

NEWS SNAPS

Three killed in separate incidents

BSS, Barisal

Three persons were killed in three separate incidents in Barisal on Sunday. Police said, Asad, 8, was killed at Muladi upazila at 10 am near the house by lightning when he was playing. Five transformers and some meters were also damaged by the thunderbolt. One woman named Jarifon Begum, 65, died here at the Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH). She was injured seriously being attacked by her opponent over land feud. She was admitted to SBMCH in a critical condition on September 23 where she succumbed to her injuries. Another person named Moslem, 25, of village Badury in Memania union of Hizla upazila was killed by hanging on Saturday night. The cause of his death could not be known till now. The body of the victim was sent to morgue for autopsy. Separate cases were lodged with respective thanas in these connections.

One killed in Khulna road accident

BSS, Khulna

A van driver was killed when a bus ran over him at Baliakhali in Dumuria thana of Khulna recently.

The van driver was identified as Abdur Rahim Khokon, 35, son of Abul Hussein. Police and local sources said Khokon met the accident when a Paickgacha bound passenger bus collided with his van on Khulna-Paickgacha road, killing him on the spot. The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy. The bus driver managed to escape. A case has been lodged with Dumuria police station.

Two arrested for rape, murder

BSS, Rajshahi

Two persons including a housewife were arrested by Puthia police in connection with rape and killing of a young girl here on Friday.

The arrested were identified as -- Rakib, 32, son of Syed Ali and Dolly Mohanta, 35, wife of Shibu Chowdhury, of village Krishnapur in the same upazila. Police quoting the arrested persons said Syed Ali and Mahtab Ali forcibly took the teenaged girl Shahnaz to the house of Shibu Chowdhury and raped her one after another on Thursday night. After the rape, they slaughtered the girl and dumped the body at a nearby place. A case was registered with Puthia thana in this connection.

Adequate street lights demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Frequent absence of street lights in different areas of Faridpur municipality is causing much inconveniences to the town dwellers.

Road accidents have increased due to absence of street lights at night. Anti-social activities, particularly snatching, robbery and stealing have developed in the area during night hours. Patrol by police and VDP is also hampered at night due to absence of street lights.

7 bandits with arms, ammunition held

BSS, Sherpur

Police arrested alleged top criminal and most wanted armed robbers Selim, Sohag and their five accomplices with two firearms and six bullets from their possession at Melandoh upazila in Jamalpur on Friday.

Serpur and Jamalpur thana police in a joint drive arrested them. Other five bandits identified by police are Fakir, Zinnah, Shakhwat, Jilani and Gasha. They were wanted in a number of robbery and other criminal case. A few days back they looted a boat with goods. A case was filed with Jamalpur Sadar police station in this connection.

Bridge construction project completed

BSS, Tangail

Roads and Highway Department executed 11 projects in Tangail at a cost of Tk 2 cr 2 lakh in the last fiscal year.

According to officials source, the project included construction of 8 Bailey bridge, culverts and pipe-culverts, earthwork on 27-kilometre road, pavement and protective measures of different roads in 11 upazilas.

Bid to build alternativ rail line protested

UNB, Brahmanbaria

The Akhaura Bypass Rail Line Construction Resistance Committee held a meeting at Akhaura rail station Saturday protesting the construction of alternative rail line in the railway junction.

Convenor of the committee and chairman of Akhaura Municipality M Nurul Haq Bhuiyan presided over the meeting where, among others, advocate Yasir Khan, former UP chairman Mahabubul Alam Bhuiyan spoke.

They threatened to go for tougher action programme if the project is not cancelled by Oct 15 next.

Bandit surrenders with arms, ammunition

BSS, Barisal

A notorious inter-district armed robber of Pirojpur surrendered with three arms and five bullets to police here on Thursday.

Police said, Jahangir Hossain, 28, a notorious inter-district bandit of Bhandaria upazila of Pirojpur district, surrendered here with two pipe-guns, one revolver and five bullets. Deputy Commissioner Ajmol Hossain and Police Super Abdullah-Al-Azad Chowdhury were present at the time of surrender. After his surrender, police sent him to jail hajat.

Smuggled goods recovered

BSS, Chapainawabganj

The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) patrol team of six battalion recovered a huge quantity of smuggled Indian sarees worth about Tk 10 lakh 38 thousand from a Dhaka bound night coach coming from Rohanpur on Thursday.

According to official sources, the BDR patrol team acting on secret information raided the passenger coach along with a first class magistrate and recovered a huge quantity of smuggled Indian sarees. Besides BDR also recovered Indian cattle, carbide and spare parts of bicycle worth Tk 50,000 from the bordering villages of Telkupi, Singnagar and Kansat. Separate cases were registered with sadar police station in this connection.

450-megawatt power plant to be set up

BSS, Bheramara

A 450-megawatt combined cycle power plant will be set up here next year at a cost of over Tk 1000-crore.

State Minister of Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud said this while addressing a public meeting organised by Bheramara thana unit of BNP on Thursday. Power Development Board and a private company will jointly implement the project within three years, the minister added. Bheramara thana BNP president Jalal Uddin Master presided over the meeting while Professor Shahidul Islam, MP, was special guest.

Later, the State Minister visited the project site at the western bank of the Padma near the Ganges-Kobatak irrigation project here.

Special jt operation against outlaws

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A joint team of magistrates, CID (Criminal Investigating Department), BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) and police on September 25 have started special operation against the outlaws in the remote areas of Sirajganj.

The Rajshahi range police sources said, the joint operation was launched following a directive of the home ministry to arrest immediately the killers of four policemen at Randhunbari police camp and to recover the looted arms.

The team will raid every corner of Sirajganj and the remote shoal lands of the Jamuna.

In an another development, authorities closed all the 20 policemen of Randhunbari police camp to Sirajganj police line and instead posted two platoons of Armed Police Battalion (APB) and Range

Reserve Force (RRF) at the police camp.

Heavy rains in 5 N dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A heavy downpour following depression in the Bay in 24 hours have disrupted normal life in the bordering city of Rajshahi and other northern districts.

Many low-lying areas of Rajshahi, Natore, Bogra, Naogaon and Rangpur have been submerged affecting the standing crops in many areas.

Local Met offices recorded 108 mm of rainfall in Natore in last 24 hours while 79 mm in Bogra, 245 mm in Rangpur, and 55 mm in Rajshahi.



PHOTO: HOSSAIN SERAJ

Four children play with nature at village Niznanduali in Sadar upazila of Magura. Rural children lack recreational facilities. Proper care is not taken for their balanced growth. Child Rights Week began from yesterday with an appeal to all to help establish children's rights and groom them as worthy citizens to face the challenges of the 21st century. But will scores of neglected children like the four in this picture get the opportunity to grow as healthy children?

Erosion plays havoc in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

With the recession of water, Padma erosion has taken a serious turn at Char Tepakhala near Faridpur town.

Nearly 5,000 people of 17 villages in the area have been rendered homeless by the erosion of the Padma in the last few days beginning from September 24.

Besides, Gendu Moller Hat with at least 100 shops, a school, a mosque, a madrasah, a union parishad office and 1,000 dwelling houses in the area have been washed away by the Padma.

The erosion victims have taken shelter on the high

lands and in the houses of their relatives.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Faridpur visited the spot and sanctioned 25 metric tons of rice and Tk 1 lakh for immediate distribution among the erosion victims.

Faridpur town situated one and half kilometers away from the Padma ravaged area has been badly exposed to erosion. Panic of erosion has gripped those who are living in the eastern-side of Faridpur town.

Local people have urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to control the erosion.

Two killed in Sirajganj road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Two people including a woman were killed and 30 others were injured in a road mishap on Dhaka-Bogra highway at village Pachila in Sholongi thana in Sirajganj at 4.00pm on September 25.

The two deceased were identified as a 50-year old man and a 50-year old woman. Their names could not be known.

Of the injured, 25 were released

after first-aid and the other five serious injured were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital.

Police said the accident occurred when a Bogra bound bus from Sirajganj plunged into a road side ditch as the driver of the bus lost control of the steering.

Police seized the bus. However, the driver and conductor of the bus managed to flee.

A case was filed with the Sholongi police station in this regard.

Bell metal industry of Jamalpur faces closure

BSS, Jamalpur

Over two hundred years old glorious 'Kansha' (bell metal) industry of Islampur in Jamalpur is in a declining condition.

Once Karmakerpara at village Dariabad of Islampur upazila was famous in the subcontinent for its unique craftsmanship on bell metal. Jagat Chandra Karmaker and Prosanna Kumar Karmaker of this area won gold medals for their excellent workmanship during a trade fair in London in 1932.

After the Liberation War, craftsmen had either left the area or gave up their traditional profession. Now only 60 craftsmen belonging to 22 families remain engaged in the profession.

Shortage of raw materials, inability to arrange funds to modernise their production units and explore export prospects also contributed to the decline of the bell metal industry. The village now has less than 15 bell metal units each employing six to seven workers.

Some elderly bell metal workers informed that each of the units was capable of producing five kilograms of utensils. About 18 tumblers or bowls can be made out of one kilo of bell metal, they said.

The craftsmen can also make

plates, flower vases, cups, jugs, and spoons. As they supply mostly ordinary utensils depending on the work orders of 'Mohajans', they get very little opportunity these days to demonstrate their artistic skill.

The demand for utensils made of bell metal has decreased because of the availability of cheaper aluminum, plastic and melamine substitutes.

Attempts to improve the lot of the craftsmen through collective efforts had met with little success. For instance an association styled "Bell Metal Artisans' Welfare Society Limited" was set up in 1960. In 1980, the society distributed Tk. 1.8 lakh as loan to the craftsmen. Of this loan Tk. 1.6 lakh was realised. The balance of Tk. 20,000 could not be recovered as the beneficiaries either had changed their profession or had gone elsewhere. The association has applied to the government to waive the part of the unrealised loan.

Subsequently a project of Tk. 6.75 lakh was drawn up for import of raw materials like copper and tung and introduce the country's bell-metal craft in the world markets. But due to lack of proper patronage the project did not go beyond the planning stage.



PHOTO: STAR

A devastating fire in the early morning on Thursday at Paglabazaar, an important commercial centre in Sunamganj, gutted property worth Tk one crore. Twenty commercial establishments including wholesale stores of paddy were totally burnt in the fire which was brought under control by the fire brigade personnel of Sunamganj, Sylhet and Chhatak after four hours of fight

CARE helps improve economic condition of indigenous people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US-based non-governmental organisation, CARE has taken up a massive programme for economic emancipation of indigenous people under a pisciculture project in the northern district of Thakurgaon.

It has chosen an area in Balia union of Thakurgaon Sadar upazila, where majority of people are poor and belong to indigenous community, for pisciculture in flooded paddy fields.

The CARE under its Go-

Interfish project with the support from the Fisheries Department, released some 200 Kgs of fish fries of different local spices on 350 acres of flooded paddy lands on the occasion of National Fisheries Week '2002.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Thakurgaon Jalal Ahmed formally released the fish fries aiming at reducing poverty of the local indigenous people.

According to the Fisheries Department, the fish fries released in flooded paddy land

would be matured in next six months and officials expects that more than Tk five lakh could be earned through selling fish if the fish fries grow up properly.

Previously the local community earned about Tk 50,000 through selling fish cultivated in the similar lands in this area. The project of the paddy-fish cultivation simultaneously would greatly meet demand of protein and economic emancipation of the indigenous people of the locality.

Earlier, DC of Thakurgaon Jalal Ahmed, district fisheries official Mujibur Rahman, upazila fisheries official ABM Anwarul Islam, local CARE official Abdul Awal, Balia UP Chairman Afazuddin Bhuiyan and local indigenous leader Rajen Hasda spoke on the occasion at the Barobalia Krishak-Krishani School ground.

The DC in his speech assured the local indigenous community to extend all possible support for their development and alleviation of poverty. He hoped that the indigenous community would be organised and continue efforts to utilise local resources for their socio-economic development.

Leaders of the indigenous community expressed their gratitude to the fisheries department and other concerned authorities for their assistance to them to improve their condition and hoped that they would get such support in future.



Deputy Commissioner of Thakurgaon Jalal Ahmed releases fish fries in a paddy field at Balia union in Thakurgaon. The fries were released as part of a programme of CARE to improve the economic condition of indigenous people under a pisciculture project.