

SNAPS

Body recovered

UNB, Dinajpur

The body of a teenage boy was recovered from a jute field at Chapapara village in Birganj upazila Thursday.

Locals said Promoth Chandra Sarker, 16, of the village developed a love affair with the daughter of his schoolteacher neighbour. Later his parents gave a marriage proposal, which was angrily turned down by her parents. Family sources said just after three days of rejecting the proposal the guardians of the girl called Promoth to their house and since then he went missing.

Man stabbed to death

UNB, Bogra

A man was stabbed to death by a youth at Krisnopur village in Sherpur upazila here Friday.

Gopal Chandra, 45, died on the spot when Nibas Chandra, 25, a drug addict of the area stabbed him with a sharp weapon at one stage of quarrel over a trifling matter, witnesses said. A case was filed, but none was arrested.

Man killed in road mishap

UNB, Jhenidah

A medicine shop owner was killed and his friend sustained injuries in a road accident in Kashipur area of Kaliganj upazila on Kaliganj-Chudanga road Tuesday.

Witnesses said shop owner Nurunnabi died on the spot and his friend Kamal was injured when a speeding truck hit them on their way home.

Trawler with timber seized

UNB, Jhalakati

Police seized a trawler loaded with timber worth Tk 10 lakh and arrested nine people at Kathalia upazila on Friday.

The arrested were identified as Kobir Hossain, Nurul Islam, A Haq, Chan Mia, Surat, Alam, Azad, Belayet Hossain, Abdul Halim. Police said the timbers were seized while being taken to Shorupkathi. A case was filed.

Fugitive arrested

UNB, Comilla

A fugitive was arrested from Dhorkora bazaar in Choudhownagar upazila here on Saturday.

Police raided a hotel of the bazaar and arrested Mobarak Hossain of Hathazari upazila of Chittagong. He was wanted for killing of three brothers in Hathazari on May 26.

Road repair work begins

UNB, Rajbari

Repairing work of 35-km Rajbari portion of Rajbari-Kushtia road began here at a cost of Tk 33.60 crore.

A Chinese and a Bangladeshi construction company are jointly implementing the project financed by World Bank and Bangladesh government. The project is likely to be completed by the next year.

Water treatment plant to be constructed

UNB, Rajbari

A water treatment plant will be constructed in Rajbari Pourashava area here to provide iron and arsenic free water.

Local Government Engineering Department will implement the project at a cost of Tk 1.38 crore. The project is likely to be finished by May.

Acid attack on housewife

UNB, Dinajpur

A housewife sustained severe burn injuries in an acid attack in court area here on Thursday.

When Yasmin, 27, wife of Aminul Huq of Nafagor village in Bochaganj upazila, came to the court to give her evidence in a rape case his cousin hurled acid on her injuring grievously, witnesses said. She was rushed to the Dinajpur Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. A case was filed.

Smuggled goods seized

UNB, Dinajpur

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) members seized five bicycles carrying smuggled goods worth Tk 4 lakh from Aladipur area of Fulbari upazila Thursday.

BDR intercepted the bicycles on the road and seized 1,200 pieces of raw hides and five sacks of milk powder. The smugglers, however, managed to flee the scene.

Aman cultivation target

BSS, Narail

The Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) will bring 71,600 hectares of land under B-Aman cultivation in 10 districts in Khulna division in the current season.



PHOTO: AKTER FARUK SHAHIN

At last, good sense prevailed upon the government, but the historic Tomal tree is not out of danger. Following protests by civil society activists and environmentalists, Environment and Forest Minister Shajahan Siraj asked the Government Barisal College authorities of not to fell the 123 year-old tree for construction of a students' hostel. But the work order for construction of the hostel at the site (where the tree is) has not yet been cancelled. Sources said the interested quarters are observing the situation and waiting for an appropriate moment.

Three PWD engineers transferred for giving 'illegal' connections

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Three sub-assistant engineers of Power Development Board (PDB) in its Rangamati zone have been transferred for their alleged involvement in giving illegal power supply connections and realising money, PDB sources said.

The three -- Ashiqur Rahman Mujib, Humayun Kabir and Mohammed Nurul Alam were involved in giving at least 1000 illegal connections in the town and surrounding areas, they said.

PDB's revenue earning has fallen drastically due to such illegal connections, they said.

Rangamati zone realised TK. 1.5 crore revenue in the current financial year against its target of TK. 5 crore.

Meantime, PDB has started snapping illegal connections and of subscribers defaulting in bill payment.

So far, about 200 connections have been snapped, according to Assistant Engineer Swapon Chowdhury.

The major defaulters are the Department of Public Health Engineering (TK. 1.5 crore) Rangamati Pourashova (over Tk 50 lakh) and Rangamati Textile at Gagra (TK 1 crore), he said.

Death of student in Sylhet

Mission head, three others arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police arrested Brahamachari Sri Chaitanya Moharaj, superintendent of Ramkrishna Mission hostel in the city, two resident students and its gardener in connection with the death of a student, Debashish Roy.

Debashish was found unconscious on the roof of the hostel Friday morning. He was taken to Osmani Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

The arrested two students are Debashish Dev and Kanon Kanti Das. The four were produced before court on Saturday, which sent them

to jail hajat.

Devashish Roy, 17, a first year student of MC College, was the son of Bimalendu Roy, an employee of Natural Gas Fertiliser Factory, Fenchuganj.

The hostel authorities claimed that the death could be due to heart attack.

The body was handed over to the family after post mortem at the medical college morgue.

His was cremated at Chhalbandar crematorium.

A case of unnatural death was lodged with Kotwali police.

Mominunnisa College faces shortage of teachers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Academic activity is being hampered at Mominunnisa government women's college due to shortage of teachers. The college runs honours course in Bengali, English, Economics, Social Welfare, Political Science and Mathematics and masters course in Economics, Bengali and Mathematics.

Only two lecturers out of four posts conduct classes of English department, while two posts out of four are vacant in Economics department, eight posts out of 12 are vacant in Bengali department, one post is vacant in Political Science department.

Each department needs 12

teachers comprising one professor, three associate professors, three assistant professors and five lecturers. There is a total of 2,600 students in the college.

The college library lacks books for honours and masters courses. According to college sources, the government allocates Tk 7,000 only for purchasing books annually which is inadequate.

Posts of demonstrators in Geography, Chemistry and Botany are also vacant. Practical classes of the departments are being hindered seriously. Posts of physical teacher, librarian, assistant librarian and book sorter are also vacant.

Sports and cultural activities have also stopped.

'Waiver certificate' for foreign ships CCCI seeks PM's intervention to resolve stalemate

BSS, Chittagong

The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) on Saturday urged the prime minister to intervene to resolve the stalemate in the shipping sector arising out of making procurement of 'waiver certificate' by foreign ships mandatory before loading cargo.

CCCI President Amir Humayun

Mahmud Chowdhury suggested promulgation of an ordinance removing the provision before a long-term solution is found in line with recommendations of leading trade bodies.

To reach a long-term solution, the CCCI president urged the government to get a bill passed by the Jatiya Sangsad in this regard.

A case has been filed.

Bhomra port closure

Hartal on June 12 in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Satkhira unit of Greater Khulna Development Action Co-ordination Committee has called a day-long hartal in Satkhira on June 12 for cancellation of a government decision to close down Bhomra land port.

The committee brought and a truck procession on Saturday to press its demand.

The June 12 hartal will be pre-

ceded by a seven-day agitation programme, announced at a rally after the procession.

The programme includes demonstration at Bhomra port on June 4, token hunger strike at different points from June 6 to June 10 and hunger strike on Satkhira collectorate premises on June 11.

Meanwhile, Engineer Sheikh Majibur Rahman, convener Satkhira district Awami League, in a statement supported the programme.

HSC examinee held for cheating, 2 teachers expelled

BSS, Rajshahi

An HSC examinee was arrested for cheating at Shah Mukhdum Degree College on Saturday, police and college sources said.

The examinee -- Khandaker Arif Hossain -- was a student of City College in Rajshahi.

He was caught while trying to add some written answer scripts supplied from outside to the original one.

He was handed over to Boalia police and a case has been recorded in this connection.

Meanwhile, a total of 379 examinees were expelled on the second day of HSC (Higher Secondary Certificate) examinations under Rajshahi Education Board for adopting unfair means, REB Control room sources said.

Two teachers, one in Chapainawabganj and another in Gaibandha, were also expelled for assisting students in copying.

Miscreants attack village, torch four houses in Rangamati

BSS, Rangamati

Armed miscreants attacked Botohhari village under Kawkhali upazila, kidnapped three tribesmen and burnt four houses on Friday.

Police said the three tribesmen -- Boney Shankar Chakma, Jui Look Chakma and Joti Chakma were released after four hours.

Being informed, army and police personnel from nearby camps visited the spot.

Identity of the miscreants, numbering 12, could not be known.

No case was filed and none was arrested so far.

Two arrested with arms

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Two alleged outlaws were arrested with firearms from Ramkrishnapur village in Daulatpur upazila on Tuesday, police said yesterday.

Mamuner Rashid and Sariful Islam, both allegedly belonging to Biplobi Communist Party (BCP), were arrested while they were going to a nearby market.

Police recovered a Shutter Gun and two bullets from their possessions.

A case has been filed.

No clue yet to Sylhet double murder

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Police failed to find any clue to the murder of two night guards at the forest office in the city even after four months of the incident.

Unidentified assailants killed Shahabuddin, 55 and Mosabbir Ali, 45, night guards at the Forest Extension and Training Centre at Sheikhghat, while they were asleep on its verandah on the night of January 12.

After the murders, some window grills of the building were found cut and Tk 40,000 was missing from the iron safe at the office. Some important papers and files were found strewn on the floor and some other papers were missing. Deputy Ranger Balaram Roy filed a case the next day.

Police arrested four persons within two days of the double murder. They are Nazmul, son of Shiraj Kiah and Kabir, son of Mosaddar Ali, both from Sheikhghat area; Arman, son of Manu Miah of Ghashitola and Nur Mohammad Patwari, owner of a shop in front of the office. They were taken on three days' remand.

Initially, police thought that the murders were done while committing dacoity. But later they said there might be other reasons for the murders.

Female NGO worker strangled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A female NGO worker was strangled by miscreants in the Sadar upazila on Thursday night.

Police said, Rushia Khatun Akhi, 19, an employee of Solidarity Trade and Commerce Associates (STEK), was returning home in the evening from Kushtia town after work. Some unidentified persons waylaid her and took her to Aria canal area and strangled her.

Police recovered the body the following morning and sent it to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy.

Police said, previous enmity with neighbours might be the cause of the killing.

A case was filed with the Islamic University police station. She was the daughter of daughter of Monir Uddin of Ujagram village in Sadar upazila.

12 hurt in BNP clash

A CORRESPONDENT, Natore

At least 10 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups of local BNP over tender at North Bengal Sugar Mills under Lalpur upazila recently.

Of the injured, Mahbub, 24, Altaf, 32, Rafiqul and Shahinur were admitted to the local health complex, police said.

Tk 1.14 crore for acid victims, disabled in Barisal division

AKTER FARUK SHAHIN, Barisal

The government has allocated Tk 1.14 crore for rehabilitation of acid victims and physically disabled people in six districts under Barisal division.

Social Services Directorate under the Ministry of Social Welfare will take the lead in implementation of programmes with the allocation, official sources here said.

This is part of 15 crore taka allocated for the purpose in the country, they added.

At least one person becomes victim of acid terrorism every day in the country and most of the victims are women, according to media

reports. In most of the cases, the victims become crippled physically, mentally and socially as they are not provided with proper treatment in time.

According to the Acid Survivors Foundation, a total of 1184 people including 823 men and 361 women became victims of acid terrorism in last four years.

The programmes will aim at making them self-reliant through income generating projects and training so that they can lead normal life.

A nine-member district steering committee and 10-member upazila committees will implement the programmes under the supervision

of officials of the directorate, the sources said.

704 Rohingyas repatriated last month

Cox's BAZAR, BSS

A total of 704 Rohingya refugees belong to 121 families were repatriated to their homes in Mayanmar from of Ukha and Teknaf camps here last month.

Sources in UNHCR and local officials said this is the largest group of refugees who went back since in August 1997.

3 girls missing from 'safe home' in Barisal yet to be traced

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The three girls who escaped from the 'safe home' of Social Welfare Department at Sagardi in Barisal city Wednesday night could not be traced till yesterday.

Morsheda, 14, Hasina, 20, and an unidentified deaf and dumb girl aged about 15 had taken meals on Wednesday night along with 30 others at the 'safe home'. They were not found next morning.

People were sent to Morsheda's

village home at Kolaroa in Barisal and to Hasina's home at a village in Bhola but they were not found there, Abdul Halim, in-charge of the 'safe home' and police said yesterday.

Four women Ansars who were on duty at the 'safe home' on Wednesday night could not say how the girls escaped though its four gates were locked.

The three vagabond girls were caught by people about two months back and handed over to police, who produced them to court. The

court sent them to the 'safe home'.

Some sources apprehend that women traffickers might have lured the girls out of the 'safe home' in collusion with the women Ansars.

Shawkat Mahmud Kamal, deputy director of social service department, said the Ansar commander concerned has been asked to explain how the girls escaped.

A general diary was filed with the Kotwali police on Friday.

Body of minor boy recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Decomposed body of a minor boy was recovered from a ditch at Biswanath upazila headquarter on Friday, four days after he was missing.

It was contained in a sack dumped at the ditch near a cluster of tin-shed houses owned by one Askir, police said.

The body has been identified as that of Malu Miah, 12, son of Honufa Begum.

Police said Honufa alleged that her son was killed by Askir, jailed earlier for raping her daughter.

Askir was released from jail recently. Police is looking for him.

Body recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police recovered the decomposed body of fish trader Chittya Ranjan Halder, 55, from the bank of Perkhikali river in Paikgacha upazila on Friday.

According to OC Golam Mohammad, a gang of eight masked armed men abducted him Wednesday night from Kalinagar village.

The OC said the alleged abductors are outlaws of New Biplobi Communist Party.

Rival villagers clash, 12 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

At least 25 people were injured, seven of them seriously, in a clash between two rival groups of people at Foolbari village in Magura Sadar upazila yesterday over supremacy in the village, police said.

Of the injured Pikul 32, Himadul 20, Majedul 20, Shohad 24, Sobura 30, Mozammel 45 and Liakat 55 were admitted to Magura Sadar Hospital in critical condition.



PHOTO: STAR

An artiste of Udichi Shilpi Gosthi, a major cultural group in Mymensingh, rendering song at the group's auditorium to mark national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's birth anniversary.