

SNAPS

Farmers' training held in Shariatpur

BSS, Shariatpur
A day-long training course for farmers and block supervisors, organised by the Agriculture Extension Department (AED), was held here o Sunday. A total of 30 male and 30 female farmers and 10 block supervisors of AED took part in the training course, held at the AED Office. The training on modern methods of cultivation was conducted by specialists of the agriculture department.

2 commit 'suicide' in Rajshahi

BSS, Rajshahi
Two persons including a housewife allegedly committed suicide in two incidents Monday night, hospital and police sources said.

Housewife Ferdousi Begum, 30, ended her life allegedly by taking poison at her husband's house at Shibpur village under Charchhat Upazila following a family feud. Momin Mollah, 45, of Puhar village under Durgapur upazila cut his abdomen with a blade allegedly due to agony from prolonged illness. He died while being taken to hospital.

Medical camp, film show on AIDS held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh
A day-long "Free Medical Camp and Film Show on AIDS Prevention" was held at Muktagacha upazila recently. More than 200 poor patients, mainly women and children, were given free treatment and medicines at the camp, organised by the Welfare Multipurpose Society Ltd., a local voluntary organization. Dr AKM Siddiqur Rahman, Deputy Director of Family Planning Directorate and Dr Anwara Begum conducted the medical camp. Later, a film show on AIDS prevention was also screened to create awareness about AIDS among people.

Publication ceremony

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia.
Publication ceremony of Suborno Rekhra Alpona, a book Prof Dr. Abul Ahsan Choudhury of Bengali Department at Islamic University (IU), was held at the Shipokala Academy here recently. Former justice KM Sobhan was present as the chief guest at the ceremony. Among others, Shamsuzzaman Khan, former director of National Museum; Prof Dr M Alauddin, Dean, Faculty of Science and Technology at IU; Dr Sahinor Rahman, Chairman, Department of English at IU; former chairman of Kusthia municipality Anwar Ali and Prof Dr M Anwarul Karim, former principal of Kusthia Government University College spoke on the occasion.

Khulna Speedy Trial Tribunal

Hardened criminals freed due to 'faulty, weak charge sheet by IOs'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Thirty-six accused people have been acquitted and eight convicted in 14 cases tried by the Speedy Trial Tribunal in Khulna in the last eight months.

Most of the accused were acquitted due to "faulty and weak charge sheet by IOs (investigation officer)", court sources said.

Set up in November 20 last year, the Speedy Trial Tribunal got its first case on December 9. Till June 25 this year, 22 cases were referred to the Tribunal. Of these, 14 have so far

been disposed of.

Eight accused were convicted in eight cases, while all the accused were acquitted in five other cases. One case was dismissed due to death of its lone accused, court sources said.

Failure by IOs to produce prosecution witnesses and submit charge sheet with credible evidences was the reason for acquittal of the accused.

The 22 cases so far sent to the Tribunal include one for murder, 12 under Arms Act, six under Narcotics Control Act, one under Explosives

Act, one under Acid Act and one under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

All the chargesheeted 28 accused in the lone murder case were freed as their guilt could not be proved beyond doubt.

Eight chargesheeted accused convicted by the Tribunal include two who were given life term.

Most of the accused acquitted due to lack of evidences and faulty report by IOs are hardened criminals, according to prosecution witnesses.



PHOTO: STAR

Sylhet City Corporation Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran speaking as chief guest at a function to award certificates to disabled persons after vocational training, jointly organised by the Green Disabled Foundation (GDF) and Jalalabad Disabled Rehabilitation Centre, Sylhet recently.

Teenage girl 'commits suicide' after rape

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A teenaged girl allegedly committed suicide on Tuesday at Katabari village under Gobindaganj upazila after being raped.

Police said Rekha Begum, 13, was asleep at her hose on the night of July 5. She was dragged to a nearby banana filed allegedly by one Mukul Mia of same village and raped.

Her mother rescued her later and sought justice from village elders. But they could not arrange any arbitration as Mukul Mia was absconding.

Unable to bear the shame, Rekha ended her life by hanging herself, police said.

A case was filed with Gobindaganj thana. Police arrested Mukul Mia's father Raisuddin.

Wife 'killed' by husband at B'Baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

A housewife was killed allegedly by her husband at Mazlishpur village under Kashba upazila on Monday.

Police said Shereen Akter was strangled by her husband Md Sanu Mia during an altercation.

Kasba police led by SI Rafiqul Islam rushed to the spot, arrested Sanu and took the body to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital where its autopsy was done. A case was filed.

Rape, murder of college girl Zahida

Case sent to CID for reinvestigation

HOSSAIN SERAI, Magura

College girl Zahida rape and murder case was transferred to CID on Wednesday for further investigation and submission of a fresh chargesheet.

The action followed submission of a 'naraji' (no confidence) petition to the home ministry by plaintiff Royesuddin, alleging that innocent persons were implicated in the chargesheet.

Official sources said the Additional Inspector General of Police (CID) ordered further investigation following submission of the naraji petition.

Zahida Khatun, daughter of farmer Raihan Joarder of Boroichara village in Sreepur upazila, appeared at the HSC examination last year from Dariapur College. She secured first division in HSC from Humanities Group as she got also in the SSC examination.

But she could not know her HSC result as she was gangraped and strangled by some local miscreants on July 5, 2002, few days after the examination.

Family sources said, while returning home from her friend's house, Zahida was caught by the miscreants allegedly led by Manun of the same village in daylight and dragged to a jute field. She was killed after gangrape.

Royesuddin, elder brother of the victim, filed a case with

Sreepur police.

The local administration at a meeting on August 27, 2002 put the case on the list of 'sensitive' cases and sent it to DB (Detective Branch) police for investigation.

After about 8 months' investigation, DB Inspector Shahidul Islam on April 26 submitted two charge sheets under Section 302/3 of Bangladesh Penal Code and Section 9(4) (kha) of Woman and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000.

Miscreants damage image of goddess

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Some unidentified miscreants damaged the image of a Hindu goddess Annapurna at a house at Mugra village in Akawra upazila Monday night.

Police said the miscreants entered the house of one Nantu Ranjan Achariya at dead of night and damaged the image.

The officer-in-charge of Akawra thana rushed to the spot in the following morning. A case was filed but none of the miscreants could be arrested till yesterday, police said.

Satkhira Krishak League president arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Police arrested the president of Satkhira district Krishak League, a front of Awami League, from Patkelghata Bazar in Tala upazila on Tuesday for allegedly selling adulterated paddy seed.

The arrested person -- Biswajit Sadhu-- is also general secretary of Satkhira chapter of Bangladesh Fertilizer Association.

Satkhira Chamber of Commerce and Industries and Satkhira district Awami League protested the arrest and demanded his immediate release, claiming that he was arrested in a false charge.

Tk 5.64 lakh 'missing' from Narail bank counter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail

An amount of Tk 5.64 lakh was missing from the cash counter of Pubali Bank's Narail branch on Tuesday.

Sources at the bank said cashier Musharref Hossain kept the money on the tray in front of him to send it to Sonali Bank's main branch in the town.

He went to the manager's room to attend a phone call. Returning to his table, he found the tray empty.

None of staff could say how the money was missing. No case was lodged with police till yesterday noon.

Hafizur Rahman, Regional Manager of Pubali Bank, visited the spot.

The sources said this was the first such incident at the bank.

Drug peddler gets life term

BSS, Chittagong

The Speedy Trial Tribunal, Chittagong sentenced a drug peddler to life imprisonment for killing a person over share of money from illegal drug business.

The Judge M Hassan Imam handed down the punishment to Babu Bahadur of Badamtali under Doublemooring thana in the city.

Two other accused--Nurul Haque and Monku Murma--were acquitted as charges against them could not be proved.

Babu had stabbed Manju to death during an altercation over drug money at Badamtali on April 6, 2002.

Court sources said that during trial, Babu gave confessional statement about his involvement in the killing.



PHOTO: STAR

Members of a newly formed study circle at its recent installation ceremony at Modhupur, Tangail. Initiated by Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB), it will organise discussions on transparency and accountability in primary education and health service. A TIB press release said six study circles have been formed in Nalitabari upazila in Sherpur district and Madhupur upazila in Tangail district.

Four pirates arrested from Sundarbans

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Four alleged pirates, three of them Indians, were arrested by police from Bayarsingh area in the Sundarbans on Saturday.

The arrested persons are Sahabuddin Mondal and Achinta Roy of Gokna village under Baduria upazila; Mufizul of Chuno village in Shyamnagar upazila; and Sariful Mollah of Kukurati village in Deganga thana under 24 Parganas in West Bengal.

One killed over land dispute

BSS, Narsingdi

One person -Afajuddin- was killed at Paharkandi village under Raipura upazila on Sunday over a land dispute.

Raipura police arrested two persons--Hossain Miah and Sattar Miah--following filing of a case.

16 CU teachers get Ph D, M Phil degree

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong University (CU) has conferred Mphil and Phd degrees on sixteen of its teachers.

Of them 15 obtained Ph.D and one got M.Phil degree. Those who got Ph.d degree include Md Jafar of the Institute of Marine Science (IMS); Md Ali Chowdhury and Prof Md Fasiul Alam of Management; Md Naser of Statistical; Prof Sujit Kumar of Mathematics; Mojfor Ahmad Chowdhury of Philosophy; Rashida Khanam of Political Science; Md Abdur Rahman of Accounting; Tasl-ima Begum of Bengali and Abu Torab Md Taher of Arabic and Islamic Studies.

Md Gias Uddin of Botany obtained M Phil degree.