

## SNAPS

**Tk one lakh fish looted from hatchery**

**UNB, Jhalakati**  
Miscreants looted fish worth over Tk one lakh from Kumarkhali Mora Nadi hatchery in Nolchhiti upazila on Saturday.

Locals said the gang of 'Azim Bahini' swooped on the hatchery at night and looted fish at gunpoint.

Owner of the hatchery alleged that although the identified criminals looted fish from the hatchery several times earlier, police did not take action against them.

**Token strike by****B'baria traders**

**UNB, Brahmanbaria**  
Shop owners in the town observed a token strike on Monday in protest against imposition of tax on them.

They also brought out a procession, held a meeting at Mukta Mancha and submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner demanding withdrawal of the new tax.

Speakers at the meeting said the business community will go for a greater movement if the tax is not withdrawn.

**Hemp recovered:****Drug trader held**

**A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra**  
Bogra Sadar police recovered two kilograms (kg) of hemp and arrested alleged drug trader Afzal from Uttar Malgram in Bogra town on Monday.

Acting on a tip-off police raided Afzal's house, recovered the hemp and arrested him.

**A commendable job**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga,**

A non-government organisation (NGO) -- Impact Foundation -- has been playing a commendable role in providing health services to the poor in Chuadanga district.

Impact Foundation started functioning in July 1993 with a view to rendering services to the handicapped women. Since then the it has been working in different fields.

On April 24, 2002 Impact Foundation opened a health centre styled Chuadanga Impact Masudul Hoque Memorial Community Health Centre at Kederganj Para here to render health services to the destitute people.

Every week, hundreds of

**Rape victim's house torched for filing case**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia**

Alleged rapists torched the victim's house as her family declined to withdraw the case filed against them.

Police said a housewife was gangraped at Sonatola village in Daulatpur upazila on June 29. The victim's husband filed a case on the following day.

The rapists then threatened him of dire consequences if he does not withdraw the case.

On Friday night, they torched the victims house.

Police said they heard of the arson, but none filed any case. None of the culprits could be arrested, they said.



The mighty Padma spares nothing on its way. (left) Half of Louhajang thana in Munshiganj has already gone into the river, (left) policemen hurriedly shifting furniture elsewhere.



PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN

**Teesta rises again, diarrhoea spreads****Two more die in Dimla**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari**

Water level of Teesta river started rising again since Monday.

Diarrhoea claimed two more lives in Dimla upazila on the day, raising the toll to nine in the last 10 days.

The victims are Shaheed Mia, 3, of Dohol Para and Lucky, 4, of Jharsinhessor village.

At least 426 people were treated for diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases in the last seven days and the number is rising, according to Dimla Upazila Health and Family

Planning Officer Nurul Islam Prodhom.

A temporary medical camp has been set up in East Chatani union to combat the disease.

He told this correspondent that an acute crisis of saline is prevailing as the supply is exhausted.

Water-borne diseases are spreading in the district, he said.

According to unofficial sources, about 5000 people have so far been attacked by diarrhoea.

District health department officials said 10 medical teams are

working in the worst affected areas of Dimla.

Acute scarcity of drinking water is prevailing in Kaligong, East Chatnal, Khalisha Chapani, Baish Pukur, Khagakharibari and Naotara villages. Water purification tablets are also scarce, sources said.

Massive erosion by Teesta and its tributaries made at least 500 families homeless in Chotokhata, Dohelpara, Vendabari, Jharsinhessor, Dauabari, Holdibari and Golumunda villages in Dimla and Sadar upazilas.

**Govt to close down 3 jute mills in Khulna**

**UNB, Khulna**

The government has decided to close down People Jute Mills, Star Jute Mills and Eastern Jute Mills in the district next month.

State Minister for Jute Lutfor Rahman Azad disclosed this at a meeting at Platinum Jute Mills here on Saturday.

He said that the decision was taken as the mills were incurring huge loss for the last several years.

The state minister asked workers and staff of Platinum and Crescent Jute Mills to work sincerely to make the mill profitable.

He also cautioned them that the two mills might meet the same fate

if they fail to produce export quality products.

**Suicide after failing in SSC exam for 4th time**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha**

A SSC candidate committed suicide after failing in the examination for the fourth time this year.

Haji Munshi, 19, of Radhakrishnaur village under Gaibandha Sadar upazila threw himself under a running train near Trimohoni railway station and ended his life on Saturday. Railway police recovered the body and sent for autopsy.

**Stand-off, road barricades****Tension mounts as villagers resist extortion by UPDF, PCJSS**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati**

Tension mounted in Kutukchori area in Naniarchar upazila following indefinite road barricades on the Rangamati-Mahalchhori-Khagrachhori (RMK) road by villagers since Wednesday demanding an end to rampant extortion and other crimes by PCJSS and UPDF.

Armed activists of UPDF (United Peoples Democratic Front), who dominate the area and want to rout their rival PCJSS from there, are pressing the villagers for withdrawal of the road barricades and the allegation of extortion against them, local people said.

The gun-yielding UPDF activists are patrolling the area. Surprisingly, they are trying to express solidarity with the villagers; but that is only to oust the PCJSS (Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity), they said.

After raising barricades at several points on the road, representatives of the villagers also submitted memoranda to the deputy commissioner and the Rangamati army commander to stop the crimes.

When contacted, army sources said troops have been sent to the area to prevent any untoward incident.

The villagers resorted to picketing on the road on Monday. But no

administrative action was seen till yesterday, the local people said.

Rivalry between UPDF and PCJSS intensified since the latter signed the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Agreement in 1997 with the then Awami League government. UPDF opposes the agreement.

The PCJSS is trying to take control of the area for a safe passage to 'Kalapahar' and adjoining hills. Three foreign engineers were abducted from Kalapahar some years back.

The PCJSS bid to establish supremacy in the area led to several bloody incidents with UPDF.

**3 killed, 40 hurt in road mishaps in Mymensingh, N'ganj**

**STAR NATIONAL DESK**

Three persons were killed and 40 injured in road accidents in Mymensingh and Narayananj yesterday, BSS reported.

In Mymensingh, a least two people, including a woman, were killed and 20 injured in two road accidents at Beltoli and Bhagan on the Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway.

Police and witnesses said a boy was crushed under the wheels of a

Dhaka-bound bus at Beltoli under the Sadar upazila.

The boy was identified as Hira, 8, son of Shamsuddin of Degarkanda village under upazila.

In another accident, an unidentified woman died on the spot and 20 others were injured when a Dhaka-bound bus coming from Sherpur fell into a roadside ditch at Bhagan under Trishal upazila.

The injured were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College

Hospital and Trishal Hospital.

Another BSS report said one person was killed and 20 others were injured in a road accident at Jalkuri under Fatullah police station on the Dhaka-Narayanganj road.

The dead was identified as Abdul Latif, 45, of Srinagar Kamarga under Munshiganj district.

Police said the accident took place when a Dhaka-bound bus from Narayangonj collided head-on with another bus.

Of the injured, Atiar Rahman, 47, Robin, 7, Nurjahan, 8, Suleman, 35, Humayun Kabir, 32, Lutfor, 50, and Yasmin were admitted to Khanpur General Hospital.

**One killed in feud over releasing water from crop field**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari**

One person was killed and another was injured in a feud over releasing water from a crop field in Tomal village under Kishoreganj upazila Monday night.

Haren Barman was releasing stagnant water from his field as it was damaging his vegetable crop. His neighbours Gopi Sheel and Lal Chand Sheel objected saying too much of water released into their fields will affect paddy crop.

At one stage they attacked Haren and stabbed him. He died on the spot and another person -- Haridas -- who went there to settle the feud, was also injured.

Police arrested Gopi and Lal Chand after a case was filed. The two are barbers by profession.



PHOTO: STAR

Teachers and students of Shatpar Dinonath Goalichandra High School in Gopalganj Sadar upazila planting a coconut sapling to launch a tree plantation campaign.

**A good initiative**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chuadanga**

A child marriage was stopped at the initiative of the human rights cell of Chuadanga Bar Association and a local NGO.

Wedding of schoolgirl Boby Khatun, 10, was scheduled to be solemnised with Sajjad Hussain, 18, on Friday.

Boby, a student of class six at Jhinuk Government Primary School, is the daughter of one Babu of Palash Para in the town.

Parents of Boby and Sajjad stopped the marriage when advocate ASM Abdur Rouf and some men from the NGO -- WAVE -- told them that it would spoil their lives and that it would be illegal as both were teenagers.

**Woman gets 18 yrs' RI for keeping illegal arms**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia**

A special tribunal here sentenced a woman to 18 years imprisonment for possessing illegal firearms.

The convict is Ferdousi Khatun, 22, wife of one Tafazzel Hossain of Kalisangkarpur area of the town.

Ferdousi was arrested with one Shutter Gun and six bullet on February 6 last year.

Judge Mahabubul Alam pronounced the verdict recently.

**Chhatra Dal leader stabbed in Nilphamari**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari**

A Chhatra Dal leader -- Mizanur Ratiman Mithu was seriously injured when attacked by some unidentified miscreants at his house at Sarkar Para in the town Monday night.

The miscreants hacked him with a machete. He was taken to Rangpur Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

**Bravo, Rangpur cadets**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur**

The Rangpur Cadet College set a record in the SSC examination this year.

All the 27 examinees from science group got GPA-5 (A+).

Guardians, students and teachers held a 'victory celebration' at the college auditorium, marking the grand achievement.

The successful students are Ahsan, Iftekher, Shuvra, Rizwan, Khaleed, Abrar, Shafawat, Arafat, Shakhawat, Azad, Nadeem, Sayeed, Zaman, Rajee, Rahman, Sabbir, Taoshif, Hashim, Ishtiaque, Ruhul, Murshed, Mubashir, Arif, Noman, Iqbal, Arefin and Amin.

**Democracy Festival held in Khulna**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**

A 'Democracy Festival' organised by Rupantar, an NGO, was held at the Zia Hall on Monday. Charge d'affaires of US embassy in Bangladesh and Director of USAID Bangladesh Mission Gene V George inaugurated the festival.

Over 1000 elected representatives, political leaders and artists from Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira and Narail districts attended the programme.

The inaugural function was presided over by editor of the Daily Tribune and convenor of the festival committee Ferdousi Ali.

It was addressed by Miss Carol Horning of the USAID, two Union Parishad chairmen, ward commissioners, journalists, women lawyers and educationists.

Gene George in his inaugural speech underscored need for integrating grassroots level people in development programmes and institutionalising democracy.

Decentralisation of power is the only way to achieve this, he said.

The programme included discussion, seminar, folk songs, exhibition of handicrafts and a cultural function.

**Taming Jamuna while in spate!**

**A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra**

Mighty Jamuna is eroding its bank, but the government is also not lagging behind to stop the havoc by the river now in spate.

Soil is being brought in boats from far away lands in Sirajganj to reconstruct three kilometres flood protection embankment from Baroitoli to Pukuria in Dhumat upazila in Bogra.

The Water Development Board (WDB) started the work in mid-May, just before onset of the monsoon, at an estimated cost of Tk three and a half crore.

WDB Sub-Assistant Engineer Hossain said tender was invited in the first half of May. Three construction firms are dumping soil and sandbags.

Local people claimed that as earth-filling continued, portions of the repaired embankment were

devoured by the river.

WDB officials however said about 45 per cent of the work has been completed and the rest will be done 'within a few days'.

**Palm oil seized while being smuggled out**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Naogaon.**

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized 118 kg palm oil in Alta Dighi border area while those were being smuggling to India.

Two persons were arrested and the seized oil handed over to Nazipur customs.

Police said the arrested persons are Saiful and Babul. A case was filed.