

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS



PHOTO: STAR

Artistas of Saptarupa Dance School perform at Chandpur Shilpakala Academy auditorium at the inaugural function of district web portal yesterday as similar programmes were held in districts throughout the country.

BNP office ransacked

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Kalmakanda upazila BNP office was ransacked allegedly by BCL activists yesterday. Local BNP claimed that over 100 BCL activists of Kalmakanda upazila, equipped with lethal weapons, brought out a procession at the upazila headquarters at noon. The BCL men then attacked the BNP office and damaged its furniture, they added. Contacted, officer-in-charge of Kalmakanda Police Station confirmed the attack.

Notebooks seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Law enforcers seized 20,000 notebooks and guidebooks from three bookshops in the town on Tuesday. Acting on a tip-off, Rab and police launched a joint drive at around 5:00pm and seized the banned books from Kohinor Library, Book Centre and Pustak Ghar. No one was arrested.

Decomposed body found

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police recovered a decomposed body from a Chandai village in Atghoria upazila of the district yesterday morning. The deceased was identified as Antar Ali, 30, son of Ansar Ali of the village. Police quoted family sources as saying that Antar went out of his house on December 19 to buy a power tiller and remained missing since then. Fishermen found the decomposed body in Chandai water body early yesterday and informed the police who recovered the body in the morning and sent it to Pabna General Hospital for autopsy.

Krishak Dal leader arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Police arrested SM Abdur Rob, president of Krishak Dal district unit, at his house at Ibarai village under Sadar upazila on Monday. Police said Abdur Rob, also a former chairman of Ibaria Union Parishad, was wanted in a number of criminal cases. Police on Tuesday produced Rob in a court that sent him to jail.

Fake fertiliser seized, one arrested

A CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion arrested one person with 300 sacks of fake fertiliser from Chalk Baddinath area in Natore town on Monday night. The arrestee is Jahurul Islam, 30, son of Nurul Islam of Chalk Baddinath. A team of Rab-5 with the help of Natore police raided a godown in Chalk Baddinath area at around 9:00pm and arrested Jahurul Islam with 300 sacks of fake MOP fertiliser.

Robbers loot passengers

UNB, Sylhet

Robbers looted valuables worth several lakhs of taka from passengers on the road at Bhairabali Shahji Bazaar in Srimongal upazila of Moulvibazar district early yesterday. Police quoting witnesses said 20 to 25 robbers intercepted vehicles by placing electric poles of Palli Bidyut Samity on the road and looted cash and valuables from the passengers at gunpoint at around 2:00am. The gang also damaged windowpanes of a number of vehicles as the drivers refused to open the doors. On information, police rushed to the spot and rescued a car driver who was tied up by the robbers.

Programme on capital market

UNB, Barisal

A daylong awareness programme for the investors about capital market will be held here on January 9. Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) will arrange the programme for the first time at Barisal Club auditorium. ICB Securities Trading Company Limited (ISTCL), a subsidiary of Investment Corporation of Bangladesh as member of DSE, is locally organising the programme with the assistance from other private brokerage in the city.



Stolen motorbike recovered, 4 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested four youths with 16 bottles of phensidyl and a stolen motorcycle in Bahalgachia area in Patuakhali town. The arrestees are Sohel, 26, Abul, 22, Al Amin, 18, and Badal, 22. Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-8 raided the residence of Sohel in Bahalgachia area at around 9:00am. They arrested Sohel and seized phensidyl and a stolen motorbike from there. On his statement, the Rab men then arrested his three accomplices from the area. A case was filed with Patuakhali Police Station.

Choppers to help vaccination in remote hill dist

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Army helicopters will be used to carry vaccine doses and health workers to 11 inaccessible areas of Bandarban hill district to ensure administering polio vaccines to the indigenous children in the remote inaccessible areas.

The army authorities have given their consent in this regard following request from the health department, Bandarban Civil Surgeon Dr Sarfaraz Khan Chowdhury yesterday told a press conference that was arranged ahead of the 18th National Vaccination Day on January 10.

This time target has been fixed to administer polio vaccines to 61,433 children aged up to 59 months in Bandarban, he said.

About 3,000 children living in 11 remote areas of different upazilas face the risk of remaining outside the vaccination programme and so, the government has taken the

decision to use army helicopters so that they can be vaccinated on the 18th National Vaccination Day, Dr Sarfaraz said.

Army helicopters will be used to reach vaccine doses and health workers to Modok Para, Chhoto Modok Para, Yangrai Para, Tindumukh Para and Jinnah Para in Thanchi upazila, Rayong Pukur Para, Ronin Para and Baktolai Para in Ruma upazila and Poangmuhuri Para, Kurnok Para, Jhiri Para of Ali Kadam upazila and Bolai para of Roangchhari upazila, the press conference was informed.

Earlier in 2000 and 2001, helicopters were used in different remote areas on the two consecutive National Vaccination Days.

UNICEF special envoy renowned model Claudia Schiffer visited Bandarban to see for herself success of vaccination programme with the help of helicopter in the district in 2001.

UPDF activists confine UNO to office

Row with UZ chairman over vehicle use

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Indigenous people belonging to United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) kept the Panchhari upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) confined to his office for about an hour following a heated exchange between the UNO and the upazila chairman yesterday.

Later an army team went to the spot, rescued the UNO and took him to Panchhari army camp for his security.

The incident began at 11:30am when Panchhari UNO Abdul Kader Sheikh refused to provide a vehicle for use of upazila Chairman Sarbottom Chakma, police said.

"I politely refused to give him the vehicle saying that I need to go Khagrachhari to

join a meeting with the deputy commissioner but the upazila chairman used bad words and incited UPDF activists against me," the UNO told this correspondent over phone.

The upazila chairman alleged that the UNO misbehaved with him while UNO said the upazila chairman is fully responsible for the unwanted incident.

An urgent meeting has been called at Panchhari Upazila Complex auditorium to settle the matter, said Khagrachhari Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Abdullah.

Additional police forces have been deployed to avert further untoward incident, Assistant Superintendent of Police Mohammad Maksuder Rahman said.

SI sued on charge of rape at Bogra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A cook at Bogra Sadar Police camp has filed a rape case with Children and Women Repression Prevention Tribunal-1 against a sub-inspector.

As Judge KG Mostafa of the tribunal took the allegation into cognizance and ordered submission of report after investigation, Assistant Superintendent of Police Shirin Akhter started the probe yesterday.

Sub-inspector Abdus Salam, working at Bogra Judicial Magistrate's Court, raped her on the first floor of the police camp on Nawab

Bari Road in the town on November 23 last year as she was alone while doing her cooking work there, the plaintiff said in her case.

Hearing her scream, five police constables from the ground floor came to the first floor and rescued her, she said, adding that she went to the then officer-in-charge (OC) of Bogra Sadar Police Station to file a case but the OC returned her without taking the case.

As police did not take the case, she filed the case with the court, the complainant said.

Talking to journalists, SI Abdus Salam claimed that the accusation is false.

Five brick fields in Pabna fined for violating rules

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Five brick field owners were fined Tk 1.05 lakh in Pabna on Tuesday for using firewood to burn bricks violating the rules.

A mobile court led by Additional Deputy Magistrate Md Emam Uddin Kabir conducted a drive in Atghoria and Sadar upazilas of the district and realised the amount from the owners.

PNP Brick Field at

Baokola village in Atghoria upazila and MH Brick Field, RRB Brick Field-1 and RRB Brick Field-2 at Banglabazar village in Sadar upazila were fined Tk 25,000 each.

MMS and Brothers Brick Field at Banglabazar village in Sadar upazila was fined Tk 5,000.

During the drive, the mobile court accompanied by the members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) found that the brick fields were burning woods ignoring the laws.



PHOTO: STAR

Seedlings of Irri-Boro paddy fields turn yellowish as the cold wave accompanied by dense fog continues to lash different areas of the country, especially the northern region. The photo was taken from Mahadanga in Chapainawabganj district on Tuesday.

Cold wave, fog menace Irri-Boro seedbeds

RABIUL HASAN DOLLAR, Chapainawabganj

Irri-Boro seedbeds in many areas of Chapainawabganj and Naogaon are turning yellowish and withering away due to cold wave and fog, much to the despair of farmers.

But the officials of Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) said the situation is now under control and it will not hamper the target of paddy cultivation in the current Irri-Boro season.

Seedbeds in 16 upazilas of the two districts are showing the symptoms, farmers and agriculture officials said.

Abdur Rakib, a farmer of Laxmanpur village under

Nachole upazila in Chapainawabganj, said he prepared seedbed for cultivating Boro paddy but a portion of his seedbed was damaged due to cold weather.

Another farmer Mohammad Abdullah of Parbotipur village under Gomostapur upazila in the district said the seedbeds, prepared for Boro cultivation on 16 bighas of his land, have turned yellowish and got damaged.

However, both the farmers said the seedbeds of Barind region consisting of Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj and Naogaon districts have been affected much due to water crisis.

Sources at the DAE in

Chapainawabganj said farmers of five upazilas in the district have prepared seedbeds on 3,125 hectares of land, as there is a target of cultivating Irri-Boro paddy on 51,769 hectares of land this season.

Abdul Kuddus, deputy director of Chapainawabganj DAE, said they are advising farmers to use potash and zinc to save their seedbeds.

Habibur Rahman, a farmer of Bhimpur village under Niyamatpur upazila of Naogaon, said a portion of his seedbed has turned yellowish due to cold weather.

In Naogaon, farmers of 11 upazilas are preparing seedbeds on 11,575 hectares of

land, about 2,000 hectares more than the target. The DAE has fixed a target of cultivating 1,93,957 hectares of land in this Irri-Boro season, officials said.

Gour Chandra, deputy assistant agriculture officer of Naogaon DAE office, said they are advising farmers to spray Thiovit immediately to save Irri-Boro seedbeds from the disease. However, the cultivation target in the district will not be affected in this season, he said.

Field workers and officials are advising farmers on what to do, said the agriculture officials of the two districts, adding that the situation is now under control.

3,000 pieces of warm clothes for 56,000 Aila-hit people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Cold-related and water-borne diseases have broken out in Aila-hit Dakope and Koira upazilas of the district, affecting a large number of people especially children and aged persons.

Over 2,000 children have been afflicted with cold-related and water-borne diseases like cough, pneumonia, vomiting and diarrhoea only in Koira, said Emdad Hossain, Koira upazila medical officer.

Meanwhile, only 3,000 winter clothes were sent to Dakope and Koira upazilas against the requirement of 56,000 for distribution

among the homeless people affected by Aila.

According to official sources, 17,000 families of Dakope upazila and 25,000 of Koira upazila rendered homeless by cyclonic storm Aila on May 25 last year have still been staying in makeshift camps and cyclone centres without food, clothes, medicines and safe drinking water.

Talking to The Daily Star, Dakope Upazila Medical Officer Dr Akbar Hossain said the biting cold has so far claimed 14 lives, mostly aged persons, in last two weeks in the upazila.

Medical officers of both the upazilas apprehended that the situation could

worsen further in absence of medical teams and sufficient amount of medicines.

Sources at the Khulna District Relief and Rehabilitation Office said before the advent of winter they had informed the ministry concerned about the need for 40,000 warm clothes for Dakope upazila and 16,000 for Koira upazila.

"Last week, we received only 3,000 blankets for the two Aila-hit upazilas. The blankets have already been distributed," said the district relief officer.

The officer could not say whether the two upazilas would get the remaining 53,000 blankets or not.

CI sheets meant for relief seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Law enforcers on Tuesday seized 50 pieces of Corrugated Iron (CI) sheets meant for relief from a house at Chandva village in Atghoria upazila and arrested the house owner.

Acting on a tip-off, members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) raided the house of Nur Rakib Hasan alias Swapon at the village in the afternoon. They recovered the CI sheets from the house and arrested Swapon.

Contacted, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Md Akhterul Alam said the arrestee used to lend money to poor men to collect iron sheets from them for illegalsale.

Later, the arrestee was yesterday produced a court that sent him jail.

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