

SNAPS

Septuagenarian killed

UNB, Barisal  
A septuagenarian was killed and six other people were injured in an attack allegedly by his son-in-law at Shakbunia in Bakerganj upazila on Tuesday.  
Locals told UNB that when Motahtar Boyati went to plough a disputed land in the morning his father-in-law Akram Howlader, 70, along with his family members tried to resist him. At this he became furious and attacked them killing the old man on the spot.

Body of boy exhumed

UNB, Chandpur  
The body of a minor boy was exhumed after six days of his burial at Aitpara village in Farianganj upazila on Monday.

According to the prayer of his parents, the body of Shahadat, 8, was exhumed in presence of OC Saiful Islam and Magistrate Selina Begum. Locals said the next door neighbour Firoz Alam Hiron called Shahadat out of his house in the name of plucking mango on May 20 but he did not return. Later, his body was found in a pond and was buried.

Body recovered

UNB, Kishoreganj  
Police recovered the body of Riazuddin, 40, of village Hasna in Hossainpur upazila from a field on Tuesday. The body bore marks of stab injuries.

Wife beaten to death for dowry

BSS, Rajbari  
A housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her husband for dowry at Samuk Khola village in Islampur union under Baliakandi upazila recently.  
Police said, Morzina Khatun, 18, was fatally injured as she was beaten by her husband Abdur Razzaq and members of his family. She died at Rajbari Sadar Hospital.

Man stabbed by tenant

UNB, Brahmanbaria  
A man was stabbed seriously allegedly by his tenant at Kalibari in Nabiganj upazila on Monday night.  
Police and locals said tenant Satyen Dev took an attempt to kill his wife Shefali, 30, when he came to know about her extra-marital affairs with the owner of his house Shangkor Dev.  
But hearing the hue and cry of Shefali's four-year-old daughter Shangkor came to the spot and tried to save Shefali. Satyen then stabbed him grievously.

College building under construction

UNB, Brahmanbaria  
Two-storied academic building of Nabinagar Women's College is being constructed at a cost of Tk 30 lakh.  
Local member of parliament (MP) Kazi M Anwar Hossain laid the foundation stone of the building, which is being constructed by Education Engineering Department.

Work on hospital goes on

UNB, Mymensingh  
The construction work of the two-storied building of the proposed 25-bed hospital is progressing fast at a cost of over Tk 89.82 lakh on Bangladesh Agriculture University campus.  
Vice Chancellor of the university Prof M Mustafizur Rahman inaugurated the construction work of the outdoor department of the hospital on Saturday. The construction work of 1,199.75 square feet hospital began last year.

Foundation laid

BSS, Bogra  
BNP's Senior Joint Secretary General Tareq Rahman laid foundation of two bridges on Monday at Bashkabara and Kaniridha.  
The Roads and Highways Department, Bogra will construct the bridges at a cost of Tk 4.5 crore. Tareq addressed a public meeting on the occasion. Presided over by Tajul Islam Liton, it was also addressed by, among others, district BNP President Advocate Mabubur Rahman and Helaluzzaman Talukder Lalu MP.

Folk festival concludes

BSS, Rajbari  
A two-day folk festival ended on Tuesday on Rajbari Shilpakala Academy premises here.  
Rajbari Pourasabha Chairman Ali Newaz Mahmud Khoium, MP, inaugurated the festival, while Deputy Commissioner Bejon Kanti Sirker, Superintendent of Police (SP) SM Rurul Amin, Principal ASMD Mahtabul Islam, ADC Moshir Rahman and Prof Motiur Rahman were present there.

PDB crackdown on defaulters, illegal subscribers in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagang

The Power Development Board (PDB) has launched a crackdown on defaulters and illegal subscribers in the port city to realise outstanding bills.

It will realise Tk 200 crore to fulfill its revenue target for the remaining months (May-June) of the current financial year in Chittagang region, PDB sources said.

A PDB team, led by its Chief Engineer Liakat Hossain Barobhuiyan, is conducting the drive launched on Tuesday in

Mohara, Kalurghat, C & B and Chandgaon areas.

The team snapped power connections of 24 illegal HT (hypertension) subscribers and handed 10 people to PDB mobile court. Superintendent engineers ASM Saiful Haq and AMM Murtaza Ali, First Class Magistrate Nurul Amin, Executive Engineer Abu Taher Siddiquee, Deputy Director (PR) SM Quamrul Islam and other PDB officials are assisting the chief engineer in the drive.

The sources said PDB has Tk 222 crore outstanding bills in Chittagang region. Some of the major bill defaulters are Chittagang Medical College

Hospital (CMCH), Chittagang City Corporation (CCC), Amin Jute Mill, Chittagang Steel Mill (now closed) and several other government and private institutions. Their dues total Tk 140 crore. PDB had set a target to realise Tk 685 crore during the fiscal year (2002-2003) but it realised Tk 500-crore till end of April.

PDB has 3.31 lakh subscribers in the region but the officials could not say how many of these connections are illegal.

Till April, over 9000 illegal connections were snapped, Tk 50 lakh fine realised and 1,800 cases were filed, the sources said.

Mohonpur UNO's removal demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Hundreds of people staged day-long demonstrations at Mohonpur upazila headquarters and a three-hour sit-in in front of the UNO office on Wednesday demanding removal of the UNO for alleged corruption in recruitment of school teachers.

Although police was deployed, the demonstrators hurled brick bats on the house of UNO (Upazila Nirbahi Officer) Mujibur Rahman.

Local leaders of BNP, Awami League and chairmen of the six unions under the upazila jointly led the agitation, alleging that the UNO took bribe in recruitment of teachers.

The demonstrators also held a rally. It was addressed by Mohonpur upazila BNP General Secretary Giasuddin, AL leader Ali Azmal Mollah, and the six chairmen -- Shamimul Islam, Abdul Jalil, Abul Hossain, Abdul Latif, Sadar Ali and Rabiul Islam.

When contacted, UNO Mujibur Rahman refuted the allegations. He said the agitation followed his refusal to appoint a candidate of UP chairman Shamimul Islam as a teacher of Moheskandi Madrassah in Gashigram union.

Nor'wester in Mymensingh: 20 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

At least 20 people were injured when a nor'wester lashed Muktagacha, Phulbaria and Sadar upazilas of the district on Tuesday.

Eight of the injured were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH).

The nor'wester uprooted big trees and power supply poles, flattened houses and caused extensive damage to crops in vast areas. The power supply could not be restored till yesterday.



Tribeswomen working in Rangamati under the road maintenance project.

PHOTO: STAR

Roybeti on road to a new living

MONIRUL ALAM, Rangamati

Roybeti Tripura, mother of four, no longer collects firewood from forest to sell those at a far away market, a risky job that kept her family half-fed.

The family is properly fed now and she thinks of sending her children to school.

She gets 3 kgs of rice and Tk 20 for three to four hours' daily work in the morning.

She is among 9100 destitute women, working under the Rural Road Maintenance Programme (RRMP) in Panchhari.

"I'm happy. My family gets food three times a day. I dream of sending my children to school", she told this correspondent last

week.

"Earlier I had to procure firewood from the jungle. That was very risky and I had to spend almost the whole day. Now I have time to look after my children," she said.

The RRMP project, financed by the government and the World Food Programme (WFP), covers 675 km roads in Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban, said officials of the Local Government and Engineering Department, which is implementing it.

The first phase of the project, launched in fiscal 1998-99, has been completed.

The second was launched in June last year.

Killer-rapist to serve life term

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, Khulna on Monday sentenced one Md. Ismail to life term and fined him Tk one lakh for killing an eight-year-old girl after rape.

Judge Mohammad Shahinur Islam ordered handover the money to the parents of the victim, Khadije, who was raped and killed by Ismail at his house at Moilapottree on the night on October 4, 2000.

Khadija had gone to neighbour Ismail's house to view television. But she did not return home.

On the following morning, Khadija's body was recovered from the bathroom of an underconstruction building adjacent to Ismail's house.

Her mother Sufia Begum lodged a case with Sonadanga thana accusing Ismail for raping and murdering Khadija.



PHOTO: STAR

Free smuggling route: Lalmonirhat border is now virtually free for smugglers. They smuggle in sugar, salt, VCD, CD, spare parts of machinery, medicine, Phensidyl, liquor, hemp, and what not! No hush-up! They do it leisurely in absence of security forces.

10,000 children left out of polio vaccination

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangmati

At least 10,000 children remained out of polio vaccination in about 50 villages in remote Katchalong and Raingkhong frontier areas in the district this year.

The countrywide National Immunisation Programme (NIP) was undertaken on May 4.

No health worker ever visited

the villages in Bilaichhori and Baghaichhori upazilas, mostly inhabited by poor and illiterate tribesmen, local Union Parishad member Jacob Tripura told this correspondent recently.

About 4000 families of Tripura, Marma and Pankhua tribes live in these villages, where mortality rate, specially among the children, is very high, he said.

At least 100 children die from

various diseases in the areas every year, he said.

When contacted, Rangamati Hill District Council Chairman Maniklal Dewan said,

the area was never brought under vaccination programme. "We will try to bring the area under vaccination. We are thinking how to make a permanent arrangement in this regard", he said.

Cop murder at Khulna trade fair: 6 chargesheeted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Six persons have been chargesheeted in KMP Traffic Sergeant Arif murder case.

Three of chargesheeted accused are absconding.

The police sergeant was killed in a bomb attack on the night of March 1 while he was on duty at the International Trade Fair at the circuit house ground.

It has been stated in the chargesheet that murder of Arif was sequel to a dispute over possession of a cycle garage near the fair.

The accused are Sujon, Hari, Rob, Abul, Milon and Siraj. Of them, Abul and Sujon made judicial confession under Section 164 in the court.

The loss of Arif's pistol during bomb attack has not been mentioned in the charge sheet, submitted by SI Hsana Hafizur Rahman who investigated the case.

Meanwhile, the case regarding murder of Dainik Purbanchal crime reporter Shaikh Harun has been included in the list of sensitive cases, prepared by the home ministry's monitoring cell, sources said. Higher authorities have sought the case dockets, they said.

CID has listed the case as 'most sensitive'.

Kala Amjad, a BPCP cadre, arrested on May 3 for his alleged involvement in Haroon's murder, was taken on three days' remand on Monday. Kala Amjad was arrested on March 3.

BDR foils bid to push 35 in 'Red alert' along 432km border along Dinajpur

BSS, Dinajpur

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) on Tuesday declared a 'red alert' in the 432-kilometre border areas in greater Dinajpur district to foil any further push-in attempt by BSF (Border Security Force of India).

On Monday midnight, BDR thwarted a BSF bid to push in 35 Bengali-speaking Indian nationals through Birampur frontier.

BDR 15 battalion commander at Fulbari Lt Colonel Chowdhury Hasan Surwardi told BSS that in recent days BSF assembled more than 200 Bengali-speaking Indians in the frontier areas of Vimpur on the Indian side.

Thirty-five people including

women and children were pushed in to Bangladesh territory by the BSF through frontier pillar 290 and sub-pillar 28.

BDR reinforced its strength and pushed back the Indian nationals at about 2am the same night when BDR also fired three blank shots. BSF also responded by firing five shots.

The midnight gunshots between BDR and BSF created tension among people in Daudpur, Ranipukur and Dangapara villages in Birampur thana and Bashuria and Bashudevpur villages in Hakimpur thana.

BDR sector commander, Dinajpur and battalion commanders on Tuesday visited the frontier areas.

Relief for nor'wester victims of Rangpur

BSS, Rangpur

The district administration has distributed Tk 2,000 to each family affected by Sunday's nor'wester in Rangpur.

Four tonnes of rice have also been distributed among affected people in Pirganj, Mithapukur and Badarganj upazilas.

Five persons were killed in the nor'wester.

Training on goat rearing

BSS, Barisal

A 13-day training on 'Rearing of Black Bengal Goats' for unemployed youths of Sadar upazila concluded on Tuesday on the upazila livestock office premises.

Sixty youths from 10 unions participated in the training on modern methods of goat rearing. They were also provided with funds for goat rearing, official sources said.

Bank, five jewellery shops looted in Alamdanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga

A bank and five jewellery shops were looted by dacoits at Hardi Bazar in Alamdanga upazila on Sunday night.

A gang of about 25 first broke open the collapsible gate of the Agrani Bank and took away Tk 14,945, police and bank officials said.

They then looted five jewellery shops. Gold ornaments worth about 50,000 were taken away, police said.

Chuadanga police superintendent and high officials of Agrani Bank visited the spot.

Separate cases have been filed but none could be arrested, police said.

Acid thrown on couple in Natore

BSS, Natore

A couple sustained serious burn injuries as miscreants threw acid on them at Dighalkandhi village in Bariganj upazila on Monday.

Quoting villagers police said Rojina, 16, wife of Manirul Islam, 25, was raped by one of her neighbours Abdul Mannan on May 6.

The victim's husband filed a rape case with Baraikandhi police station. Local miscreants threatened them to withdraw the case.

As they refused, the criminals threw acid on them when they were sleeping at their residence.

They were admitted to Natore Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.