

NEWS SNAPS

Body of young girl recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Sirajganj Sadar thana police recovered the decomposed body of a young girl from Huraa-Sagar canal situated at village Konagati in Sadar upazila.

Acting on a secret information police went there and recovered the body of the unidentified young woman aged about 18 with cut marks on her body. The body was sent to Sirajganj General Hospital for autopsy. A case was lodged with Sirajganj sadar police.

Girl allegedly commits suicide

UNB, Panchagarh

A girl allegedly committed suicide by taking insecticide at village Balabhir in Boda upazila Thursday.

Police said Rashida, 14, a student of class nine, took poison as her mother rebuked her for being inattentive to studies. She was rushed to Boda hospital where the attending doctors declare her dead.

Woman strangled in Chapain awabganj

UNB, Chapainawabganj

A woman was strangled at village Bag-Durgapur in Shibganj upazila here Saturday.

Tahmina Begum, 42, wife of late Mozaffar Hossain, had an alleged illicit relationship with one person named Nazrul Islam Fitu, 45, of the village. Assuring her to marry Fitu took her 12 decimals of land through deed. When Tahmina's relatives came to know the matter, they informed it to local elite. Later, at a village arbitration, Fitu was asked to return the land to Tahmina. But Fitu came to Tahmina's house in the name of discussion and strangled her. Fitu is absconding. A case was filed in this connection.

One drowns in pond in Panchagarh

UNB, Panchagarh

A man drowned in a pond while taking bath at Benghari village of Boda upazila Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Abdul, 35. Separate unnatural death (UD) cases were filed. Newly-built scout building inaugurated

One stabbed to death in Bogra

A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

One woman at Dikdair village in Sonatola upazila stabbed a man to death as he attempted to rape her in the early hours of Saturday.

The victim was identified as Harun, 35, son of Mohsin, of Khupi village in Gabtoli upazila.

Police said, Kohinor, 25, wife of Mostafizar of Dikdair village, drove a knife into Harun's belly as he tried to rape her at 2 am on Saturday. Harun died on the spot. Police arrested Kohinor

Boy drowns in Madaripur

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

A little boy drowned in a pond on Monday at village Vowtali in Kalkini Upazila, locals said.

The boy, Shakil, 2, son of Halim Sarder of village Vowtali in Kalkini was playing near a pond. All on a sudden he fell down in the pond resulting his instant death.

7 dengue patients detected in Jhalakati

UNB, Jhalakati

One more patient attacked with dengue fever was admitted to Jhalakati Sadar Hospital Saturday raising the number of dengue patients to seven.

The dengue-affected was identified as Rabiul Islam Mithu, 16, son of Telegraph and Telephone (T&T) department employee Isahaq Ali. Earlier, six people were admitted to the hospital with the symptom of dengue fever who are undergoing treatment there.

New scout building in Magura opens

UNB, Magura

The newly-built scout building for in the district headquarters has been inaugurated recently.

Deputy Commissioner M Shafiqul Haq inaugurated the building on August 27. District Scouts Commissioner Khan Ziaul Haq chaired the inaugural function. Among others, district scouts secretary Chittaranjan Shikder and teacher Ratan were present.

Two receive acid burn injuries

UNB, Manikganj

A man and a little girl received severe burn injuries in an acid attack by some unknown hoodlums at village Mitra in Sadar upazila Sunday.

Police said the miscreants hurled acid on Abul, 30, and his nephew Sathi, 3, while they were asleep in their house. The reason behind the acid attack could not be known.

Housewife rescued after 3 days of missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A housewife was rescued from village Itapori in Sadar upazila on Saturday after three days of her missing.

Three persons named Hasidul, Jalal and Alam of the aforementioned village abducted the woman on way to her father's house from her in-law's house on August 26. They confined her in a house for three days and raped her. Later, local people rescued the woman from the house of Hasidul. It was alleged the rapists abducted the woman for the second time when her father was going to thana to file a case.

Magura faces 6,800 MT fish deficit each year

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

Acute scarcity of fish is prevailing in Magura as many ponds and other water bodies are yet to be brought under pisciculture scheme.

Official sources said at present an annual deficit of 6,800 metric tons (MT) of fish has been prevailing in Magura.

Sources in the Fisheries Department said fish production in Magura this year stands at 15,700 metric tons, much below than the annual demand of 22,500 metric tons.

The district fisheries office source also said there are 9,515 ponds covering an area of 2,894.02 hectares of land. Of the ponds, only 30 ponds are under the Fisheries Department while 9,485 ponds are run by private owners.

Eight rivers are flowing through Magura and at least 39 canals are a source of huge quantity of fish it brought under pisciculture programme. Besides, 39 beels (waterbody) and 7 boars (waterbody) covering the area of 42,944.09 hectares fish here.

According to an official estimate, there are many waterbodies like pond, beels, baors and rivers covering an area of 45,838 hectares while only about 10,000 hectares are under pisciculture programme.

Every year a large number of waterbodies including 4,972 derelict ponds and tanks covering an area of over 35,000 hectares of land are out of pisciculture which can produce 42,000 metric tons more fish each year if brought under pisciculture scheme, experts said.

Indiscriminate use of chemical fertiliser in cropland, is also attributed to the

decline of fish production as fertilisers are polluting water of rivers, canals, ponds and other water-bodies.

Now a days hats and bazaars in Magura are flooded with foreign fish like Silver Carp, Minner Carp, Nilotika, Pungsh and so on, instead of local fish like Rui and Katla.

Most people in the market prefer 'hilsha' fish to other fish which is available in the markets, but unfortunately the price is much higher, beyond the reach of common people. These are sold between Tk 170 to Tk 200 per kilogram (kg).

Meanwhile, Indian Rui weighing over 5 kg is seen in the markets. These are sold to the innocent people as local fish.

Besides, local fish like Koi, Magur, Tengra are very rare in the markets. The available fish fulfil, only 50 per cent of the demand of people in Magura while the rest demand is covered by eggs, chicken, beef and so on. As a result, people of the low income group cannot buy fish.

Experts think that fish output can be increased by making the Pond Development Act 1993 effective. The law allows the administration to cultivate fish in ponds and other water-bodies under the government management if the owners fail to cultivate fish within a stipulated time.

When contacted the district fisheries-officer Abdur Rob said as the rivers and canals have silted up the fish production has come down sharply.

If manpower, necessary fund and massive programme are taken, fish production can be increased to a great extent, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Two buyers purchasing Indian Silver Cup (left) and Hilsa (right) from the Puran bazaar area in Magura town. An acute scarcity of locally produced fish has been prevailing in the district as many ponds and water bodies remain derelict. The water bodies need to be brought under pisciculture scheme to meet the demand of local people.

Problems grip Nilphamari Govt College

ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Nilphamari Government College faces a lot of problems.

The college has been freed from violence and cheating in examinations. Still the students are deprived of proper education due to lack of other educational facilities.

Role of the present principal Afzalul Haque was significant in bringing an end to anarchy and unhealthy atmosphere in the college campus.

Despite a healthy atmosphere here, the college is now plagued with various problems. The college was nationalised on May 7 in 1997. Honours course in three subjects were introduced initially which was raised to 10 in 1998. Such a positive move of the then administration paved the way for higher studies of the deprived section of the society.

Presently, 3,000 male and female students are studying in the college in intermediate, degree and honours level. Right from the beginning of

introduction of honours course, there was shortage of teachers. But presently, it has taken a serious turn. Against the requirement of eight teachers in each subject there exists only one teacher each in Bengali, Economics, Statistics, two each in English, Philosophy, Physics, Islamic History and Culture and four in Mathematics. In other departments similar scenario prevails. It is all the more disappointing that the Social Science Department has no teacher. Due to acute shortage of teachers in all faculties, classes in these subjects are not held regularly. It may sound unbelievable that in some subjects a single class was not held since starting of the course.

Picture in the science faculty is more bleak due to acute shortage of laboratory equipment. Students cannot have practical classes properly. In Physics Department there is no laboratory equipment. So the honours students could not have any practical class. Science honours examinees have to undergo practi-

cal examination covering 200 marks. But due to non-availability of laboratory equipment prescribed practical part of honours courses could not be completed so far, whereas the honours examinations will start from end October.

There is no sufficient books in the college library. The students are deprived of library facilities. Apart from these problems, there are shortage of table, chair and bench. During examination the college has to borrow these from nearby schools. As the college campus has no boundary wall, so cattles graze freely in the field and after dusk it becomes a den of anti-social elements.

General students studying in honours level expressed their frustration and dissatisfaction over the prevailing situation. Some of them went on to comment that despite a healthy atmosphere at the campus, they are being deprived of proper education for lack of proper educational facilities.

Acid attack on 11 in six months in 5 southwestern dists

UNB, Benapole

Despite enactment of tough law to curb acid violence, country's southwestern (SW) districts experienced 11 acid attacks in last six months.

At least two victims were killed and three others received grievous injuries in the attacks. The injured were fighting with their lives in hospital beds.

Sources said teenage and young girls were the victims of the attacks but elderly people or children were not spared.

Failing to realise dowry demand,

refusal to marry or love offer and previous rivalry were the causes behind the attacks, they said.

The victims who suffered acid burn included housewife Baby, 15 Rumana, 16, of Khulna, housewife Noorjahan of Ashashuni, Sathkira and Hazera Khatun, 40, and her son Alamgir, 22, of Keshabpur, Jessore, Babita, 16, of Kushtia and Nadira Akhter Mala, 20, of Bagerhat.

With permanent disfigurement, they are leading a miserable life in the society.

One killed in Tangail road accident

UNB, Tangail

One passenger was killed and 15 others were injured in a road mishap on Dhaka-Bogra highway in Kalihati upazila on Monday evening.

Police said the accident occurred on the link road of Bangabandhu Bridge east bank when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus from Pabna turned turtle beside the highway while giving side to a motorbike.

The motorbike rider also fell beside the road along with his vehicle and suffered injuries.

In the accident, bus passenger Golzar Hossain, 30, was killed and 15 others were injured.

The injured ones were admitted to Tangail General Hospital.

BNP activists allegedly ransack Dhubaura AL office

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Leaders of Dhubaura unit of Awami League (AL) alleged at a press conference at Mymensingh Press Club on Monday afternoon that BNP men ransacked the Dhubaura AL office and destroyed the portraits of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Sheikh Hasina, leader

of the Opposition in Parliament on August 31 when a protest procession was brought out following attack on Hasina's motorcade.

During the attack 15 AL leaders and activists including upazila AL Secretary Prioyatosh Biswas Babul, Upazila BCL president Mustafa Kamal Khan, Jubo League leaders Dulu, Anwar Hossain were

injured.

The attackers also destroyed valuables of the office worth about Tk 50,000.

Sramik League leader Yousuf Ali and Md Hazrat Ali were also arrested.

A case was lodged against 17 AL men, it was also alleged.



PHOTO: A K M MOHSIN

Plantation of Aman going on in full swing after recession of waters from the flood affected areas of Monirampur upazila in Jessore and Keshabpur upazila in Khulna.

Faridpur Medical College Hospital in bad shape

BSS, Faridpur

The 250-bed Faridpur Medical College Hospital is beset with various problems and is now regarded as "sick". As a result the patients are not getting proper treatment.

The hospital which started functioning in the first half of the 90's has been always suffering due to dearth of sufficient number of doctors, medicine, equipment and efficient administration. The superintendent of the hospital has been placed under suspension recently for his alleged failure to run the hospital administration properly.

According to a hospital source, the only X-Ray machine of the hospital has been out of order for a long time.

An important ingredient for anesthesia "Halothan" is allegedly

not available in the hospital. Patients are to purchase it from outside.

Patients also purchase other medicine from outside as most of the items are not supplied from the hospital. As a result, poor patients do not get anything from the hospital except bed and substandard diet.

Besides, there is dearth of mid-level doctors in the hospital as there are no registrars and assistant registrars. Those posts are lying vacant for a long time. Only 3 internee doctors are attending the severely injured patients though senior doctors are posted here.

A large number of people of at least eight districts come to this hospital for treatment. Local people have urged the concerned authorities concerned to make the hospital service oriented.

Killer awarded life-term imprisonment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A court in Sirajganj on Sunday convicted three persons and sentenced them to life term imprisonment in the sensational Ansar Ali murder case.

The convicts Belal, son of late Monir Sheikh of Belkuchi in Kamarkhand upazila, Zinnah Mondal, son of Rustom Ali of Kaliaharipur and Abdus Salam, son of Khorsed Ali of Kaliaharipur in Sirajganj Sadar upazila were also fined Tk 10,000 each, in default, to suffer one year more rigorous imprisonment (RI).

According to prosecution, Ansar Ali, son of Mojibur Rahman Sarkar of village Balukole in Kamarkhand upazila was murdered by the convicted persons on April 6, 1997. After murder his brother Abdus Salam filed a case against the accused. Police submitted chargesheet on October 30th in 1998.

Sirajganj District and Sessions Judge Alhaj Motiur Rahman after examining 15 witnesses announced the verdict.