

NEWS SNAPS

Tribal farmer killed by miscreants

BSS, Bandarban

A tribal farmer was killed by tribal miscreants on Thursday at Galachira in Kuhlalong union of sadar upazila.

Police said the victim was identified as Swai Aung Marma of village Kulaikhong Headmen Para in Sadar upazila, was killed by tribal miscreants. After the incident local people informed the matter to police. Bandarban thana police recovered the body from the Galachira area. A case was filed with Sadar thana in this connection.

EPZ in Barisal likely next year

BSS, Barisal

The seventh export processing zone of the country is expected to be set up here at the end of next year.

Whip of Jatiya Sangsad Mujibur Rahman Sarwar strongly recommended the meeting point of Barisal and Jalakathi districts on the rivers Kaliyia and Kirtonkhola for establishing the export processing zone. He said he has already brought the matter of establishing the export processing zone to the notice of the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister. It is expected that on completion of the zone, besides economic development, at least 10,000 people will get employment in different mills and factories in the zone.

Tk 44cr uplift projects going on

BSS, Rajshahi

Development work on 742, out of 849 rural infrastructure uplift projects at a cost of Tk 44cr are progressing fast in different upazilas of Naogaon district.

The works include 255 community clinics involving about Tk 8cr, seven union parishad complex buildings at Tk 5.27cr, construction and renovation of 22 market buildings at Tk 4 cr and development of 468 primary schools at a cost of about Tk 27cr, LGED sources said.

Besides, the Education Engineering Department under the Ministry of Education has undertaken a project to construct 39 educational institutions in Naogaon at a cost of about Tk 7cr. Necessary steps to implement as many as 107 more projects covering health, local government educational and other fields are being finalised.

1026 uplift projects completed

BSS, Rangpur

One thousand one hundred twenty six uplift projects have been completed in the last financial year in Rangpur against an allocation of six thousand eighty nine metric tons of food grains.

According to official sources, these development works were done under test relief, food for works programme and under special project. Two hundred fifty three projects under food for works programme, 749 projects test relief and 124 under special project were implemented. In Gangachhara upazila eight projects were implemented involving 8 metric tons of foodgrains, in sadar upazila 110 projects were implemented involving 639 metric tons of foodgrains under special project. In Pirgachha upazila 14 projects were implemented involving 56 metric tons of foodgrains.

Tumour weighing 10 kg removed

BSS, Rangpur

A tumour weighing 10-kilogram was successfully removed through an operation from the uterus of a woman here.

Dr Lt Col Anjumanara Begum, a surgeon, removed the tumour of Pari Banu, 47, a housewife of Raniganj in Atawari upazila of Panchagar recently. The lady was operated upon at a private clinic in Rangpur town when she came to the doctor with serious abdomen pain. Dr Anjumanara was assisted during the operation by Dr Idris Ali and Dr BK Shaha.

Seven held with illegal firearms

BSS, Joypurhat

The combined forces arrested seven persons and recovered two illegal firearms from their possession in three days of 'Clean Heart Operation' in different parts of the district.

According to officials sources, the joint forces led by army arrested alleged BCD cadre SM Mazharul Haque Senji, son of Emdadul Haque of the Dhanmondi area in Joypurhat town and recovered one USA made long barrel pistol and Indian shooter gun. Other arrested persons are Jobo League leader Bizon Kumar Chakraborty of Raikali union parishad, Jamil Mollah of Sahelpara in Joypurhat town, Tuhin of the Khetlal area, Asaduzzaman Mintu of Santinagar in Joypurhat town and Mozammel Hossain of Tilakpur union parishad.

Eight die of diarrhoea in Jhalakati, Barguna

UNB, Barisal

Diarrhoea that broke out in an epidemic form in nearby Jhalakati and Barguna districts claimed four lives and affected about 1,000 people in last one week.

The deceased were identified as Amana Khatun, 22, Joynab Bibi, 60, and Tuhin, 8, of Roujan upazila in Jhalakati and Mufiz Fakir, 70, of Patharghata in Barguna district.

According to officials, 523 people were affected by the waterborne disease in Roujan upazila and 157 of them were undergoing treatment at the upazila health complex.

Diarrhoea also affected over 500 people in Patharghata upazila of Barguna district. Of them, 119 were being treated at the upazila health complex.

Another report from Satkhira adds: An outbreak

of diarrhoea has affected over 200 people in six villages of Kaliganj upazila in three days till Thursday.

Civil Surgeon Dr SM Mustafa Anwar, who visited the diarrhoea-affected villages, recognised that some 113 people were affected by diarrhoea in the areas. Most of the patients were undergoing treatment at the upazila health complex.

Meanwhile, some 40,000 water-purifying tablets and 10,000 oral saline were distributed among residents of the affected villages.

A medical team was working in the areas to combat the disease.

Dr Mostafa Anwar attributed the outbreak of the disease to consumption of adulterated edible oil.

He said a huge quantity of edible oil was seized from some shops at Kadamtala Bazaar and sent it to Dhaka for test.

71 Magura hospital staff in misery

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Seventy-one staffers of Magura Sadar Hospital including 13 doctors have been suffering a lot as they are deprived of salaries for eight months.

In 1998 the 50-bed Magura Sadar Hospital was upgraded into a 100 one and 75 staffers including doctors were appointed at that time. Of them, 17 were doctors while 45 were class four employees and 13 were class three employees. At present 13 doctors, eight nurses, one road-keeper, two typists, two ward masters, 16 sweepers, 16 MLSS, four guards, two gardeners, eight stretcher

boys and three cooks work here.

But the employees are in great misery as they are not getting salaries from March, 2002.

Officials said, the unfortunate employees were appointed under the government's development project. As the stipulated time of the project has expired, the employees are not getting salaries.

However the concerned sources said, the employees under development project are usually transferred to revenue sector to make their services permanent.

But services of the aforementioned employees are yet to be regularised.

Brutal!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

A seven-month old pregnant mother faced a cruel incident of abortion as she was beaten up severely by rivals following a clash over land at village Aruadangi in Sreepur Upazila on November 15.

In a critical condition, she has been undergoing treatment at Magura Sadar Hospital.

Family sources said, Nurzahan Begum, 28, wife of Hashem Sheikh of village Aruadangi, was beaten mercilessly when a clash ensued there over harvesting of paddy from about eight acres of a disputed-land.

At one stage, bleeding through the mouth and nose started and on way to hospital she delivered a dead baby.

A unnatural death (UD) case has been lodged with Magura Sadar police station in this connection.

Body of the new-born baby was sent to morgue for autopsy.

Move to provide arsenic-free water to Joypurhat people

BSS, Joypurhat

The Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) has taken up a massive drinking water supply and sanitation programme in the current fiscal in Joypurhat.

Under the programme, a total of 80 pumps including 64 Tarapumps (deep) and 14 shallow tubewells will be sunk to provide arsenic-free pure drinking water to the people. Twenty more shallow tubewells will be reinstalled for the same purpose and 1,150 sets of sanitary latrines will be distributed among the people.

According to the Executive Engineer of DPHE, Joypurhat, the development activities will be completed here under Annual Development Programme of the

government.

Of the 64 Tarapumps, 26 will be sunk in Sadar upazila, 15 in Panchbibi, eight in Kalai, seven in Khetlal and eight in Akkelpur upazila. Of the 14 shallow tubewells, six will be sunk in Sadar, one in Panchbibi, two each in Kalai and Khetlal and three in Akkelpur upazila.

All the materials and equipment have been supplied already. Each of the pumps will be sunk up to a depth of 180 feet to reach arsenic-free drinking water layer. Of the 20 other damaged shallow tubewells, six will be reinstalled in Sadar, four each in Panchbibi and Akkelpur and three each in Kalai and Khetlal upazila.

Of the total, 108 sets of sanitary latrines will be distributed in Sadar,

216 in Panchbibi, 210 in Kalai, 408 in Khetlal and 208 in Akkelpur upazila.

In addition, the DPHE will complete construction of 750 metres long new water supply pipeline, 50 sets of upgraded latrines, renovation of 500 metres long existing water supply pipeline, construction of three new switch-valve chambers and renovation of three more existing chambers in the municipality area in this fiscal.

Some other maintenance works will also be done by DPHE. All of the development works have already been started and are expected to be completed by next June.

A total of 30,000 people will be directly benefited if these projects are completed under the 18-town project.

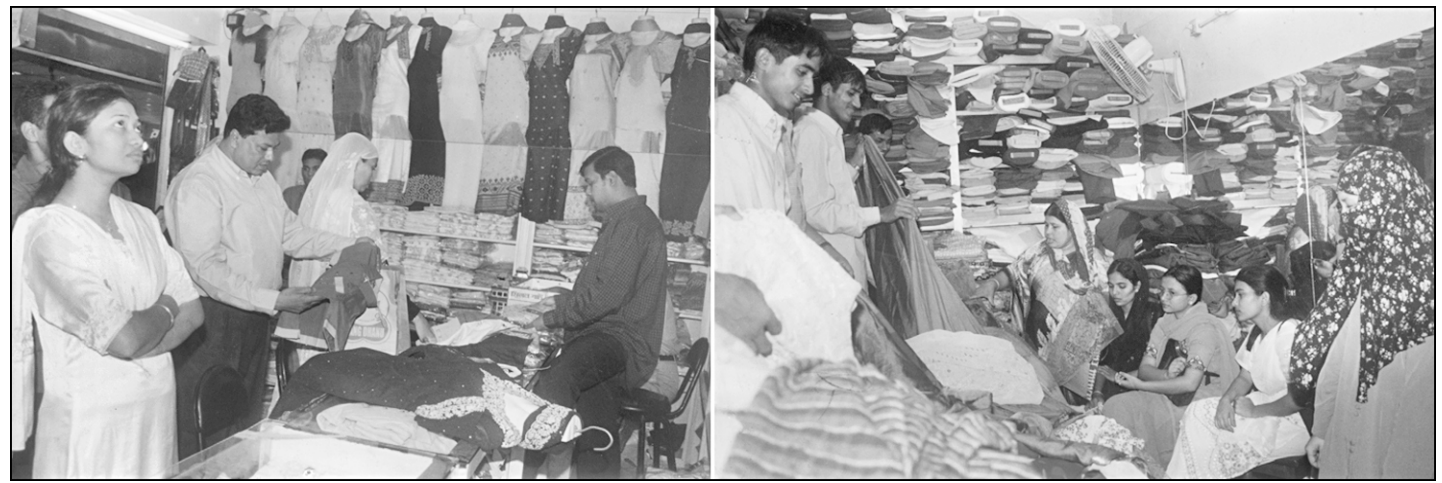


PHOTO: IQBAL SIDDIQUEE

Prospective buyers throng a garment shop at a shopping mall (left) and another cloth shop (right) in Sylhet. Eid shopping gets momentum in the divisional city as the greatest religious festival of Muslims nears.

A decade of session jam-free KU

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

Khulna University (KU) will celebrate completion of its first decade of academic activities and observe the first university day on November 25.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the ceremony as the chief guest at 12 noon on November 24.

Eminent educationists, poets, literatures, senior cabinet ministers including minister for education and top leaders of political organisations are expected to attend the ceremony as special guests.

Khulna University has earned reputation as one of the best and highest seats of learning in the country for ensuring a congenial academic atmosphere where there is no session jam and political activities. Authorities of the university strive hard to keep the campus free from politics and vandalism.

Teachers, students and officials are committed to work hard to hold its image high. They are working together with this end in view with unity, faith and discipline, said Vice Chancellor Professor Dr Mohammad Abdul Kadir Bhuiyan. It is the motto of teachers, students and officials to discard 'dirty politics' which vitiates academic atmosphere, VC said.

Established on January 4, 1987 the academic activities of the university

began from November 25 in 1991. Begum Khaleda Zia who was then Prime Minister of Bangladesh inaugurated that ceremony as the chief guest.

Khulna university made its debut with only 80 students under four disciplines. At present, there are over 3000 students under 16 disciplines.

There is no political unrest on the campus or disunity among teachers, the authorities claimed. Despite manifold problems including financial crisis teachers and students are pulling on well with clean heart with a view to helping flourishing of the university.

As its infrastructure is concerned more financial assistance is the crying need of the hour to carry on its various ongoing development programmes.

Two existing academic buildings are not enough to accommodate the increasing number of students and provide necessary facilities for their undisturbed learning. Two residential calls for male and female students need immediate attention of the government for its expansion to provide more seats for those who are reading in this university coming from other districts of the country.

The university needs a well equipped library and an auditorium like other universities of the country. It has no gymnasium and a spacious common room for teachers.



PHOTO: STAR

A man cycling over the age-old Teesta Railway Bridge which has become vulnerable due to excessive pressure of traffic. Severe accidents may occur at any time resulting in loss of valuable lives and property. The bridge is the only gateway to two districts of Kurigram and Lalmonirhat for about 40 lakh people who demand immediate construction of the proposed Teesta Bridge beside this one.

Fund withdrawal stops Teesta Bridge work

A CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Construction of the proposed Teesta Bridge on Kurigram-Dhaka and Lalmonirhat-Dhaka highway has become uncertain as the government withdrew Tk 4.5 cr from the fund sanctioned earlier for construction of the bridge.

The past Awami League government allocated Tk 105.55 cr for construction of the 1000-metre long and 10-metre wide bridge by the side of the Teesta Railway Bridge. The government decided to meet up the cost of the bridge from its own fund. Accordingly, the government placed Tk five crore in the fund of the scheme in the 2001-2002 fiscal year to establish direct link between Kurigram and Lalmonirhat districts and other parts of the country.

At present vehicles have been moving to and from Kurigram and Lalmonirhat districts over the Teesta Railway Bridge, which was built in 1879 with 100-year longevity period, is now in a pitiable condition. This bridge is the only gateway to about 40 lakh people of Kurigram and Lalmonirhat districts for rail and road communications.

The people in the area have demanded to construct a new bridge immediately nearby the rail bridge to avoid any severe accident as the structure of the age-old railway bridge has now become vulnerable.

Moreover, the wooden slippers of the bridge are being damaged every year and the railway department repair it at a huge cost "Replacement of wooden slippers of the deck of the bridge is not the solution-cautioned local experts.