

NEWS SNAPS

Body of young man found

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Body of an unidentified young man was found from a place nearby an abandoned railway track in Nilphamari town on Friday.

Injury marks were found on the body of the youth aged about 22 years, according to police. It was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy. An unnatural death (UD) case was filed with police in this connection.

Six including JCD leader sued in Feni

UNB, Feni

Six people, including a student leader of Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), was sued on Friday for robbing a dollar trader.

Police said six men, including Saifur Rahman Swapan, secretary of Dhagonbhuiyan thana unit of JCD, intercepted Abul Kalam at Betua in Dhagonbhuiyan Bazaar and snatched away Tk 8.40 lakh while he was returning home at about 10pm Thursday. In another incident, Swapan and his accomplices allegedly beat up a marriage registrar and a youth for toll on Wednesday.

Rivals' clash leaves six injured

UNB, Munshiganj

A clash between two rival groups on Thursday left six people wounded in Srinagar upazila of Munshiganj.

Supporters of Aminul group and BNP backed Mamun group chased each other in the evening over construction of BNP office at Bhagyakul Kamargaon. Police rushed on the spot and brought the situation under control. Police arrested one person named Khalil from the spot but later released him.

School building works going on

UNB, Madaripur

Construction work on 121 primary school buildings costing Tk 3.78 crore is going on in four upazilas in Madaripur.

Seventy-five per cent works on the buildings have already been completed and the rest is likely to be finished by June this year. Local Government Engineering Department LGED is implementing the project under Education for All Programme. Upon completion of the project, the schools will be able to accommodate 50,000 more kids, officials said.

Armed robbery in four jewelry shops

BSS, Satkhira

An armed robbery was committed in four jewelry shops and a godown at Abaderhat in Sadar upazila of Satkhira on Friday night.

Police sources said at least 10 to 15 armed robbers entered into four jewelry shops and the godown at Abaderhat in Sadar upazila at midnight broken down the key of the shops. The robbery raided the shops one by one and looted cash, gold ornaments and other goods worth over Taka one lakh from the shops and godown. A case was lodged with Sadar thana police in this connection.



PHOTO: STAR

Freedom fighters parade the streets of Mymensingh in a procession on Saturday protesting attack on the Mymensingh District Unit Command office recently.

Teenage daughter of widow raped, under threat of life

UNB, Jamalpur

A teenage daughter of a distressed widow, raped by the spoiled son of wealthy neighbour, is under threat of life at village Gadakhaliapar of Sadar upazila in Jamalpur.

Failing to draw sympathy of the administration, her mother Hasna Bewa came to the local office of Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity (journalists' association) on Thursday (July 25) and broke down in tears.

Bewa, who personified rural poverty, narrated her long ordeals since her husband Omar Ali died 10 years ago to face the harsh realities of life with three little children.

Of late, the lustful eyes of Hashmat Ali, the spoiled son of an influential farmer in the village, fell on the widow's 15-year-old daughter.

At one dark night of April, he broke open the thatched door of the house and tried to rape the young girl. Hearing her cry for help, neighbours rushed in and caught Hashmat red-handed.

Next morning, the elders held a village arbitration that did nothing except warning Hashmat against indulging in such activities.

That both angered and encouraged him. On the night

of June 16, Hashmat and his brother-in-law (sister's husband) sneaked into the hut and raped the poor girl keeping her mouth shut with clothes. Her mother woke up from her sleep and cried out for help. But this time the culprits managed to flee the spot before the neighbours came in.

Poor Bewa again took the matter to the village elders. But they expressed inability of holding another arbitration against the delinquent son of the wealthy man and suggested for taking shelter of the court.

A case was filed and the magistrate ordered the police to submit report on inquiry.

The police investigation officer, apparently under influence, rebuked Bewa for filing the case and submitted a report without holding any inquiry and distorting the facts.

"Where shall I go now," lamented helpless Bewa wiping out her tears with the tattered saree she was wearing.

"They are threatening to kill me and abduct my daughter," she said of Hashmat and his accomplices.

The poor mother said she also went to the Deputy Commissioner and begged him of ensuring security of her daughter. But nothing has been done.

Extensive Aus farming scheme in 10 dists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

An extensive Aus paddy cultivation scheme has been taken up in 10 southwestern districts of the country in the current season.

A total of 1,25,041 hectares of land have been brought under the scheme, official sources said.

Of the total land, 87,128 hectares have been brought under local variety and 37,913 hectares under 'upshi' variety.

According to a source in the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), the district-wise targeted land and cultivated land is as follows. In Magura the targeted lands are 11,896 hectares while the cultivated lands 8,170 hectares, in Jhenidah the targeted lands are 16,630 hectares and the cultivated lands 5,750 hectares, in Jessore the targeted lands are 9062 hectares and cultivated lands 598 hectares.

In Narail the targeted lands are 16,551 hectares while the cultivated lands 11,155 hectares, in Khulna the targeted lands are 3,655 hectares and the cultivated lands 1,440 hectares.

In Bagerhat the targeted lands are 7077 hectares while the cultivated lands 2,349 hectares, in Satkhira the targeted lands are 2,140 hectares and the cultivated lands only six hectares, in Kushtia the targeted lands are 37,000

hectares and the cultivated lands 22,347 hectares, in Chuadanga the targeted lands are 13,320 hectares and the cultivated lands 4,150 hectares and in Meherpur the targeted lands are 7,709 hectares while the cultivated lands 1,894 hectares.

Poor price frustrates jute growers in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Because of poor price of jute in the market this year, frustration has gripped the jute growers in Nilphamari.

Price of one maund of jute was Tk 250 to Tk 280 last year while this year it is being sold in the local markets between Tk 180 and Tk 190.

This correspondent visited different markets and saw that most growers were bringing back their jute from the markets due to lack of buyers and poor price of jute.

Grabbing the advantage some middlemen have been purchasing jute at throughaway price.

About 2.71 lakh hectares of land were brought under jute cultivation in Nilphamari this year.

Attack on AL meeting in Rajbari

UNB, Rajbari

A group of miscreants attacked the extended meeting of Pangsha upazila Awami League on Friday injuring two people.

The injured identified as Mokarraf Muni and Rafiqul Islam were admitted to a hospital.

The attackers allegedly belonging to ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) also damaged the car of district AL general secretary Kazi Keramat Ali.

In a press conference, district Awami League leaders alleged that the attack was made in presence of a senior police official and a first class magistrate.

The leaders demanded arrest of the attackers and their punishment.

Housewife killed in clash

UNB, Kishoreganj

A housewife who was critically injured in a clash between the family members at Kabirkanda village in Astargam upazila died at local hospital on Wednesday.

Police said Anwara Bagum, 30, was injured in an attack by her husband's brother on the day as a sequel to land dispute. She was trying to save her husband from the attack. Later she was rushed to the upazila health complex where she succumbed to her injuries in the afternoon.

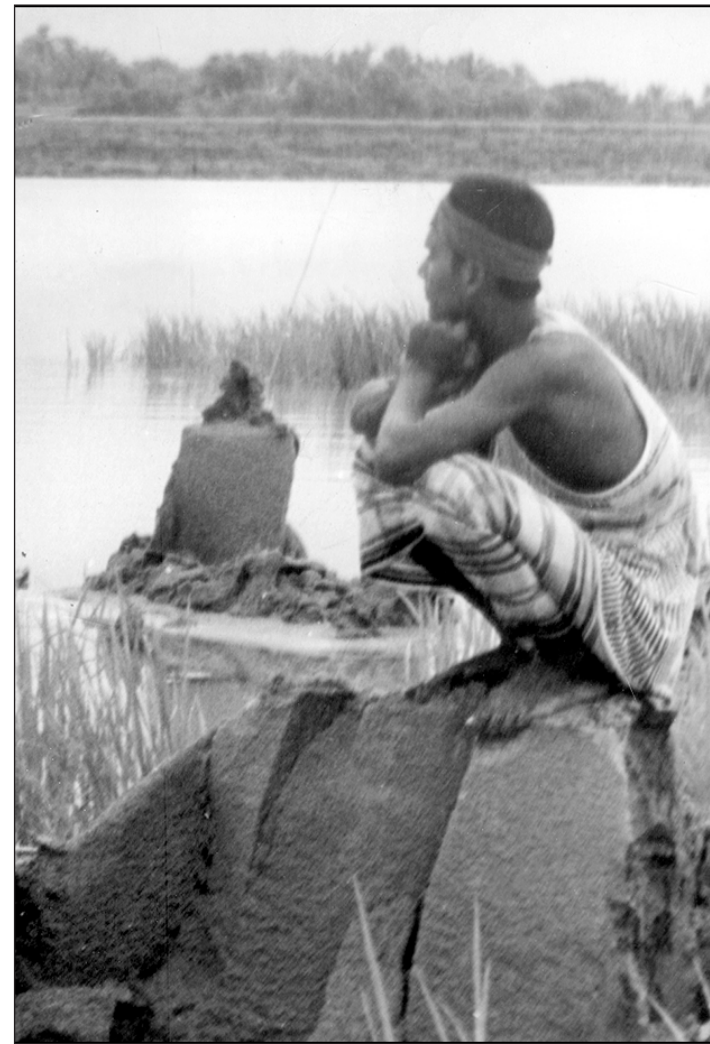


PHOTO: HOSSAIN SERAJ

Clouds of doom: A poor farmer Sobhan Mia of village Khordo Kasundi in Sadar upazila in Magura sitting on his eroded land beside the River Modhumati which devoured his cropland turning him landless. Now he faces a grim future.

Bachchu murder case Two more arrested

UNB, Pabna

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Police arrested two more people Wednesday in connection with the sensational murder of Pabna Municipality chairman Advocate Sheikh Shaidullah Bachchu.

The arrested were identified as Shafiqul Islam Mona, 25, son of late Khondakar Borhanuddin of Radhanagar area in the town and Anwar Hossain Surya, 38, son of Ilias Sheikh.

Police said they arrested them from the court area in the town. They divulged important information regarding the sensational murder.

Chairman Sheikh Bachchu was killed by assailants in his private car at Tebunia Agriculture Seed Farm on April 4, 1997.

Police earlier arrested five people in connection with the murder.

Contraband recovered

UNB, Narsingdi

Narcotics officials recovered huge quantity of drugs from two houses at Birampur village in Sadar upazila in Narsingdi Tuesday.

The contraband included 500 bottles of Indian phensidyl, 12 bottles of liquor, three kgs of hemp and 12 grams of heroin. Acting on a tip off, the officials raided the houses of Nasir and Ataur Rahman of the village and seized the drugs.

Six of armed gang held after gunfight with police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Police arrested six members of an armed gang after a gunfight with them at Bamonail village in Jhenidah Sadar upazila recently.

Acting on a secret information, a contingent of police led by ASP Monirul Islam encircled a village where about 20 armed criminals were holding a meeting.

Sensing presence of police, the armed miscreants opened fire. Police also returned fire.

Both sides exchanged about 140 shots. At one stage, police arrested six of the gang along with their leader Susen Sikder while others managed to flee.

They (police) also recovered one pipegun, one revolver and eight bullets from the arrested criminals.

Arrested five others are Lemon alias Joyantu, Nazrul, Pulen, Ashish Kumar and Dudu Saha.

Pirates swoop on boat of bridal party

UNB, Tangail

Pirates swooped on the boat of a bridal party in the Baleswari river in Nagarpur upazila Thursday and looted cash and valuables worth about Tk 4.5 lakh.

About 20 armed robbers attacked the mechanised boat carrying the bridal party of Dewly village in Delduwar upazila when it reached near Nalswandha Gachhkumulli village of Nagarpur upazila, witnesses said.

The pirates beat up the members of the wedding party and took away some 30 tolas of gold ornaments, 30 wristwatches and cash.

They later decamped with the booty in their two engine-propelled boats.