

NEWS SNAPS

Steps to curb woman repression

BSS, Jhenidah
A meeting of the district law and order committee here Sunday reviewed the overall situation and decided to take effective measures against repression to women and children.
Held at the conference room of the Deputy Commissioner, the meeting called for taking concerted efforts with the members of the public in combating the curse of dowry, torture, rape and other heinous crimes from the society. Elite including local leaders, journalists and high officials attended the meeting.
Deputy Commissioner Abu Bakar Mohamed Shajahan presided over while police super Monjur Kadir Khan presented a report on the district's overall law and order position.

50-bed girls hostel in Faridpur soon

BSS, Faridpur
A 50-bed girls hostel for the students of Faridpur Deaf and Dumb School will be constructed at an estimated cost of Tk. 43.75 lakh.
Social Welfare Minister recently laid the foundation of the hostel at the school premises near sadar upazila complex. According to official sources, the project was taken up under the government's "Development of schools for the retarded children" of the Social Welfare Ministry. The area of the hostel building will be 4000 square feet. The capacity of the existing hostel is 50 -- but with a separate arrangement for the girl students. The work on the hostel is expected to be completed by February 2003.

Work on 642 uplift projects going on

BSS, Tangail
Development work on 642, out of total 749 rural infrastructure uplift projects at a cost of Tk 43 cr are progressing fast in 11 upazilas.
The work includes 245 community clinics involving Tk 8 cr, construction of 13 union parishads and renovation of 18 market buildings at Tk 3 cr, and development of 468 primary schools at a cost of Tk 27 cr, LGED sources said. Besides, the Education Engineering Department under the Ministry of Education has undertaken a project to construct 39 educational institutions in Tangail at a cost of Tk 7 cr. Necessary steps to implement as many as 102 more projects covering health, local government educational and other fields are being finalised.



PHOTO: STAR

State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources A K M Mosharrif Hossain distributes prizes among the winners of various competitions held recently at the local indoor stadium to mark the International Disaster Reduction Day. The district disaster management department and World Vision Mymensingh ADP jointly arranged the programme.

Rangpur Sugar Mills may fall short of output target

K M REZAUL HAQUE, Gaibandha

Rangpur Sugar Mills in Gaibandha may fall short of production target this season due to poor supply of sugarcane.
Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) has fixed a countrywide target of production of sugar at two lakh 25 thousand 430 metric tons by crushing 28 lakh 20 thousand tons of cane in this crushing season.
The authority also directed all its mills to begin crushing by October 18. But each of the mills is yet to fix up the target of production.
Meanwhile, the sugarcane growers of the Rangpur Sugar Mills zone area are yet to get their outstanding bills amounting to Tk 3 crore 50 lakh from the mills authorities.
Earlier, the growers supplied cane at the gate of the mills.
Now they are reluctantly utilising the inputs for producing molasses

through manual process in stead of supplying cane to the mills authorities.
However BSFIC expects to achieve the production target despite damage of sugarcane due to adverse weather in July and August this year. In the last crushing season of 2001-2002, all the sugar mills under BSFIC produced a total of two lakh four thousand 329 tons of sugar.
The Rangpur Sugar Mills authority is worried for scanty supply of cane during the ensuing crushing season. Growers in the mills zone area now prefer producing molasses to supplying sugarcane at the mills gate. As a result huge quantity of sugarcane are being used for production of molasses which has great demand in the remote village markets.
Growers have lost interest in supplying sugarcane in the mill gate because of alleged harassment in payment of bills which often remain

outstanding for years together, according to local people.
A total of 48 power crushers are in operation for producing molasses in the Gabindaganj area. Despite restriction of the mills authority to use power crusher for producing molasses, at present it is being produced at random causing shortage of inputs in the mills in the ongoing crushing season.
It is widely alleged that mismanagement, corruption, inefficiency and overemployment at Rangpur Sugar Mills lead to recurring losses.
Earlier, with an aim of turning the mills profitable, the authority shrunk its expenditure like overtime, bonus and other undue privilege, but such measures produced no tangible result, rather than continuous labour unrest.
Demanding payment of outstanding bills, the growers occasionally launch agitation programmes, but the mills authority is quite indifferent to repay the same. So a tendency has developed among the growers to receive hard cash by producing molasses in recent time.
A total of 32 power crushers and 16 manual units are in operation in and around Gobindaganj upazila which continues to produce molasses in remote areas defying restriction of the mills authority.
Besides, this year flood and subsequent pest-attack have hampered much the production of sugarcane in Gobindaganj upazila.

Cross-border issues discussed at BDR-BSF flag meeting in Panchagarh

UNB, Panchagarh

In the wake of killing of Bangladeshi citizens by Indian Border Security Force (BSF), a commander-level flag meeting between Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and BSF was held at Paharpara frontier in Boda upazila Thursday.
The meeting discussed woman and child trafficking, cross-border trade, infiltration of Indian miscreants into Bangladesh and obstruction by BSF troops in repairing bridges in the frontier areas of greater Rangpur and Dinajpur districts.
BDR sources said the meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere and both the sides agreed to resolve contentious issues.
A five-member Bangladesh delegation led by BDR Sector

Commander of Rangpur region Colonel Enayet Karim attended the meeting. BSF Commander of Shiliguri region DIG Balabir Singh led the Indian delegation.

Body of youth recovered

UNB, Munshiganj

The body of a youth was recovered from Burchar in Gazaria upazila on Wednesday.
The deceased was identified as Jahangir, 16, a phone-fax businessman of Bejgaon in Louhajang upazila. Police arrested two people Suruj and Latif of Louhajang for their alleged involvement in the killing. A case was filed.

Miscreants cut tendons of legs of Noakhali BNP leader

UNB, Noakhali

A local leader of BNP was critically injured as miscreants cut off the tendons of his legs at Chowkidar hat in Sadar upazila Tuesday night.
Police and witnesses said 10-12 armed miscreants swooped on the Chowkidar hat (a weekly market) at about 10 pm and started

beating some people.
At one stage, they demanded Tk 20,000 from BNP leader Jalal Ahmed as toll and picked him up when he turned down their demand. They later cut off the tendons of his legs.
Local people rescued Jalal and sent him to a private clinic.
A case was filed.

One convicted for possessing fake currency notes

UNB, Panchagarh

A court here Monday convicted a man and sentenced him to 14 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for possessing fake currency notes.
The judge also fined convict Wazed Ali Tk 500, in default, to suffer three months more in jail.
The case history in brief: The convict, a resident of Savar upazila in Dhaka, was caught on March 17 this year when he tried to change a 500-taka fake note at the main branch of Sonali Bank here. He was handed over to police.
Police later filed a case against him.

After examining the records and witnesses, the judge pronounced the verdict Monday.
Communicative English Language Teachers' Assoc executives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The new committee of Sylhet Communicative English Language Teachers' Association was formed at a meeting recently.
Headmistress of Sylhet Government Pilot High School Fatema Khairunnesa chaired the meeting in which the body was constituted unanimously.
The members of the organisation are the people who were imported training from the United Kingdimm-Bangladesh Education Trust (UKBET) and had been engaged in the schools in Sylhet as English teachers. Those who were taken in the committee as advisors include Fatema Khairunnesa, Brojo Gopal Chowdhury and Ramjan Ali.
The committee was formed with Abu Hena Chowdhury as President, Asad Miah as senior Vice President and Muhibul Islam Chowdhury as Vice President while Jahura Begum was made the General Secretary. Jahida Begum and Abdul Wadud Chowdhury were joint secretaries.
Other office bearers are Organising Secretary: Asim Talukder, Treasurer: SMA Sayed, Cultural Secretary: Abhimanyu Bhattacharya, Publicity Secretary: Samar Biswas, Assistant Publicity Secretary: Salma Nurunnahar and Networking Secretary: Shahana Akhtar.

Cash, valuables looted from trader's house

UNB, Comilla

Armed extortionists attacked the house of a businessman at village Sribhallabpur in Sadar upazila and looted cash and valuables worth about Tk 4.70 lakh Wednesday.
Police said the miscreants, numbering 15-20, swooped on the house of Ajit Kumar Ghose in broad daylight and demanded Tk 50,000 as toll.
As he refused to meet their demand, they ransacked the house and beat up his family members, leaving three people injured.
They later left the house with valuables, including cash and gold ornaments.
The injured were admitted to sadar hospital.

Two commit suicide in Barisal

A CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Two people committed suicide and police recovered the body of a fisherman from the river Tetulia in two days.
Police and family sources said Habibur Rahman, 29, committed suicide by hanging himself from the ceiling of his room at his residence at Charmonai in Sadar upazilla on October 11.
The other victim, Shawpan, 24, drank nitric acid over a family feud at Battala in Barisal town last week. He was admitted to a local hospital and died succumbed to death at the same night.
Meanwhile, the body of a fisherman named Shohrab, 40, was recovered from the Tetulia at Chandra Mohan union of Sadar upazilla. He had been missing as his trawler of fishing sank in to the river when it collided with a passenger launch.



PHOTO: STAR

Child artistes perform at Sirajganj primary school on the occasion of Meena Fair. The fair was held recently in the northern district town to mark the Child Rights Week.



PHOTO: STAR

A seminar of the Mymensingh unit of National Heart Foundation at Mymensingh Press Club which was held to observe the World Heart Day. Local member of parliament (MP) Delwar Hossain Khan was present as the chief guest while Salehuzzaman Khan, president of the local unit of the foundation presided over there.



Prof M Mustafizur Rahman, vice chancellor (VC) of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Mymensingh speaking as the chief guest at an international workshop on livestock development at the Animal Husbandry gallery of the university recently.



PHOTO: STAR

Abdul Matin Chowdhury, deputy commissioner (DC), Satkhira, speaks as the chief guest at a certificate awarding ceremony in the district town following conclusion of a tailoring training course. Women's Affairs Department, Satkhira arranged the one year long training course at its office premises.

One jailed for possessing illegal arms in Kushtia

UNB, Kushtia

A court here found a man guilty of possessing illegal arms and sentenced him to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI).
The convict was identified as Obaidullah alias Tipu, son of Bishu Joadder of village Hosenabadi in Doulatpur upazila.

According to the prosecution, police raided the house of Tipu and arrested him along with a foreign-made gun and two rounds of bullet on November 11, 2001.
After examining the records and witnesses, Additional District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Idris Alam handed down the verdict Sunday.

Jute becomes a bane for growers



PHOTO: ALIMUZZAMAN MIAH

(Left) Jute growers at Raghunathpur in Sadar upazila, Gopalganj carry their produce by vans towards local markets with the hope of getting a fair price, but (right) ultimately they brought back it from markets and heaped up the same by the side of Gopalganj-Silna road finding prices of jute below the production cost due to lack of sufficient jute purchasers. They have demanded of the government to immediately start the official jute procurement drive, otherwise they would be compelled to decrease jute cultivation from the next season, they informed The Daily Star.