

NEWS SNAPS

Abducted teenage girl rescued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

An abducted teenage girl was rescued on Friday from Khoga village in Dimla upazila in Nilphamari.

A 20-year-old young man named Chabul Hossain of the aforementioned village picked up the girl, Sofron, 13, a student of class VII. Afterwards, he kept her confined at his brother-in-law's house, according to police. Police rescued the victim from that house and arrested Chabul's brother-in-law Afizar, 28.

Alleged drug trader held in Munshiganj

UNB, Munshiganj

An alleged drug trader was arrested from the town on Friday night. Police said they raided the house of Shahjahan, 30, at Jagodhatirpara at about 11pm and caught him red-handed. Later he was sent to jail. Under the protection of a vested quarter, he had long been carrying out illegal drug business, police said.

10 injured in clash over trifling matter

UNB, Brahmanbaria

Some 10 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups in Nasirnagar upazila on Saturday. Witnesses said the trouble erupted in Chatalpar area when the two feuding groups clashed over a trifling matter. One of the injured Abdur Rahim, 50, was admitted to Nasirnagar Upazila Health Complex.

Fish worth Tk 6 lakh perished

UNB, Brahmanbaria

Fish worth Tk 6 lakh were perished due to poisoned water in a pond of Muslim Boarding in the town on Friday.

Leaseholder of the pond ABM Tymur alleged that being jealous of his business success the miscreants poured poison into the pond.

Shots from districts



Two lady teachers of Child Laboratory School in Narayanganj feeding anti-dengue homeopathic vaccine to their students. Headmistress Jahanara Begum inaugurated the two-day programme at 10 in the morning on September 8 where founder of the school Samsuzzaman and elite of the town were present.



Artists rendering songs at Tangail on the occasion of the International Literacy Day-2002 on September 8. The programme was jointly organised by Tangail district administration, non-formal education department and the district information office.



Sylhet City Corporation Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran condoles the death of renowned sports journalist and freedom fighter Tipu Majumder. Sylhet Press Club organised the condolence meeting on Thursday at its auditorium.



Pedestrians suffer a lot while pass by the flood damaged Gaibandha-Balashi road while some rickshawpullers make hard toil to pull their rickshaws through the same road. Almost all the roads in the flood affected Gaibandha are in bad shape.

Flood-damaged roads in Gaibandha need repair

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The flood damaged roads and bridges in Gaibandha are yet to be repaired.

Transportation of passengers and goods remained suspended for nearly two months causing untold sufferings to people.

According to the district relief and rehabilitation department, a total of 255 kilometres of roads have been damaged completely and 1,231 partially in the last flood. Besides, 45 bridges and culverts collapsed.

The affected roads are:

Gaibandha-Balashi road, Giabandha-Sadullapur-Barodargha road, Gaibandha-Dariyapur-Belka road, Bharatkhalai-Fulchari road, Gaibandha-Shaghata road. Plying of vehicles remained suspended through these roads.

During her visit to the flood affected areas in Gaibandha, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia committed to start reconstruction work of the damaged roads, bridges and culverts just after recession of flood water, but the concerned department is yet to take steps in this regard.



PHOTO: K M REZAUL HAQUE

Four drown in flood water in Khulna

UNB, Khulna

Four people including three children drowned in flood water at Koira upazila in Khulna in the last four days till Saturday.

Locals said the victims were washed away when the floodwater entered into the vast areas of the upazila due to the damage of Water Development Board embankment.

The deceased were identified as Hasan, 7, Sokina, 30, her daughter Sufia, 5 and Ashikur Rahman, 3.

Diarrhoea claims one in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

An eight-year old girl died while 250 others were attacked by diarrhoea and dysentery other waterborne diseases at Raiganj, Chowhali, Belkuchi and Shahjapur in Sirajganj within two week.

The dead was identified as Momena Khatun of village Telejana in Raiganj upazila.

The number of dysentery patients were increasing day by day. Hundreds were attacked by diarrhoea, dysentery and other waterborne diseases in Belkuchi, Chowhali and Shahjapur upazilas.

Local hospital sources said shortage of medicine and saline were prevailing.

The civil surgeon of Sirajganj informed that his staffs were working in five upazilas of the district as part of flood rehabilitation programme.

However, patients complained that no medicine were being supplied to them from the Sirajganj General Hospital though the hospital sources denied it.

Huge quantity of phensidyl syrup seized from 3 dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police in separate drives seized a huge quantity of phensidyl syrup from Kushtia, Comilla and Sirajganj recently.

UNB from Kushtia reports: Police seized phensidyl syrup from Doulatpur upazila in Kushtia on Saturday.

They raided a Kushtia-bound bus at Allardarga bazaar in the morning and seized a total of 1,096 bottles of phensidyl from the vehicle.

Later three people were arrested from the bus for carrying the contraband item. They were identified as Badsha Mia, Raihanuddin and Khadem.

In another drive, plainclothes men led by SI Lokman seized 116 bottles of phensidyl from Khalisakunzi bazaar.

It was alleged that only 112 bottles of phensidyl out of the total

1,212 were deposited with the police station.

Another report from Comilla says: Police recovered 3,000 bottles of phensidyl from the Suwaganj area in Sadar upazila early Saturday.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided a Tangail-bound truck at Gangadighirpar at about 4am and seized the contraband item worth about Tk 6 lakh from the vehicle.

They also arrested the truck driver, Ruhul Amin, 40, and seized the vehicle. A case was filed.

A report from Sirajganj adds: A huge quantity of phensidyl syrup were seized from a car on the western side of the Jamuna Bridge Saturday.

Police said they intercepted the Dhaka-bound car at about 9:30am and recovered 560 bottles of phensidyl.

The car driver managed to flee the scene, police said. But locals alleged that police released the driver after taking bribe.

Police also arrested a man along with 180 pieces of Indian saree from a bus in the Hatikumrul area here on Saturday.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided a Dhaka-bound bus at about 8:30am and arrested a youth, Jahangir Alam, 25, with the smuggled sarees.

In another drive, police seized some 95 kilograms of Indian spices from a Dhaka-bound coach at Chandaikona bazaar in Royganj upazila on the same day.

Later police arrested four people identified as Ebadat Ali, Selim, Shahinuzzaman Shaheen and Abdul Haq. They hailed from Basail and Mirzapur upazilas of Tangail.

Unnatural deaths up in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The number of unnatural deaths is increasing alarmingly in Satkhira.

Police said, a 13-year old boy committed suicide by hanging himself in a tree near his house at village Patkelghata in Tala upazila on August 3. The victim was identified as Liton, 13, son of Siddique Moral.

On August 5, Rasheda Begum, 21, wife of Aminur Rahman of village Sheara in Kaligonj upazila was beaten to death allegedly by her husband for dowry.

In another incident, an old man Solaiman Kabir, 60, Of village Noabeki Biradaymi in Shyamnagar upazila was killed by tiger while he was catching fish in the Sundarbans on August 6.

On August 6, the body of one Abul Kashem of village Haroddah in sadar upazila was recovered from a

paddy field of village Bhomra in the same upazila. Police said some miscreants killed him.

In the other incident, a housewife Hamida Khatun, 30, daughter of Aminuddin of village Bakchara in sadar upazila was beaten to death by miscreants on August 7. The cause of the killing was not known immediately, police said.

On the same day, the body of Nazma Begum, 18, daughter of Abu Taleb of village Baikari in sadar upazila was found lying at the verandah of Satkhira hospital. Police and hospital sources said some unknown youths brought the body and left the hospital.

On August 8, police recovered the body of house wife Sandha Rani, 35, wife of Parimal Biswas of village Kundinria in Assassuni upazila from WAPDA embankment at Dhuhilur village in Sadar upazila. Police said, following family trouble

the victim came out of her house and took poison at the place of occurrence where she died.

On the same day, an old man Jalaluddin, 60, of village Aichagati in Kalera upazila was killed by miscreants while he was planting a fruit bearing tree allegedly in a disputed land, police said.

On August 9, a house wife named Salmakhatun, 26, wife of Abdul Gafoor Sardar of village Mohterbaria in Assassuni upazila committed suicide by taking poison following family troubles, police said.

On the same day, one Tarak Chandra Sadar, 35, son of Subul Chandra Sardar of village Baliapur in Assassuni upazila was killed by thunderbolt which hit him while he was working in a paddy field, eye-witnesses said.

An under trial prisoner Mere Ali, 60, of village Shuvankarkati in Tala

upazila died of heart attack in Satkhira jail on August 10. He was arrested by police in connection with a case filed with Tala thana on July 28. The relatives of the victim alleged that he was tortured to death inside the jail.

On the same day, Fazar ALI, 35, of village Mahera in Debhata was killed in a road accident at Puspakati on Sathira-Kaligonj road when a bus ran over him.

In another road accident on August 12, Rabin Sarkar, 34, son of Paritosh Sarkar of village Shara Danga in Tala upazila was killed when a bus knocked him down at Tirishmile on Satkhira-Khulna road.

In the other incident, Shukur Ali, 28, of village Bardal in Assassuni upazila was electrocuted and died on the spot at a rice mill of Mahmudpur in sadar upazila on August 12. The victim who worked at the mill, came in contact with live wire and died on the spot.

Untapped minerals yet to be explored in N region

BSS, Rajshahi

The socio-economic scenario of the northern region may be changed with the implementation of many of the prospective projects. Some of such projects include the exploration of untapped minerals of the region worth billions of taka.

Exploration and excavation of heavy metals from the river bed of the Padma near Godagari is one of such projects.

A survey conducted by the then Pakistan government in 1970, showed a huge deposit of heavy metals like Zircon, Magnetite, Granite and Monazite at a reasonable depth of the river bed.

The survey also found a high fluctuation of Geiger Counter indicating the presence of radio-active metals like Thorium, Plutonium and Uranium in the same area. No proper steps were taken later to tap these resources.

Deposits of mercury has been found in the Gobartali area of Chapainawabganj district. In 1982, Tk 50 million had been sanctioned for preliminary works of exploration of mercury. But later the fund was

withdrawn, a relevant source said.

The Jaipurhat Cement and Lime Stone Project remained abandoned for about 20 years even after spending more than Tk 100 cr. Most of the machinery for the projects are still lying under the open sky and the huge infrastructures like the staff quarters, offices and other establishments remained uncared for 25 years. A lame excuse has been shown that the excavation of the lime stone may not be commercially viable.

But foreign experts' opinion show that the vast reserve of Limestone which spread miles after miles beneath the surface of Joypurhat and Bogra districts lies only 1000 to 1700 feet below the surface and in age, component and fossil quality the lime stone is only compared to the lime stone of Takerhat of Sylhet district.

The chemical analysis of lime shows that it is high in quality and specially suited for making cement. The components of the lime stone found in the well number 4 are as follows: 1. Calcium Oxide-50.85 per cent, 2. Silicon Dioxide-5.32 per cent, 3. Aluminium Oxide-1.06 per

cent, 4. Magnesium Oxide-0.84 per cent, 5. Coersion due to ignition-41.20 per cent.

A report says that about 10,00,000 metric tons of clinkers may be produced annually from the Jaipurhat project.

A huge deposit of Bituminous or Gandoana coal, the best coal in the world, has been found in Jamalganj of Naogaon and Rajshahi. The coal is comparable to the coal of Raniganj in India.

A total of seven layers of coal deposit lies 2800 to 3800 feet below earth.

According to a report published by the Krupp Company, which made a survey on the coal of Jamalganj shows that the exploration of the coal is commercially viable.

The Krupp report says that the daily coal production from the Jamalganj mine may exceed 10,000 metric tons and the coal may be extracted for next 60 years.

The primary survey shows (in 1980 by Ahmed and Zaher) the total deposit of the coal in Jamalganj is 703,000,000 metric tons and may be increased after extensive survey.

Fund shortage hampers construction of bridge on Mohananda

UNB, Chapainawabganj

Construction of Choudala bridge on the Mohananda river has become uncertain due to fund constraint.

Construction of the bridge began eight years ago but the work remained stalled since long as no fresh sanction was made by the government.

Roads and Highways Department undertook a project to construct a bailey bridge on the river in 1995 at a cost of Tk 3.63 cr to develop the communication facilities in Gomostapur, Shibganj and Nachole upazilas.

Later, a decision was taken to construct a complete bridge by 1998 changing the previous design. The then communications minister laid the foundation stone of the Choudhala bridge in August, 1995.

Roads and Highways Department sources said 90 per

cent work of the bridge has already been completed. But the rest work remained suspended due to shortage of fund.

Accused in murder case arrested

UNB, Munshiganj

Police arrested a top criminal from the Goalpara area in the town on Saturday.

The arrested was identified as Raja, 26, accused in the sensational Jalal commissioner murder case.

Police said they raided the house of one person named Ruma in the evening and caught Raja red-handed.