

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 Alam and Goutam Chodhury.

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.



PHOTO: KM REZAUL HUQ

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

Floodwater receding in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

The overall flood situation in Sirajganj showed signs of improvement as water level of the Jamuna started falling yesterday. 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, Kamarkhanda, Tarash, Ullapara and Shahajadpur 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 Chowdhali, 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 with district officials at the deputy Commissioner's office on Thursday. At the meeting, State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmood who is in charge of the district said 74 unions out of 82 in the district have been flooded, affecting 9,88,356 people. Crops on at least 40,000 hectares of land have been damaged, he said.

with district officials at the deputy Commissioner's office on Thursday. At the meeting, State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmood who is in charge of the district said 74 unions out of 82 in the district have been flooded, affecting 9,88,356 people. Crops on at least 40,000 hectares of land have been damaged, he said.

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 Rangamatia in Chouddagram border area on Wednesday. After a flag meeting, the BSF men of Asgar Rahmanpur camp, returned the body of Rizia Khatun, 45, of Ishanchandra Nagar village in Chouddagram 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

of the relief materials were not distributed, Bekarna Kumar Ghosh said, "I find no flood victim who is eligible for relief". Thousands of people are still marooned and facing an acute crisis of food and drinking water in worst affected Dimla upazila in the district. Some Union Parisad chairmen and members in the affected areas told The Daily Star that government relief was too inadequate to the need. Finding no alternative, many of flood affected people are taking inedible things, causing diarrhoea and other intestinal diseases, they said.



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.

No progress in Sylhet flood control project

One per cent work done in 2 yrs

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet.

There has been virtually no progress in the Upper Suma-Kushiyara Flood Control and Irrigation Project although two years of its five-year implementation period have passed. 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 of the district. The upazilas are Jakiganj, Kanaighat, Beanibazar, Golapganj, Fenchuganj and Sylhet Sadar. 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. The initial allocation of Tk 50 lakh, made in fiscal 2001-02, was spent for land acquisition, the officials said. 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 Golapganj upazilas. Delay in project implementation will only increase the cost, they said.

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



First death anniversary of Trisha observed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The first death anniversary of minor girl Sadia Sultana 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, Ariful Islam and Shaheen -- responsible for the tragedy and handed them over to police. 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.

Ishtiaq's death condoled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

The Gaibandha District Bar Association at a recent meeting condoled the death of renowned lawyer Barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed. Presided over by advocate Sekender Azam Anam, President Gaibandha Bar, the meeting was addressed by, among other, advocate Shah Jahangir Kabir, advocate Shamsul Alam Prodhan and advocate Safiquzzaman Babul. The speakers said death of Ishtiaq Ahmed is a great loss to the nation.

20 including women, children rescued from traffickers

UNB, Benapole

Twenty people including women and children were rescued from Sadipur village while being trafficked to India on Thursday. 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.



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, Maqsuma Akter of Comilla was adjudged first by the judges and awarded 10-tola gold ornaments. Mita Quoraishi of Sylhet, Romana Samad of Tangail, Sahela Sultana of Dhaka, Soheli 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.

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.