

NEWS SNAPS

One killed in Rangamati road accident

UNB, Rangamati

A man was killed and another critically injured when an auto-rickshaw crushed under the wheels of a truck at Kathaloli in the town Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as Sabu Barua, 25. Police said the accident took place as the truck running on the wrong side of the road hit the three-wheelers. The injured, identified as Prayatosh Barua, 55, was admitted to sadar hospital.

Fake BDR personnel arrested

UNB, Chapainawabganj

A fake Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel was arrested from the Monkasa frontier in Shibganj upazila recently.

The arrested was identified as Mohidur, 20, of Atroshia village in the upazila. BDR officials said Mohidur was arrested on August 29 with the help of local people when he along with one of his friends was collecting toll from cow traders in the Rosunchak area posing as BDR men.

RU students bring out mute procession

BSS, Rajshahi

General Students Parishad (GSP), Rajshahi University (RU) unit, on Monday brought out a silent procession on the campus and submitted a memorandum to the RU vice-chancellor to press home their four-point demands.

Their demands include halting of a move by a certain group of students to create violence on the peaceful RU campus, stoppage of entry of outsiders into the campus and procession at the RU dormitories specially in the female halls. Some 300 students under the banner of "General Students Parishad" brought out the procession from the central library premises and paraded the campus carrying festoons and banners in support of their demands. After the procession, they submitted a memorandum to RU Vice-Chancellor Prof Faisal Islam Faruqi at his office. Meanwhile, Progressive Students Unity (PSU), RU unit, formed a human chain in front of the central library to press home their six-point demands.

510 bottles of phensidyl seized in Pabna

BSS, Pabna

Santhia Thana Police arrested three persons and recovered 510 bottles of phensidyl syrup on Sunday.

The arrested persons are Rajiz, 35, of village Etapara in Santhia upazila, Manik, 25 and Hablu, 26, of village Vingar in Bera upazila. Acting on a tip off, police raided the Vitaragram area in Santhia and searched an engine boat in the Ichhamoti river. They recovered phensidyl and arrested three persons with the help of local people. A case was filed with Santhia Thana against them.

Toll collectors beat up 3 in Bandarban

BSS, Bandarban

An alleged tribal group of miscreants beat up one forester and two employees injuring them seriously at Batchara Beat office in Bandarban for not paying tolls on Monday night.

Police said the armed criminals stormed into the Batchara beat office and demanded toll from the employees. After being refused, they beat up the forester and two guards. The injured persons were admitted to Bandarban Sadar Hospital. A case was registered with Bandarban police in this connection.

Acid thrown on father, daughter

BSS, Manikganj

A man and his three-year-old daughter became victims of acid throwing at village Mitora in Manikganj Sadar upazila on Monday night.

Police said some unidentified miscreants threw acid through a window on Abul Hossain, 30, his wife Rabeya and their daughter Sathie when they were sleeping in their room. The offenders locked up the room from outside before throwing acid. Hearing their cry for help, neighbours rushed to the house and rescued them by breaking open the lock. The victims were rushed to Manikganj Sadar Hospital from where they were shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Nursery business gains popularity

BSS, Meherpur

Nursery business in Meherpur has been gaining popularity during last few years. About 1,325 small and big nurseries have been set up in different parts in Meherpur town and its adjoining areas where at least 2,000 workers have been working to earn their living, according to the district forest department sources.

The number of nurseries in private sector has increased in three upazilas located at Mujibnagar, Gangni and Meherpur sadar. Many feel that government should encourage the small nursery owners by providing bank loan on easy terms to solve the employment problem as well as help them to be self-reliant.

Growers selling jute below output cost in Faridpur, Jamalpur

Market situation benefits middlemen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most of the growers in Faridpur and Jamalpur are selling their newly-harvested jute below the production cost due to dearth of buyers in the markets.

Our Faridpur correspondent reports: The newly-harvested jute, once known as the golden fibre of Bangladesh has started appearing at different markets in Faridpur.

But for want of purchasers the jute growers are being deprived of fair price. Most of them are being compelled to sell their produce at a price below its production cost. A few solvent growers are now often seen to take back home jute from markets because of excessive low price.

Faridpur is one of the jute producing districts in Bangladesh. The quality jute produced here is of better quality. So, some important jute markets grew up here. The markets are Talma, Kanaipur, Khalipur, Kamarkhali Char Chandpur, Mominikhar Hat, Char Hajiganj, Hat Krishnapur, Bhanga and Khasher hat. Jute is being sold in these markets between Tk 250 to 350 a maund according to quality which is less than the cost of production, some jute growers told this correspondent adding that jute has become a bane for them because of non-availability of buyers. Besides, production as well as quality of jute this year is not satisfactory due to prolonged drought followed by incessant rains.

Taking advantage of this situation some local middlemen locally called 'Farias' have been buying jute at throwaway prices from the financially helpless growers and hoarding them in the hope of making a lot of profit when the recession period of jute market ends.

According to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) sources, this year 34, 715 hectares of land have been brought under jute cultivation in eight upazilas of Faridpur with a production target of 53,887 tons.

Last year jute was cultivated on 23,677 hectares and

in 2000 jute was cultivated on 19,494 hectares of land with production targets of 18,8,626 tons and 12,9,334 tons respectively.

The comparative study shows that jute cultivation is on the increase at higher rate which has become almost double in two-year time.

When asked about the causes of rapid increasing trend of jute cultivation every year despite incurring loss, some farmers said that they had cultivated jute on more lands because of getting jute sticks which are sold at high price bringing overall profit.

Our Jamalpur correspondent adds: A large number of farmers are taking their newly-harvested jute to different markets in Jamalpur to sell the same at fair prices.

But they are returning home disappointed due to absence of buyers. Taking advantage of the situation some middlemen are purchasing jute from the farmers at throwaway prices. The farmers burdened with loan find no other alternative but to sell their jute below the cost of production. The production cost of one maund of jute is between Tk 260 to 270, but the farmers are selling their produce between Tk 210 to 220 per maund.

The government and other private companies have not started jute purchase as yet. As a result the middlemen are reaping the benefit.

According to sources of DAE, 11,000 hectares of land have been brought under jute cultivation in all the seven upazilas in the current season with a production target of one lakh bales of jute. But the production will exceed the target.

Jamalpur is well-known for producing quality jute. But the poor prices of jute have frustrated the growers. Many farmers could not repay the loans borrowed from the money lenders at high rate of interest. Failing to get return many farmers have already lost interest in jute cultivation.

Artificial crisis of insulin in Narail worries diabetic patients

UNB, Narail

Diabetic patients in greater Jessore district are suffering from a growing sense of anxiety due to insulin crisis created by a section of unscrupulous medicine traders and importers.

Leading medicine traders of the region accused some importers of creating the insulin crisis.

According to an estimate, there

are over 2 lakh diabetic patients in the region.

The price of insulin injections has virtually doubled over the last few days endangering the lives of the diabetic patients.

Market sources said France-origin Humilin brand insulin was selling at Tk 700-800 against Tk 450-500 two weeks back. The prices of other brands of insulin like Mixtrid, Acxtriped and Novo have

also marked an unusual rise.

Taking advantage of inadequate supply of insulin, a section of greedy drug traders are charging exorbitant prices for oral tablets like Compride, Daonil, Secrin and Comet.

Following the abnormal price hike, many patients were making frenzied rush at diabetic associations for insulin to buy it at a fixed rate.

Kotchandpur trader rescued after 3 days of abduction

UNB, Jhenidah

Local people rescued a kidnapped businessman of Kotchandpur upazila Friday, three days after his abduction from Kaliganj Dhopadi bazaar.

Police said Sunil Ghosh, 36, of Bhabanipur in Kotchandpur Municipality was picked up by miscreants on the night of August 27 while he was returning home from his business establishment.

Three days later while the miscreants were shifting Sunil from their hideout to another location through the bazaar in a scooter, Sunil cried out for help and the hoodlums dropped him there sensing trouble.

In another incident, Kaliganj thana police recovered two shutter guns and four rounds of bullet from a car left behind by five youths after the law enforcers challenged them while moving suspiciously in the area Friday night.

27 injured in separate incidents

UNB, Brahmanbaria

At least 27 people were injured in separate incidents in Nabinagar and Sarail upazilas on Monday.

Police said 10 people were injured in an attack by gamblers at Khagatoa village in Nabinagar as they protested their anti-social activities.

Three of the injured were admitted to local health complex. In another incident, 17 people were injured in a clash between two groups of people over re-excavating a pond at Dharanti village in Sarail upazila.

Those who suffered serious wounds in the clash were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

Separate cases were filed.

Udichi observes hunger strike at Daulatpur

UNB, Khulna

Local unit of Udichi observed a daylong hunger strike Daulatpur Tuesday protesting the rising trend of killing, rape and other anti-social activities across the country.

They also demanded cancellation of tenders of all jute mills in Daulatpur and called for upgrading BL College to a university.

Fifty cultural activists took part in the token hunger strike at Shaheed Minar Chattar.

Khulna Press Club president Manik Saha broke their hunger strike giving them cold drinks.



PHOTO: STAR

Thousands of people parade Sathkira-Kaliganj road in a procession demanding immediate arrest and punishment to the killers of a six-year-old boy. The ill-fated little boy, Mahbul Alam Sajib, son of Manirul Islam of Bahera in Debhata upazila in Sathkira was strangled by miscreants in a bush near their house on August 31.

Kalia Health Complex in Narail needs care

UNB, Narail

Many patients are unwilling to visit Kalia Upazila Health Complex in Narail as its handful of doctors cannot provide necessary treatment for lack of basic facilities.

According to official sources, a good number of posts of physicians have long been lying vacant at the hospital and repeated appeals to the higher authorities to fill up the vacant posts went unheeded.

There are many complaints that the hospital cannot provide the patients with medicine for which it receives funds from the government.

Besides, the number of beds in the hospital compared to the pres-

sure of patients is too inadequate. Many serious patients are seen lying on the floor for lack of beds.

Allegations are also there that the food supplied by contractors for the patients of the hospital are substandard, as the hospital management does not properly supervise the food supply process.

Even the hospital has no sufficient mosquito nets although the outbreak of dengue fever has caused panic in many districts of the country apart from capital Dhaka.

Now local people wonder: Will this upazila health complex ever be able to regain their shattered confidence by providing minimum health service they need?

Two tortured housewives fighting for life at Thakurgaon hospital

UNB, Thakurgaon

Two housewives who were tortured allegedly by their husbands were fighting for life at modern hospital in Thakurgaon town.

Police and hospital sources said truck driver Mahbubur Rahman of Jagannathpur village in Sadar upazila beat his wife Rowshan Ara Begum, 24, Friday as she protested his extramarital affair. At one stage, Mahbub tore her sex organ.

She was operated upon at the

hospital. Police arrested her husband.

In another incident, Fayezeeddin, a rickshaw-puller of Salandor village in the upazila, tied up his wife with a tree and beat her overnight on Aug 27 accusing her of indulging in an extramarital affair. He also shaved her head and poured pepper dust into her secret organ.

Later, local UP chairman Mukut Chowdhury rescued her and sent her to the hospital in a critical condition.

Police arrested Fayezeeddin.



PHOTO: A.K.M. MOHSIN

Now is the season of Hilsa. The most favourite fish of the people of Bangladesh are found abundantly in the Padma. At present four pieces of Hilsa are being sold between Tk 600-800 at Aricha-Daultadia ghat (terminal) situated on the bank of the Padma.