

NEWS SNAPS

Four unnatural deaths in Brahmanbaria

UNB, Brahmanbaria

Four unnatural deaths were reported in Brahmanbaria on Friday and Saturday.

Police said a youth of Baroichira village in Nasirmagar upazila was killed in a train accident on Saturday. His body was recovered from the railway track adjacent to Chandpur village.

Besides, Swapan Mia of Kashimpur village in Kasiba allegedly committed suicide by taking poison on Friday.

A youth identified as Abdul Matin was run over by a speeding truck at Meghna ferry ghat. In addition, a 3-year-old girl Rupa of Khoiyasar village in Sadar upazila drowned in floodwater.

Two allegedly commit suicide in Kushtia

UNB, Kushtia

Two people allegedly committed suicide in Daulatpur upazila Sunday night. Locals said Shuka Sarkar, 50, of Bahrmedia village killed himself by taking poison having failed to endure economic hardship.

Police said Jamirunnisa, 35, wife of Aftab of Dakipara Biswabadi, hanged herself following a family feud. In another incident on the day, the body of an 18-year-old newly-wed woman, Reshman Khatun, was recovered from a ditch near her father's house at Kodda Bhaluka in Kumarkhali upazila. She was married to Bachchu Mondol of Shyampur village in Shailakupa upazila of Jhenidah three days back.

16 arrested by BDR from frontier area

UNB, Sakhtia

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) troops arrested 16 people from Paddhashakra frontier area Monday while they were walking into Bangladesh territory without travel documents.

BDR sources said 11 women and five children were among the arrested. The arrested people later told police that they actually hailed from Faridpur and Khulna districts and went to India without visas in search of jobs. A case was filed.

Resumption of train services demanded

UNB, Brahmanbaria

Dogged by staggering losses, authorities have suspended operation of three local trains in the eastern region, causing sufferings to thousands of passengers. The trains - Chandpur Local, 47 down Samat express and 45 up Samat express - used to run on Chandpur-Akhaura-Bhairab, Noakhali-Akhaura and Akhaura-Noakhali routes.

Officials said the trains caused huge losses to the government exchequer due to travelling by passengers without tickets and carrying goods without booking. Local people and businessmen strongly condemned the government decision and demanded immediate resumption of the train services.

Unabated fishing in Kaptai lake

UNB, Rangamati

Fishing in the Kaptai Lake is going on unabated defying government ban. The district administration imposed a three-month ban on catching fish in the Kaptai Lake in June to give a boost to natural breeding of fish.

But people of Sadar upazila, Kaptai, Longdu, Jurachari, Barkol, Belaichari, Naniarchar and Baghaichari are catching fish in the lake in the breeding season of fishes.



PHOTO: STAR

Artists of Tarun Sampraday, a cultural group in Sirajganj, rendering a chorus at the local Maulana Bhasani Auditorium in the district town on the occasion of its 24th founding anniversary recently.

Cold related diseases claim 8 in Netrakona
Fresh areas in Patuakhali, Faridpur submerged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight persons died of cold related diseases in Netrakona while fresh areas in Patuakhali and Faridpur have been inundated.

Meanwhile, unabated erosion by the Jamuna has multiplied woes of the flood affected people in Sirajganj.

Our Netrakona correspondent reports: At least eight persons died of cold related diseases in Netrakona.

About 8,000 people of Netrakona Sadar, Kalmakanda, Durgapur, Atpara, Modan, Mohonganj and Khalajuri upazilas have been affected with diarrhoea, according to an unofficial report.

Fever, diarrhoea, dysentery and other water born diseases have broken out in the flood affected areas with the recession of water.

Acute shortage of life saving medicine and oral saline has been prevailing in the affected areas.

The district civil surgeon office sources confirmed death of four persons and said 5,000 people have so far been affected with diarrhoea. He said 19 medical teams are working in the affected areas. Meanwhile, water level in the rivers Sureshwary, Kongsha, Mogra and Dhanu has fallen down.

Our Staff Correspondent from Barisal reports: Flood situation in Patuakhali has deteriorated farther as the receding flood waters submerge vast areas in Patuakhali town in two days.

Most of the areas of Natun Bazaar, Puran Bazaar, Katpatti, Shimulbag, Sabujbag, Ekata Road, Chawk Bazar area have gone under kneedeep water confining at least 200 families in their houses for days together.

Because of absence of town protection embankment in Patuakhali, flood waters enter into the town area when the water level in Bay rises during full moon and newmoon and also during incessant rainfalls.

About twenty shrimps in Galachipa upazila have been inundated.

Following the influence of newmoon water level in the Bay rose as a result several thousand acres of land along the coastal areas have been submerged.

Three ferry ghats on Kalapara-Kuakata road including the bailey bridge and gang way have been submerged. The road communications network in the entire district remained collapsed for three hours on Friday.

Our Faridpur correspondent reports: The low-lying areas of three upazilas in Faridpur have been flooded due to increase in water level in the Padma.

The affected upazilas are Char Bhadrason, Sadarpur and Sadar.

Erosion by the Padma has also been intensified at some places including Char Hajiganj in Char Bhadrason upazila, one of the important markets in



(Left) A flood damaged house at village Hashimpur of Hajipur union in Kulara upazila in Moulvibazar while (right) some people at the same village repairing a damaged embankment. Several hundred dwelling houses in Kulara upazila have been devoured by the Manu due to breaches on the river dyke in the recent deluge.

PHOTO: IQBAL SIDDIQUEE

the district.

Scores of people in the areas have been marooned. The flash flood caused heavy damage to standing Aman paddy, jute plants, sugarcane and vegetables.

Our Sirajganj correspondent says: About 10,800 acres of crop lands have been damaged in nine upazilas in Sirajganj. The Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) has taken up a programme to cultivate transplanted aman on 1,500 hectares of land.

Moreover, Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) has been distributing seedlings of vegetables and other crops. The agricultural department has also demanded Tk 51 lakh from the government for the post-flood agriculture rehabilitation programme.

In the meantime, erosion has taken a serious turn in the Chowhali,

Belkuchi and Shahjadpur areas. Hundreds of people residing along the river banks have been rendered homeless and landless. But no effective measures has been taken up for a permanent solution to the problem.

According to unofficial sources, the Jamuna devoured at least 25 villages in Sirajganj in the recent flood. The mighty Jamuna devoured seven villages in 3 years where hundreds of people have become homeless, landless and jobless. The Jamuna also devoured many handloom factories turning many people jobless.

The erosion victims have been passing hard days as neither the government nor any non-government organisation has come forward in their assistance.

Local people have demanded relief and rehabilitation materials from the government and non-government organisations on emergency basis.

10 including child nabbed from bus near Jessore town

UNB, Jessore

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) men caught 10 people including a child, from a bus near Pollarhat, 4-km off Jessore town on Saturday.

BDR, acting on a tip off, raided the Jessore-bound bus coming from Benapole in the morning and caught six males, three females and a child.

The paramilitary personnel handed them over to police in the evening.

All the arrested hailed from Kalia in Narail told the BDR that they went to Bombay six months back for jobs and now they were returning home after their jobs were terminated there.

Bumper production of BRRI-29 paddy in Netrakona

UNB, Netrakona

A bumper production of high yielding variety of paddy BRRI-29 was achieved in Netrakona.

According to Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), many farmers harvested 112 maunds of paddy per acre of land, a record in Netrakona.

DAE sources said this season some 30,000 acres of land were brought under cultivation of this variety in all its 10 upazilas.

The bumper harvest helped the farmers recoup the losses caused by the last year's deluge, it added.

The BRRI-29 variety evolved by the agriculture scientists of the country some years ago after assiduous research achieved little success at the beginning, but gradually it gained ground.

Some contract growers of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) started cultivating the variety and the production was not so satisfactory initially.

But this year BADC supplied quality seeds of the same variety among the growers that achieved

a remarkable success.

DAE said the variety is less vulnerable to pest attack and the cost of its cultivation is less than that of other high yielding varieties.

Quarrel over playing carom: Four injured in Sherpur

UNB, Sherpur

Two unruly youths attacked a house at Kharampur in Sherpur town Monday leaving four people, including an elderly woman injured.

Police said the youths attacked the house of Liton following a quarrel over playing carom and opened fire at his elder brother Khokon Miah, 20, sisters Aajeda, 17, and Nitu, 10, as they did not find him in the house.

They also beat up his 100-year-old grandmother, Nabiron Bewa.

Khokon was being treated at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital while the rest at Sadar Hospital.

Misappropriation case Anti-corruption bureau starts investigation

UNB, Khulna

The Bureau of Anti-corruption has started investigation into a misappropriation case of Sir Iqbal Raod branch of Agrani Bank, involving Tk 1.75 cr.

Bank sources said Lutfar Rahman, an accounts clerk of the bank in charge of clearing cheques from Bangladesh Bank, pocketed over Tk 1.75 cr by depositing money in the accounts of his two brothers after cheques were cleared by the central bank.

His two brothers were identified as Manik Khan and Nazrul Islam.

The branch manager filed a case when the forgery was detected.

Lutfar was absconding.

Rectified spirit worth Tk 20 lakh seized

UNB, Kushtia

Huge rectified spirit worth about Tk 20 lakh was seized from a transport office at Bara Bazaar in the town on Monday.

Acting on a tip-off, a special squad of Narcotics Control Department raided the Jeddah Transport office at 2pm and seized 66 plastic containers of rectified spirit from its godown. None was arrested.

Acute shortage of aman seedlings in two dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A vast tract of arable land is likely to remain fallow in Narsingdi and Netrakona this year due to acute shortage of aman seedlings.

UNB from Narsingdi reports: Standing paddy plants on 15,495 hectares of land in six upazilas of Narsingdi went under floodwater and damaged completely.

After recession of floodwater, the farmers would again transplant their land, but there was no seedling in the seedbed.

The marginal farmers are not in a position to buy seedlings due to its exorbitant price.

A farmer said Tk 750 to Tk 1,000 would be required to buy seedlings for an acre of land. It would not be cost effective for the sharecroppers or marginal farmers.

Besides, the time is running out to re-transplant paddy seedlings on the land.

Experts said the cultivation of aman paddy after the 15th of Bengali month of Bhadra would not yield desirable production.

As a result, a vast tract land would remain uncultivated this season, they added.

Another report from**Netrakona says:** Acute scarcity of transplanted aman seeds has been prevailing in all the 10 upazilas of Netrakona.

Farmers are moving here and there and rushing to the Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) sales centers, but from everywhere they are to come back empty handed.

Taking advantage of the situation, a section of dishonest dealers are selling the seeds in the black markets at high prices and earning windfall profit.

Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources said some 65,000 hectares of land have been brought under transplanted aman farming this season in the district.

The farmers could not stock seeds due to the massive damage of the crops by floods last year and the current flooding has damaged most of the seedbeds, they added.

Deputy Director (Seed) of DAE admitting the prevailing crisis said they have requested the authorities concerned to immediately allot further consignment of seeds to meet the huge demand.

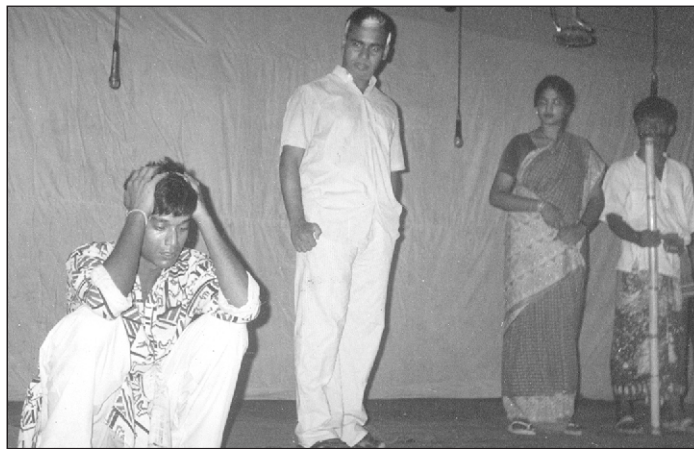


PHOTO: STAR

A sequence from a dance drama arranged at Gopalganj Public Hall in the district town by Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, a local cultural organisation. The programme was arranged recently in aid of treatment of ailing Prof Harun and Arif Mohammad.

Police record murder case, at last

UNB, Jhalakati

At last police have been compelled to record a murder case at the direction of the court after four months of the killing of a housewife in Jhalakati.

Locals said Hafiz Arinda of village Bithangal in Nolciti upazila beat his wife Sheuli Begum, 20, mother of a child, mercilessly for dowry on April 7.

At one stage of torture when she fell unconscious Hafiz along with his other family members thinking her dead poured poison into her mouth to prove that she committed suicide. Later she was taken to the

upazila hospital where she died the next day. Father of the victim Abual Hossain went to the local police station to file a murder case, but mysteriously refusing to do so police recorded an unnatural death (UD) case.

Later the aggrieved father went to the magistrate's court in this regard and police again refused to record the murder case despite the order from the court.

Later finding no other alternative the plaintiff filed a complaint with the district and sessions judge court and as per the order of the court police recorded the murder case on July 29.