

NEWS SNAPS

Prisoner dies in Patuakhali dist jail

UNB, Patuakhali

A convicted prisoner of the district jail died in General Hospital Monday night.

Jail sources said Muhammad Shahjahan, 45, of village Koralia in Bhola district, was admitted to the hospital as he complained of respiratory problem in the evening. He died there at 11:25 pm. Police said Shahjahan, son of Nuruzzaman Fakir, was arrested on Oct 19, 1997 in murder and robbery cases. Bhola district court sentenced him to 10 years in jail in one of the cases in Nov last year.

Eight robbers arrested from 3 dists

UNB, Thakurgaon

Eight people were arrested from Thakurgaon, Dinajpur and Nilphamari districts in connection with a recently committed sensational robbery here.

The arrested were identified as Abbas Ali, Liton, Julian, Mannan, Ramjan Ali, Tajul, Shafiqul, Mamtaz, Dulal, Dayalu, Mahub and Shamsul Huq. Police said the robbers attacked the house of Syed Zakir Hossain Chowdhury Rana on August 14 at South Batina in Sadar upazila and looted valuables, including 15 tolas of gold ornaments worth Tk 2.10 lakh and a motorbike. Acting on their confessional statements, police later recovered eight tolas of the looted gold ornaments.

Aman farming on 45,600 hectares

UNB, Jhalakati

Some 45,600 hectares of land are expected to be brought under Aman cultivation in four upazilas of the district this season.

Agriculture officials said 10,000 hectares of land would be brought under high yielding variety of paddy while the rest under local variety. Meanwhile, 23,995 hectares of land have been cultivated, which is 50 percent of the total target.

Hemp recovered from Thakurgaon

UNB, Thakurgaon

Five kgs of hemp were recovered from Kochubari area in Sadar upazila recently.

Chairman of Salandar union parishad Mukut Chowdhury found the hemp in a bush on August 22. It was handed over to police.

Alleged extortionist arrested

UNB, Barisal

An alleged extortionist was arrested along with a pipe gun and two bullets from a stone-laden cargo at Banaripara upazila Tuesday.

The arrested was identified as Sumon, 22. Police said a group of armed extortionists demanded toll from the cargo staff in Uzirpur upazila and threatened to kill them when they refused to meet their demand. When the driver started the cargo for Satkhira, all the extortionists, except Suman, got down from it. Later, police arrested Suman along with the gun and bullets.

Training for VDP members in Khulna

UNB, Khulna

A series of 10-day basic training programme for VDP members began in 58 villages of 10 districts in Khulna division on August 24.

In the first phase, 64 VDP members are taking part in each batch of the training programme in 58 upazilas. Officials said the training programme focuses on physical exercise, cattle rearing, fish farming, agriculture and nursery, child trafficking and healthcare. They said such training programmes would be arranged in four villages of every upazila.

Two armed robbers arrested with pistol

UNB, Bagerhat

Two alleged armed robbers were arrested along with a pistol and some bullets from Gotapara village in Sadar upazila Tuesday.

The arrested, Nayan Kazi and Rezaul, were wanted in a number of cases. In another incident on the day, a young man, Sohelur Rahman Litu, was arrested along with 50 bottles of phensidyl and Tk 85,000 from Dakkhin Sharain Alia Madrasha road in Sadar upazila.



(Left) Railway tracks being repaired in the Anandabazar-Balashi route in Gaibandha. Train communication from the northern region to the capital city of Dhaka remained snapped for a long period due to flood. The train communication resumed in recent days while (right) erosion by the Brahmaputra has intensified after recession of flood waters from the Hasilkandi area of Shaghata upazila in the same district.



PHOTO: STAR

Erosion renders 2,600 more families homeless

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

With the recession of water level in the Brahmaputra basin erosion has taken a serious turn in five unions of Shaghata Upazila.

A total of 15 villages in five unions namely Kachus, Ghuridaha, Haldia, Kamalerpara and Shaghata have been seriously affected by erosion rendering 2,600 families shelterless during in the last two weeks.

Everyday vast areas with trees, plants and standing crops are being devoured by river. The worst affected villages are Chinirpotol, Kalurpara, Kumarpara, Char Haldia, Kanaipara, Garamara, Nalsia, Hatbari, Hasilkandi,

Pakurtola, Bangabari, Falia, Shimulbaria, Chandanpat and Satitola.

Soon after the flood the Brahmaputra began its devastation along its western bank. The erosion affected people have been fleeing for safe place.

Meanwhile, most of the erosion victims have turned into landless as their properties have been devoured by the river. Many of them have taken shelter on abandoned embankments, road side spaces or on highland.

Many erosion victims have turned into beggars while others are engaged in work as day labourer or rickshawpuller.

Two quizzed in Trisha murder case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Two witnesses of Trisha murder case were cross-examined in the Court of District and Sessions Judge on Tuesday.

They were Shakhawat Hossain, Headmaster of Madhapara Government Primary School and Sajeda Khatun Mukta, a class teacher.

The witnesses told the court that Trisha was irregular in the class for one and a half months prior to her death.

She was chased by Modern, Shaheen and Asha at 4pm on July 17 while she was returning home from the school.

Finding no alternative, she jumped into a pond belonging to Idris Ali and drowned, they further told.

The court fixed the next date of cross-examination on September 3.

Misappropriation of FWP foodgrains in Gaibandha alleged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A good quantity of foodgrains under Food for Works Programme have allegedly been misappropriated through fake projects at Gaibandha.

This was exposed in a preliminary investigation conducted by a probe committee.

A total of 1,528 metric tons of foodgrains have been allocated against different projects by preparing 28 fake allotment letters received by the Deputy Commissioner of Gaibandha over fax, but no original copy of allotment reached Gaibandha as yet.

A three member investigation committee was formed with Fazlur Rahman and Nazrul Islam, Deputy

Secretary, Disaster Management and Relief Ministry and Muzibur Rahman, Additional District Magistrate, Gaibandha. The committee after preliminary investigation admitted the reality.

According to sources, 858 tons of foodgrains against 356 projects in six unions of Palashbari upazila under food for works Programme were allocated through fake allotment orders. Only in Kishoregari union of the aforesaid upazila 781 tons of foodgrains were allocated.

Besides, 666.50 tons of foodgrains were allocated against 218 projects in Sadullapur upazila, but all the grains were misappropriated without any work.

The 11-party alliances, Gaibandha, on August 22 dis-

patched a memorandum to the Prime Minister demanding punishment to the accused persons who were involved in the food scandal. They also brought out a protest procession demanding punishment to the corrupt persons.

The alliance further alleged that the concerned Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Palashbari and Sadullapur were directed to lift the aforementioned allocated foodgrains and to spent against projects which had no existence at all.

The alliance leaders also alleged that the concerned UNO, PIO, Upazila engineer and chairmen jointly prepared the fake projects and misappropriated the allocated foodgrains.

Accommodation problem hits Muminunnisa college

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The students of Muminunnisa Mohila College are now facing a serious accommodation problem.

Muminunnisa Mohila College, is the best college for female students in Mymensingh region. Students from far flung areas especially from different places of Mymensingh region get themselves admitted here for higher education. But in many cases they have to face

serious accommodation problem due to poor number of seats in the college hostel though the number of students have been increased several times in the recent years.

More hostels for the students, especially who come from the remote areas of Mymensingh are yet to be constructed. Many students have to face financial problem as they have to reside in rented houses in the town. It is very expensive.

According to college sources, there are only 120 seats in the hostel which is negligible in comparison with the increasing number of students. At present the number of students is over 2,500.

Forty-seven students of first year honours course submitted application for seats in the college hostel, but allocation was made for only 12 students, according to a merit list, Professor Anjuman Ara Begum,

Vice Principal of the college said.

An admission seeker in class XI, from Sherpur district (preferring not to be named) told The Daily Star for accommodation problem, it will be a problem for me to continue my studies here. Another Honours student from Jamalpur district told this correspondent that construction of a new hostel is the crying need of the hour.

Established in 1959, the college was nationalised in 1980. The college has scored good result in Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) level. Honours and Masters courses have been in this college a few years ago. In this college, Honours in English, Bengali, Economics, Mathematics, Political Science, Social Welfare and Masters course in Bengali, Economics and Mathematics are now being studied.



PHOTO: STAR

Partial view of Muminunnisa Mohila College in Mymensingh. The students face an acute accommodation problem here. At present there are only 120 seats in the hostel for hundreds of students.

10 hurt in clash over land in Cox's Bazar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Ten persons including two women, were injured with bullets in a clash over land in Cox's Bazar on Tuesday.

The incident took place at Mehernama village in Pekua upazila at around 11am. Nurul Huda and Shahidulla of the village had a long drawn rivalry with Nurul Kabir of the neighbouring Barbakia village over a piece of land. About 35 armed men led by Nurul Kabir attacked the supporters of Nurul Huda and Shahidullah while they were planting aman saplings on the disputed land. Both sides clashed for half an hour and exchanged about 35 shots. Ten people, including Nurul Huda and Shahidullah, received bullet wounds in the attack. Of the injured, two women were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital while others to Chakoria Health Complex and other clinics.

One commits suicide in Bogra

A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

One middle-aged man committed suicide by taking pesticide at Shibhatti in Bogra town on Monday evening.

He was identified as Jitendra Nath Das, 48, son of Shitanath Das in the same area. Police said, family feud was the reason behind the suicide. The attending doctors declare him dead while he was shifted Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital later on. Police recovered the body and sent it to Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Headmaster indeed!

UNB, Chittagong

A high school headmaster was arrested Tuesday on charge of forgery.

Police said Abul Mohsen, headmaster of Gomdalli Pilot High School, was arrested for helping an SSC candidate secure GPA 4.75 in an illegal way. Four more teachers were also involved in the forgery.

Rejoinder

Md Mahmudunnabi, a sergeant of Sirajganj district has contradicted a report headlined "Police sergeant transferred on charge of corruption" published in this paper on August 25.

He said that he was not transferred on the basis of a probe report, which reportedly found him involved in smuggling. He denied any wrong doing or involvement with any illegal activities.

2 killed in road mishaps

UNB, Nilphamari

Two people were killed and five others injured in separate road accidents in the district Tuesday.

Police said Abdur Rahman, 45, died on the spot on Domar-Dimla road at Choto Raota as a minibus hit a rickshaw van he was travelling. In another incident at Nayatola in Syedpur, Muhammad Anis, 12, died on the spot when a truck hit his bicycle.

Transparency in VGD activities sought

BSS, Rajshahi

Participants at a daylong workshop in Rajshahi on Tuesday devised ways and means to make the distressed, poor, widow and divorced women self-reliant through involving themselves in economic activities instead of depending on Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) relief.

They also stressed the need for transparency in supervising and distribution activities of relief materials to end corruption and irregularities to make the (VGD) programmes a success at the grass root level.

They suggested involvement of the distressed people in the mainstream national development activities in exchange for foods and relief materials to mitigate their sufferings.

They also recommended credit

support for the distressed people for gainful economic activities to put them on the path of self-reliance and poverty alleviation. Importance have also been given to healthcare facilities, sanitation, family planning side by side setting up of poultry farms, fish culture, sericulture, vegetables farming and making them self-reliant through micro savings to achieve the aforesaid objectives.

Sponsored by the District Women Affairs Department and Relief and Rehabilitation Department in collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP) the workshop on "development of skill of the concerned government officials in implementing the schemes of VGD" was held at the local Parjatan Motel.

A total of 30 concerned officers from different government offices participated in the workshop.