suicide by taking poison in two separate incidents at Baghmara and Durgapur upazilas on Thursday, police sources said.

One of the victims was identified as Ozufa, 24, wife of Sazzad Hossain, of Nowpara village in Durgapur upazila committed suicide by taking poison following a family feud at about 5.15 pm on Thursday. Another housewife identified as Zaheda Banu, 26, mother of two little children and wife of Abdul Mazid of Achingat village in Baghmara upazila committed suicide by taking insecticides at her house on the same day. Motive behind the suicides could not be known immediately.

Two rapists to suffer life-term

BSS, Naogaon

SM Solaiman, judge of the Women and Child Repression Control Special Court-3, Naogaon on Thursday sentenced two persons to life-term rigorous imprisonment (RI) for raping a teenage girl at village Ronail in Mohadevpur upazila.

The convicts are Ziaur Rahman, 26, son of Monser Ali and Abul Kalam, 25, son of Eshaque Ali. Both of them hail from Ronail and are absconding. The prosecution story in brief is that the aforesaid two persons forcibly took away a teenaged girl to a solitary place and raped her there one after another on September 22, 1997. The girl was going to her school at that time. Father of the victim lodged a rape case against the two with Mohadevpur police on the same day. After completing investigation police submitted chargesheet to the court against them.

Loan disbursed among youths

BSS, Khulna

Jubo Unnayan Adhidaptar has disbursed loan amounting Tk 3,60,75,500 to 3741 youths in Khulna during the last fiscal.

According to official sources, an amount of Tk 2,24,26,056 was recovered from the loan during the same period. The percentage of recovery is 76 per cent. Jubo Unnayan Adhidaptar disbursed loan at the rate of Tk 5 thousand to 30 thousand per head to its trained members. Earlier, 712 young men were imparted training on different income generating trades like poultry and dairy farming, cottage industries, small business and tailoring.

Robbers loot valuables worth Tk 2 lakh

UNB, Sirajganj

Robbers looted valuables worth over Tk two lakh from a house at Char Mohonpur village in Ullahpara upazila on Thursday.

Police said a gang of bandits numbering 20/25 raided the house of one person named Dilip Kumar Sarker, tied up three inmates of the family and looted valuables leaving them injured. A case was filed.

Leader of outlawed party arrested

UNB, Pabna

Police arrested a leader of an outlawed party from Dighulia village in Faridpur upazila Thursday.

Police said they conducted drive in the village and arrested Saheb Ali, but could not recover any arms from him. The arrested was wanted in connection with three murder cases.

Outlawed party leader arrested

UNB, Sathkira

A leader of Purba Banglar Communist Party was arrested from Hajrapara in Tala upazila Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the house of Ashoke Lahiri, 35, and arrested him. He is a wanted person in 12 cases.

Woman held with phensidyl

Publication ceremony of 'Esho Manush Hoi'

BSS, Mymensingh

The publication ceremony of the 2nd edition book of poems under the title 'Esho Manush Hoi', written by Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury, Deputy Commissioner and President of Muslim Institute Public Library, Mymensingh was held on Wednesday.

Vice-chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University Professor M Mustafizur Rahman attended the festival as the chief guest while noted poet Al-Mahmud unveiled the cover of the book. M Shafi Ahmed recited from the poems as a specially invited guest. Among others, Professor Dr Abdus Sattar and Professor Sumita Naha of Ananda Mohan Government College and Professor Pradip Kumar Biswas of Madhupur College took part in discussion on the book of poems.



PHOTO: IQBAL SIDDIQUEE

Irresponsible dumping of garbage in day time on the main road near Rikabi Bazaar in Sylhet has been creating serious health hazard for the town dwellers. Alleged negligence of duty by the employees of Sylhet Municipality attributes to such a miserable situation.

IRRI-Boro shortfall shoots rice price up in Netrakona

UNB, Netrakona

Irri-Boro harvest has failed to bring any positive impact on the market price of rice in the current season all over Netrakona.

Market sources said low quality rice is now selling between Tk 13 and 14 per kg, which is higher than that of the previous years.

"Every year we usually buy low quality rice at prices between Tk 10 and 11 per kg just after the Boro harvest. But this time the price has shot up abruptly," Chan Mia, a rickshaw-puller of Sadar upazila told.

The district is traditionally known

as one of the foodgrains surplus area in the country. About 6,000 tons of surplus foodgrains were produced on average till last season. But this year's heavy rainfall and early flash flood dealt a severe blow to the output.

Local Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) office attributed the heavy downpour to production shortfall of at least 10,000 tons of rice.

Besides, the agriculture workers here are switching over to non-agriculture sector as their real wages came down over the years. At present daily wages of agriculture worker is between Tk 40 and 60 in

cash and two times meal.

Shortage of farm labourers is acute here as most of them shifted to other occupations. "Sometimes we do not find a worker even after offering Tk 60 to 70 per day," said a model farmer Alkas Uddin of Sadar upazila.

He said landless farmers who used to work at farmlands are migrating to town in search of better job opportunities. They now prefer non-farm activities like rickshaw pulling, masonry, construction works and small trading.

Repression on women up

27 killed in Netrakona in 6 months

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Netrakona

At least 27 people were killed and 78 women tortured from January to June this year in 10 upazilas in Netrakona.

In January three persons were killed in Barhatta, Modan and Sadar upazilas, according to police sources.

In February, one person each was killed in Kendua, Modan and

Kalmakanda.

In March, seven persons were murdered in Sadar, Purbadhala, Durgapur and Mohonganj.

In April, one person each was killed in Sadar, Kendua, Purbadhala and Mohonganj.

In May, one person each was murdered in Sadar, Kendua, Purbadhala, Barhatta and Kalmakanda.

In June, one person each was killed in Atpara and Modan.

Incidents of violence against women have increased in Netrakona in recent days, police sources said.

At least 78 cases of repression on women were lodged with police in the last six months in 10 upazilas.

Nine incidents of violence against women happened in January, eight in February, seven in March, 14 in April, 15 in May and 25 in June, according to police sources.

Highwaymen kill two on Natore-Puthia road

ANWAR ALI, Natore

Highwaymen have been playing with life and property of the night coach passengers in the Natore-Puthia route on Rajshahi-Dhaka highway for the last few weeks.

The robbers killed two persons and robbed almost all the passengers of a night coach, belonging to Hanif Enterprise at dawn on Thursday.

The victims were identified as Kawsar, 28, and Masud, 26, both of Nachole upazila in Chapainawabganj.

Natore police recovered their bodies from the Kuriapara area at the outskirts of the town in the

morning.

The two were crushed under the back-wheels of the coach when the robbers pushed them off from the running bus following their bid to foil the armed robbery.

Robbers disguised as passengers took control over the bus brandishing firearms when it reached the Natore bypass road. They left the bus near Puthia bazar.

Police recovered Tk 13,000 in cash from the bodies of the victims, but no case was registered regarding the armed robbery.

For the last couple of weeks, the 15 kilometer area of the road from Harishpur bypass crossing in Natore to Puthia Bazar in Rajshahi

on the Rajshahi-Dhaka highway has become a safe haven for road robbers. As many as eight road robberies were committed in the route in last 10 days.

In every case, police termed the incident as 'nothing serious'.

After the April chaos over road robbery which sparked tension among the truckers and rice traders of different northern districts, police started patrolling the Rajshahi-Dhaka highway using metal detectors and video cameras.

But for last few weeks police rarely patrol the route.

'Armed robber' slaughtered by miscreants

UNB, Pabna

An alleged armed robber was slaughtered by unidentified miscreants at Hudarpara in Sujanagar upazila on Wednesday.

Police said the assailants chopped and slaughtered Mokbul Hossain, 45, taking him into a nearby jute field.

On the same night, miscreants injured M Hirok, a Jubo League activist of Hemayetpur union in Sadar upazila, with a sharp weapon. He was admitted to hospital in a critical condition.

Two forest officials suspended

UNB, Khulna

Two officials of Forest Department have been put under suspension for their involvement in smuggling timber from the Sundarbans.

Garankup forest officer Mohiuddin Ahmed and station officer Lutfor Rahman were suspended in connection with trafficking of a huge consignment of Sundari timbers, which were seized in the city on Thursday.

An investigation committee was also formed to fix the persons involved with timber trafficking with recommendation of punitive measures against them.

The committee was also asked to make the list of the real woodcutters (bawalis) of the Sundarbans.

Aman seeds distributed among small farmers free of cost in Rangpur

UNB, Rangpur

Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) distributed 24.28 kgs of Aman seeds, 121.45 mts of NPKS and 48.57 mts of urea fertiliser free of cost among 4,857 small and marginal farmers in Rangpur during the last fiscal year.

DAE also distributed the agricultural inputs among the farmers under Agriculture Rehabilitation Programme in eight upazilas during the same period.

Official sources said under the programme, each farmer was given 5 kgs of Aman seeds, 25 kgs of NPKS fertiliser and 10 kgs of USG urea fertiliser.

Of the total, 735 small and marginal farmers in Sadar, 324 of

Gangachara, 957 in Pirgachha, 1491 in Pirganj, 549 in Mithapukur, 57 in Taraganj, 714 in Badaganj and 30 in Kaunia upazilas were benefited under the programme.

Magura hospital generators inoperative

UNB, Magura

Two generators at Sadar and Shalikhia upazila hospitals remained inoperative since its installation long ago due to lack of fuel supply.

These machines could not be made operational for a single day since those were purchased five years ago.



PHOTO: STAR

Participants parade the streets of Mymensingh town in a colourful procession jointly organised by the Forest Department and the district administration on the occasion of an afforestation campaign launched recently.