

NEWS SNAPS

Garments trader injured by bandits

UNB, Keraniganj

A garments trader was injured in an attack by robbers at Amin Para here Friday.

Bandits intercepted the businessman Shaheen and indiscriminately hit him with 'chapati' (a sharp weapon) leaving him critically injured at about 12:45pm. He was later admitted to Mitford Hospital.

Barisal Red Crescent Society's AGM held

BSS, Barisal

The 30th general annual meeting (AGM) and elections of Barisal Red Crescent Society was held here recently with acting president Mosarraf Hossain Monju, MP, in the chair.

Secretary of the institution AHM Saleh read out keynote papers of the unit of the society and presented a budget for the next year in the meeting. The meeting unanimously passed this budget for the year. An election of the unit was also held here for the year 2003. Mosarraf Hossain Monju was elected as vice-president while AHM Saleh as general secretary of the unit. Besides, BCC Mayor Ahsan Habib Kamal, Sheikh A Rahim, Sheikh A Sobhan, Moniruzzaman Farook and Moazzem Hossain Heal were also elected as members of the unit of the society.

VGF foodgrains distributed

BSS, Natore

A Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme has been initiated in 52 unions and four municipalities of four upazilas of Natore.

According to District Relief and Rehabilitation Department sources, 22,400 distressed families have been brought under this programme. Distribution of rice under the programme will start within couple of days. Four hundred cards have been distributed among 400 poor families of each of the 52 unions.

Expansion work of school bldgs on

BSS, Chuadanga

The Education Engineering Department is implementing three schemes at a total cost of Tk 52.50 lakh in two upazilas of Chuadanga.

Of the schemes, two are being implemented in Jibannagar upazila and one scheme in Damurhuda upazila. According to official sources, the ongoing schemes under Jibannagar upazila are expansion of the existing building of Raipur Boys' High School and Jibannagar Boys' Pilot High School and expansion of existing building of Modna Boys' High School in Damurhuda upazila.

5 dists in grip of severe cold

Two die of cold related diseases in Rangpur

MOZAMMEL HAQUE, Rangpur

Two persons died of cold related diseases at Dimla in greater Rangpur last week, local people said.

They were identified as Abdul Hamid, 65, and Hajam Uddin, 61.

All the five districts of greater Rangpur zone are in grip of biting cold following fall in mercury which varies between 13.3 degree celsius to 15 degree celsius during the last one week.

Cold related diseases like asthma, cough and cold fever broke out in an epidemic form across the greater Rangpur zone, said local physicians and health workers.

The Met office recorded 13.3 degree celsius temperature on Monday (December 17) which was lowest in the ongoing winter season. The sky remain cloudy almost all the time at day and night while the sun rays are hardly visible due to deep fog.

Government and non-government organisations should rush immediately adequate winter cloths, saline and medicine to mitigate the sufferings of hundreds of helpless people. Proper rehabilitation of shelterless people is also the need of the hour.

Grabbing the opportunity, unscrupulous owners of medicine shops and pharmacies are now doing a brisk business. In remote places of the district the prices of medicine of cold related diseases are abnormally high because of its non-availability. It is alleged that the compounders and even unexperienced persons working in

the medicine shops and pharmacies are treating the patients as poor people can hardly bear the higher cost of visiting physicians.

Lalmonirhat, Kurigra and Nilphamari districts are the worst-hit districts in comparison to the districts of Rangpur and Gaibandha.

The disaster management and relief ministry seems to be unaware about the gravity of the situation as no precautionary measures were taken so far to combat the situation.

A spokesman of the Rangpur Relief office told The Daily Star that they already informed the higher authorities about the situation and the upcoming cold wave in the northern region.

However, at present the godowns of the Relief department across the greater Rangpur zone run short of winter cloths. The Red Crescent Society in Rangpur district is also quite indifferent to the plight of victims.

Due to sharp fall in temperature people, especially the working people can hardly go out of their houses in search of work or to earn money. As a result, a large number poor families those who solely depend on daily wages, now face an acute economic crisis. Many of them, have allegedly been facing starvation or semi-starvation.

An official of the Rangpur Met office, preferring anonymity, predicted severe cold wave across the greater Rangpur zone in the next few days which would continue for a long period.

The temperature registered gradual fall since the first day of

Bengali month 'Paush' (Dec 15) and till date it maintains a downward trend.

There are thousands of poor who survived 'monga', a famine-like situation, about one month ago are now in grip of severe cold. In remote places of the district, particularly in the shoal areas, the woes of poor people is beyond description, eye-witnesses said.

Due to higher cost of old winter clothes, people of low-income find it very difficult to procure the same for their survival.

Acid attack on pregnant housewife

UNB, Sylhet

A pregnant housewife received severe burn injuries in an acid attack at village Islampur in Dakkhin Surma upazila Wednesday.

Witnesses said Khosru Mia, husband of Shahana Begum, had an altercation with his uncle Mossadar Ali over land dispute.

On that night Mossadar, his sons Islam Uddin Kotai, Tera Mia and their relative Mahtab entered into the house of Shahana, mother of three children, in the absence of her husband and hurled acid on her body.

The eight-month pregnant Shahana was rushed to Osmani Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. Police arrested Islam Uddin Kotai in this connection. A case was filed.

Girl raped, housewife tortured in Rajshahi

A CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A girl of class nine was raped allegedly by a young man at village Premtali in Godagari upazila on Saturday last.

Imran Ali, 26, son of Ayub Ali of village Khetur, asked the victim to come away to Rajshahi with him promising to marry her. But en route, the accused forcibly took her to a nearby paddy field, raped her and left her there in an unconscious state with her mouth gagged.

However, the victim, gained consciousness and returned home. The accused surrendered to the local police station the following day. The victim's mother filed a case with Godagari Police Station.

Meanwhile, Sabina, a housewife in Puthia has been admitted to One Stop Crisis Centre (OSCC) under Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) on Monday last after being tortured brutally by Rizual Islam, her husband and son of Azer Ali for dowry.

Sabina was severely beaten up on November 30. On Saturday night last, she subjected to torture yet again, according to sources.

The next morning, neighbours took her to the local village doctor. She was then shifted to OSCC at RMCH. Her condition is stated to be critical.

Two arrested with counterfeit notes in Mymensingh

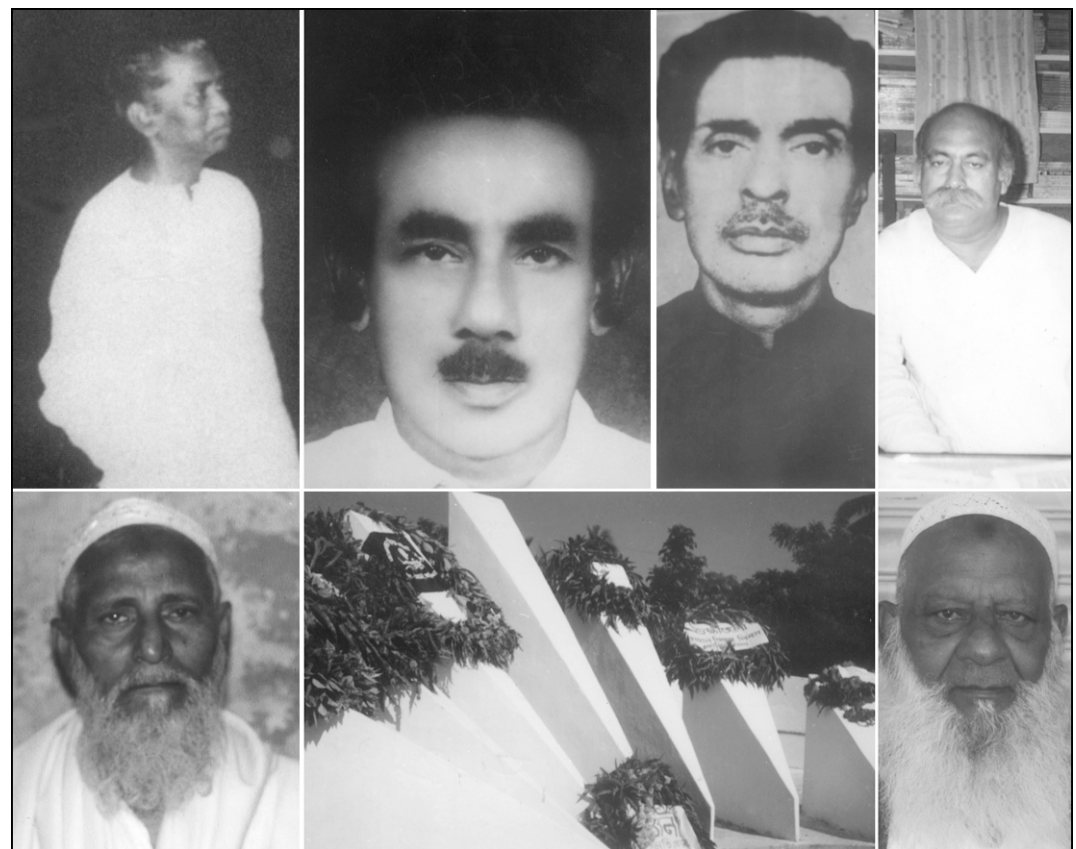
UNB, Mymensingh

Police Tuesday arrested two people along with 59 counterfeit notes of Tk 500 denomination, huge fake stamps and stamp producing machine from Kalibari area in the town.

On information police raided the house of Sultan Ahmed at Kalibari lane, arrested him along with his accomplice Abdul Mannan and recovered the fake notes and stamps.

The arrested criminals and their gang are involved in cheating common people of Muktagachha upazila with fake notes and stamps.

Police recently arrested a number of activists of the gang and on the basis of their confessional statement raided the house of Sultan.



Here are the faces of the organisers of the Liberation War in Magura. (Top left-right) Late Sohrab Hossain, late Syed Ator Ali, late Asaduzzaman and late Abul Khayer, (bottom extreme left) Akbar Hossain Mian, (bottom extreme right) Majed Khondoker. A liberation war monument is also seen (below middle) at village Talkhari in Shalikh upazila where people of all walks of life laid wreaths to pay rich tributes to the golden sons of the soil on the Victory Day.

Tributes to Liberation War martyrs of Magura

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

Rich tributes were paid to the martyrs of the Liberation War of Bangladesh in Magura.

Speakers at a discussion meeting on the Victory Day on December 16 at Asaduzzaman Auditorium here paid glowing tributes to 44 golden sons of Magura who became martyrs during the nine-month occupation by the Pakistani Army.

The martyrs are Lalu Pagla, Mukul, Mokarram Riat Ali, Abdul Wahed, Shariful Islam, Ali Hossain, Motalab, Anisur Rahman, Moniruzzaman, Alimuzzaman, Kawsar Hossain, Masim Hossen, Tajul Islam, Abdus Sattar, Nazrul Islam, Abdul Kader, Abdul Momin, Shahidul Islam, Solaiman, Munshi Abdur Razzak, Sheikh Mofizuddin, Haresar Mian, Abdus Salek, Abir Hossain, Ahmed, Mohammad,

Selim, Abdul Aziz, Adhir Kumar, Golzar Hossain, Khondoker Abdur Rashed, Hossain Ali, Gour Kumar, Nazrul Islam, Moktar Hossain, Hafizur Rahman, Khalilur Rahman, Nirmal Kumar Biswas, Mohammad Abdus Sattar, and Arif Munshi.

They fell martyrs while fighting valiantly at Mohammadpur TTDC camp, Aralia-Sreemontapur road, Sreepur police station camp, Binodpur bazaar camp, Magura Ansar camp, Khamarpara, Kadirpara, Nohata-Joyrampur road, Shoilakupa police station and Kamanna in Jhenidah district where many brave sons of Magura lost their lives.

The contributions of the organisers of the freedom struggle and liberation war also recalled with gratitude at the discussion meeting where Deputy Commissioner (DC)

Shafiu Alam presided over. The organisers were former minister late Advocate Shohrab Hossain, former member of parliament (MP) late Advocate Asaduzzaman, late member of provincial Assembly (MPA) Sayed Ator Ali and the then Sub-divisional Officer (SDO) Wailul Islam, late MP Abdur Rashid Biswas, Altaf Hossain, Akbar Hossain Mian, Sayed Mahbulul Huq (Benu Mian), Khondoker Abdul Majed, late Tayebur Rahman, Molla Nabuot Ali, former Assistant Attorney General late Advocate Abul Khayer, late Abdul Jalil Sardar, Munshi Rezaul Islam, former upazila chairman Rostam Ali and Abu Nasir Bablu organised the Liberation War.

It is to be mentioned here that Magura which was freed on December 7, 1971 after a nine-month long life or death fighting.



PHOTO: STAR

A rural child eagerly plucks a Water Lily from a pond at village Amolsar in Sreepur upazila in Magura district. Winter is the season of flowers. Water lilies blossom in plenty in Bangladesh in this season.

Two 'muggers' caught red-handed in Bagerhat

UNB, Bagerhat

Two alleged muggers were caught red-handed while fleeing after snatching Tk 8,000 from a worker of a non-governmental organisation (NGO) in the town Sunday.

The arrested were identified as Shanto Akunzi, 23, of Sundarghona

and Atiar Sheikh, 24, of Patorpara in the town.

Police said local people chased and caught them when they along with two others snatched the money from the female NGO worker.

The snatched money was recovered from the youths, who were later handed over to police.

32,175 MTs of wheat output target fixed in Jhenidah

UNB, Jhenidah

A programme has been taken to bring 14,300 hectares of land under wheat cultivation in six upazilas of Jhenidah with an output target of 32,175 metric tons (MTs) of wheat in the current rabi season.

Of the total land, 2,150 hectares will

be brought under wheat farming in Sadar, 1,650 hectares in Kaliganj, 1,050 hectares in Kotchandpur, 3,680 hectares in Moheshpur, 4,700 hectares in Shailakupa and 1,070 hectares in Harinakunda upazilas.

A total of 13,985 hectares of land were brought under wheat cultivation here last year.

Separate incidents kill two in Bagerhat

UNB, Bagerhat

Two people, including a woman, were killed in separate incidents in Kachua and Mongla here on Wednesday and Friday.

Yusuf Ali Hawlader, a middle aged man of village Badhal in Kachua, was chopped to death by his rivals Friday morning.

Police arrested three people - Nuru Sarder, his wife Anjira Begum and Akkas Sarder - in this connection.

In another incident, Abdus Salam allegedly beat his wife Nilufa to death at village Sheolabunia in Mongla Wednesday night.

The law enforcers later nabbed Salam.

Work on Tk 1 cr UP complex building project completed

UNB, Panchagarh

Four union parisdad (UP) complex buildings have been constructed in Panchagarh at a cost of Tk one crore.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) constructed the buildings at Barashashi, Chilahati, Satmera and Balarampur unions under Rural Development Project-21.

The two-storied UP building comprises rooms for chairmen and members, auditorium, field level offices for agriculture, education, livestock, health and family planning departments.

Besides, carpeting works of three roads in the district are progressing fast at a cost of Tk 56 lakh.

The Work on the road is expected to be completed by June next.