

NEWS SNAPS

NGO office looted by miscreants

UNB, Chandpur
Miscreants attacked an office of a non-governmental organisation (NGO) at Mohonpur Bazaar in Matlab upazila and looted cash and valuables Thursday.

Witnesses said the hoodlums swooped on BRDO office in the area in the evening, beat the staff mercilessly and looted cash, valuables and gold ornaments from its female staff. Six employees were injured in the attack. Earlier they demanded Tk 2 lakh as toll from the NGO.

Coast guard begins special drive

BSS, Barisal
Bangladesh Coast Guard has started a special drive dubbed as "off-shore security" in the offshore areas of the country last week for preservation and protection of fish.

According to official sources, the "offshore security" drive team included members of the local administration and the fisheries department. Meanwhile, the team has seized 3.28 lakh metric tons of illegal current nets worth Tk 65.60 lakh from the river Meghna in Tazumuddin upazila of Bhola district on Friday night. These nets were burnt later in presence of the authorities concerned.

Special allocation for distressed families

BSS, Joypurhat
The government has recently allocated 5,322 tons of rice for distressed people of 10 northern districts recently.

The rice, under a special allocation, will be distributed 10 kilogram each to 5,32,200 distressed families of the districts within this month, official sources said. According to officials, the allocation was given to help the distressed people affected by "monga" a period of food scarcity of the Bangla month of Kartik. The districts included Bogra, Sirajganj, Dinajpur, Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Nilphamari and Gaibandha.

Expatriates urged to invest money in health, education sectors

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman MP, has urged the expatriates to invest money in health and education sectors of Bangladesh, their motherland.

The minister told this while laying the foundation stone of a new clinic named Heart Beat Clinic Limited in the Barhat area of Moulvibazar town recently.

He said that the infrastructural facilities in the health sector of Bangladesh is much better than other South Asian countries.

But it is unfortunate that due to negligence of some physicians, nurses and health workers, people in our country are being deprived of proper health care.

Most of the physicians in our country are very interested to do private practices than doing their duties sincerely in the government hospitals, he further said.

Presided over by Ahmed Ali Suleman, managing director of the Heart Beat Clinic Limited the ceremony

function was addressed, among others, by State Minister for Relief and Disaster Management Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury, local MP M Naser Rahman, Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Fazlur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Moulvibazar Mukhlesur Rahman and managing director of Agrani Bank ASM Emdadul Haque.

In his speech of chief guest, the minister further said the present government has allocated sufficient money in the health sector and it is highest allocation than that of any previous government.

The new clinic is being constructed by two expatriates who are brothers. They have been establishing the clinic at their village home in Moulvibazar. The clinic will be a modern one where heart patients will get ultramodern facilities. At the initial stage Tk 15 cr will be spent to establish the clinic, informed the managing director of the heart clinic, Ahmed Ali Suleman.

Ex-Sylhet ICS leader held for killing JCD activist

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A former leader of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) was arrested by the Sylhet Kotwali Police on Wednesday night in connection with the killing of a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activist.

Sohel Ahmed Ripon, a former leader of ICS, Sylhet city unit was caught from his trading house in the Zindabazar area.

Police said that Ripon's name has been stated in the FIR of the murder case of JCD activist Hamid Ahmed Khan Doyel who was stabbed to death in the Sylhet Madan Mohan College campus in August. He is also accused in many other cases, police said.

JCD activist Doyel was stabbed to death by Shibir activists in broad day light. He was also shot at that moment.

Call to accelerate movement for safe road

BSS, Rajshahi

Speakers at a discussion here have urged for accelerating the movement for safe and secured road.

They strongly demanded of the government to help declare October 22 as the International Safe Road Day. Rajshahi College Cultural Association (RCCA) and Rover Scouts (RS) organised the discussion and brought out a procession in the city on Tuesday as part of their "movement for safe and secured road for all."

Action against drug addicts sought

BSS, Salkhira

People in Salkhira town and other areas of the district have urged the authorities to take stern measures against drug traders and addicts in the greater national interest.

Despite occasional anti-drug drives by Narcotics Control Department, police and the BDR, the number of addicts are yet to decline in this frontier district, peace-loving people and guardians alleged.

Tk 3 cr gold haul on Aug 13 Customs super of Sylhet airport on forced retirement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The superintendent of Customs of Sylhet MAG Osmany International Airport, Saifuddin Ahmed has been forced to retire due to his direct involvement with gold smuggling which was detected on August 13 this year.

Earlier, five other inspectors in the same department were relieved of their duties on similar charge.

Following detection of big gold haul in the airport, different government agencies held investigations which revealed that a number of Customs officials are directly involved with gold smuggling.

It was confirmed that Custom superintendent Saifuddin Ahmed tried his best to save four carriers of gold on August 13. He even in his

written statement stated that the passengers who carried smuggled gold were ready to pay the government tax.

The said actions were taken against the concerned officials in compliance with instructions of finance minister, state minister for civil aviation, state minister for finance and others who visited the airport on several occasions after detection of the big gold haul on August 13.

Gold worth Tk 3 cr were seized by the Detective Branch (DB) of police and Customs officials on that very day from four passengers who were returning home from Dubai. The incident stirred the aforementioned minister, state ministers and higher authorities.

Bazaars in B'baria in bad shape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Most of the hats and bazaars in all eight upazilas of the district are in deplorable condition causing great inconveniences to both the buyers and sellers.

There are about 230 hats and bazaars in the district. Though the population of the district has doubled at present, yet the expansion and development works of the markets have not been taken.

It is alleged that the authorities concerned, so far, took no steps for proper maintenance and development of the markets despite collection of tolls from both sellers and buyers.

Moreover, the leaseholders realise more tax than the government rate causing hardship to the shopkeepers and vendors.

The number of sellers and buyers is increasing day by day while the area of the markets is not expanded. As a result, shortage of accommoda-

tion has been hampering the movement of buyers and sellers. The markets always remain very dirty. Most hats and bazaars have no proper drainage system. Rain water, very often, overflow the market areas. With little rain, the markets becomes very muddy and slippery.

There is no toilets in most of the markets. Filth and garbage are dumped here and there in the markets. Scarcity of drinking water in most of these markets has been causing immense sufferings to the people. Because there is no tubewells in most of the markets. Though some markets have tubewells, most of them is out of order.

Though the upazila administration leased out the markets in their respective areas, they took little care for development of the markets.

The sufferers have urged the authorities concerned to take urgent steps to improve the atmosphere in the markets.

Ex-JCD leader of Magura arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Former president of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Magura Municipality unit, Washikup Rahman was handed over to police by the army personnel on Monday morning.

After treatment at Magura Sadar Hospital police produced him to the local court under Section 59 of CrPc from where he was sent to jail hajat.

In the afternoon on the same day the army team picked up of the new general-secretary of Magura district unit JCD Shahidul Islam.

However, he was set free after about three hours of interrogation.

Meanwhile, army, police and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) jointly set up two check posts at two different high ways in Magura and conducting search operations in the plying vehicles.

Outlawed party leader, two associates held

A CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Kushtia police on Monday arrested the leader of an outlawed party along with his two associates.

Police said Azibar Rahman, chairman of Jhudia union parishad who is also the chief of outlawed Gono Bahini of Jatiyo Samajtantrik Dal and his two accomplices named Raton and Sonu were arrested when they came to meet the police super (SP) at his office.

Police super Md Shumsuddin said they were arrested when they entered into the police barrack at about 2 pm. They were branded as criminals.

According to police sources, Azibar is an accused of eight murder cases and 12 other cases filed earlier with Kushtia Sadar, Mirpur and Jhenidah police stations.

Azibar was elected a chairman while he was in jail last year. He was arrested may times previously.

A new herbal garden in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

'Aarogya Kunja,' a garden of trees and plants useful for preparing herbal medicine, has been created in Moulvibazar district.

Divisional Forest Office, Sylhet created the herbal garden, first of its kind in Bangladesh.

Located at Lawachhera National Park in Kamalgonj upazila of Moulvibazar district, the garden had been inaugurated recently in a simple ceremony. Moulvibazar Range Office of the Forest Department supervised in creation of the exceptional garden established on two acres of land of the reserve forest. It would be expanded gradually.

At initial stage, a total of 79 kinds of various trees and plants has been planted in the garden. Saplings of 41 kinds of plants and trees like Ashok, Arjun, Korpur, Chalta, Chalmugra, Neem, Rakta Chandan, Khayer and Nageswqar, 18 kinds of shrubs like Pathor Kuchi, Basok, Akanda, Verenda, Ghrita Kumari Ulat Kamal, Tulshi, and Foni-Manasa and 20 kinds of creepers like Iswar-mul, Kalamegh, Gondha-Bhaduli, Gul-Marich, Thankucni Pudina, Shota-Muli, Sarpagandha, Herjura and Kumarika had been planted in the new herbal garden.

A range officer of the Forest department told The Daily Star that 'Aarogya Kunja' has been created to encourage people about our traditional herbal and medicated plants. Different costly medicine and cosmetics are manufactured from these herbal plants. Even modern world in this age gives much importance to herbal products. Once upon a time herbal plants had been grown naturally in the forests and jungles. But in recent time the herbal plants in our country are on verge of extinction. In such a situation the forest department has done a commendable job.



PHOTO: STAR

An artist renders Tagore song at a function arranged recently by the Moulvibazar district unit of Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad at the Saifur Rahman auditorium in Moulvibazar. The Parishad organised the function while according a reception to Dr Sanjeeda Khatun, a prominent researcher on the works of Tagore, the first Nobel Prize winner of Indo-Bangla-Pak sub-continent.