

NEWS SNAPS

2 unnatural deaths in Manikganj

UNB, Manikganj
A teenage girl allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself at Raghunathpur orphanage in Hariram upazila here Monday. Police said Anna Begum, 16, daughter of one person named Moazzem, committed suicide failing to bear the severe stomach pain.

Another report adds: The body of an unidentified man aged about 50 was recovered from Joy Montop bazaar in Singair upazila here on the same day. The bodies were sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Road mishap kills one

UNB, Mymensingh
A bicyclist was run over by a speeding bus on Mymensingh-Haluaaghat road at Imatpur in Fulpur upazila on Monday.

Witnesses said Abdus Salam, 50, was critically injured when the bus hit his bicycle from behind at about 9am.

He died on way to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

Elderly woman commits suicide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria
An unidentified sexagenarian woman allegedly committed suicide by jumping under the running train at Akhaura rail station on Friday.

Police suspected that the 65-year-old woman might have taken her life to get relief from her poverty and diseases.

Absconder arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj
An absconder convict and pimp of Tanbazar brothel of the town was arrested Saturday night.

Acting on a secret information police raided the Bhaiyapara area in the town and caught Parul, 35. Parul was convicted and sentenced to 14 years rigorous imprisonment (RI), in absentia, in a case in 1994, police said.

2 'criminals' arrested

UNB, Benapole
Members of joint forces arrested two alleged criminals with two guns after raiding village Panchbulot in Sharsha upazila Monday.

Nasir Uddin, 30, and Mohsin Morol, 31, possessed one gun, one shotgun and three rounds of bullets.

Two new municipalities

UNB, Bogra
Gabtoli and Kahalu upazilas of Bogra were declared as municipalities on Thursday.

With this, the total number of municipalities in the district reached to 10. Local government department sources said two other upazilas - Nondigram and Majhira - will also be declared municipalities soon.

Boro farming prospect in greater Dinajpur district bleak

UNB, Thakurgaon

Power connection to 908 deep tubewells, out of 1,217 remained disconnected for nonpayment of electricity bills, clouding the prospect of boro farming in the greater Dinajpur district.

According to officials, there are 1,217 deep tubewells in the three northern frontier districts - Dinajpur, Panchagarh and Thakurgaon - under Uttar Bangladesh Deep Tubewell Project.

Of these, 859 deep tubewells are in Thakurgaon while 144 in Panchagarh and 214 in Dinajpur districts.

Of the total, Thakurgaon Pali Bidyut Samity (PBS) has given

power connection to 713 tubewells while Dinajpur PBS to 504.

This season Thakurgaon PBS has snapped power connection to 608 deep tubewells for outstanding electricity bills of over Tk 2.32 crore while Dinajpur PBS to 300 tubewells.

As a result, vast of tracts of arable land in these districts may go uncultivated this year due to lack of irrigation.

"Boro cultivation will be hampered on some 60,000 acres of land in 10 upazilas of Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts" a competent source apprehended.

Assistant General Manager of Thakurgaon PBS Mansur Alam said they did not yet receive any government direction to restore the elec-

tricity lines to the disconnected deep tubewells in the boro season.

"The electricity lines of the deep tubewells will be restored after realisation of the outstanding bills along with necessary fines and charges as per rule", he said.

Already, cases have been filed against the management committees of some 100 deep tubewells on various charges.

Pali Bidyut Samiti sources said they incurred a loss of Tk 5.02 crore as some 1,177 transformers and over 2.01 lakh meter electric wires were stolen.

Meanwhile, farmers of the region have already prepared boro seedbeds but they are not getting irrigation facilities due to lack restoration of power.

NGOs' role in changing deprived people's lot underscored

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Speakers at a workshop on Sunday in Rajshahi city urged the government to strengthen its local government structure as well as to ensure effective role of the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and various citizens' forum for establishing human rights and good governance.

They said that the present government has been implementing programmes for women empowerment and poverty alleviation but the

NGOs and other voluntary organisations have some effective role to play in changing the fate of deprived people of the country.

They also commented that the local government units, NGOs and the citizens' forums have enough opportunity to build a powerful civil society by poverty alleviation.

Bangladesh Management and Resources Development Initiative (BMRDI) organised the workshop at a local hotel to exchange views at the divisional level on 'Manusher Jonno Fund', a poverty alleviation programme.

Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner Md Azir Uddin Ahmed attended the workshop as the chief guest while Professor Dr Nazmul Ahsan of the public administration department of Rajshahi University, Hasibur Rahman Mukur, director of BMRDI and Imamul Haque, communication and mass-media specialist of Manusher Jonno Fund spoke on the occasion, among others.

Golam Mortuza, director of Centre for Community Development moderated the whole programme.



Paratroopers of the 15th and 16th Army Commando Courses performing parajump at the Flying Brevet and Certificate awarding ceremony at paratropping ground in the Barabazar area of Jessore on Sunday.

Sandalwood worth Tk 10 lakh seized in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Police seized valuable sandalwood worth Tk 10 lakh from the frontier Kaliganj village in Dimla upazila of Nilphamari on Sunday night.

Police said, they acting on a secret information, chased a rickshaw van loaded with the sandalwood while it was on way to be smuggled out to India.

Sensing police presence, the van puller ran away.

Police seized the wood and a case was filed in this connection.

Work on Tk 63 lakh Panga Bridge construction project going on

UNB, Panchagarh

A 60-metre long bridge is being constructed over the Panga River here at a cost of Tk 63 lakh.

Local Government Engineering Department is constructing the bridge under its Bridge-Culvert Construction on Rural Road Project on priority basis.

Construction work on the bridge on Chaklahat-Ratanbari road is likely to be finished by June.

Moreover, the government has allocated some 1,313 tons of wheat for implementing various uplift schemes in five upazilas and two

municipalities of the district in the current fiscal year.

Of the total, some 399 tons have been allotted under TR project while 348 under GR project and 566 tons under VGF project.

The projects include maintenance of rural infrastructure, construction of kutcha roads and dams, tree plantation, cleaning of drains and earth filling of academic institutions.

Implementation works of the projects are likely to be finished soon.

The District Council will also implement eight development projects at a cost of Tk 15.39 lakh

during the current financial year.

The projects taken under Annual Development Programme (ADP) include construction of bridge, culvert, passenger shed, school, academic buildings of college and orphanage. Works on the projects are likely to be completed by June next.

Besides, new buildings of 12 schools are being constructed in the district at a cost of Tk 2.16 crore under Selected Government and Non-government Secondary School Development Project.



Leading model Mou along with renowned artistes Shimul and Faisal recently opened the new sales centre of Textmart, a leading fashionable garments manufacturer, at Senorita, East Zindabazar, Sylhet.

The forgotten heroes of Kamanna

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

Today is November 27.

On this day in 1971, 28 brave sons of the soil were brutally killed by the Pakistani soldiers during the war of liberation in 1971. But it is a matter of great shame that story of their glorious sacrifices are getting lost into oblivion gradually.

Story goes that the freedom fighters took shelter at the houses of Madhab Chandra and Shamela Begum while others at village Kamanna in Saikupa upazila in Jhenidah. In the early hours of November 27, 1971, the occupation Pakistani soldiers suddenly attacked the village bordering former Jhenidah and Magura subdivisions and gunned down 28 valiant sons of the soil.

Although all these patriots except one hail from Magura district, made their supreme sacrifice at the Kamanna battlefield.

Talking to The Daily Star Rawshan Ara Begum, widow of a Kamanna martyr Shahidul Islam expressed her disappointment. She said government allotted a meager amount of money as allowance. None pay due respect to the martyrs now-a-days, she further informed.

A monument in memory of

Kamanna martyrs has been built at village Hazipur in Magura Sadar upazila during the Awami League regime in 1999.

On the first year of building of the monument local Awami League arranged a discussion meeting at the pavement of the monument. But afterwards none came here to show respect to the martyrs.

For the last three years no programme was arranged here in memory of the Kamanna martyrs. No political party or any unit of freedom fighter's association even organised any discussion in mem-

ory of the heroes.

The forgotten heroes are: Riat Ali, Solaiman Shikder, Nirmal Kumar, Biswas, Abdul Aziz, Monimuzzaman, Anisur Rahman, Hossen Ali, Shariful Islam, Masim, Alamgir Hossen, Gourchandra, Abdur Razzak, Shahidul Islam, Adhir Kumar Shikder, Mominuddin, Wahidur Rahman Munshi Alimuzzaman, Abdul Motaleb, Golam Kowsar, Ali Hosen (2), Tajul Islam, Golrar Rahman, Khondokar Abdur Rashed, Selim Shikder, Abdul Kader, Abdus Salek, Ansar Ali and Golam Akbar.



PHOTO: STAR

Today is Kamanna Day. On this day in 1971, 28 patriots fell martyrs while liberation war was going on. Here is a monument built in memory of the martyrs at Hazipur in Magura Sadar upazila.