

NEWS SNAPS

Two killed in road mishaps

BSS, *Natore*

Two persons, including a woman were killed in separate road accidents at Sadar upazila of Natore district on Thursday.

Police sources said Atizan Bewa, 50, of village Awarail in Sadar upazila received serious injuries when a speeding motorcycle hit her on Natore-Halsha highway in Awarail area. She was taken to local hospital where she died. Earlier, Bhutto, 36, son of Rafiqul of village Dasta Nabab in Sadar upazila died on the spot when a motor cycle ran over him on Natore-Rajshahi highway in Chandpur area.

Body of girl recovered

BSS, *Natore*

The body of a little girl was recovered from a pond at Singra upazila in Rajshahi district on Thursday.

The body was identified as Saleha Khatun, 7, daughter of Abdus Salam of village Kalinagar in Singra upazila. Police sources said they recovered Saleha's body from a pond near her house. She was missing from Sunday. Police suspected that previous enmity was the reason of her murder.

Rectified spirit recovered

BSS, *Natore*

The Detective Branch (DB) of police recovered 150 bottles of rectified spirit and arrested three persons from Madrasah intersection area in Natore town on Thursday evening.

Police sources said on a secret information, DB police raided the area and recovered 150 bottles of rectified spirit from a Rajshahi-bound private car, coming from Bogra. Police arrested three persons from the car. The arrested persons are Jalal Mondal, son of Deraj Mondol of village Talgaci in Paba upazila, Azad Miah, son of Abdus Samad of village Karisa in Mohanpur upazila, Sufi Rahman Suzon, son of Nur Hossain of village Kazipara in Putia upazila in Rajshahi district.

Livestock loan distributed

BSS, *Tangail*

Bhuapur upazila livestock department here disbursed 2,99,000 taka among 41 poor farmers and destitute as loan for cattle and goat-rearing, fish farming and vegetables cultivation.

It also gave 20,000 taka to two poor families for poultry farming. The cheques were handed over to the recipients at a function by district livestock officer Md Abdul Hamid here recently.

Kiln owners use firewood

BSS, *Chapainawabganj*

Violating the government ban, kiln owners in Chapainawabganj are using firewood for manufacturing bricks degrading the ecological balance.

Local people said the owners do not follow government rules and regulations for establishing and controlling kilns. Firewood is not allowed to use in brick-fields. Besides, more preconditions are imposed for establishing and controlling brick-fields, including setting up of a 120 feet chimney in every kiln and no brick field is to be located in and around the residential areas.

Two arrested with pistol

BSS, *Jamalpur*

Two snatchers were arrested with a pistol and 3 rounds of bullets on Monday evening.

The arrested were identified as Sohel, 22, and Murad, 23, of Jamalpur town. According to police and eyewitnesses, they snatched 4100 taka from a cow trader, hailed from Tupkar Char in Melandhan upazila in the town at gunpoint. Hearing his hue and cry public chased and caught the two. Another one managed to flee. A case was registered with Jamalpur thana police.

Divorce for non-payment of dowry a common phenomenon in Magura

HOSSAIN SERAJ, *Magura*

"Not only dowry, marriage without registration and early marriage are other causes behind increasing trend of divorce", Khan Mazharul Hug a Sociology teacher in a Magura college said to The Daily Star. About 30 per cent of marriages are solemnised here without registration, he added.

"About two years back I became a leprosy patient and my husband deserted me in fear of being attacked by the disease", Rabeya Begum, a divorcee of village Ichchakhabda in Sadar upazila said to The Daily Star.

In most cases women here usually get married with pledges of payment of dowry. In case of failure it causes an adverse effect to conjugial life which results in divorce of women.

HELPING FAMILY DURING LEISURE



Some rural children at village Batikhali in Sreepur upazila, Magura collect grass for domestic animals. They go to school in the morning and help their parents in the afternoon during their leisure.

PHOTO: STAR

963 arsenicosis detected in 7 upazilas of Satkhira

ABU AHMED, *Satkhira*

Nine hundred sixty three arsenicosis were detected in Satkhira.

People in seven upazilas of Satkhira district are drinking arsenic contaminated water as there is no alternative source of drinking water. A total of 16,519 families in the upazilas use arsenic contaminated water.

Anjuman Ara, 42, a housewife at Harina in Keragachi union of Kalaroa upazila said to The Daily Star that the tubewells of their houses was marked red by the workers of a non-governmental organisation (NGO). They advised them not to use arsenic contaminated water of the tubewells for the purpose of drinking and cooking. She further said that the nearest source of safe water was about 800 yards away from their house. "But it is not possible for us to fetch water from such a distant source"

Anjuman Ara said. "So they often use arsenic contaminated water from the red marked tubewells," she added.

At Harina, 67 out of 70 tubewells were arsenic contaminated.

The NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation conducted a survey through its partner NGOs from January to October last year. The survey was made in 26 unions of Kalaroa, Tala, Debhata, Kaligonj, Shyamnagar, Assasumi and Sadar upazila. Seven hundred eighty five villages in the area were covered by the survey.

Arsenic was detected in excessive amount in water in 485 villages.

According to survey in 196 villages water of more than 50 per cent of tubewells contains excessive arsenic.

Hundred per cent tubewells were found to contain excessive arsenic in Ilishpur village in

Kalaroa upazila.

In 94 villages 81 to 99 per cent tubewells and 61 to 80 per cent tubewells in 108 villages were found to have arsenic of more than the accessible range.

While visiting some villages in Kalaroa, Tala, Shyamnagar and Sadar upazilas of the district last month, a cross section of people including females and children were informed of arsenic problem.

They came to know about it through NGO, radio, television and newspapers.

"They came and advises us not to use arsenic contaminated water, but do not arrange arsenic-free water for us," said Amena Khatun, a housewife of village Agardari in Sadar upazila to The Daily Star and added, "we cannot but to take risk of our lives by drinking arsenic contaminated water even after knowing its fatal consequence."

Dhrubatara, a new home for 100 neglected children

BSS, *Tangail*

Ayesha Akhter of village Niznandali in Sadar upazila said, "As my father failed to pay dowry as demanded by my husband, I was divorced and turned out from the house of my in-laws".

Most divorcees are compelled to go back to their father's house where subsequently they are considered to be burden of the families.

Government and non-government organisations should come forward to wipe out the curse of dowry and other social ills once for all.

Society for Social Service (SSS), a local non-governmental organisation (NGO) built the building at a cost of 50 lakh taka with assistance from Terre Des Hommes (TDH) of the Netherlands for upbringing and educating the children born in red-light areas of the town.

The home named Dhrubatara was opened by South Asian Regional Director of TDH-Netherlands Lee Bronze at a simple function.

SSS chairman Kazi Zakerul Moula and its executive director Abdus Hamid Bhuiyan spoke on the occasion. Representatives of the donor country and agency and officials of education and social welfare departments including the local upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) were present.

B N S B completes one million eye operations

BSS, *Mymensingh*

Bangladesh National Society for the Blind (BNSB) will celebrate completion of its one million eye operations at a function at BNSB Eye Hospital in Mymensingh town today (Monday).

State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharaf Hossain (FCA) is expected to attend the function as the chief guest.

Delwar Hossain Khan, member of parliament (MP), and German Ambassador Dietrich Andreas will present as special guests.

Accused in murder case gets job in police deptt?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Khulna*

One charge-sheeted accused of a murder case has been provided with a job in the police department only due to political reason.

He is Kazi Imran Ahmed, son of Kazi Nazir Ahmed of Nayabati area in Khalishpur thana.

The murder case is now under trial in the court of the Additional District Judge of Second Court, Khulna.

Kazi Imran Ahmed was selected as constable in the 16th batch on May 28, 2000. On June 28 in 2000 he was sent to Khulna Police Training Centre to undergo training. His name has been put on serial no 7 of the admission register of the training centre, it has been learnt.

As per rule, any new recruit of the police department is subjected to vigorous investigation and verification about his or her background.

It was found after investigation that constable Kazi Imran Ahmed is a chargesheeted accused of Roky Murder Case which was recorded with Khalishpur thana on November 8 in 1996. The chargesheet of the case was submitted to court on November 10 in 1997.

A court source said to The Daily Star that Kazi Imran Ahmed remained absent from appearing before the court on the day of hearing by submitting time petition which he did on Saturday (February 8). The court accepted his time petition.

Kerosene mixed diesel on sale in Habiganj

BSS, *Habiganj*

low lift pumps and shallow tubewells for irrigation in Boro-IRRI fields.

Because of use of adulterated diesel, many irrigation pumps are now out of order in these upazilas.

Since January 6, the price of diesel was re-fixed by the government at 19.60 taka per litre while

kerosene oil at 16.60 taka per litre.

A section of unscrupulous oil traders are making money by mixing kerosene oil with diesel and selling it at 23 taka to 27 taka per litre to the farmers, local people said.



Child artistes of Spondon Shilpi Goshthi, a cultural group, in Gaibandha perform at a drama organised at the local Shaheed Minar to celebrate its founding anniversary recently.

PHOTO: STAR