

NEWS SNAPS

One killed in road mishap

UNB, Munsiganj
An unidentified beggar was crushed under the wheels of a bus on Dhaka-Mawa road Friday.

The beggar aged about 55 years died on the spot when the bus ran over him in the Uttar Medini Mondal area. The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy. The driver managed to flee the scene along with the vehicle.

A case was filed with the police.

Man killed by brother

UNB, Noakhali
A man was allegedly beaten to death by his younger brother at village Purbo Rajar Gaon in Shudharam thana Friday.

Family sources said Latif, 70, had an altercation with his brother Mojid, 50, over selling a date tree. Later Mojid and his sons beat Latif to death when he was returning home after Juma prayer. Police arrested Mojid and a case was filed.

Stipends distributed

UNB, Patuakhali
Stipends amounting to over Tk 20.44 lakh were distributed through cheques among the 70,36 students of the district at a simple function at Mirzaganj upazila on Friday.

Besides, 25 bundles of corrugated iron sheets were distributed among 25 tornado-affected families and six sewing machines among the distressed women at the same function.

122 uplift schemes taken up

BSS, Narsingdi
Local Government Engineering Department has taken up 122 schemes of nine projects at a cost of Tk 18,24,27,000 in six upazilas in the last one year of the present government.

Of the total, 23 schemes are being implemented at Sadar upazila at a cost of Tk 3,90,77,000, 16 schemes in Polash upazila at a cost of Tk 3,05,66,000, 25 schemes in Shibpur upazila at a cost of Tk 3,51,37,000, 14 schemes in Belabo upazila at a cost of Tk 1,74,50,00, 33 schemes in Monohardi upazila at a cost of Tk 3,94,60,000, and 11 schemes in Raipura upazila at a cost of Tk 2,07,37,000. The work of 53 schemes has already been completed and the rest 69 schemes are going on in full swing. All the schemes would be completed within June next.

Ansar, VDP training course in Pabna

BSS, Pabna
A fortnight long training course on vocational training ended at Ansar and VDP office in Pabna on Saturday. District Adjutant of Ansar and VDP Aftabuddin Ahmed was present as the chief guest and distributed certificates among the participants. Local leaders, social dignified persons, journalists were present on the occasion. Earlier, some 45 female VDP members from five upazilas of the district took part in the course.

Fake policeman held in Pabna Iswardi thana police arrested a fake policeman from a residential hotel here on Thursday, police said.

Diarrhoea claims 8 in a week in Jhalakati, Sirajganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight people died of diarrhoea last week which broke out in an alarming proportion in Jhalakati and Sirajganj. **UNB from Jhalakati reports:** The killer disease diarrhoea claimed five lives including two little children here last week.

The deceased were identified as Jainab Bibi, 60, Amena Khatun, 22, and Tuhin, 4, of village Algi of Rajapur upazila and Bachchu Khan, 40, of village Manpash and Khushi, 5, of village Horipasha in Sadar upazila.

Health Department statistics shows that number of diarrhoea attacked people reached to 470 in the district so far. A total of 131 people were admitted to Sadar hospital,

244 people to Rajapur, 62 in Nalchhiti and 33 to Kathalia. **A report from Sirajganj says:** At least three people died of diarrhoea and 200 others were affected following the outbreak of the water-borne disease in Royganj upazila last week.

Two of the deceased were identified as Monira Khatun, 25 and Buddu Sheikh, 50. The worst affected areas are Dhamrainagar, Sonakhara and Chandaikona unions.

The disease is spreading day by day creating panic among the people. It was learnt that due to the shortage of saline and other necessary medicine, treatment is being hampered in the upazila health complex.

One killed in clash over harvesting

UNB, Habiganj

A man was stabbed to death and 10 others were injured in a fierce clash between two rival groups over harvesting paddy at village Matauk in Laghai upazila Friday.

Police said Ahamd Miah, 55, died on the spot when he along with his supporters locked in a clash with his rival Kashem Ali over cutting paddy from a disputed land.

People of both the groups used lethal weapons in the one-hour long clash.

Of the injured, Bayan Miah was admitted to Sadar hospital in a critical condition while the other injured were released after first aid at the local health complex.

Intensive rabi farming scheme for Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

The Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) has fixed a target to produce about 13,000 metric tons (MT) of pulses and 1,26,000 (MT) of oil seeds on over 13,000 hectares of land under intensive rabi farming programme in Jhenidah district this session.

The DAE sources said in Jhenidah Sadar, Kaliganj, Kotchandpur, Moheshpur, Saikupa and Harimakundu about 7,000 hectares of land will be brought

under mustard, 200 hectares under ground nut and 6,000 hectares under vegetable farming this season. 5,600 MT of mustard, 300 MT of ground nut and 120,000 MT of vegetable are likely to be produced.

The farmers in six upazilas will bring 2,500 hectares under onion farming, 15,000 hectares under garlic, 3,000 hectares under chili, 200 hectares under ginger, 400 hectares under turmeric and 50 hectares under coriander seed production.

Cooperate for speedy trial of cases: CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Chief Justice (CJ) Mainur Reza Chowdhury called upon the lawyers, judges and others related with the country's judiciary to work with honesty and sincerity for the speedy trial of a huge number of log-jammed cases.

The current judicial system should also be reformed for the speedy disposal of cases, he opined. He further told that if the people's confidence in the judiciary is lost owing to delayed justice then it would be disastrous for the nation.

Chowdhury was addressing at a reception ceremony hosted by Rajshahi Bar Association at its auditorium recently.

About one lakh cases were pending at the high court while the number of pending cases at the lower courts of the country was nine lakh, he said seeking cooperation from the lawyers and judges in early disposal of these cases.

Valuables looted from night coach passenger

UNB, Manikganj

Highway robbers looted valuables worth about Tk 6 lakh from the passengers of a night coach on Dhaka-Aricha highway on Thursday leaving a number of passengers injured.

The bandits numbering 7/8 got into the Jessore-bound bus in the guise of passengers and looted the valuables at gunpoint. They beat up 10/12 passengers when they tried to resist them. Of the injured, one person named Sajahan, 37, was sent to local hospital in a critical condition. A case was filed in this connection.



PHOTO: A K M MOHSIN

Some boatmen extracting stones from a river at Jaflong in Sylhet while some other stone extractors wait with boats for their turn. Many earn a lot by extracting stones here as the most essential construction material is found abundantly in the rivers in this area.

Probable candidates of UP polls active in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Probable candidates of the union parishad (UP) elections in all 83 unions of eight upazilas in Rangpur district have become active following announcement of the polls schedule.

Young and new comers are visiting the houses of elderly voters to seek their blessings. They are promising development work in their areas to woo the general voters. Some are also holding meetings at hats and bazaars. Many colour posters containing pictures of probable candidates have also been posted on the walls, roadside trees and light posts and inside hotels and tea stalls all over the district.

According to a survey conducted by some young enthusiasts, young voters are for educated candidates and newcomers while the elderly people favour social workers as candidates. Ex-chairmen or members have little support of the voters due to their corrupt practices during their tenure, it has been gathered.

There are 83 unions in eight upazilas of the district. At first the union parishad election will be held on January 5 in 9 unions of Gangachhara upazila while on January 6 and 7 in 14 unions of Pirgonj upazila, on January 8 in 5 unions under Taragonj upazila, on January 11 in 10 unions under Badargonj upazila on January 14 and 16 in 11 unions under Rangpur Sadar upazila, on January 19 in 5

unions under Kaunia upazila, on January 23 in nine unions under Pirgachha upazila, on January 26 and 30 in 17 unions under Mithapukur upazila.

The deputy commissioner will act as the district coordinator while the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) as upazila coordinator. There will be 41 presiding officers. Appointment of polling officers will be completed soon.

The total voters in the district as per 2001 voter list is around 16 lakh and it will be enhanced in the new voter list which will be printed after correction and inclusion of dropout voters, an officer of the district election office told this.

A traditional fair to mark Katyani Puja



PHOTOS: HOSSAIN SERAJ

A traditional fair is held in Magura every year on the occasion of Katyani Puja. Durga Puja is the greatest religious festival of the Hindu community. But Magura is an exception where with the passage of time Katyani Puja has become the main religious festival. This year the fair started on November 10 which will continue till December 10. Traders from different parts of the country even from Chittagong, Gopalganj and Satkhira have come here with their merchandise. (1) A tastefully decorated large gate welcomes the visitors at the fair where (2,3&4) a good number of people from home and abroad through the attractive stalls.

Two killer husbands awarded life-term RI

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A court in Rangpur awarded life-term rigorous imprisonment (R I) to two killer husbands in separate cases recently.

The additional district and sessions judge, Rangpur Jannatul Feraus in a sensational murder case convicted accused Bablu Mia of Pirgonj and sentenced him to life-term RI, for killing his wife Roksana, 25. The court fined him Tk 5,000, in default, to suffer six months more RI. The court further found him guilty in another case and sentenced him to suffer five years more RI and fined Tk 1,000, in default, to undergo three months more RI.

The case in brief is that accused Bablu Mia married to Roksana about four years back. They have two children. At the time of marriage, a dowry of Tk 4,000 was settled. Roksana's poor father instead of paying money gave a court of his land as dowry. After some time, Bablu Mia put pressure on his wife Roksana to bring dowry in cash from her father returning the land. But Roksana failed to bring it and with this she fell victim of inhuman torture.

She was ultimately killed by her husband Bablu Mia on 30th June, 2000. Bablu immediately hanged her body inside the bedroom and circulated that she had committed suicide by hanging.

After the post-mortem, Pirgonj thana sub-inspector Ekramul field a case with the police station as complainant. He also held investigation and submitted chargesheet to the court. The judge heard both the sides and pronounced the judgement in a crowded courtroom.

The court in another murder case convicted accused Sayeed Ali of Gangachhara upazila and sentenced him to suffer life-term RI for killing his wife Anjuara, 25, on 29th February, 2000. The tragedy occurred when Anjuara tried to obstruct the illicit relationship of her husband with another woman, a neighbour.

A case was filed with the Gangachhara police station by Hafizur Rahman, uncle of the deceased. Police after thorough investigation submitted chargesheet to the court. The court after hearing both the sides and examining the prosecution witnesses delivered the judgement of life-term RI and fined him Tk 1,000, in default, to suffer three months RI.

Potato output target fixed at 84,600 MT in 16 N dists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Potato will be cultivated on 18,750 hectares of land in 16 northern districts this season with a production target of 84,600 metric tons (MT).

District wise break-up of land is as follows: Nilphamari-800 hectares, Rajshahi-1,950 hectares, Chapainawabganj-900 hectares, Natore-800 hectares, Naogaon-1,500 hectares, Pabna-900 hectares, Sirajganj-900 hectares and Bogra-1,350 hectares, Joupurhat-700 hectares, Rangpur-2,300 hectares, Gaibandha-800 hectares, Kaligram-300 hectares, Lalmonirhat-800 hectares, Dinajpur-3,150 hectares, Thakurgaon-800 hectares and Panchagarh-800 hectares.

Tk 128.66 cr RAKUB loan unrealised

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A total of Tk 128.66 crore loan in Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB) remained unrealised since long.

The bank has filed 1,077 certificate cases against the borrowers to realise Tk 7.81 crore only. It disbursed the agri-loan among 66,600 farmers through its 20 branches.

In this situation, RAKUB has set a target to disburse Tk 31.25 crore loan in the fiscal 2002-03, of which Tk 24.16 crore has already been disbursed till October.

On the other hand, Tk 3.77 crore were realised from the growers in the period.

Obituary

RU CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Freedom fighter Monsur Ahmed Khan, curator of Shahid Smreeti Sangrahashala in Rajshahi University (RU), a liberation war based museum, died of cardiac arrest on November 12 while performing his duty at his office at 1.30 pm. He was 55.

He left behind wife and two sons. He was buried at his family graveyard at Faridganj in Chandpur.