

SNAPS

Man killed in clash

UNB, Chapainawabganj
A man was killed in a clash at Telkupi village in Shibganj upazila on Monday. Police said the clash ensued between one group led by Abdul Latif and another group led by Moazzem Hossain over a disputed land leaving Latif seriously injured.

Later, Abdul Latif died at the local health complex. Police arrested Moazzem Hossain and his brother Abdur Rashid.

Body recovered

UNB, Chapainawabganj
Body of a young man was recovered at Baroroshia village in Shibganj upazila on Friday.

Police said Habu, 25, son of Mofiz of Kalupur village went out of his home with Tk 20,000 for buying cattle on Thursday but did not return. Police recovered the body and sent it to the hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed.

Seminar on legal assistance

UNB, Pirojpur
A daylong seminar on 'Problem in Implementing Legal Assistance Programme' here was held at the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) office Thursday.

Fifty people from various professions attended the seminar organised by Mass-line Media Centre. Advocate Mahmud Hossain presented the keynote paper in the seminar. It was also addressed by Adv M Mannan, Adv Afifa Begum, Adv Selina, prof Khurshid Alami and Goutam Chowdhury.

BKB target to realise loan

UNB, Pirojpur
Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB) has fixed a target to realise Tk 1,800 cr outstanding loan from five divisions and greater Comilla and Faridpur districts during the current financial year.

Of the total, Tk 651 cr will be realised from Dhaka division, Tk 181 cr from Chittagong division, Tk 134 cr from Sylhet division, Tk 227 from Khulna division, Tk 162 cr from Barisal division, Tk 224 cr from greater Comilla and Tk 96 cr from greater Faridpur.



Although risky, a bus plying the Dhaka-Dinajpur highway inundated by floodwater at Khalshi in Gaibandha district. The photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: KM REZAUL HUQ

Floodwater receding in Sirajganj
10 lakh people affected

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

with district officials at the deputy Commissioner's office on Thursday. At the meeting, State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahamood who is in charge of the district said 74 unions out of 82 in the district have been flooded, affecting 9,88,356 people.

But the river was still flowing five cms above the dagger mark.

But Broal, Korotoa, Fulzure and Gumani rivers remained static.

The flood situation in Sirajganj Sadar, Raiganj, Kamarkanda, Tarash, Ullapara and Shahjadpur remained unchanged yesterday.

Meanwhile, erosion by the Jamuna has taken a serious turn in the affected areas. More than 250 families have become homeless due to erosion; 100 of them in Belkuchi, 100 in Kazipur and 50 in Chowdhury, officials said.

The flood-affected who have taken shelter on embankments and high lands are facing acute crisis of food and drinking water.

Relief Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf held a meeting

BSF returns woman's body

UNB, Comilla

The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) returned the body of a Bangladeshi woman to Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) at Rangamati in Chittagong border area on Wednesday.

After a flag meeting, the BSF men of Asgar Rahamanpur camp, returned the body of Rizia Khatun, 45, of Ishanchandra Nagar village in Chittagong upazila.

The body was handed over to police who sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy. Police said the body bore marks of torture and burn injury.

'No genuine flood victim'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

While thousands cry for succour in Nilphamari, the district relief and rehabilitation officer does not find any flood victim "eligible for relief".

The government allotted 50 tonnes of rice and Tk 50,000 for flood victims in the district. Out of this, 30 tonnes of rice and Tk 30,000 were distributed among 150 erosion-affected families and 3,000 flood victims in Khalisha Chapani, Jhunaghach Chapani, Tepa Kharibari and Chhatnai unions in Dimla upazila till Wednesday.

When newsmen asked him over telephone on Wednesday from Nilphamari Press Club why the rest



Rifat Jahan (Cadet No 1138) of Mymensingh Girls Cadet College scored A+ in Science Group in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination held under Dhaka Education Board this year. She is the daughter of Dr Saifuddin Ahmed, Resident Medical Officer (RMO) of Gopalganj Sadar Hospital and Nasima Ahmed, a housewife.

... now gang of leg cutters

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A new type of brutal crime has panicked people of Pirganj. Unidentified terrorists severed legs of two persons and escaped with the severed portions.

On July 13, a gang of terrorists caught one Chakla, 30, of Ujjirpur village under Rammathpur union, severed his left leg, put it in a bag and fled away.

On July 16, some terrorists attacked one Golam Mostafa, 35, of same union in Pirganj upazila. They severed his left leg and fled away with it. This time, some people saw the brutality from a distance but did not dare to resist them.

Police said they heard about the incidents from local people and recorded two cases. But none could be arrested.

It could not be known whether the same gang of criminals was involved in both the incidents.

School student beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A school student was beaten to death by some youths for refusing to give his bicycle for a ride.

The tragic incident took place at Bakerganj on Tuesday.

Local youths Mahbub and Sajal Molla had asked Mohammad Russell, a student of class nine at Awliapur School, to give them his bicycle for a ride. Russell refused.

On Tuesday, when Russell was returning home, the youths caught and beat him indiscriminately.

Local people rescued and sent him to Bakerganj upazila health complex in an unconscious state. As his condition deteriorated, he was rushed to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital. He died there soon after.

A murder case has been lodged with Bakerganj police.

Man killed by miscreants

UNB, Brahmanbaria

A middle aged man was killed by miscreants at Jamalpur village in Sardarupazila on Thursday.

Police said Abdul Haque called his neighbour Anil Chandra Sarkar, 40, out of his house in the name of treating his sick animal at midnight.

Later, Haque in a bid to grab his land allegedly strangled Anil to death and hide his body into a ditch.

Police recovered the body in presence of a first class magistrate.

No progress in Sylhet flood control project**One per cent work done in 2 yrs**

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

It is scheduled to be completed by 2005-2006.

It includes construction of 181 kilometre embankments, 813 irrigation structures, two bridges, five regulators, 163 kilometre irrigation canals, 56 kilometre drains and installation of four irrigation pumps to provide irrigation facilities in 38,000 hectares of land. The project area covers over 49,000 hectares of land.

Hardly one per cent of the project work could be done due to lack of funds, officials concerned said.

The Water Development Board (WDB) began implementation of the Tk 111 crore project in 2001-2002 financial year to control flood and improve irrigation system in six upazilas.

The upazilas are Jakiganj, Kanaighat, Beanibazar, Gopalganj, Fenchuganj and Sylhet Sadar.

During the last fiscal, Tk 2.75 crore was allocated against the proposed amount of Tk 21.62 crore. Of this, Tk 70 lakh was spent

for land acquisition and Tk 1.95 crore for construction of 10 kilometre embankments.

In the current financial year, Tk 4.73 crore has been sanctioned, said an official source.

A major portion of the sanctioned amount will be spent for land acquisition.

But so far, only 34 hectares of land have been acquired, they said.

Construction of flood control embankments is a major part of the project in Jakiganj, Kanaighat, Beanibazar and Gopalganj upazilas.

Delay in project implementation will increase the cost, they said.

**First death anniversary of Trisha observed**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The first death anniversary of minor girl Sadia Sultan Trisha, who drowned while fleeing clutches of rapists, was observed at her father's house in the town on July 17.

Some local youths used to tease Trisha on her way to school. On July 17 last year, they teased and chased her. To save herself, she jumped into a pond and drowned.

The incident created a public anger and agitated people caught three youths -- Modern, Aribul Islam and Shaheen -- responsible for the tragedy and handed them over to police.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel at Benapole check post rescued seven men, nine women and four children when a gang of traffickers was taking them to India.

The townspeople launched a month-long agitation programme including hartal, procession and meetings, demanding punishment of the culprits. All political parties, student groups and socio-cultural bodies gave spontaneous support to the agitation.

Following filing of a case, police submitted charge sheet within only seven days.

District and Session Judge AKM Anower Hossain in his judgement gave the three youths death sentence on September 30 last year. The trial was completed in two and a half months.

The three convicts are now at Rajshahi Central Jail as the case is under trial in High Court.

Three held for making fake touchstone image

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Three persons have been arrested for allegedly making and trading on fake touchstone images.

Local people caught them at Tindaha village under Gaibandha Sadar upazila and handed them over to police.

Abul Munshi, his son Rafiqul Islam and "buyer" Khairul were caught red handed during transaction, police said quoting the local people. Abul Munshi and his son were doing brisk business by making and supplying fake touchstone images for long, the local people told police.

There is a network and at least 50 people are involved in this business, police said. Police recorded a case in this connection.



Winners in the Starship Funny/Tasty Cuisine Contest pose for a photograph with guests.

Starship cuisine contest held in Sylhet

STAR NATIONAL DESK

The Starship Funny/Tasty Cuisine Contest-2 was held recently at a restaurant in Sylhet with much enthusiasm, says a press release.

A total of 100 selected contestants (female) from different districts gathered there. They presented self-prepared food items. Renowned writer and Starship Condensed Milk's recipe provider Siddique Kabir, Principal Suraiya Begum of Home Economics College, Ayesha Khatun and renowned actor Tushar Khan were present as judges.

Joy Narayan Saha, Manager (Sales) of Abul Khair Group, attended the function as chief guest.

Shahnewaz Ahmed, Corporate Assistant Manager (Marketing and Brand) of the company in his welcome address described the motto of the contest.

In the four-stage 100 marks contest, Maqsuda Akter of Comilla was adjudged first by the judges and awarded 10-tola gold ornaments.

Mita Quoraishi of Sylhet, Romana Samad of Tangail, Suhela Sultan of Dhaka, Sohela Mahbub of Sylhet and Sayeeda of Chittagong jointly secured the second place. Each of them were awarded a microwave oven.

Reena Ferdousi of Dhaka, Shahnoor Hossain of Chittagong, Kazi Taslima Sayera of Sunamganj, Anjuman Ara and Nela Chowdhury of Dhaka secured the third place.