

SNAPS

Road mishap kills old man

UNB, Rajbari

An old man was killed in a road accident near Jamidar bridge on the Daulatdia-Faridpur highway on Friday.

Hatem Ali, 80, of Goalanda Purnashava died on the spot as a Madaripur bound bus from Daulatdia knocked him down at about 10:30am while he was crossing the road.

The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with the Goalanda police.

Farmer slaughtered

UNB, Noakhali

A farmer was slaughtered by miscreants at Maidhera village in Sadar upazila Thursday night.

Criminals surrounded Abdul Halim, 40, and chopped him to death while he was sitting at a teashop. They also kidnapped the victim's younger brother Gias Uddin, 35, when he came to his aid.

Loan for destitute women

UNB, Rajbari

Local Social Service department disbursed interest free loan amounting to Tk 1.40 lakh among 28 destitute women here recently for carrying out income generating activities.

Ali Newaz Mahmud Khoiyam MP, disbursed Tk 5,000 each to the recipients at a simple ceremony at the Deputy Commissioner's office.

Construction work goes on

UNB, Chapainawabganj

Construction and renovation work of 26 educational institutions in five upazilas of Chapainawabganj district are progressing fast.

The project is being implemented by the Education Engineering Department at a cost of Tk 3.87 cr.

Bogra Nurse College to be ready next year

BSS, Bogra

Construction of Bogra Nurses' College, the second of its kind in Bangladesh, is progressing at a cost of Tk 11 crore.

Nearly 40 percent work of the college has been completed and the rest will be finished by June next year in three phases under the supervision of Construction and Maintenance Management Unit (CMMU) of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The CMMU sources said that the government has stepped up efforts to upgrade and modernise the nurses training and colleges with modern technological facilities to extend medical services to the vast people of rural areas.

BJMC closes all 6 buying centres in Rangpur as jute harvest begins

Large quantities smuggled out

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

All the six jute purchasing centres of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) in greater Rangpur have been closed abruptly while jute harvest by farmers has started in full swing.

The centres have been closed mainly due to lack of funds, Abdul Mutalib Mondol, assistant director in the jute ministry, told this correspondent here when contacted.

There is no possibility of their reopening soon, he said.

Jute is selling at between Tk 240.00 and Tk 270.00 now as there are less number of buyers, accord-

ing to reports from different markets.

A BJMC official preferring anonymity said the price was around Tk 350 late last month before closure of the purchasing centres.

Bulk quantities of jute are being smuggled out of the country, traders and farmers said. Middlemen are purchasing jute at throwaway prices and smuggling those.

In the border areas, some people, allegedly financed by Indian purchasers, are buying jute directly from farmers, sources said at Patgram.

According to sources at Agriculture Extension Department, about six lakh bales of jute are

expected to be produced from one lakh and fifty thousand acres of land in greater Rangpur in the current season.

Mentionably, a large number genuine jute traders have huge amounts due from the BJMC for jute supplies last year. The total unpaid amount will be at least Tk five crore in greater Rangpur only, trader Idris Ali said.

But BJMC has closed its purchasing centres without paying their outstanding bills, he lamented.



PHOTO: STAR
Landless people evicted from Kaya Bridgepara demonstrating in front of the Kumarkhali Upazila Parishad office recently.

600 landless protest eviction from khas lands in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

About 600 landless people evicted from khas lands in Kaya Bridgepara area held put up demonstration and held a rally in front of the Kumarkhali Upazila Parishad office recently demanding their permanent settlement on the lands.

They were evicted after they lived there for over nine years, they claimed.

The district administration

evicted 108 landless families from about 6.74 acres of khas land (RS No 440) from Kaya Bridgepara near the Gorai Bridge.

They were evicted by the Kumarkhali upazila administration following an order by the Deputy Commissioner in a letter (No 100/11/2003), issued on June 25.

When contacted, the ADC (rev) told this correspondent that the government had decided to con-

struct a housing project for the landless on the land.

But Rabindra Sangsad, a local NGO, which had helped the landless take shelter on the land nine years ago, claimed that the houses to be constructed would be allotted to ruling party men in the area.

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The district administration

expenses, nothing is left for development work.

The university authorities have to depend on the assistance from donor agencies like Asian Development Bank (ADB), Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and OIC for development works.

There has been no government allocation for the science faculty in the last seven years since its inception in 1995.

The authorities are maintaining expenses of the science faculty with loans. The university has a deficit of Tk eight crore now.

In the current financial year, the government allocated Tk 5 crore for development works and IDB has assured Tk 3.87 crore.

Water of about 20 per cent of tube-wells in Chapainawabganj district is arsenic-contaminated, according to a recent survey conducted jointly by three NGOs.

The CARE, DASCO and IDE conducted the random survey in 37 unions of five upazilas and three pourashavas under the supervision of the Department of Public Health & Engineering.

Over 2.5 lakh people drink arsenic-poisoned water as they have no other source.

Tube-well water in seven unions is not arsenic-contaminated. These are Nachole, Kosha and Nizampur unions in Nachole upazila; Shahjahanpur in the Sadar upazila;

Parbatipur and Rahanpur in Gomastapur upazila and Rahanpur pourashava.

The survey has also revealed that there are 416 arsenicosis patients in 10 unions and one pourashava.

Ninety percent of the patients are in Chhatrijupur union in Shibganj upazila, Ranjhati union in the Sadar upazila and Chapainawabganj pourashava. They have been suffering from diseases like liver and renal disorders and gangrene. Their condition is deteriorating for want of medicine and balanced diet.

They survey report said nothing meaningful has been done by the government for their treatment and supply of safe drinking water.

AN IU CORRESPONDENT

Shortage of funds is hindering development activities at Islamic University, its authorities said.

The government allocated Tk 9.11 crore in fiscal 2003-2004. Of this, Tk 7.70 crore will be spent for payment of teachers' salaries, Tk 2.40 crore for electricity bills, Tk 3.20 lakh for sports and games, Tk 3 lakh for publication, Tk 1.40 lakh for purchase of book for different departments, Tk 2.50 lakh for the purchase of books for the central library, Tk 3 lakh for the training of teachers, Tk 15 lakh for conducting examination and Tk 5 lakh for scholarship and stipend.

There has always been a fund deficit. After meeting internal

20 pc tube-wells arsenic affected in C'hawabganj

A CORRESPONDENT, C'hawabganj

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CU CORRESPONDENT

Anomaly in pay

BR diploma

nurses threaten

hunger strike

CU CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-six diploma nurses working at different hospitals of Bangladesh Railway (BR) will go on a hunger strike in front of the National Press Club in Dhaka if their demand for removing alleged discrimination in pay is not met by August 11.

Their leader, Fency Masuda Khan, in a statement sought the Prime Minister's intervention to resolve the problem.

Nine of the nurses are working at BR hospitals in the port city.

Earlier, the Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR), Chittagong sent an investigation report to human right leader Sigma Huda on the alleged disparity and urged her to take steps to remove those.

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star

The Daily Star