

NEWS SNAPS

Teen commits suicide

UNB, Tangail

A teenaged girl allegedly committed suicide at Deola in the town Sunday as her mother refused to buy her clothes ahead of Eid.

Police said Rupa Akhter, 13, daughter of Muhammad Ibrahim, hanged herself as her mother rebuked her for demanding clothes on the occasion of Eid. Rupa, a class VII student, was rushed to general hospital where doctors declared her dead.

Body recovered

UNB, Bagerhat

The body of a young woman killed by miscreants was recovered from a river near village Baharunia in Morolganj upazila Saturday.

The victim was identified as Hasina, 30, of village Barukhali in the upazila. The body of Hasina, who is believed to have been killed by the miscreants after rape, bore several injury marks. Family sources said Hasina was missing since Friday night. She was returning home from Morolganj ferry ghat.

One killed in road mishap

UNB, Satkhira

A bicyclist was killed in a traffic accident on Satkhira-Ashashani road at Brahmarajpur crossing in Sadar upazila Sunday.

Witnesses said Moksed Ali Gazi, 40, of village Shahapur in Tala upazila, died on the spot when a truck knocked down his bicycle from behind. After the incident, angry people seized the truck and set fire to it. They also put barricade on the road disrupting traffics for about two hours. A case was filed.

Two 'rapists' arrested

UNB, Thakurgaon

Police Sunday arrested two youths on charge of raping a 14-year-old girl at Shahorpara in Sadar upazila Saturday.

Locals said Ershad, son of Sirajuddin and Joynal, son of Bihari Mia of the village, took the girl to a sugarcane field and raped her there one after another. Police arrested the two alleged rapists after a relative of the victim filed a case with local police station against them. They were sent to jail hajjat.

Trawler with smuggled goods seized

UNB, Patuakhali

A trawler carrying Indian clothes worth about Tk one crore was seized from Shoula canal at Lohalia union in Sadar upazila Sunday.

On information, police rushed to the spot and seized the trawler along with the smuggled goods. Police also arrested four people - Ripon, 30, Bashudev, 35, Shahidul, 30, and Shahid, 28, -- in this connection. A case was filed.

Rampant smuggling before Eid thru' border points of greater Rajshahi

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

As the Eid-ul Fitr is nearing, unabated smuggling through the border points of greater Rajshahi district has become rampant.

The smugglers here started cashing recklessly joining hands with their 'friends' in the law enforcing agencies.

The border points of Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Natore and Naogaon districts have become almost open to the dealers of smuggled goods.

The law enforcers have become blind towards the smugglers in exchange of money as they think the way of income is less risky for them in the ongoing drive of the joint forces.

"They (smugglers) are no more keeping their business limited at nights, but started doing it in broad day light...and it is impossible for a very few honest law enforcers to check it", commented a senior member of the anti-smuggling task force.

The border points at Volahat, Shibganj, Nababganj, Godagari, Paba, Rajshahi City, Charghat, Bagha, Lalpur,

Sapahar, Porsha and Dhamuirhat areas were learnt to be very propitious for the unlawful traders.

There are at least two or more clandestine river-ghats at Sultanganj, Mohishalbari, Premtoli, Shahebnagar, Manikchak, Alatuli, Polladanga, Railbazar, Hatpara and Madarpur areas in Godagari upazila of Rajshahi.

Every day, the smugglers are used to import, albeit avoiding taxes, hundreds of sacks of sugar, sari, lungi, cosmetics, powder milk, fruits, pressure cooker, electrical goods, motor parts, bi-cycle, liquor, phensidyl, heroin, medicine, liquid milk, fish and vegetables from the Lalgola and Bhagabangola bazaars of India.

And on the other hand, gold, palm oil, fuel, garlic, soap, brass materials and idols of touchstone are being smuggled out to India, it was learnt.

Like Godagari, there are also more than 15 separate ghats in Rajshahi City areas, Bholahat, Shibganj, Nababganj, Sapahar, Porsha and Charghat upazilas each while there are at least four ghats at Paba, Bagha and Lalpur upazilas each.

Rabi farming target fixed at 2,33,413 MT in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

A total of 74,300 hectares of land have been targeted for rabi (winter crops) farming in 4 upazilas of Magura district with a production target of 2,33,413 metric tons (MT).

Sources in the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) informed, a total of 34,900 hectares of land have been targeted for boro cultivation with a production target of 1,19,358 MT while 9,500 hectares of land will be brought under wheat cultivation with a production target of

21,375 MT.

A total of 500 hectares of land have been fixed to cultivate maize with a production target of 2,250 MT while 6,000 hectares for mustard cultivation with a production target of 4,800 MT.

A total of 100 hectares land will be brought under ground-nut farming while 12,000 hectares have been targeted for lentil with a production target of 8,400 MT and vetch on 400 hectares with a production target of 280 MT.

A total of 5,000 hectares of land

have been fixed to cultivate Kheshari (one kind of pulse) with a production target of 4,000 MT while 500 hectares for pea-pod farming with a production target of 250 MT and 100 hectares for onion cultivation with a production target of 800 MT.

A total of 800 hectares of land have been targeted for garlic farming with a production target of 4,000 MT while green-chilly on 4,000 hectares with a production target of 8,000 MT and potato cultivation n 200 hectares with a production target of 2,300 MT.

Besides, 5,000 hectares of land will be brought under vegetable farming with a production target of 50,000 MT while sugarcane cultivation on 300 hectares with a production target of 15,000 MT.

Befitting programme to observe birth centenary of Pallikabi Jasimuddin

BSS, Faridpur

Brisk preparations are afoot to observe the birth centenary of Pallikabi Jasimuddin which falls on January 1, will be celebrated this year in a befitting manner.

To commemorate the occasion of Jasimuddin's birth centenary the Ministry of Cultural Affairs has also chalked out a programme to observe it at the national level in the capital.

In Faridpur, Jasim Foundation, a body to look after the works of Jasimuddin in collaboration with the district administration has planned to arrange a fortnight long Pallimela (village fair), cultural functions, Jarigan, Kabigan, Bichargan and other activities depicting the work of Jasimuddin. All functions will be held at Jasim Uddyan located adjacent to poet's ancestral home and his tomb located in the tiny village Gobindapur, two kilometres from here.

To mark the occasion a pucca

bathing place under the style of "Sojan Badiar Ghat" will be constructed at an estimated cost of Tk 10 lakh on the bank of the river Kumar near the poet's home. The bathing place has been named after Jasimuddin's immortal poetic work "Sojan Badiar Ghat." The foundation stone of the ghat was laid this afternoon by the Deputy Commissioner and President of Jasim Foundation Md Ismail Jabiullah. The funding and technical assistance will be provided by the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED).

It may be mentioned that the gypsy families once lived on boats at the proposed pucca ghat Jasimuddin wrote his poem "Sojan Badiar Ghat" on the life of the gypsies. Sojan, the hero of the poem was a gypsy.

Meanwhile, several committees have been formed to make the birth centenary function colourful and attractive. A souvenir will also be brought out in this connection.

NILPHAMARI diary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Dull Eid shopping

Although the markets of the district town have taken an attractive and festive look on the eve of forthcoming Eid-ul-Fitr yet the marketing spree of the town dwellers is discouraging.

Only the families of rich people are crowding the departmental stores. Most people depend on the roadside and temporary second hand markets. This year because of unsatisfactory aman harvesting following breakout of "Shikar Pacha" disease, there is recession in the overall economic situation in the district.

New JCD dist body

After 12 years, the district committee of the Jatiyatabadi Chattra Dal (JCD) has been announced last week in a conference held at the auditorium of shilpakala academy. In presence of BNP Central Committee member Khairul Kabir Khokan and after prolonged deliberation a 71-member district committee was announced with Akhtaruzzaman Jewel as the President and Morshed Azam as General Secretary.

Rice traders cheating buyers

Cheating in weight of daily household materials has so far become the part of life, as the traders did not pay any heed to the protests of the consumers for falsification in weight. However, the habit has started to change following presence of the army. Traders, government dealers of rice and wheat are now trying to sell goods in correct weights.

Domar comes under digital exchange

From November 21 Domar has come under digital telephone network. District BNP convenor and nephew of Begum Khaleda Zia, Shahrin Islam Tuhin pushed the button to inaugurate the exchange in a simple ceremony attended among others, by Domar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Faruq Ahmed and Divisional T&T Engineer Mukul Chandra Roy.

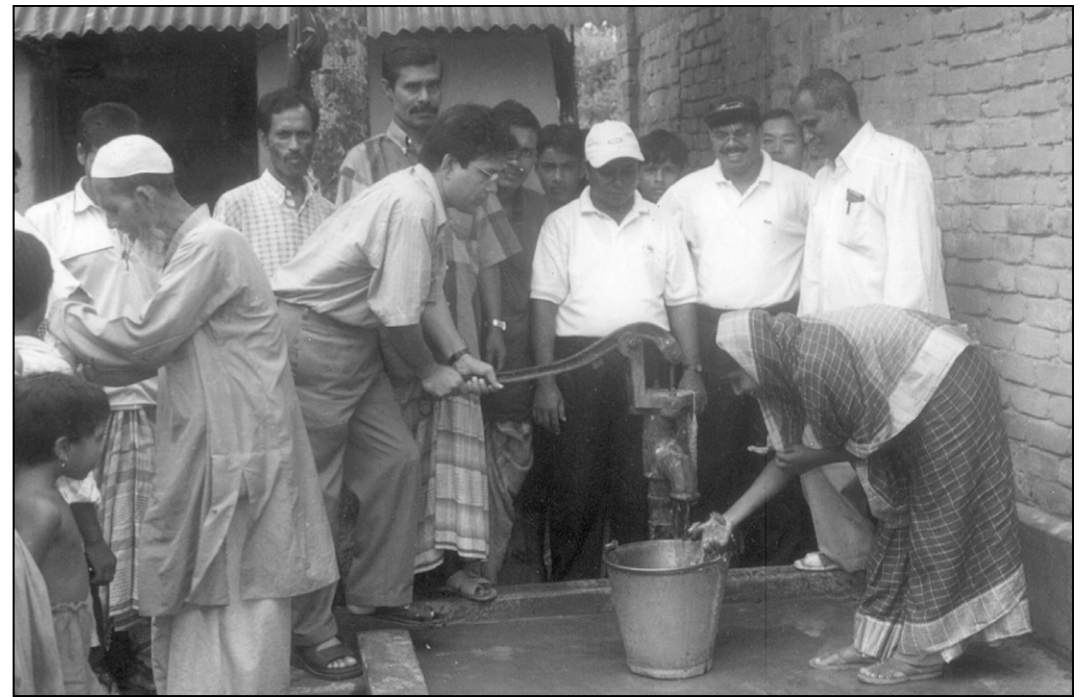


PHOTO: STAR

An official of World Vision Mymensingh operates a tubewell while a rural woman collects its pure drinking water. The major non-governmental organisation (NGO) recently distributed 215 tubewells among people at different places including Mymensingh town to help solve the drinking water crisis.