

NEWS SNAPS



Sanjida Amin of the Dhanbari Achhia Hasan Ali College team speaking as a group leader at a debate competition against the Dhanbari Degree College team organised by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) and Committee of conscious citizens of Dhanbari in Tangail on August 14.

New Netrakona district BNP committee

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Netrakona*

A new 11-member committee of Netrakona district BNP was formed on Friday with Dr Mohammad Ali MP as its convener. BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan dissolved the former committee due to internal conflict and formed the new committee. However, a faction of the local BNP and its front organisations have protested the formation of the new committee.

They held a meeting and took out a procession which paraded different thoroughfares of the district town protesting the decision. Speakers at the meeting called for reinstatement of the former committee within three days. Otherwise, they threatened to go for a greater movement. The meeting was addressed by former president of the district committee Ashrafuddin, vice presidents Advocate Siddiqur Rahman and Advocate Nuruzzaman, secretary Abu Taher Talukder, Muktiyodha Dal convener Haider Jahan Chowdhury, Chhatra Dal leader Shahabuddin Ripon and Jubo Dal leader Moshir Rahman.

Three killed in two road accidents

UNB, *Bogra*

Three persons were killed in two road accidents in Bogra and Bhola recently.

A man was killed and five people were injured in a road accident at Fullola crossing on Bogra-Dhaka highway on Monday. Police said a Dhaka-bound night coach hit an auto-rickshaw leaving its six passengers injured. The injured were admitted to the local hospital where an unidentified man, aged about 45, succumbed to his injuries.

Another report from Bhola adds: Two people were killed and two others injured when a speeding bus hit their rickshaw from behind at the Heliport area in Charfashion upazila on Sunday. The deceased were identified as Aasia Khanam, 55, and Kulsum Begum, 50. The accident took place when they were going to Janatabazar to collect wheat under VGF cards. The injured rickshawpuller Shahjahan, 40, and another rickshaw passenger Zakir were admitted to the upazila health complex.

Price-hike of green chilli in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Faridpur*

Prices of the daily necessities are on the increase causing much hardship to the fixed income group of people. The price-hike of green chilli has attained all-time high record, an old man of Faridpur town said. Green chilli is now being sold here at different markets in between Tk 70 to Tk 100 a kg.

Some green chilli vendors told The Daily Star that incessant rainfalls over a few weeks past caused heavy damage to standing green chilli plants on the field resulting in abnormal decrease in their supply leading to such price-hike. They added that the price of green chilli may rise further and the price will come down when their supply becomes sufficient in the coming Rabi season.

International workshop at BAU

UNB, *Mymensingh*

An international workshop on living standard of cattle farmers was held at Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU) here Monday. The daylong workshop titled 'developing the living standard of country's landless and marginal cattle farmers by earning livelihood through livestock-based works' was held at the gallery of BAU's Livestock Husbandry Faculty.

The workshop was arranged with financial assistance from Department of International Development (DFID). BAU Vice Chancellor Prof Mustafizur Rahman attended the workshop as chief guest with Dean of the Livestock Husbandry Faculty Prof Dr M Raisul Alam in the chair. Some 100 scientists and livestock experts from 70 local and foreign organisations took part in the workshop.

Miscreants' bid to snatch arrested man

UNB, *Sunamganj*

Miscreants attacked Dharmapasha police station (PS) Monday in a bid to snatch an arrested man. According to police, the criminals, led by Mamun of Mohanganj, attacked the police station twice to snatch Deepak Goswami arrested in an abduction case.

Police said they arrested Deepak, manager of a movie house, for his involvement in the kidnapping of 12-year-old daughter of his hall's gate man Abdul Mannan. Police alleged that the attackers identified themselves as the men of a powerful state minister.

Brisk business of illegal drug in Sylhet

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, *Sylhet*

Brisk business of illegal drug along with heroin is going on unabated in at least over 50 spots in Sylhet city.

Some of the spots are Tilagarh, Majortila, Gopaltila, Subidbazar, Fazlichist, Madina Market, Pathan tola, Salutikor, the Electric Supply area, Jallarpur, Shibganj, Bhartaha khola, Station Road, Chowkidekhi, Salutikor Bazaar and the Airport Road area.

Because of apathy of the department concerned as well as of the police personnel drugs are being smuggled in Sylhet with impunity from across the border. Though the concerned authorities take occasional measures, yet ultimately the steps prove to be futile.

The greater Sylhet region has borders with the Indian states of Meghalaya, Assam and Tripura. So, it is a very hard task to cope with the

situation with very small number of troops.

Recently the government agencies shook up after a sensational incident where a team of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) team from the capital recovered one kilogram of heroin worth Tk One cr from Sylhet city and arrested a man while his accomplices managed to escape. The man was placed on remand and was shifted to Dhaka for interrogation. But the local people were not at all aware of the operation.

At times police raids are made, but it is interesting to note that the drug sellers get advance messages.

Illegal drug trade is also going on in Sunamganj, Moulvibazar and Habiganj. The youngsters are getting addicted day by day.

The department of Liquor and Narcotics can not cope with the situation with the available logistic support. Besides, allegations are also there about unfair relationship between some officials and drug traders.

The matter was discussed in the district law and order committee meetings several times, but in vain. A list of heroin and phensidyl traders was prepared earlier, but nothing was done effectively.

The Deputy Director, Department of Liquor and Narcotics said that the department had filed a total of 216 cases during the period from January to June in four districts of Sylhet division.

There is only a jeep to cover the whole division. As many as 30 posts have been lying vacant for long against the provision of 74 posts, he said. These include, 3 posts of inspectors, 3 sub-inspectors, 3 assistant sub-inspectors and 17 posts of sepoy have long been lying vacant. Besides, the posts of prosecutor, 2 assistant prosecutors and a one wireless operator have also been lying vacant, he added.

On the other hand, raids are seriously hampered due to absence of vehicles and wireless sets, the official said.

Burimari LC station earned Tk 35.49 cr last fiscal

UNB, *Lalmonirhat*

Burimari LC station in Lalmonirhat earned Tk 35.49 cr in revenue in the last fiscal, which was Tk 9 cr higher than that of the last fiscal.

Officials said Rajshahi Customs and Vat Commissioner's office earned Tk 539.97 cr in revenue in the 2001-2002 fiscal through its six LC stations, including Burimari, against the target of Tk 515 cr.

Of the six LC stations, Burimari in Lalmonirhat, Sonamasjid and Rohonpur in Chapainawabganj realised highest amount of revenue.

However, the revenue earning at Hilly and Birol in Dinajpur and Banglabandha in Pachagarh declined remarkably.

Besides, 11 cow corridors under Rajshahi Customs office collected Tk 40.82 cr in revenue, posting a rise of Tk 9 cr than the previous fiscal.

Divisional Customs Commissioner Ali Ahmed told that appropriate steps would be taken to raise the revenue income in all the LC stations.



Females parading the streets of Tangail in a colourful procession on the occasion of the International Women's Day 2002. The programme was arranged jointly by the Womens' Affairs Directorate, Zila Information Office and Jatiya Mohila Sangstha, Tangail recently to create awareness about women's rights.