

NEWS SNAPS

Awami League leader chopped to death

BSS, Sirajganj

A local Awami League (AL) leader was chopped to death by the miscreants in a mosque at Shimabari in Sherpur upazila on Saturday.

Police sources said the victim was identified as Ali Azmal, 42, of Chandaikona bazar, a local Awami League leader. When the victim was waiting in a mosque near Chandaikona bazar, suddenly a gang of miscreants numbering 6/7 chopped him mercilessly and killed him on the spot. A case was recorded with concern the police station in this connection.

Four constables in Paba thana closed

BSS, Rajshahi

Four police constables in Paba police station were closed to the district police headquarters for negligence of duties Friday, police said.

The closed constables – Rezaul Rahman, Syed Ali, Shahidul Islam and Abul Hussein illegally released an accused of a murder case from custody. Earlier, police arrested Akbar Ali, 38, of Madhabpur village of Paba thana on charges of killing his wife Kajoli on July 15. Acting on information, SP Rajshahi Anisur Rahman investigated the matter and ordered closing of the four constables.

One sentenced to life-term in a rape case

BSS, Rajshahi

S M Solaiman, Judge of Women and Child Repression Control Tribunal Court-3, Naogaon Saturday, sentenced one person named Montu Ali, 25, to suffer rigorous imprisonment (RI) for life-term on charges of raping an aboriginal housewife at Char Gobindapur, Patnaila.

The case in brief is that Montu Ali forcibly took away an aboriginal housewife to a secluded place and raped her there on September 15, 1998. The housewife was collecting firewood at the place at that time. A rape case was recorded against the person with Patnaila police station in this connection on the same day. After completing investigation police submitted chargesheet of the court against the accused. The judge pronounced the aforesaid judgement after examining the witnesses and evidences.

Phensedyl seized by BDR

BSS, Rajshahi

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) recovered 335 bottles of phensedyl valued at Tk 33,500 from station in Monohardi upazila on Friday.

Acting on a tip-off, a BDR party from Shahapur Border Outpost of the 35th Battalion, rushed to the area at about 3:30 in the early morning and chased two persons. Sensing BDR's presence they fled away to the Indian territory leaving behind 335 bottles of phensedyl. The seized goods were destroyed, BDR sources said.

Construction of Rampur Bazar PS begins

BSS, Narsingdi

Sarder Sakawat Hossain Bakul, MP, laid the foundation stone of Rampur Bazar police station in Monohardi upazila on Friday.

At an estimated cost of Tk 42,70,000, the construction work of the police station is expected to be completed within six month. Public Works Department (PWD) is executing the project. The Rampur Bazar police station, which started functioning as a branch of Monohardi upazila police station since last 10 years was housed in a tin-shed room. Speaking on the occasion Bakul said the present government has been working relentlessly to establish a healthy and peaceful society by freeing Bangladesh from the course of drugs, violence and terrorism.

Marie Stopes observes Service Week

BSS, Narsingdi

Marie Stopes, a non-government charitable clinic, observed a service week on the occasion of World Population Day 2002 in Narsingdi recently.

Civil Surgeon Narsingdi Abdul Khaleque Talukdar attended the closing ceremony of the service week as the chief guest. Presided over the Clinic Manager Fozz Kawsar, the function was addressed, among others, by District Health Education Officer Zahurul Islam, District Correspondent of BSS Narsingdi, Mohammad Abu Taher, Dr Oshim Kumar and Dr Sheil Rani Dam. Marie Stopes Clinic society obtained the first position in Family Planning services among the non-government organisations in Narsingdi last year and won prizes and certificates.



PHOTO: STAR

Mrinal Dutt, secretary of the Genuine Theatre, a cultural group, receives a crest from eminent dramatist Golam Rafique on July 12 at a function at the office of sMymensingh Udichi on the occasion of the 10th founding anniversary of Theatre.

Trend of ripening fruits artificially on rise

UNB, Gazipur

The trend of ripening fruits artificially is on the rise in Gazipur although it may cause health hazards.

Market sources said a section of fruit traders ripen various green fruits like papaya, banana and jackfruit applying excessive heat and smoke keeping those in an airtight room. "Once few people knew about it, now it's an open secret," said a fruit trader. To make excessive heat and smoke, the traders burn kerosene and grain husk in airtight rooms.

Joypurhat newsmen to boycott news of BNP

UNB, Joypurhat

The newsmen of Akkelpur upazila decided to boycott the news of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) for harassing a journalist while performing his professional duty.

Local journalists at a meeting at the local press club with Omprakash Agarwal in the chair on Friday took the decision following the July 16 manhandling of upazila correspondent Muhammad Delwar Hossain of Daily Sangram by local BNP leader Matur Rahman and his men.

The meeting demanded of the authorities to take punitive measures against the persons responsible for the attack.

A general diary has already been lodged with the police.

40 hectares of water bodies reexcavated in Kushtia

UNB, Kushtia

Kushtia Fisheries Department reexcavated 40 hectares of water bodies utilising 1,095 mts of wheat under Food for Works programme in last fiscal year to boost fish production.

Official sources said there are nine rivers of 5,263 hectares, 32 beels of 526.13 hectares, two baors of 67 hectares, 47 khas ponds of 19.94 hectares and 13,210 ponds of 1577.13 hectares in Kushtia where 9081.50 mts of fish are produced every year against the local demand of 17,381 mts.

Some 200 metric tons of fish would be produced annually from the reexcavated water bodies where over 500 people got working facilities.

Besides, 38 different development projects were implemented in six upazilas utilising 795 mts of wheat in the last fiscal year.

Of the total, six projects were implemented in Sadar, 10 in Mirpur, eight in Kumarkhali, two in Bheramara and 12 in Daulatpur.

Six rehabilitation centres for handicapped women soon

UNB, Bogra

Construction works of six rehabilitation centres for socially handicapped women are nearing completion in the country at a cost of Tk 12.60 cr, officials here said.

Social Service Department is constructing the centres in Bogra, Faridpur, Kushtia, Brahmanbaria, Barisal and Sylhet under Socially Handicapped Women Training and Rehabilitation Project.

Over 2,000 women will receive training on different vocations including tailoring, small-scale industries and religious education in the centre to make them self-reliant.

There will be an annual marriage fund of Tk 18 lakh in each centre to encourage the socially handicapped women for marriage.

Official sources said some 180 officials and employees would be appointed soon for implementing the project.

Closure of AJM frustrates jute traders in Magura

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

Frustration has gripped the jute traders in Magura following closure of the largest jute mills of the country Adamjee Jute Mills Ltd (AJM) recently.

Their arrear dues amounting to Tk 1.5 cr is yet to be paid by the AJM authorities after its closure for about a month.

Jute traders here have become perplexed whether they will get their arrear dues from the mills authorities at all or not. Some of the major traders here have already gone into hiding after being failed to pay the dues of small traders.

The AJM authorities now seem to be indifferent about payment of

dues, said some small traders here.

A renowned businessman in the Natun bazar area of Magura town, on condition of anonymity, said that the small traders are demanding immediate payment of their arrear bills.

The jute purchase centre of AJM at the Natun bazar area bought jute amounting to Tk 3 cr. The mill authorities paid off Tk 1.5 cr. Suddenly on July 1 the government declared closure of the mills which resulted in frustration among local jute businessmen.

Meanwhile, because of closure of the mills, local jute cultivators have become frustrated. This is because almost all the jute traders sold their produces to AJM last year.

As most of the jute businessmen are facing financial problem due to non-payment of arrear dues by the AJM authorities, growers are also facing shortage of jute purchasers this season.

In the local markets jute is now being sold between Tk 280 to Tk 300 per maund while last year the rate was between Tk 550 to Tk 600.

Jute growers cultivated jute on 18, 210 hectares of land this year with a production target of 1.82 lakh bales while last year jute was cultivated on 11,425 hectares with a production target of 1.28 lakh bales in this district. Ban on polythene encouraged the farmers to raise the cultivation of jute.

Water-logging makes life miserable in Gopalganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

Water-logging in at least 10 places in the Gopalganj Municipality area due to incessant rainfalls for the last couple of days has made life of the town dwellers miserable.

The situation happened due to faulty drainage system and unplanned construction of roads. The troublesome water-logging has increased the woes of pedestrians as well as motor vehicle drivers.

Such is the situation even in slight rainfalls in Beparipatti, Sahapara, Batasha Patti, Natun Bazar, South Molvipara Road, Janata Road, Boaisshaki Road, Powerhouse Road, Miapara Bedgram link road and old Kamarpatti Road in the municipality.

As many as 250 families have been affected by stagnant water on

Janata Road, Boaisshaki Road and South Molvipara Road in Gopalganj Municipality.

The affected people have been isolated from other people of the town due to stagnant water. But the municipality authorities are not taking any action to mitigate the sufferings of the people, alleged local residents.

Unplanned and unauthorised construction of structures has been obstructing the normal flow of drain water which results in unbearable water-logging.

The worst affected areas are Sahapara, Chowringhee area on Old Powerhouse road and the area situated on Beparipatti road.

In slightest rainfall water-logging occurs in Beparipatti, Batashapatti, Natun Bazar road and South Molvipara due to lack of proper

drainage system.

Unscrupulous people are encroaching on Bazar Road, Beparipatti, the Old Kamarpatti areas on Janata Road and on Sahapara hampering the flow of sewerage.

Unwillingness of the municipality authority to construct drain in Baniaripatti and Natun Bazar areas has attributed to water-logging.

It is worth mentioning that the drainage system in Gopalganj Municipality is quite obsolete. The municipality cleaners do not clean the narrow drains regularly, but the municipal authority do not take steps in this regard.

Immediate and proper initiatives should be taken to solve the menace of water-logging in this district town.



PHOTO: STAR

Water-logging inside the premises of Bangabandhu University College in Gopalganj due to incessant rainfalls for the last couple of days.

Valuables looted from trader's house

UNB, Jhalakati

Armed robbers stormed into the house of a businessman in Rajapur upazila and looted valuables worth Tk 5 lakh Monday night.

Police said the masked robbers swooped on the house of businessman Mizanur Rahman Mizan at the upazila headquarters at dead of night and locked the inmates in a room at gunpoint.

They later looted Tk 75,000 in cash and huge gold ornaments. They stabbed two inmates of the house, Habibur Rahman, 50, and Ibarhim, 20, as they tried to resist them.

The injured were admitted to the upazila health complex.

In another incident, three CPUs worth Tk 50,000 were stolen from two computer shops near the Collectorate building here on the same night.

Separate cases were filed.

Young man abducted in Feni

UNB, Feni

One youth was abducted allegedly by hired criminals from the Trunk road of Feni town on Friday.

The victim was identified as Shafiqul Alam, 22, of Tetulya village in Sadar upazila. Family sources said Shafiqul had a dispute over money transaction with one co-villager Kamal. They alleged that Kamal hired the criminals to abduct him.

In another incident, a primary school teacher of Mirsharai upazila was abducted from Panchgachhia road of the town when she was returning home on Thursday.

Another report from Khulna adds: Milton, an engineer was kidnapped by members of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party in Koyra upazila same day.

They also injured Abdul Mannan, 40, and Rafiqul Islam Pachu, 32.

Plan to construct new rly link line protested

UNB, Brahmanbaria

People of Akhura upazila protested the railway link line construction project of government at a press conference here Thursday.

Government has undertaken the project to construct a link line between Titas rail bridge and Azampur rail station of Dhaka-Sylhet railway at a cost of Tk 17.84 cr.

Chairman of Akhura Municipality and convener of the protest committee M Nurul Bhuyian told the press conference that if the link line is constructed near the Akhura junction the sanctity of the grave of Hazrat Shah Pir Kolla Shahid and the trade and commerce of the area would be affected.

They demanded of the government to reconsider the implementation of project as the local people

Erosion takes serious turn in Sirajganj

AKHTERUZZAMAN BABLU, Sirajganj

Flood situation in Sirajganj improved, but erosion has taken a serious turn now.

The 100-metre portion of a groyen in the Soilabari (Zia intersection) area has been washed away by flood waters and the 150 metre spar of Shovagacha-2 and Barikhola has also been washed away on Friday night.

State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud MP, on Friday accompanied with the Chief Engineer of Water Development Board (WDB), Deputy Commissioner of Sirajganj and other political leader and officials visited the groyen area (Zia intersection).

The state minister directed the WDB authority to protect the groyen. He addressed a gathering of hundreds of people where he revealed that in 1978 the government of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman constructed the groyen at a cost of several crores of taka to protect the erosion affected area. But the Awami League government in collaboration with some local officials misappropriated the fund.

Erosion by the River Jamuna has taken a serious turn following incessant rains and also due to recession of flood water. As a resist 1250 people of Chowhali and Shahjadpur upazilas have been rendered homeless.



PHOTO: STAR

State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud (cross marked) observing the erosion by the River Jamuna at Soilabari in Sadar upazila in Sirajganj recently.

3 including cop killed in N'ganj road mishaps

BSS, Narayanganj

Three people including a police constable were killed in two road accidents in Narayanganj on Dhaka-Chittagong highway, police and witnesses said.

The body of constable Razzak was handed over to family members and was taken to his village home at Srinagar, Manikganj for burial after a namaj-e-janaza at the local police line.

Faruq was buried at a local graveyard.

In another accident, Kazi Shafiquddin was run over by a speeding truck at Dewanbag in Bander thana Friday night.

Two other Jubodal activists, Barkatullah and Sayeduzzaman, travelling by the car were injured seriously. They were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The Jubodal activists and the

cop, their neighbour, were returning home from a social function at Comilla, family sources said.

Police seized both the vehicles. The truck driver fled the scene immediately after the accident.

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The body was sent to the General Hospital for autopsy.

Sirajganj hospital will be upgraded, says state minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Amanullah Aman MP, on Thursday declared at a gathering of doctors and other staffers of the 100-bed Sirajganj General Hospital that it will be upgraded into a 250-bed one soon.

The state minister announced this during his visit to the hospital. During his visit he expressed his displeasure observing the bad condition and indiscipline prevailing in the hospital. He rebuked the Resident Medical Officer (RMO) of the hospital Abdul Awal for his inefficiency in properly running the hospital.

State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud was also present during Aman's visit. Both of the state ministers talked to the patients who complained about the mismanagement there. During the visit they saw many patients flooring in the hospital.

Local people alleged that many brokers are active in the hospital who admit patients there receiving bribes.

Many employees including some doctors are also involved in this unhealthy practice, they further alleged.

The state ministers also visited the Trauma Centre at the hospital premises which is being constructed by the Public works Department (PWD) at a cost of about Tk 2 cr.

After visiting the hospital both of them accompanied by local leaders and officials went to Malshapara graveyard where late member of parliament (MP) Mirja Muraduzzaman had been buried. He died on July 18 in 1995. They offered prayers at his grave. Afterwards, they went to the house of the late Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader and attended a milad mahfil. In the evening both the ministers attended a memorial meeting of the late member of parliament (MP) at Bhasani Auditorium. The meeting was chaired by Advocate Mokaddes Ali, Sirajganj District Joint Convener of BNP while Mirja Mostafa Zaman spoke at the meeting.

Allotment of khas land suspended in hill dists

UNB, Bandarban

The government has suspended allotment of khas land in three hill districts in a bid to protect the environment.

Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Ministry and Land Ministry have asked the Deputy Commissioners of Bandarban, Khagrachhari and Rangamati to stop allotment of khas land in the region.

The decision came following allotment of hundred of acres of land to an influential group for 100 years by the district administration under an old law in the name of rubber cultivation and horticulture without permission from the district councils.

As per the Local Government Council Act 1989, the district councils are responsible for handling all kinds of land activities.

But the councils refrained from giving any decision to land-related activities leaving some 13,000 cases pending.