

NEWS SNAPS

Three bodies recovered from Buriganga

UNB, Keraniganj

Three bodies, including two women, were recovered from the Buriganga river here Tuesday.

The bodies were sent to Mitford Medical College Hospital morgue in Dhaka for autopsy. According to locals, the three unidentified people might be the victims of Monday night's boat capsizing. The boat sank in the river when a Barisal-bound launch dashed it shortly after midnight.

Novel way of dacoity

UNB, Keraniganj

Armed bandits in the guise of army men stormed into two houses at Kosairbagh and Bagoir villages here Monday night and looted valuables worth Tk 2 lakh.

Hearing screams of the villagers, a patrol team of army rushed there and caught one of the robbers, Javed, with a revolver and six bullets.

BKB loan for farmers

UNB, Madaripur

Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has so far disbursed farm loan amounting to Tk 4 cr from Tk 22 cr it set aside to distribute among farmers of Madaripur in the current fiscal.

Officials said the bank would distribute the farm loan in four upazilas in the current fiscal year to help the farmers recoup their crop losses caused by flood. Apart from crop farming, the loan will be utilised in pisciculture, poultry and dairy farming.

Computer training for jobless youths

UNB, Madaripur

A four-month long computer training programme organised by Youth Directorate for the unemployed youths of Madaripur is going on.

The training programme, being held at the auditorium of the Directorate, was inaugurated last week.

Over 80 unemployed but educated youths, including girls, are participating in the training programme in two batches. On completion of their training, the youths will be provided with soft loans to purchase computers and computer accessories.

New DC, SP of Pabna

UNB, Pabna

The newly appointed Deputy Commissioner (DC) and Police Super (SP) of Pabna have taken over their charges.

Officials said AKM Jahangir Hossain, DC of Narail, has been transferred to Pabna replacing Ashraf Mukbul.

Amir Uddin, SP of Thakurgaon, has replaced the SP of the district Amjad Hossain.

One held with old silver coins

UNB, Natore

A man was arrested from village Hulhulia in Singra upazila on Sunday along with 97 years old silver coins.

Police said Emarat Ali found the coins while digging land for construction of his house Saturday. They said Emarat was arrested as he concealed the coins. A case was filed against him under the Hidden Wealth Act 1978.

No progress in investigation of 9 murders in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Nine persons were murdered in Khulna district and in the metropolitan city till October 27.

According to police sources, all these murders were committed as sequel to family feud, intra-party rivalry and land disputes. But there was no progress in investigations of the cases as most of the accused are yet to be caught.

Victims of murders are Shahidul Islam, 11, of Moilepota in Khulna thana on October 5 and on the same day Deb Kumar Kundu, 32, of Phultala upazilla was also murdered. On October 7 Assaduzzaman, 40, was killed in a marriage ceremony at Pabla in Daulatpur thana. Durgapada Mondol, 42, of Koira upazilla was murdered on October 9, Awami League activist Habil, 34, of Boyra in Sonadanga thana was killed on October 15, Monowara Begum, 35, of Rupsha upazilla was killed on October 22, Seherun Begum, 35, of Pabla in Daulatpur thana was murdered on October 25 and an unidentified woman of 30 years of age of Batiaghata on October 27.

Case against these murders were recorded with the concerned police stations.

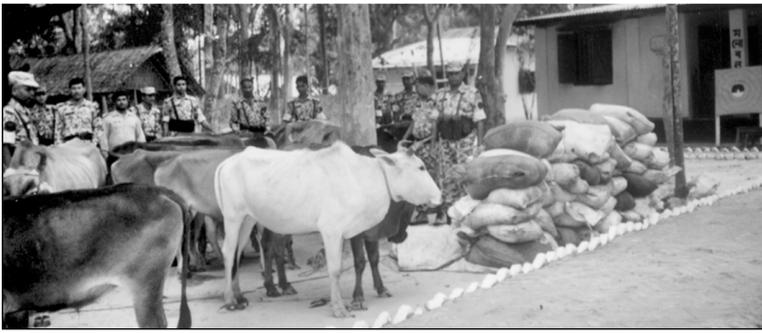


PHOTO: STAR

Fifty bulls worth about Tk 4 lakh were seized by the jawans of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) from five houses near the No Man's Land in Fulbari border of Kulaura upazila in the early hours of November 9. The BDR contingent led by 30 Battalion Commander Lt Col Shahid made the operation where they also seized 40 bags of sugar and 15 bags of salt.

Faridpur growers find sugarcane farming much profitable

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Sugarcane cultivation gains popularity in Faridpur.

Growers are much interested to cultivate Gandaria variety of sugarcane as it is very juicy and sweet. Economically a farmer can change his lot rapidly by farming this variety of sugarcane. Some marginal farmers have, in the meantime, created examples of economic gains by selling such type of sugarcanes produced on their lands.

One such grower Hossain Ali of Moraldha in Sadar upazila has received Tk 25,000 by wholesale marketing of 3,800 pieces of

Gandaria sugarcanes planted on eight 'Kathas' (about 12 decimals) of high land. When contacted, Hossain Ali told The Daily Star that Tk one lakh may be easily earned by selling Gandaria variety of sugarcanes. He planted sugarcane on 33 decimals of his land. One piece of a medium size sugarcane is being sold between Tk 10 and 15 by retail, one vendor said adding that the best Gandaria is on sale here between Tk 20 to 25 per piece.

Seed sugarcanes are planted on well prepared plot of high land in the month of December or January and these get matured in the month of August to October.

"Fox and jackal cause heavy damage to Gandaria when these become matured" one of the sources said adding that sugarcanes should be guarded from wild animals.

Gandaria cultivation on one bigha of land (33 decimals) costs over Tk 2000.

This variety is never crushed or supplied to the mills. These are only for local consumption. Sugarcane juice is antidote to jaundice.

Marginal farmers urged the government to sanction them loan free of interest to cultivate the Gandaria variety of sugarcane in large scale.

Sailkupa-Hatfazilpur bus service suspended

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Bus service between Sailkupa and Hatfazilpur has been suspended due to damage of a bridge near Bakshipur in early October.

The bridge had been damaged due to unplanned construction and use of sub-standard construction materials, alleged local people.

However, according to the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) office sources, due to excessive rainfall the bridge remained unfit for use about two years back. Since then the traffic vehicles as well as the pedestrians began to use the bridge very cautiously. In October the bridge broken down completely.

LGED sources said they had submitted an estimate for reconstruction of the bridge for Tk 12 lakh, which may take some months to start its reconstruction work.

Observing the woes of people, Sailkupa Upazila Parishad took the responsibility for its maintenance at a cost Tk 60,000 for an interim



PHOTO: STAR

A van and some pedestrians walk through a bamboo made bridge near Bakshipur in Jhenidah. The bridge, most essential for plying of Sailkupa-Hatfazilpur bus service was damaged in October due to its bad construction work. Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) awaits fund for its reconstruction.

period. The money will be spent from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) fund till the fund of LGED is available.

Local people said they have repaired the bridge with bamboo so that the pedestrians can move easily.

Housewife roasted alive as miscreants set house ablaze

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A housewife was roasted alive while in sleep as her house was set on fire allegedly by a group of miscreants recently.

The criminals committed the crime as an act of revenge, villagers and eyewitnesses alleged. The incident occurred at village Dharmadas Kutirpar in Tamphat union in Rangpur Sadar upazila on October 24 night.

Eyewitnesses said the inmate of the house Azhar Mia, 30, a day labourer was absent at the time of tragedy as he went to a market to sell bamboo while his ill-fated wife Ambia, 22, was sleeping inside the house closing all its doors. Availing of this opportunity, a group of miscreants led by Shahjahan Ali, 35,

raided the house and set it on fire after spraying petrol around it. Within an hour, the fire completely gutted the entire house. But none of the neighbours dared to come to rescue the housewife from inside the blaze, fearing attacks by the miscreants as they were waiting at a safe distant place, till the house burnt into ashes, alleged the villagers.

Azhar Mia, on returning from market, became bewildered finding his blazing house and roasted body of wife under the heap of ashes.

According to eyewitnesses, a team of police of Rangpur Kotwali thana went to Tamphat at night on October 20 to nab a wanted criminal. Police picked up Azhar Mia to identify the house of the ring leader of criminals named Shahjahan Ali

where the wanted criminal took shelter. But they failed to nab him, as all the criminals of the house escaped well ahead of the police raid. The incident of identifying the house to police by Azhar Mia had caused great anguish among the criminals in the area.

On October 20 the ring leader of the criminals, Shahjahan Ali raided the house of Azhar Mia and set it ablaze killing his innocent wife.

A case was filed with the Kotwali police in this connection naming seven accused persons involved in the fire incident, but none was, so far, nabbed.

Meanwhile, the absconding criminals are allegedly threatening Azhar Mia to withdraw the case, villagers alleged. A panic was created among the villagers in the area.

Women's college in Thakurgaon ransacked

UNB, Thakurgaon

Agitated students of Ranisongkoil Vocational Training Institute here ransacked the Women's College Monday in a sequel to land demarcation dispute between the two institutions.

Witnesses said 40 tree saplings, planted on the disputed land by the authorities of Vocational Training Institute, were uprooted at the directive of the Principal of the Women's College Sunday night.

The aggrieved students of the Institute attacked the Women's College, recovered the uprooted plants and damaged motor cycles of the teachers of Women's College.

They also brought out a procession, laid siege to the office local upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) office.

The UNO summoned both the principals and suggested them to settle the demarcation dispute but his initiative went in vain as the two principals locked in an altercation in his presence.

Six bandits get jail terms in Feni

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

ix persons were awarded 10 years jail term each and fined Tk 5000, in default, three months more in jail in an armed robbery case.

The verdict was declared on October 31 by judge Md Aftabuddin at Feni District and Additional Sessions Judge Court.

The case story, in brief, is that an armed robbery was committed at the house of Abdur Razak of village West Gonia Mora in Fulgazi thana on October 8, 1998. A case was filed in this connection at Fulgazi thana by the house owner, Abdur Razzak. Police investigated the case and charged six bandits.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Aftabuddin awarded the punishment to Nurul Islam, Anamul Haque Taslim, Abdul Matin, Almgir, Arif and Lokman Hossain and Annamul Haque. Five of them remained absconding. The case was conducted by advocate Baharullah APP for state.

Court summons Dinkal correspondent

UNB, Natore

District correspondent of Dinkal Manjurul Hasan was summoned by a local court for publishing a news item in the daily.

The news item on cancellation of the license of Manjurul's firearm for refusing to pay Tk 300 to Local Requirement (LR) fund was published in the daily recently. Second class magistrate Hamidur Rahman summoned Manjurul, also president of local press club, at the directive of the Deputy Commissioner.

Load-shedding a regular feature in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Load-shedding takes place three or four times every day in Faridpur town and every time it continues for an hour.

Load-shedding in the evening is a regular affair and it causes untold sufferings to the people.

Evening being the proper time for student to sit at their reading desks, much harm is caused to them in absence of electricity. Besides, service holders who go for shopping in the evening have to face great inconvenience as the entire market area plunges into pitch dark at that time.

During the load-shedding in the evening anti-social activities like mugging, snatching, pilferage very often take place. Besides, voltage fluctuation very often causes damage to refrigerators, TVs, bulbs and other electric devices.

Over and above, production in mills and factories is being hampered leaving adverse impact on the economic growth.

OMS of rice programme faces setback in Jhalakati

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The programme of Open Market Sale (OMS) of rice faces setback in Jhalakati while the demand for OMS rice appears to be low in Brahmanbaria.

UNB reports from Jhalakati: Only 27 dealers, out of 86 have showed interest to sell rice under the programme.

As a result the OMS programme faces setback.

Only 21 mts of rice were sold here in last five days. The unwillingness of the dealers to sell the OMS rice was attributed to low rate of commission.

Another report from Brahmanbaria says: Selling of rice under the government's Open

Market Sales (OMS) programme began here Tuesday.

Although 5 mts of rice are being allocated to five dealers a day, the demand for the OMS rice appears to be very low.

Officials at the local Food office said they have enough rice in their stock and the amount of allocation can be raised if the demand rises.

Meanwhile, local administrations have appointed dealers in Sarail, Kashba, Akhaura and Sadar upazilas to sell rice under the OMS programme aimed at keeping foodgrain prices stable during Ramadan.

Dealers will also be appointed in Bancharampur, Nabinagar, Nasinagar and Ashganj to sell the OMS rice, the officials said.



PHOTO: STAR

A female development worker talks to a member of SIDA team who reviewed the development activities of some non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Faridpur recently.