

SNAPS

Firearms recovered

UNB, Madaripur
Detective Branch of police recovered three firearms from separate places in the Sadar upazila recently.
Acting on a tip-off, they recovered one revolver and one pipe gun from an abandoned house at Talbari and another revolver from Madaripur Government Nazimuddin University College campus. None was arrested.

Timber recovered

BSS, Dhaka
Chittagong coast guard recovered 603 cubic feet of Segun timber worth about Tk 4,22,000 in a drive on the Kamaphuli river on Friday.
The recovered timber was deposited with Divisional Forest Office (DFO) at South Chittagong for taking legal action.
In another drive on Friday, western zone coast guard seized a boat with Sundari timbers collected illegally from Bndranga and Mongla bus stand areas. The seized boat and timber were handed over to Dangmari forest station of the Sundarbans to take legal action.

Training course for youths

UNB, Rangamati
A three-month training course has begun at the Youth Training Centre here on Saturday.
Zila Parishad Chairman Dr Manik Lal Dewan inaugurated the training course, organised by the Youth Development Department (YDD).
A total of 50 youths are participating in the course on cattle and poultry farming, pisciculture and agriculture.
Deputy Commissioner Dr Zafar Ahmed Khan and YDD Deputy Director M Abul Hossain were also present at the inaugural function.

Heart camp held

UNB, Rajshahi
A day-long free 'heart camp' was held on Godagari municipality office premises on Friday.
Some 300 heart patients were given free treatment at the camp, organized by the pourashava.
Post and Telecommunication Minister Md Aminul Haq inaugurated the camp.

Tk 16.38 cr 'smuggled out of country' by shrimp exporter

Three bank officials suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A frozen shrimp exporter has allegedly smuggled Tk 16 crore 38 lakh out of the country by forged means in connivance with three high officials at the Khulna zonal office of a private bank.
The bank officials have been placed under suspension for their alleged involvement in the scam, sources said.
They are one Senior Executive Vice-president and two Vice Presidents. The two vice-presidents have been called to the head office in Dhaka to account for their alleged involvement in the forgery in support of the shrimp exporter--Delta Fish Ltdin Satkhira.

The allegation is that Delta Fish Ltd. opened a Letter of Credit (LC) with the Khulna branch of the bank for financial support for exporting frozen shrimps. The amount of money in question received as sale proceeds by exporting frozen shrimp was not deposited with the bank. Rather, an equivalent amount of money was received by the exporter from another bank in Dubai in Abu Dhabi by forged means in connivance with four local bank officers, the sources said. The private bank has no branch in Dubai.

Sources said, Delta Fish Ltd. is a defaulter with Khulna branch of the bank from where it has taken Tk 56 crore 48 lakh loans. Now its proprietor is trying to prove the farm as bankrupt.
Chairman of Delta Ltd. Wazed Ali Biswas when contacted denied the charge of smuggling Tk. 16 cr 38 lakh out of the country. There is no provision to open LC for export trade in any bank of the country, he said claiming that his farm has exported frozen shrimps worth over Tk 400 crore in last three years. "My farm is not a bank defaulter and has no branch office in Dubai", he said.



(Left) Unabated erosion of Bhola town protection embankment by the Meghna and (left) sandbags being dumped by local people to check erosion.

More areas reel under water in Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha

Rivers fall in Netrakona

STAR NATIONAL DESK

More areas went under floodwater in Lalmonirhat and Gaibandha districts yesterday. In Netrokona, all the rivers have started falling but the situation in inundated areas remained static.

Our Lalmonirhat correspondent reported that 40 villages in 17 unions under five upazilas in the district have reeled under floodwaters as Teesta, Dharla, Malda and Ratnai rivers continued to rise.
Erosion by the rivers devoured vast areas in the five upazilas, officials said.

Hundreds of flood affected people have taken shelter on embankments and roads and at educational institutions. They need immediate supply of food and medicine, they said.

The flood affected areas are Rajpur, Khuniagachh, Tajpur, Gokunda, Bangram, Etapota, Kurul, Bowalmari in Lalmonirhat Sadar; Mahish Kocha, Mashisha sahar, Rather Par, Basher Jhar in Aditmari upazila; Rudreswgar, Chandra Kanto, Tusvander, Mohsamuri Char, Kakina Char,

Subol Char in Kaligonj upazila; Parulia, Utr Goddimari, South Goddimari, Dowarni, Chhayani, Sidhurna, Daliya, Barokhata and Char Mohanta in Hatibandha upazila; Angorpota, Dahogram, Jagorber, Dhabosheti, Pathovanga, Thang Jhara and Kuchlibari in Pagram upazila.

Our Gaibandha correspondent said more areas in the district have gone under floodwater from Teesta and Brahmanputra rivers.

Rail communication between Balashi and Bahadurabad may be snapped as the area adjacent to the track at Balashi has been eroded, railway officials said.

The flood control embankment has breached at Kukrahat in Fulchari upazila. The dam at the point was renovated last year at a cost of Tk 16 lakh.

The Sonali river embankment has developed a crack at Goderhat in the Sadar upazila. Local people said the dam there may collapse due to pressure of water.

Meanwhile, erosion by Teesta river devoured vast areas in Haripur and Bamondanga unions under Sunderganj upazila, render-

ing about 200 families homeless. Teesta continued to engulf fresh areas in the upazila.

A sluice gate on the bank of Teesta at Kanshipara under Sunderganj upazila is threatened. The Water Development Board is trying to protect the sluice gate by piling bamboos.

Our Netrakona correspondent said the flood situation in the district improved yesterday as the rivers started falling. But the situation in the inundated areas remained static.
The flood has made the prospect of next Aman crop bleak as most of the seedbeds have been damaged.

Agriculture officials said seedbeds on about 4000 acres in Durgapur upazila, 5000 acres in Kalmakanda upazila, 3000 acres in Modan upazila, 3500 acres in Alpara upazila, 4000 acres in Mohongonj upazila and 2000 acres in Barhatta upazila were damaged.

Transplantation of Aman seedlings normally begins in the second week of June. There will be acute crisis of seedlings this year, they said.

Adhunik holds anti-smoking rally, seminar in Rajshahi

A RU CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Adhunik, an anti-smoking body, held a seminar at Rajshahi Medical College auditorium on Saturday in observance of the World Tobacco Free Day.

Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mijanur Rahman Minu MP inaugurated the seminar.

It was organised by Adhunik's Rajshahi Medical College unit with its president Arif Hossain in the chair.

National Professor Nurul Islam, RMC Principal Professor Dr. Fazlur Rahman, BMA Rajshahi Unit President Dr Washim Hossain, RMC Teachers Association Vice-president Dr. AHM Haydari, its general Secretary Dr. Latifur Rahman and Abdul Matin attended the seminar as special guests.

Fake army man held

UNB, Kurigram

A fake army officer was arrested with a gun from Naodanga Shimulbari village in Fulbari upazila on Friday.

Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Prodig Kumar Roy, 22, when he was realising toll from the people identifying himself as an army officer. Prodig is from Rangpur. A case was filed, police said.



Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan speaking as chief guest after opening a lubricant industries in Narsingdi on Saturday.

Recovery of 'smuggled' gold, taka HC stays C'nawabganj court order for release of seized car

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

An order issued by a court at Chapainawabganj for release of a car seized by customs officials with alleged smuggled goods has been stayed by the High Court, sources here said.

The court had ordered the customs department to release the car under the custody of a lawyer -- Hasib -- following a case filed by the lawyer on behalf of one Shubhas Mollik of Shayamnagar in Dhaka.

The 'unclaimed' car was seized on August 29 last year after the anti-smuggling task force in Chapainawabganj recovered 230 ounces of gold and Tk 7.50 lakh from the car, sources at Rajshahi divisional customs commissioner's office said.

Customs officials deposited the gold with the Bangladesh Bank and the money with the government treasury and took the initiative to auction the car.

Meantime, Mollik claimed ownership of the car and filed a case through lawyer Hasib.

The initiative to auction the car was taken as two notices served by the customs on the lawyer were not responded to.

The High Court stayed the court order on June 18 after the customs department challenged it at the High Court.

Newsmen hurt in road mishap

UNB, Feni

Two newsmen were injured in a road accident at Uttar Anandapur on the Feni-Parshuram road on Saturday.

Abu Taher, district correspondent of Daily Prothom Alo and Shahadat Hossain of BSS and Daily Dinkal met with the accident as their motorbike skidded off the road during downpour. They were coming to Feni town from Parshuram upazila.

They were taken to Fulgazi upazila health complex and later shifted to a clinic in the town.

Tree pirates caught by fishermen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Fishermen caught three pirates at Sonakhali Baintala canal area in the Sundarbans on July 3.

The pirates are Selim, Mizanur Rahman and Rabul Islam, all from Shyamnagar upazila.

Police said, the pirates had attacked a group of fishermen when they were crossing the canal. The fishermen chased them and caught three of them along with two pipe guns.

They were handed over to Shyamnagar police.

Hundi trader held in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A alleged hundi trader was arrested with Tk 29000 at Nakipur bazaar in Shyamnagar upazila on July 4.

Police said, people caught Bimal Das of Sopulpur village when he was handing over Indian currency to one Shyama Pada Das at the bazaar and handed him over to them. A case has been filed.

Aboriginals demand constitutional rights

Rally held, memo submitted to Thakurgaon DC

BSS, Thakurgaon

Aboriginal people of different areas of Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts held a rally and brought about a procession in the town on Friday demanding government steps to ensure their constitutional rights. They later handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner.

The rally was presided over by Surjya Marmu, Convenor,

Thakurgaon- Panchagarh District Committee of Jatiyo Adibashi Parishad.

The rally was addressed by F.A. Mohammad Hossain, Akhtar Hossain Raja, Marius Tudu, Dulal Tigga, Shamsuzzoha Bablu and Ahsan Habib Babu.

The speakers said the aboriginal people are the original inhabitants of Indo-Bangladesh sub-continent and history says they staged uprisings at different times against

colonial rulers.

The 'Santal Revolt of 1855' and the 'Nachol Revolt of 1946' are examples of their protest against oppression, they said.

They said the aboriginal people live on agriculture but now most of them are landless. The speakers demanded that the government ensure their constitutional rights.

There are about 15 lakh aboriginal people in northern districts.



Freestyle smuggling! This a market of smuggled Indian cattle near the Lalmonirhat border. Seven such markets sit at Patgram, Daikhowa, Chapar, Durakuti, Durgapur, Mohishkhoa and Barokhata twice a week. Indian citizens also come to these markets, traders say. The country is deprived of huge amounts of revenue due to such smuggling of cattle.