

NEWS SNAPS

Punishment to killers demanded

BSS, Thakurgaon
Hundreds of school children brought out a procession in Thakurgaon town Sunday demanding exemplary punishment to the killers of Sadia Sultana Trisha, a student of class VI in Gaibandha.

After parading different roads of the town, the protesting children formed a human chain in front of the Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office. They handed over a memorandum to the DC demanding immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to the culprits responsible for killing. People from all walks of life including about 500 male and female workers of Manab Kallyan Parishad (MKP), a local (Non-governmental Organisation (NGO) also joined the procession.

Body of unidentified woman recovered

UNB, Brahmanbaria
The body of an unidentified woman was recovered from a place near Zanisar Bridge in Sadar upazila on Monday.

On information, police recovered the body of the 30-year-old woman. An unnatural death (UD) case was filed.

Girl allegedly commits suicide

UNB, Jhalkathi
A girl allegedly committed suicide by taking poison at Dohorpara village in Nalchiti upazila here Saturday.

Police said Sathi, 14, daughter of Laxmikanta, took poison over a family feud. An unnatural death (UD) case was filed.

Housewife drowns in river Moharoshi

UNB, Sherpur
A housewife drowned in the Moharoshi river at Ramer Kura village in Jhenigati upazila on Sunday night.

Police said Ambia Khatun, 45, wife of Noor Hossain of the village was washed away by the swirling water when she went to collect floating wood from the river. Police recovered her body later. Her body was sent to Sadar hospital for autopsy.

Food procurement drive going on

BSS, Rangpur
Food procurement programme under the initiative of the District Food Department is going on in full swing, officials sources said.

The upazila-wise break-up of procurement target is as follows: Rangpur Sadar paddy 688 metric ton and rice 6,430 metric tons, Badarganj, paddy 1,152 metric ton and rice 3,242 mt, a Satbari (Mithapukur) paddy 1,275 mt. and rice 3,288 mt, Pirganj paddy 1,636 mt and rice 3,117 mt, Taraganj-paddy 879 mt, and rice 540 mt, Gangachhara-paddy 233 mt and rice 760 mt, Kawnia, paddy 522 mt. and rice 2,349 mt and Pirgacha, paddy 648 mt and rice 2,780 mt.

Miscreants loot rice in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona
A group of armed miscreants looted 500 maunds of rice from a godown of one person named Ferdous at Brozar Bazaar in Alpara upazila on Saturday night.

Police and witnesses said at about 12 on Saturday night a group of armed miscreants entered into the godown of Ferdous by breaking open the lock and looted 500 maunds of rice worth about Tk 3 lakh and fled away by an engine boat before the very nose of people at the bazaar at gun point. A case was filed with Alpara police station in this connection. None was arrested.

Statues of Hindu Goddess stolen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar
A theft was committed in a Hindu temple at Fulbari Tea Garden in Kamalgonj upazila recently.

The thieves entered into the temple by braking open the door at night and decamped with three statues of Hindu Goddess and other valuables amounting to Tk 42,000. When contacted with the manager of the Fulbari Tea Garden over telephone, he confirmed the information. Anil Baidya, President of the tea garden's labour panchayet committee registered a case with Kamalgonj Police Station in this regard.

Tree fair in Bandarband concludes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chit
A week long tree fair, jointly organised by Bandarban Forest Division and the district administration ended here recently.

At least 20 stalls were set up and different organisations of the district town displayed various tree plants at the fair. A week-long cultural programme organised by Sharalipi Shilpi Gosthi. Shishu Academy and the Tribal Cultural Institute was also held.

BKB disburses agri loan in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chit
Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB), Khagrachhari region disbursed Tk 10,38,25,000 as agricultural loan through its eight branches in eight upazilas during the last fiscal year.

Official sources said BKB earmarked Tk 15 crore. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Khagrachhari region realised a sum of Tk 10 cr or the target of realisation of outstanding loans fixed at Tk 10.5 cr from the farmers in the last fiscal year. The has target ahead exceeded its limit.

Fodder scarcity in Chapainawabganj

BSS, Chapainawabganj
Decline in farming of local varieties of paddy caused fodder and straw scarcity in Chapainawabganj and its adjoining areas.

The farmers of Chapainawabganj used to grow abundantly different local varieties of paddy like Sonasali, Mugi Harma Roghusali and Batraj without using fertilisers. After the harvest of local varieties of paddy, the farmers got sufficient straws and used as fodder, fuel and other domestic purposes. According to farmers, increase in cultivation cost and uneconomic return discouraged them to go for local varieties of paddy.

Cottage industry threatened

BSS, Chapainawabganj
Production of bamboo declined in Chapainawabganj due to rampant uprooting of bamboo clusters for using as firewood.

As a consequence, the people in general, especially the farmers have been facing an acute scarcity of bamboo shooting up its price. Abnormal price-hike of Bamboo in the local market has seriously been affecting the bamboo-based cottage industries and construction of rural houses.

Imam training course concludes

BSS, Rajshahi
The certificate giving ceremony of the 455th batch of Imam training course conducted under the auspices of Imam Training Academy, Rajshahi (ITAR) was held at its auditorium on Monday.

Presided over by agriculturist Md. Nurul Islam, Deputy Director of ITAR the ceremony was attended by Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) Mizanur Rahman Minu MP, as the chief guest and Prof M Foiz Uddin, Chairman of the Law and Jurisprudence Department of Rajshahi University as special guest.

Phensidyl recovered from bus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni
Feni Police seized 300 bottles of phensidyl from a passenger bus at Mohipal in the town recently.

According to police sources, on a secret information, police challenged the driver of a bus coming from Brahmanbaria and while in way to Chittagong police seized the bus where 300 bottles of Indian Phensidyl was recovered. Nobody claimed to possess the contraband.

World Population Day observed in Feni

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni
World Population Day was observed in Feni befittingly recently.

On the occasion the district Family Planning Department organised several programmes including rally, discussion meeting, prize distribution and cultural function. Discussion meeting was held at the Johir Raihan auditorium where Joyanal Abedin (VP) MP, spoke as the chief guest. Acting DC, Feni Ruhul Amin spoke as special guest on the occasion.

Relief distributed among flood victims

UNB, Bogra
The government distributed 50 mts of rice among the flood affected people of Bogra under its relief and rehabilitation programme.

Of the total rice, 8 mts was distributed in Sariakandi upazila, 5 mts in Sonatola, 7 mts in Dhanat, 5 mts in Gabtoli, 3 mts in Sherpur, 5 in Sadar, 4 in Adamdighi, 3 mts in Dupchacia, 3 mts in Nondigram and 4 in Shilganj upazila, district relief office sources said.

Manifold problems grip Phulbaria Municipality

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

Newly established Phulbaria municipality is beset with various problems. As a result the inhabitants suffer a lot.

Phulbaria is a neglected area in Mymensingh. People of this upazila, especially those of remote areas do not have any modern facilities. They have to depend on their foot for communication. It is very difficult for them to rush a critical patient at Phulbaria Health Complex or at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) in a short time. This situation prevails here for several decades.

However, after the upgradation of Phulbaria upazila sadar as a municipality last year, the residents expected that the basic amenities for leading a good life would be provided to them. But their hopes are yet to be fulfilled. The old problems remained as those were.

Because of lack of drainage system in the municipality area for letting out rainwaters after shower, the low-lying areas of the municipality get submerged. Water remains stagnant for the hours together. In some areas the rainwater enters into the houses with garbages

making the whole atmosphere unhygienic. There is no garbage-van to clean up the municipality area regularly. Garbages are piled up at places for days together. Stray dogs and cows create another menace.

Due to lack of proper traffic system, traffic is a perennial problem. There is no traffic island here. Vehicles coming to and from the district town create traffic jam on Mymensingh-Phulbaria road. The condition of local bus stand is beyond description.

All the roads in the municipality are in dilapidated condition. Innumerable holes have developed on these roads. The condition goes from bad to worse during the rainy season. In the rainy season, condition of the kitchen market goes beyond description. As there is no fixed place of slaughtering cattles, those are slaughtered here and there in an unhygienic condition.

Most of the areas plunge in darkness after the setting of sun due to insufficient lighting system.

However, the newly elected chairman of Phulbaria municipality Md. Mujibur Rahman informed that the first budget of the municipality is yet to be announced. So, there is no development work.



PHOTO: STAR

Some residents of Phulbaria Municipality in Mymensingh pass through a road submerged by rain water due to lack of proper drainage system. Most of the areas in this municipality go under water just after shower, but the authorities of the newly established municipality do not bother at all to solve the problem.

Abnormal price-hike of vegetable in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

The prices of vegetable have increased exorbitantly in the local markets causing much inconvenience to the poor and the common people.

Almost prices of all the vegetables vary from Tk. 12 to Tk. 20.

Lady's finger is being sold at Tk 12 a kg in place of Tk 6 a kg, green banana per four (half) at Tk 8.00 in place of Tk 4, a medium size slice of sweet gourd at Tk. 10 in place of Tk 5.

Potato is being sold at Tk 10 to 12 a kg in place of Tk 8 and papaya at Tk. 8.00 a kg in place of Tk 4 to 5 a kg.

Leafy vegetables of good quality are seldom available in the market. The prices vary from Tk 10 to Tk 12.

The prices of vegetables and leafy vegetables will increase further, vegetable traders said adding that rain water and the water level in the low lying areas, canals, rivers and other water bodies swelled causing heavy damage to vegetables on the fields.

20 injured in separate incidents in Barisal

UNB, Barisal

Some 20 people were injured in separate incidents in Barisal on two days till Thursday.

Police said Sramik Dal leader Syed Alam was injured when four alleged Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists chopped him over previous enmity in the Morokkhola area in the town on Thursday.

On Wednesday, three JCD activists Hemayet, 26, Moyeen, 25, and Javed, 25, - were injured in an attack by rival groups at Fallpotri in the town.

Police said some 16 people were injured in two separate road accidents at Rahmatpur on Barisal-Dhaka highway on Thursday. Six of the injured were admitted to hospital.

Woman held with arms, ammunition in Khulna

UNB, Khulna

Police arrested a woman along with two pipe guns, two rounds of bullet, two live bombs and bomb making materials from the city's Siddikia area Friday.

Police said they raided the Sonar Bangla lane residence of Razzak and recovered the arms and ammunition in the morning. They nabbed Feroza Begum, 36, wife of house owner Razzak.

During the raid a gang of miscreants attacked on police exploding bombs. None, however, was injured in the attack.

Police said several hoodlums including Razzak are engaged in various criminal activities including mugging, killing and robbery in the area.

Police said they would continue their drive to arrest other criminals. A case under arms act was filed with the police.

Crippled girl pays for her father's 'sin'

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

Here is a sad tale of a physically handicapped girl Sonia, 17, whose golden dream has been shattered because of unhealthy trend of politics going on in the country.

Her future has become uncertain now as the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) backed miscreants looted all her belongings including ornaments, utensils and furniture preserved by her poor grandmother for her marriage.

Sonia, a candidate of Secondary School Certificate examination (SSC) and daughter of poor farmer Aminuddin, a resident of village Nandalapur in Sadar upazila, lives with her grandmother, one widow at the aforesaid village.

Motaleb Molla, late husband of the widow Jamila Khatun, 65, was a Sanitary Inspector. At the age of 35 only he embraced pre-mature death. From then Jamila was maintaining her living with the meager pension of her late husband.

As Jamila has no son her son-in-law poor Aminuddin, father of Sonia used to live in her house. Sonia is physically handicapped by birth. Both of her legs are crippled. As Sonia is handicapped her grandmother remained worried about her marriage. She was saving money for Sonia.

Only four months back Jamila received a proposal to marry Sonia. Accordingly the elderly widow brought ornaments and other necessary things kept for her marriage

which she stored inside her tin-shed house.

Unfortunately on July 16 just after the Faz' prayer the ruling party backed criminals ransacked and looted 17 houses of Awami League (AL) leaders and party supporters at Nandalapur village as a sequel to the previous enmity.

As Jamila's son-in-law Aminuddin is a supporter of AL and lives with Jamila, her house was also ransacked and ravaged. At the same time the criminals took away all the valuables kept for Sonia's marriage. With this act the miscreants shattered the hopes of Sonia.

While talking to this correspondent Sonia and her grandmother burst into tears and questioned, 'who is there to change their fate?'



PHOTO: STAR

(Top) The badly damaged house of Jamila, an widow and grandmother of Sonia, a crippled girl. (Bottom) Blank look of Sonia (left) beside her broken utensils preserved by her grandmother (right) for her marriage. Miscreants of the ruling BNP damaged and looted valuables from their house because Sonia's father is a supporter of Awami League (AL).