

SNAPS

Small trader slaughtered

UNB, Joypurhat

A small trader was slaughtered by assailants at Chowmohoni bazaar in Khetlal upazila on Saturday.

Police said unidentified killers slaughtered Altaf Hossain, 44, when he went out of his house at the call of nature at night. Local people found the body at a nearby field next morning. A case was filed.

Tree fair begins

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A week long tree fair began at the Collectorate ground on Thursday.

Deputy Minister for Disaster Management and Relief inaugurated the fair. On the occasion, a colourful rally was brought out in the town to popularise tree plantation. The District Forest Department and the Department of Agriculture Extension jointly organised the fair.

Tk 15.51 lakh cotton seized

UNB, Joypurhat

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized 517 kilograms of cotton worth Tk 15.51 lakh while those were being smuggled to India through Joypurhat-Naogaon border area on Thursday.

None was arrested.

Drama festival at RU

RU CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The University Theatre of Rajshahi University (RU) organised a three-day drama festival at Kazi Nazrul Islam Auditorium here recently.

It was organised under the banner of ' University Drama Festival 1410' to celebrate its 13th founding anniversary.

On the first day members of the organisation brought out a colourful procession which paraded the main streets of the campus. In the evening they organised a lathi khela (stick fight) in the Folklore Square. They staged two dramas on the day. One named 'Shong', was performed by the University Theatre while another named 'Hoyto Noyto' was performed by Somokal Drama group. On the second day, Dashanat Das, a renowned cultural activist enthralled a big gathering of audience by beat-ing his drum in different tune.

Shawnan, an organisation for poetry recital also performed. Anusilon, another drama group performed a drama 'Day Daitto'. Baul artist Kajol Das enthralled the audience with his songs.

25,000 leave homes as 9 unions flooded in Nilphamari



(Left) Water gushing through the breach in the Teesta embankment at Dalia in Nilphamari and (right) boulders being dumped by the authorities to stop further erosion. The photos were taken on Saturday.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

At least 25,000 people in nine unions in Nilphamari district have moved to safer places as rain in the last three days and water from the upstream aggravated the flood situation on Saturday.

The nine unions are the Nilphamari Sadar, Koimara, Shalmoti, Kochukata, Kutimari, Gulmenda, Goyabari, Ghunagach and Tapa Khoribari.

There was however no rain on

Sunday.

The unions have been inundated as flood water is gushing through a breach in the Teesta embankment at Doani.

The Teesta is in spate as all the 66 gates of Gagaldoba barrage in India have been opened. Sub-divisional Engineer Shahidul Islam of Teesta Barrage told this correspondent.

The Gagaldoba barrage is now releasing six and a half lakh cusec of water, he said. India does not

release any water through the barrage in dry season, he said.

He said the flood situation may deteriorate inundating more areas in Rangpur, Nilpmamari, and Lanmonirhat districts as all the Teesta tributaries --Charalkhata, Ichamoti, Deonai, Burikhora and Chikly--have swollen.

The authorities have started dumping boulders to stop further erosion at Doani. The district admin-istration has not given any assis-tance to the flood victims so far.

Our staff correspondent from Sylhet reported that downpour inundated Aambarkhana, Baruthkana, Chowhatta, Jallarpur, Hawapara, Kumarpara, Jherheripara, Jatarpur, Mirabazar, Purba Zindabazar, Tiklagarh, Bharthkhola, Lal Dighir Par, Kalighat and BSCIC industrial estate in the city.

Low lying areas in Beanibazar, Jokiganj, Biswanath, Golapganj, Goainghat, Balaganj, and Fenchuganj have been inundated.



Man made flood! Streets at Rainagar and Zindabazar in Sylhet city after a downpour on Friday. Water-logging is a chronic problem in the city as all outlets have been choked due to illegal land grabbing by influentials and lack of maintenance of drains.

Angorpota-Dahagram people celebrate June 26

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Over 20,000 inhabitants of Angorpota and Dahagram enclaves in Patgram upazila in Lalmonirhat district celebrated June 26 as their 'day of freedom'.

On June 26, 1992, the local people got 'freedom' when a corridor was opened for connecting the enclaves to the main land after an

agreement between Bangladesh and India. The corridor now remains open for certain hours during day-time.

Since then, they observe the day.

This year also, the enclaves wore a festive look on June 26 day as local people wearing new clothes flocked to fairs, joined drama and folk song sessions and held small meetings.

2 sentenced for rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

The District and Sessions Judge's court here sentenced two persons for raping a tribal girl.

The court on Tuesday sentenced Mojibur Rahman and Azizul Haque of Samashipara village under Kalmakanda upazila to 14 years and seven years imprisonment respectively for kidnapping and raping a tribal girl in January 2001.

Woman killed by husband

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajgonj

A pregnant housewife was stabbed to death by her husband at Biaraghat village under the Sadar upazila recently.

Police said Babu Kamar tabbed Hamida Khatun 22 during a heated exchange of words. She later died at the local health complex.

Neighbours caught Babu and handed him over to police.

A case has been lodged with the Sadar police.

Training on shrimp diseases held

BSS, Cox's Bazar

A two-day training workshop on shrimp diseases concluded here recently.

Twenty-five shrimp cultiva-tors, hatchery owners and NGO workers took part in the work-shop, sponsored by the Bangladesh Fishery Research Institute.

Chief Scientific Officer of Sea Fish and Technology Centre Mohammad Zaher was the main speaker while shrimp diseases specialist Dr Mohammad Shahdat Hussein was the coordi-nator.

Among others Dr SB Shaha, Dr Jalilur Rahman, Ishmat ara Syed and Md Nurul Islam imparted training to the partici-pants.

Bus strike in 14 routes from July 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

The Purbanchal Malik Sramik Okoya Parishad has called a bus strike in 14 routes connecting Dhaka from July one protesting extortion and terrorism at the Sayadabad bus terminal.

The strike has been called as per a decisions of the Parishad taken at its meeting held here on June 24.

The routes are Dhaka-Noakhali, Dhaka-Laxmipur, Dhaka-Porsuram, Dhaka-Sonagazi, Dhaka-Compnyganj, Dhaka- Chagalnaya, Dhaka-Feni, Feni-Comilla, Chomuhani-Dhka and five other routes.

The meeting also called upon the authorities concerned to fulfil the Parishad's 22-point demand.

Bangladeshi returned by BSF

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A Bangladeshi national, kidnapped by Indian BSF two days ago, was returned to BDR authorities yester-day following a flag meeting between the border security forces.

The flag meeting was held near Barakup Tilagoan border.

Golam Mostafa, 20, was kid-napped from the no man's land in Tahirpur in Sunamganj district when he was returning home from market on June 26.

Four join BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Four persons joined BNP in pres-ence of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Saturday.

They are former president of Bagerhat District Bar Association Advocate Shamsul Huq, district Jatiya Party convenor Didarul Alam Babul, Bagerhat Hindu Bhuddho Christian Oiyykho Parishad leader Dr Anup Kumar and Union Parishad Chairman LiaquatAli.

Bagerhat district BNP President MAH Selim MP and other party leaders were present when they joined BNP.

Fire at Dimla Women's College

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A fire at the administrative building at Dimla Women's College gutted the library and important papers in four other rooms.

Pass certificates of 500 students, property worth about Tk 25 lakh and Tk 25,000 in cash have been burnt in the fire that broke out at about 4 am on Saturday, college authorities said.

As there is no fire station at Dimla, a fire fighting unit came from Domar, 25 kms away, at about 7 am and put out the fire after two hours' effort.

The college authorities could not say anything about the cause of the fire.

But some sources said it was a planned incident to cover up finan-cial irregularity.

BSF abducts 5 from Sherpur border areas in 45 days

UNB, Sherpur

Five people were abducted by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) from border areas in the district in last one and a half months.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sources said M Alaluddin of Shalchura village in Jhenigati upazila was abducted from

Garopahar border area on June 22.

Besides, BSF abducted a farmer from Gajani border area on June 4 and three youths from Abakash Tourism Centre at Gajani on May 16. The youths went there for picnic.

Official sources here said BSF handed over the abducted people to Meghalaya police station.

Death threats to BNP leader, outlaw

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Outlawed New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP) has given death threats to BNP leader and chairman of Dumuria Union Parishad Abdul Majid Molla and to Ghazi Kamrul, a leader of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP).

Letters sent to them by NBCP identified them as 'class enemies' and said they will be killed within 15 days from June 25.

Some local newspapers have

also been informed by NBCP leader Mrinal about the decision to kill Molla Majid and Ghazi Kamrul.

Mentionably, Siraj Molla, general secretary of Khulna district unit of Jubo Dal and elder brother of Majid Molla was gunned down by NBCP armed cadres in January.

Outlaw Ghazi Kamrul who sur-rendered to police with arms in 1999 ousted 24 cadres from BCP for anti-party activities.

The ousted BCP cadres later formed NBCP.

25 pc of floating sex workers in Barisal drug addicts

AKTER FARUK, Barisal

About 25 percent of the floating sex workers in Barisal city are addicted to drugs or smoking. Eighty-four percent of them are aware of HIV/AIDS, but only 42 take preventive measures.

These were revealed in a survey on 179 floating sex workers, jointly done by two NGO's the Social Advancement Society (SDS) and the HIV- STD Alarm Bangladesh (HASAB).

Fourteen per cent of them smoke, four per cent drink alcohol and seven percent take drugs regularly.

Five percent of the drug addicted sex workers take ganja (hemp) and two percent drink phynsidyl.

The survey revealed that 56 percent of their clients are business-

men, 43 percent rickshaw pullers or day labourers and 14 percent are members of law enforcing agencies.

About half of the floating sex workers are aged between 20 and 29 and 14 percent are below 20. Sixty per cent of them have no education.

The survey also revealed that 37 percent of the floating sex workers had married at least twice and 11 percent married three times or more.

Forty-two percent of the sex workers live with their husbands and 11 percent with the brokers. About 25 percent of them are industrial workers and 31 have been com-pelled to come to the profession due to poverty.

Five percent of their income is taken away by law enforcers and 20 percent by their brokers.

Housewife 'commits' suicide, another beaten to death

UNB, Kurigram

A housewife allegedly committed suicide at Kurigram town on Saturday and another was beaten to death at a village in Rajarhat upazila the day before.

Toslima Begum, 40, poured kerosene on her body and set her afire at Tatipara in the town following a quarrel with her husband.

Police said the body was sent to

hospital morgue for autopsy.

Maleka Begum, 23, was beaten to death allegedly by her husband at Bahadur village in Rajarhat upazila on Friday.

Quoting local people police said Abdul Halim beat his wife to death during an altercation over his alleged extramarital affairs.

Abdul Halim is absconding. A case has been filed.