

SNAPS

Sylhet Juba League leader released on bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet.

Newly-elected general secretary (GS) of Sylhet district Juba League and ward commissioner of Sylhet City Corporation Azadur Rahman Azad was released on bail Saturday afternoon. The magistrate of the Sadar court granted his bail.

Azad, along with 13 others were arrested following vandalism in the council session of Sylhet district unit of Bangladesh Awami Juba League at midnight following July 29 at a city community centre.

He was sent to jail hajjat on July 30 as the magistrate rejected his bail prayer on the day.

Man killed in road mishap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal.

A rickshaw van puller was killed in a road accident on the Barisal-Patuaakhali highway on Saturday morning.

The victim, Belal Sharif, 29, died on the spot when he was crushed under the wheels of a bus at Bakerganj bus stand on the highway at 7 in the morning.

The killer bus was heading towards Patuaakhali from Barisal. The driver managed to flee. Police recovered the body and handed over it to relatives of the victim after post-mortem.

Valuables looted

UNB, Jhalakati

Armed bandits looted valuables worth over Tk 1 lakh from two houses at Lotabunia village in Kathalia upazila on Monday night.

Locals said the bandits stormed into the houses of Shamsul Haq and Moksed Farazi and looted the valuables at gunpoint. They also beat up Moksed when he tried to resist them.

New private college

UNB, Gazipur

Local philanthropists have set up a new private college at Bhubanipur village in Sadar upazila.

State Minister for Education AN M Ehsanul Haq Milon inaugurated the newly constructed Muktiyoddah College, named after the freedom fighters, on Tuesday.

Rickets threatens 50,000 children in Cox's Bazar

No govt step yet, NGOs tell newsmen

CU CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

About 50,000 children in Cox's Bazar district have been suffering from rickets and face the threat of being totally crippled.

This was disclosed by speakers at a press conference at a local restaurant in the port city of Chittagong on Friday.

Two NGOs (Non-governmental Organisations) Social Assistance and Rehabilitation for the Physically Vulnerable (SARPV) and Centre for Disabled Concern (CDC) jointly organised the press conference. "About nine per cent of the total children of the district, particularly of Chakaria upazila have been suffering from the deadly disease. But

there is no government step to prevent or to provide healthcare facilities to the affected children in the localities".

Speakers at the conference said that SARPV conducted a research in Cox's Bazar district in 1991. The findings revealed that 4.7 per cent of the children were affected with rickets.

"Now the percentage rose to nine per cent and rickets was spreading fast".

SARPV also found in a preliminary research that lack of calcium is the main cause of the disease.

"We have conducted operation on the affected parts of 114 children and we succeeded after taking preventive steps by providing 128 children with

high calcium enriched food."

The speakers recommended for bringing a change in food habit, supplying nutrition enriched food to children and parents and ensuring a healthy environment to get rid of the deadly disease. Otherwise, they feared that the disease might cripple 20 per cent of children in next 10 years.

They sought government attention to control spread of the disease immediately.

Among others, Shahidul Haque, chief executive of SARPV, Pierre hilaire, AMD-France, Morgan Carlo, KDM-France, Selim Nazrul, executive director of CDC, SM Moin Ahmed, executive director of SARPV were present at the press conference.

Two slaughtered in Jhalakati, Barguna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Widow of a school teacher was slaughtered by miscreants on Thursday in Jhalakati.

The victim, Shamsunnahar Begum, 55, widow of school teacher, Abdul Hai of North Chechri, Kathalia, Jhalakati was sleeping in her bedroom when unidentified killers entered into her room through a burglar's hole on Thursday night and slaughtered her.

The victim's teen age son Badsha, 13, was also sleeping with her. He found her dead mother lying on the floor early Friday morning. A son of the victim works with the Bangladesh Air Force while another

one lives in Italy.

The body was handed over to the relatives after autopsy. Nobody was arrested till filing of this report.

In another incident a divorcee and mother of three children was chopped to death at Gulishakhali Dhalechhara of Amtali in Barguna. Police recovered her body lying on an embankment on Friday morning. They handed over the body to the relatives after autopsy.

She had a dispute with others over ownership of a khas land.

A case was lodged by her son Zakir Hossain as complainant against Harun Molla and eight others as accused.

However, none was arrested till filing of the report.

Shohag murder case

Bail prayer of journalist Akkas Sikder rejected

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The bail prayer of a journalist named Akkas Sikder was rejected in Shohag murder case.

Ismail Hossain, Sadar Upazila Magistrate of Jhalakati rejected the bail prayer of the journalist on Saturday.

However, the magistrate ordered police to produce sufficient clues regarding his involvement in the murder case.

A large number of lawyers and journalists were present on the court premises.

Akkas was arrested by the detective branch (DB) of police after calling him from his house on

Thursday afternoon. The same afternoon he was handed over to Jhalakati Kotwali Police Station. His arrest followed publication of a corruption story against the police super (SP) of Jhalakati.

Police involved him in a murder case. The first investigative report (FIR) of the case was lodged without mentioning any name of accused.

Various political, social, cultural and professional organisations including Barisal Reporters Unity, Barisal Press Club, News Paper Hawkers' Union, Journalists' Union including Awami League, Communist Party of Bangladesh and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal protested the incident.



PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN

It is a pity that there is none to protect trees from encroachers even in Sitakunda Eco Park, Chittagong. At least this photo testifies to the truth where a rural woman is seen carrying firewood from the park.

2 housewives killed in Bogra

A CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Two housewives were killed in separate incidents in Bogra district on Saturday.

Police sources said a rickshaw-puller named Azad Mia killed his wife Sufia, 20, at Nisindara Uttarpara village in Bogra Sadar upazila for demanding a new sari from him.

Local people caught Azad and handed over him to Sadar thana police.

Police said when Sufia demanded a new sari Azad, her husband refused to give her sari and locked in a quarrel. At one stage Azad caught hold her throat and Sufia died on the spot. Hearing her groaning local people rushed to the spot and caught Azad.

Police said in a preliminary interrogation Azad confessed his guilty. A murder case was filed with Sadar thana.

Another house housewife Sindhu Rani, 50, died as a mud wall collapsed at Majhipara village under Dupchachia upazila on Saturday afternoon.

Local sources said Sindhu Rani, wife of Sudhan Sarker became seriously injured, when the mud wall fell on her during heavy rain. She was admitted to Dupchachia Upazila Health Complex in an unconscious state where she died. An unnatural death (UD) case was filed with Dupchachia thana.

Two outlaws murdered in Khulna, Kushtia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two cadres of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) were murdered in Bagerhat and Kushtia on Saturday and Friday night.

Our staff correspondent from Khulna reports: Abdul Chowdhury alias Raju, 25, an armed cadre of PBCP, was hacked to death by his rivals in the party at Nandanpur under Rupsha upazila in the early hours of Saturday.

Rupsha police said Raju, 35, was dragged out of the RSB brickfield in the area by his rivals at around 3pm and killed.

Sirajul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of the Rupsha Police Station, said Raju was an armed cadre of PBCP Tapan group. The murder was a sequel to an intra-party rivalry between Tapan group and Janajuddha group.

The slain outlaw, a grocer, was wanted in Rupsha police murder case.

Police recovered the body from a road near the brickfield Saturday morning and sent it to the Khulna Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

According to our Kushtia correspondent, PBCP cadre Mushtak Ahmed was shot dead at village Sutiail in Mirpur upazila on Friday night.

Son of late Mafiz Uddin of Isalmiry in the upazila, Mushtak was abducted by a gang of five led by a leader of New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP) at gun-

point from his home at about 10pm.

The gang took Mushtak to Sutiail field and shot him point blank. Mushtak died on the spot.

Police recovered the body and sent it to the Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy.

A case was filed with Mirpur Police Station accusing four of the NBCP.

Mystery shrouds death of housewife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal.

Mystery shrouded death of a housewife in Barisal on Saturday.

Ruby Begum, 26, mother of a child was found hanging from the ceiling of a room in her father-in-law's house at Rarimahat of Charbaria on the outskirts of Barisal city on Saturday morning.

Police and the victim's relatives informed that Ruby and her husband, also a cousin, locked in a quarrel on Friday night. After an altercation Ruby went to sleep with her sister-in-law, but she was found dead the next morning.

Ruby's father suspected that her daughter might have been killed in her father-in-law's house.

Police recovered the body and sent it for post-mortem. No case was lodged till filing of this report.

High-energy biscuits for flood victims

ZAM KHAIRUZZAMAN

About 56 metric tons (MTs) of highenergy biscuits were distributed to 74,650 flood victims in 11 districts.

World Food Programme, the food aid organisation of the United Nations, (WFP) Bangladesh in collaboration with its NGO (Non-governmental Organisation) partners distributed the nutritionally fortified biscuits to flood affected people living on embankments, in school buildings, roadside and in other temporary shelters in Nilphamari, Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Sirajgonj, Pabna, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Munshinganj, Manikgonj, Rajbari, and Narsingdi.

Each flood victim received a daily ration of 150 grams (gms) of high-energy biscuits fortified with vitamins and minerals for five days. The victims were also provided with health care and sanitation messages.

WFP Bangladesh will further distribute high-energy biscuits among the flood affected people of Dhaka, Naraynganj, Comilla, Bogra, Faridpur, Tangail, Gaibanda, Kuigram, Naogaon, Madaripur and Shariatpur districts.

Nutritionally fortified biscuits are being produced locally with a grant from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The biscuits can be made available to disaster victims by NGOs within hours of an emergency situation.

WFP also maintains a Rapid Emergency Response Facility (RERF) through which up to 5,000 tons of wheat is available annually for immediate relief operations.

With the onset of a sudden disaster, WFP is able to activate stand-by arrangements with NGOs to distribute food supplies available under the RERF.

WFP is partnering with Concern, International Federation of Red Crescent/Bangladesh Red Crescent Society and Save the Children Alliance to implement these activities.

WFP is also examining similar arrangements with Islamic Relief and Rangpur Dinajpur Rehabilitation Sangstha (RDRS) to enhance quick and effective response to emergency relief situations.



PHOTO: STAR

The Padma is in spate this monsoon. The mighty river has been devouring everything on its way. Over 100 houses including government offices in Louhajang Sadar upazila of Munshiganj district went in the riverbed during the last several days. Picture shows a scene of erosion at Bara Nawapara village under the same upazila.

10 animals including lion, deer die at Ctg Zoo

CU CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least 10 animals died at Chittagong zoo in last one week.

The oldest lion of the zoo named Apu died at 24 on Thursday, according to sources in the zoo. He was suffering from dysentery for the last couple of weeks.

A zoo official told this correspondent that lions usually survive for 16 to 19 years. But Apu survived for more five years. He also informed this correspondent that Apu was brought here from Dhaka zoo in 1993 when he was only 14 years.

There are two more lions here named Raj and Laxhi. One year

ago they gave birth to two offsprings. One of the offsprings was shifted to Rajshahi zoo while the other one would be sent to the Safari Park at Chakaria upazila in Cox's Bazar district soon.

However, Apu was buried inside the zoo. His skeleton will be preserved at the proposed museum here.

Two Chitra deer of the zoo also died on Thursday. Earlier, a wild cock and a monkey died.

Another tigress named Shankari has been fighting for life. She was operated upon last week. She was suffering from breast cancer and is yet to be cured.

Chittagong zoo was set up in 1989 with only 16 wild animals. The collection of animals stood at 250 in 2000, but at present it came down to 160.

Meanwhile, the officials and employees of the zoo are allegedly supplying sub-standard food to animals. They serve 'inferior quality' meat, vegetable and other food to wild lives. Inferior quality food and lack of proper care have allegedly caused death of the wild lives. During his visit to the zoo this correspondent found that hundreds of animals were still starving at 12 noon on the day.