

NEWS SNAPS

Killer father commits suicide

UNB, Gazipur
A man allegedly committed suicide after killing his son at Iahata village in Sadar upazila Saturday.

Locals said Sagar, 25, a garments worker first strangled his one and a half-year-old son Shuvo and then allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself following a family feud. The bodies were sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Under-trial prisoner dies

UNB, Gazipur
An under-trial prisoner died at the Sadar Hospital here Sunday.

Jail sources said Suruj Mia, 67, an accused of a murder case, suddenly fell sick and was rushed to the hospital where the attending doctors declared him dead. The victim hailed from Pariar village in Kapasia thana was in jail for about 10 months.

Shallow machine of Rupsha Bridge Authority recovered

UNB, Khulna
Detective Branch (DB) police Sunday arrested six alleged thieves and recovered a stolen shallow machine of Rupsha Bridge Authority from Sheikhpara in the city.

DB police picked up them from the under construction Rupsha Bridge site and following their confessional statement recovered the machine from the shop of one person named Jaill Sardar.

The thieves were identified as Abdur Rahim and Anwar Hossain of Mongla, Sumon of Rampal, Aminul Islam of Morelgonj and Abdul Jalil and Hossain Helal of Khulna City. A case was filed with the police.

Flesh trader arrested

UNB, Sylhet
Members of Army-led joint forces picked up a notorious flesh trader from Chandagram in Borolekha upazila Sunday.

The arrested Mostafa Uddin, 50, son of Late Samir Uddin, was handed over to Biani Bazar police. He was wanted for his involvement in sex business. Local people thronged the thana to have a glimpse of Mostafa who used to collect girls from different areas and force them to engage in flesh trading.

Rangpur Met office radar out of order

BSS, Rangpur

The radar of the Meteorological Department in Rangpur, which has gone out of order long before, is causing problem in forecasting weather of the northern region.

Met office sources said there are four radars in the country. Three others are stationed in Dhaka, Cox's Bazar and Khepupara.

The engineers concerned were blamed for the trouble of the radar in Rangpur.

Each radar covers a range of 400 kilometers. Usually these radars are used for observing the movement of clouds.

Sujat Kumar Sharma, a meteorologist, claimed the weather forecasting in Bangladesh is more accurate than many other countries.

He said Bangladesh Meteorology Department has a very strong team comprising a good number of experts to forecast the climate. He noted that the numerical method followed by Bangladesh is a very effective system.

Pahari Chhatra Prasad confce in Bandarban

UNB, Bandarban

The central representative conference of Pahari Chhatra Prasad (PCP) began at the Press Club premises here Sunday.

General Secretary of Jana Sanghati Samity (JSS) Chandra Shekhar Chakma inaugurated the conference in the morning.

Presided over by PCP central committee president Ujjal Chakma, among others, Regional Council members K S Mong, Unu Pru, Sadhuram Tripura, former president of Hill Women Federation Waiching Marma and JSS leader Joli Mong were present.

Agri fair

UNB, Joypurhat

The first agricultural fair of the current season began at Shaid Dr Abul Kahem ground in the district town Sunday.

The fair was organised by the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE), Deputy Commissioner (DC), Joypurhat M Moin Ali Sardar chaired the function.

Diarrhoea claims 12 in Joypurhat, malaria five in Netrakona

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reports of outbreak of diarrhoea in Joypurhat, stomach ailment in Madaripur and malaria in Netrakona have raised a great concern.

BSS reports from Joypurhat: New patients are still coming to the hospitals in all five upazilas of Joypurhat, official sources said. So far, the death toll from diarrhoea stands at 12 here though the Civil Surgeon confirmed six such deaths during the last fortnight in all five upazilas.

The deaths are identified as Zahera, 50, Manoranjan, 22, Motiur, 15, Kazem, 70, Nonibala, 95, Shovarani, 35, Kanchanbala, 45, Raihan, 32, Mina, 22, Sabera, 40, Momena, 45, Fatema (6 months).

Civil Surgeon Anwar Ali sent an urgent message to the authorities concerned for allocation of more intravenous saline to cope with the

situation.

A report from Madaripur says: Stomach ailments have broken out in different parts of the district due to paucity of drinking water and adulterated food.

Hospitals and health complex sources said a large number of patients were reporting to them for treatment every day.

Many tubewells have been lying out of order for a long time causing scarcity of the supply of pure drinking water.

A message from Netrakona says: The deadly disease "malaria" has broken out in the border belt areas of Durgapur and Kalmakanda upazilas of the district in the current month.

Five people died of malaria and at least 100 others were attacked by the disease in the two border belt upazilas during the last fortnight, the civil surgeon quoting official reports reaching here said.

Civil Surgeon, Netrakona Dr Mainuddin Ahmed Chowdhury told last week that thousands of Anopheles and other serious varieties of mosquitoes carrying malaria parasite are flying over the bordering areas of Bangladesh territory from the deep forest in Garo hills of India and spreading the deadly disease by biting the local people.

The blood circulation system in the brain of the victim is interrupted following the mosquito bite, causing high fever and other ailments, he said.

Six medical teams, with adequate quantity of anti-malaria drugs including quinine injection, dextrose aqua saline and tablets, have been rendering service in the malaria affected areas, he said.

A fax message has been sent from the civil surgeon office to the higher authorities at Dhaka for sending anti-malaria chemicals for spraying in the malaria-affected

areas, he added.

Meanwhile, the number of TB patients is increasing day by day in Meherpur district, local people said.

Children and women working in tobacco factories are common victims of the disease. More than three tobacco factories are situated in Meherpur municipal areas. As a result, the number of TB patients is increasing alarmingly.

According to official sources, at least two to three thousand patients have been given treatment from TB Hospital here. But proper treatment is being hampered due to manifold problems like shortage of physicians, equipment and medicine.

Some employees of the factories said there is no health facility for the workers in the tobacco factories. Most of the rural people are suffering from the disease because they can not go to hospital for financial crisis, they added.



A sequence from a drama "Caricature of Corruption" staged by Gano Natya Dal, a cultural organisation, in Mymensingh. Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) organised the drama in the district town recently to create mass awareness against corruption in our society.

Announce polls schedule, demand people of Rajbila union in Bandarban

UNB, Bandarban

People of Rajbila Union in Sadar upazila submitted a memorandum to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) through Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Bandarban Saturday demanding immediate

announcement of election schedule of their union parishad.

After submitting the memorandum the residents of the union at a press briefing at the local press club threatened to go for action program if their demand is not met immediately.

Official sources said the election schedule could not be announced due to the court injunction on inclusion of 391 people in the voters' list.

Election to the union parishad was postponed in the previous term following a court injunction.

Acid attack on woman, little daughter

UNB, Keraniganj

A woman and her little daughter sustained severe burn injuries in an acid attack in Mithapur area here Friday.

Locals said culprit Borhan along with his accomplices entered into the house of Sagarika, 22, by breaking open the door and hurled acid on her as she refused to comply with their illicit proposal.

Her three months old daughter Shila was also injured in the acid attack.



Former students of Aided High School, Sylhet parade the streets of the divisional city in a colourful procession to mark the 75th founding anniversary of the school. Reunion of old students of the renowned institution was held last week.

Hectic UP polls campaign in Madaripur, Munshiganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hectic campaign for union parishad (UP) elections in Madaripur and Munshiganj is going on.

A Madaripur correspondent reports: The Election Commission declared the election schedule for 54, out of 56 unions in 4 upazilas of Madaripur district on December 17.

The date of submission of nomination paper to the returning officer is January 1. The dates for sorting and withdrawal of candidature are January 2 and January 9.

The election will continue from January 25 to February 25. January 25 has been fixed for five unions of Kalkini upazila. The unions are Chardaulat Khan, Ramjanpur, Shaheb Rampur, Shikar managal and Koyaria. Elections to Nobagram, Dashar, Baligram, Gopalpur and Kazi Bakai unions will be held on January 27.

In Laxmipur, Bashgari, Eneyet nagar and Alinagar unions elections will be held on January 29 while polling will be held at Rasti, Ghatmajhi, Jhausdi, Kandua and Mastafapur unions of Sadar upazila on February 1. Elections to Shirkhara, Kunia, Dhurail, Kalkapur and Bahadurpur unions of Sadar upazila will be held on February 3.

People of Daudkhali, Silarchar, panch Khala, Kharpur and Pearpur unions will cast vote on February 5.

In Rajoir Sadar, Paikpara, Ishibpur and Bodarpasha unions of Rajair upazila people will exercise their voting rights on February 8. Polls of Khatia, Kadombari, Amgram and Bajitpur unions of the same upazila will be held on

February 15. Polling will be held at Charjanajat, Bandarkhala, Matbarecher and Shamnashirchar unions of Shibchar upazila on February 20. In Dattapara, Shibchar Sadar, Baheratala, Shiruyail and Kiliokhi unions people will apply franchise on February 25.

The dates of polls in Hassainpur and Kabirajpur unions are yet to be declared as there is a dispute over demarcation of boundary, the EC office sources said.

BSS reports from Munshiganj: The election schedule for 65, out of 67 union parishads in six upazilas of Munshiganj district was announced here on December 23 by the district election office.

According to the schedule, elections to the union parishads will be held from January 25 next to March 10.

January 1 has been fixed as the last date for submission of nomination papers. The nomination papers will be scrutinised the following day. The last date for withdrawal of nomination papers is January 9.

The schedule for two union parishads Bangla Bazar in sadar upazila and Teotia in Lauhajang upazila could not be announced as the tenure of those two union parishads is yet to expire, district election office sources said.



Like other parts of the country, people of Magura district are experiencing the bite of cold of the ongoing winter season because of fall of mercury in the last few days. Poor and people of low income group are the worst affected in such a situation. Despite shivering cold life goes on as usual. (Top left) A rickshaw puller and another bullock cart driver brave the inclement weather to earn a living, while a truck (right) driver drives his vehicle switching on its headlights at day time due to thick fog. (Bottom left) A passer-by enjoys the taste of winter cake of a roadside open air shop and two (right) children try to guard against chill sharing a 'shwal.'

PHOTO FEATURE: HOSSAIN SERAJ