

NEWS SNAPS

Elderly man killed in Jhenidah road mishap

UNB, Jhenidah

An old man was killed in a road accident in Kaliganj upazila on Wednesday.

Police and witnesses said a Jhenidah bound passenger bus hit Golam Ali, 65, of village Jhakra in the same upazila while he was crossing the road at Nimtala bus stand in Kaliganj town. He died on way to the upazila health complex. A case was filed with the police.

3 housewives commit suicide

UNB, Jhenidah

Three young housewives allegedly committed suicide during the last week in Kaliganj upazila.

Police and locals said Rubina Khatun, 21, of village Khosolpur and Mariam, 25, of village Subidpur allegedly committed suicide by taking poison following family quarrels on December 5. Another housewife Nasima Khatun, 25, of village Mongolpoita allegedly took her own life by taking poison following a trouble with her husband. Separate cases were filed with the police.

Allocation for road carpeting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

The government allocated Tk 12 cr for carpeting the Magura-Narail road this fiscal.

Roads and Highways (R&H) Department under its annual development programme will implement bituminous carpeting of the road to ease the road transport of the district with Narail. Official sources said, work on bituminous carpeting will start in the first week of next month which is likely to be completed by June.

Gold ornaments stolen

UNB, Sylhet

Over 38 tolas of gold ornaments were stolen from a jewelry shop of Sukria market at Zinda Bazaar in the city Wednesday night.

The owners of the jewelry Zahid Mia found the back wall of the shop in the ground floor broken when he opened the shop Thursday morning. On information police visited the spot. A case was filed.

3 nabbed for possessing illegal firearms

UNB, Mongla

Police arrested three people including a woman and recovered three firearms and 13 rounds of bullets from their possession Thursday.

Police said, they intercepted a private car coming from Khulna in Digraj area here at noon and recovered a shutter gun, two pipe guns and 13 bullets. They arrested Khudeja, 25, Habibullah, 27, and Mofazzal Molik, 24. An arms case was filed against them with the Mongla thana.

Tk 2.15 lakh land dev tax realised

UNB, Jhalakati

Local Revenue Office collected Tk 2.15 lakh as land development tax in first four months of the current fiscal year against its annual demand of Tk 47.55 lakh.

Local Administration sources said a large number of posts of Tahsildar and Assistant Tahsildar remained vacant since long hampering the normal activities of realisation of land tax.

Revenue office said, in the current year unrealised land development tax stood at Tk 32.27 lakh to the common people while Tk 15.28 lakh to different organisations.

Fraud caught with fake currency notes

UNB, Sylhet

A fraud was caught with fake currency notes of Tk 93,000 at Bianibazar upazila here Wednesday and handed him over to the army.

Locals said two men purchased clothes worth Tk 1 lakh from the shop of Kuddus Mia at Chhorarpar bazaar Wednesday and they paid a bundle of 500 taka notes worth Tk 94,000, but the shopkeepers with utter astonishment found the notes fake.

He then secretly informed the matter to the joint forces but one of the frauds fled the scene before their arrival while another one was caught and handed over to them.

Arrested Abdur Rahim Mia, 25, was later handed over to Biani Bazaar thana police Thursday.

A case was filed in this connection.



PHOTO: STAR

Members of the Magura district unit of Bangladesh College Shikshak Samity, an association of college teachers, parade the streets of the district town in a colourful procession to hail the recent bill of retirement benefit for non-government teachers.

Law & order in Cox's Bazar improves

BSS, Cox's Bazar

An unprecedented atmosphere of peace and security has been prevailing in the resort town of Cox's Bazar and other parts of the district following the clean heart operation by the combined forces.

Peace returned in the hearts of 20 lakh inhabitants of Cox's Bazar district as law and order has been restored in all places including the off-shore islands.

A huge number of tourists are booking seats in advance in different hotels and motels of Cox's Bazar during the coming season, which is expected to outnumber the previous records.

People in general and the businessmen in particular are happy as the anti-crime drive by the members of army, navy, police and other law enforcing agencies is progressing. Criminal activities like hijacking or piracy, clashes centering the shrimp project, road robbery and extortion of toll have stopped completely in Cox's Bazar.

District police and army sources said, over 200 persons including 90 listed criminals were arrested from different places of the district during last one month of the operation.

So far 111 illegal arms and 119 rounds of bullets have been recovered by the combined forces from six upazilas of Cox's Bazar.

A total of 214 illegal arms and 30 bullets were recovered from Moheskhalia island and 63 arms from Kutubdia island by the joint forces led by naval forces.

One of these arms is M-16 rifle

made of USA which was recovered from Edghar Hill area of Ramu upazila. Another British made 9 mm SMG which was recovered from the Kalamarchara hill area of Moheskhalia island.

The quantity of arms and ammunition recovered in Moheskhalia outnumbered the recovery records of other parts of the country. Besides, the naval forces have destroyed 30 local arms making spots in Moheskhalia hill areas.

The Naval Force Commander-in-Charge of Moheskhalia island Zubair Ahmed told that many notorious criminals have been nabbed and a huge number of arms and ammunition have been recovered with the cooperation of local administration, police and people.

Cox's Bazar Police Super (SP) Mozammel Hossain said a good number of listed criminals of Cox's Bazar have been arrested in the last one year. Many others have fled from the district once the Operation Clean Heart began.

The SP said extensive security measures have been taken in the sea beach areas for the tourists.

Noted industrialist, social worker and president of Cox's Bazar District Jubo Dal Lutfur Rahman Kazal told that Cox's Bazar would stand first in the entire country in terms of improvement of the law and order situation. This year a large number of tourists may visit Cox's Bazar due to the peaceful atmosphere, said Al-Haj Rafiqul Huda Chowdhury, vice president of the Association of Residential Hotels of Cox's Bazar.

The Hotel Panoa Managing Director and a noted social worker

Ali Hasssan Chowdhury said criminal activists have reduced to a large extent.

The chairmen of Cox's Bazar Shop Owners' Federation Farid Ahmed Chowdhury said, the businessmen community have been conducting their business in full peace and security for the last one year.

Body recovered from hotel employees' room

UNB, Sylhet

Two unnatural deaths of young men were reported in the city on Thursday.

Locals said Monjil, 22, an employee of hotel Surma, was found dead at the hotel employees' room in the morning.

Police recovered the body of Monjil, an inhabitant of Durgapasha village of Sunamganj district, and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, carpenter Abdul Ahad, 18, of Tarapur area on the outskirts of the town, died at Osmani Medical College Hospital. He was rushed to the hospital in a critical condition after he came in contact with live electric wire.

Boro farming in Narail faces setback

UNB, Narail

Boro cultivation in Narail is likely to face a setback this season due to seed scarcity.

According to the Department Agriculture Extension (DAE), a total of 23,200 hectares of land have been brought under boro cultivation this season.

Official sources said some 54 metric tons of seed were allocated for the dealers while 33 metric tons for Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) sales centre for supplying to the growers against the demand of 100 mts.

Meanwhile, a section of dishonest dealers are selling the seeds at high prices creating artificial scarcity, alleged the farmers.

Schedule for UP polls in Rangamati

UNB, Rangamati

District Election Office announced the election schedule for the Union Parishad (UP) elections beginning from January 25.

According to the schedule the date of filing nomination is January 1, scrutiny on January 2 and last date of withdrawal of candidature is January 9.

Elections will be held in different unions from January 25 to March 8.

Meanwhile, like previous term elections will not be held at Rajbila union in Sadar upazila due to court injunction.

Body of boy recovered in Feni

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Police recovered the body of four-year-old Sabbir Al Sakib, who was killed on Eid day, December 6 at village Dalia in Sadar upazila of the district.

Sadar thana police, in presence of a magistrate, recovered the body from a pond in the vicinity of the victim's residence.

Police arrested Sakhawat Hossain Dildar, a neighbour, in connection with the killing.

Police said when Sakhawat Hossain Dildar was detained on Tuesday night, he confessed to killing the boy.

BRDB's loan disbursement programme

UNB, Magura

In an effort to alleviate poverty by creating self-employment opportunities Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) has undertaken a massive loan disbursement programme in Sreepur upazila of the district.

Bangladesh Rural Development Board officials said so far they disbursed Tk 5.09 crore among the members of different cooperative societies of the upazila during the current fiscal year.

The loans will be utilised for cattle rearing, poultry and dairy farming, vegetable cultivation, establishment of nursery, sewing, small trading and cottage industries.

Besides, the Board, as part of its poverty eradication programme, formed 134 cooperative societies and enlisted 4,556 members. The Board also collected Tk 18.55 lakh as savings of the members and Tk 5.02 lakh through buying share certificates.

Boy killed in bomb blast

UNB, Rangpur

A minor boy was killed in a bomb blast at Nilkhantha in the municipality area on December 4.

Witnesses and police said Shajib, 8, son of a farmer, picked up the bomb out of ignorance from a paddy field. But it exploded with a big bang when the boy was playing with it. He died on the spot at about 11am.

Fish trader succumbs to injuries

UNB, Gazipur

A fish trader of village Shalna in Sadar upazila who was beaten up by a deranged man succumbed to his injuries on Tuesday.

Locals said that Jonu Miah attacked seven people, injuring Shahid and Kuddus severely on December 1. They were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where Shahid, 35, died.

Tk 1 lakh looted from Ijtema devotees

UNB, Narsingdi

Armed robbers looted more than Tk 1 lakh from a caravan of devotees who made a stop over at a mosque here Wednesday night

on their way to Biswa Ijtema.

Police said that a gang of 15 armed robbers attacked 30 devotees who stayed at the mosque at Horipur Bazaar in Ropyur upazila for the night.

They were coming to the Ijtema venue from Sunamganj district.

The incident has created resentment among the local people.

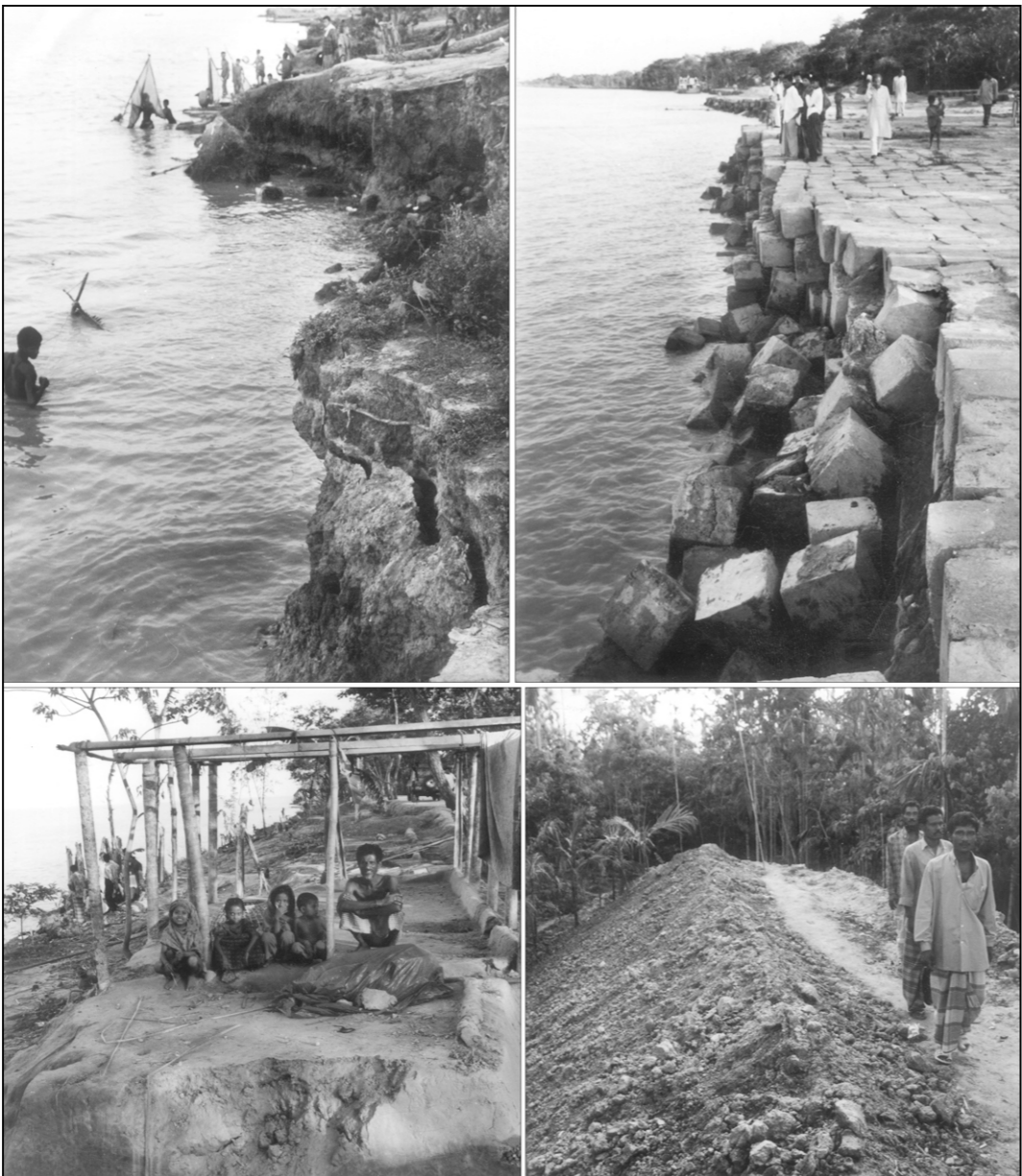


PHOTO FEATURE: A K M MOHSIN

The inhabitants of Bhola face a perennial problem of river erosion for a long time. Previously the authorities concerned chalked out half-hearted programmes to check erosion, but all attempts ended in total failure. (Top left) Massive erosion by the mighty Meghna in the Tulatuly area of Bhola district, (right) a futile attempt to check erosion where concrete blocks crumble down in face of intense current of the major river. (Bottom left) Erosion victims Majid and other members of his family who took shelter on an embankment find no way to eke out a living. Finally they decide to desert their village and go to elsewhere to earn a living while (right) three villagers walk through a new embankment which is being built just 100 yards away from the old dam which was totally damaged by the Meghna.