

NEWS SNAPS

Prisoner dies in jail

UNB, Jessore

A convicted prisoner Hamid Laskar, 67, died in Jessore central jail Sunday.

The jail authority said that Hamid was convicted in an arms case and was suffering from fever. The body was sent to Jessore General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

One killed in road mishap

UNB, Narayanganj

A mason was killed and 10 others were injured in a road accident at Link Road on Dhaka-Chittagong highway on Sunday morning.

Police said Abul Kalam Biswas, 35, hailed from Nalchhiti upazila of Jhalakati died on the spot when a bus turned turtle on the road. Driver of the bus fled from the scene.

One commits suicide

UNB, Narayanganj

One person named Shahidullah Mollah, 25, allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself over a family feud at Godnail Bhuiyanpara in Shiddhirganj upazila on Saturday.

Two girls with phensidyl held

UNB, Chandpur

Police arrested two young girls along with 90 bottles of Indian phensidyl syrup from the Balurhat area of Sadar upazila Saturday.

The law enforcers searched a Chandpur-bound bus from Comilla and arrested Beauty Begum, 22, and Shahida Begum, 23, of Arahazar upazila of Narayanganj district, with the banned drug.

Abducted girl rescued

UNB, Jhalakati

A college girl was rescued after one-and-a-half months of her abduction from Shikder house in T&T road area of the town on Sunday.

Police said rickshaw driver Shaheed abducted Ayesha Akhter, 17, of Jurain, Dhaka when she was going to her brother-in-law's house at Postagola and confined her at the house. Police arrested Shaheed in this connection.

Two Shibir activists in Sylhet injured by miscreants

UNB, Sylhet

Two Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) activists of Madan Mohan College were critically injured in an attack by miscreants in the town Sunday.

Witnesses said a gang of miscreants picked up Shibir activists Anwarul Wadud Tipu and Rabiul Islam Shohel from the college campus and severely beat them up in front of Osmani Medical College Hospital morgue.

Rural areas in northern region bustling with electioneering

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

The rural areas in the northern region are bustling with electioneering as only a few days are left for the Union Parishad (UP) elections.

A great enthusiasm has been generated among the women-folk because of participation of their gender representatives in the polls race. This time many female candidates are vying for chairmanship in a number of union parishads.

However, voters in some areas of Rajshahi, Natore, Naogaon, Pabna, Bogra and Sirajganj districts are worried about holding of peaceful elections in their areas because of activities of the outlawed party activists. They favour the deployment of army in the areas during polls. This is because none of the identified outlawed party activists could be netted during the army led joint drive. With the withdrawal of army the outlawed goons have reportedly been returning to the areas.

The UP elections will continue for 50 days in this region. The polls are scheduled to begin on January 25 and it will continue till March 16.

Usually UP elections come with festivity in the rural areas in Rajshahi division as people here get a chance to directly choose their social-guardian. People of all strata are enthusiastic about the upcoming polls and are getting ready to cast vote to the candidates of their choice. The candidates are also spending more time doing door to door campaign.

With the setting of sun, the rural roads start vibrating with jubilant people while campaigning for their candidates.

Colourful processions by men, women and even children carrying posters and replicas of election symbols accompanied with band parties have

become common in many areas.

At many public gatherings, loudspeakers are being used to inform people of the candidates' name and symbol. Posters, banners and replicas have flooded everywhere. Many of the printing presses are still busy printing posters. Supporters of candidates have erected podiums, colourful gates at many places for projection meetings.

Although the UP polls are not political, the major political parties as usual are backing preferred candidates to strengthen their respective power bases at the grassroot level. Leaders of the major parties are now busy extending allout cooperation to their candidates.

The two major parties BNP and Awami League, are learnt to have taken the elections as an opportunity to reactivate and revamp their party units at root level.

The ruling party members of parliament (MPs) and the district level AL leaders are unofficially campaigning for their candidates putting the political power behind them. In many cases they are sponsoring their electioneering.

However, the ruling parties are facing embarrassment having more than one contender from inside BNP in most of the UPs. From this point of view, the opposition parties are holding an advanced position as they have a very few UPs where there are two contestants from the same party.

The elections are going to be held in 1064, out of 1097 unions in 16 districts of the region.

Elections to 33 unions in the region are not being held for various reasons. The reasons are complexities over boundary, legal barriers, non-fulfilment of validity of UP. At a union in Lalmonirhat district all the candidates for chairmanship and members have been elected unopposed.



PHOTO: STAR

An unauthorised structure is being demolished by the bulldozer of the Roads & Highways Department. On the first day (January 12) of the three-day demolition drive many illegal structures near Satkhira-Kaliganj road at Hagachha in Satkhira town were demolished.

Multinational company official dies in road mishap

UNB, Sirajganj

An official of a multinational company was killed in a tragic road mishap on Bogra-Dhaka Highway at the west end of the Jamuna Bridge Saturday.

The victim was identified as district unit official of Ciba Geigy, Saifur Rahman Biddut, 25, of Delduar upazila in Tangail district.

Police said the accident took place at the west end of the bridge at about 7:30pm when a truck from opposite direction hit his motorbike leaving him critically injured.

He was coming to his working place in the town from Delduar along with his younger sister.

He was rushed to Sadar Hospital where he died. After the incident the killer truck fled from the scene. A case filed.

Pirates raid 12 trawlers, loot cash, valuables

UNB, Patuakhali

Pirates raided 12 trawlers one after another on the Agunmukha River in Galachipa upazila and looted cash and valuables worth Tk 10 lakh Sunday morning.

Police and witnesses said the

pirates numbering 7/8 swooped on the trawlers at about 8am and looted cash and valuables of the traders while they were returning home after selling paddy. The robbers later decamped with the booty in a speedboat. Separate cases were filed with the police.

Obituary

UNB, Kurigram

Mohammad Korom Ali, reputed headmaster and lawyer, died at his residence on Tuesday. He was 66.

Late Korom Ali had been suffering from high blood pressure and diabetes for long.

He was the headmaster of Khaliganj High School for long and joined bar in 1975 and performed the duty as public prosecutor of the district for three years.

Late Ali left behind his wife, four sons, four daughters and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his death.

He was buried at his family graveyard at Dasherhat village.

Full court reference was held in memory of the late Ali at the District Judge Court premises.

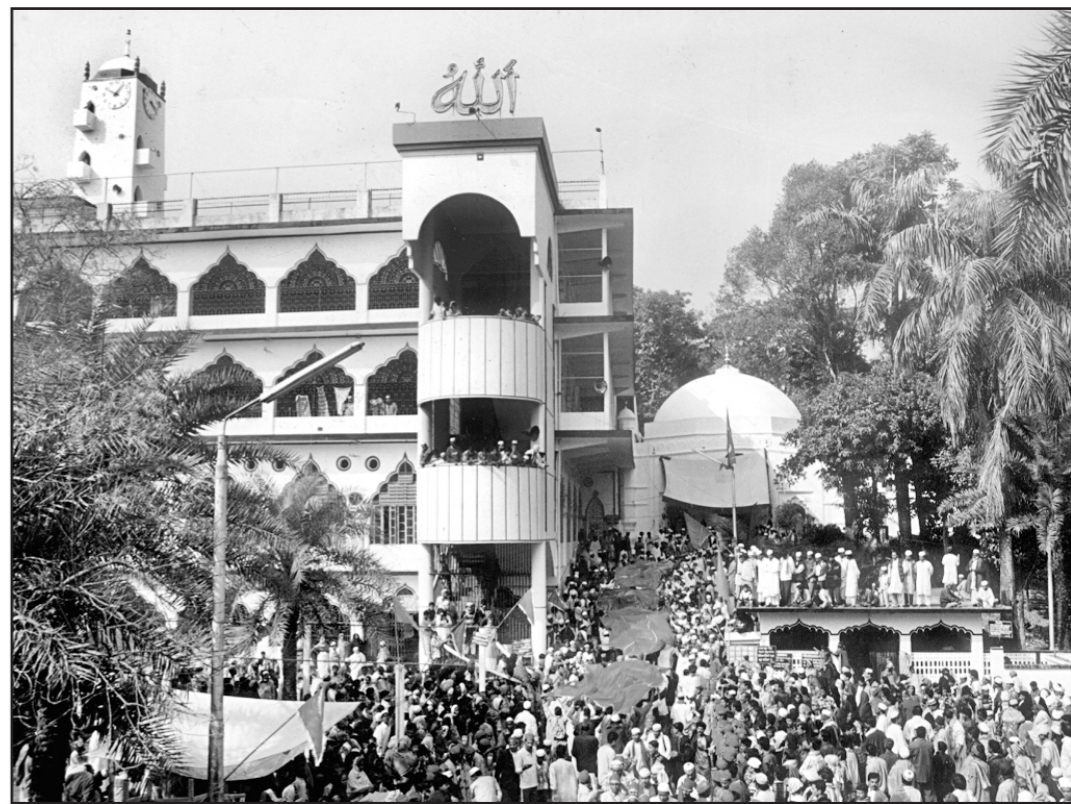


PHOTO: STAR

A view of the shrine of Hajrat Shahjalal (RA) and the mosque attached to it where thousands of people irrespective of religious faith assemble every year from various parts of the country to pay homage to the great saint.

18 die of cold related diseases in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

At least 18 persons died in Kazipur, Sirajganj Sadar, Belkuchi and Raiganj, upazila areas in Sirajganj district due to cold related diseases during the period of cold wave.

Identity of dead people are: Osman Gani, 72, of Harinahata, Ramjan Ali, 70, Babu, 36, Nitai, 46,

of Goshala Moholla in Sirajganj town, Monsur Ali, 65, of Mondolpara in Sirajganj town, Khaleda Bibi, 60,

of Rahmatganj in Sirajganj Municipality, Yusuf Ali, 36, of Randhunibari in Belkuchi Upazila, Delbar, 70, of Nalka in Raiganj upazila, Abdur Jalil, 55, of Sayadhangara Moholla in Sirajganj Municipality, Shahana, 4, of Sayagobinda in Sirajganj town,

Mahela Begum, 54, of Meghai, Hazrat Ali, 50 of Sabitala, Shamsur Ali, 68, of Udgari, headmaster of Khasrajbari Primary School, Golam Hossain, 49 is Kazipur Upazila, Lokman, 80, of Raiganj, Hamida, 60, Baby, 5, and Sunmaton, 65, of Raiganj Upazila.

The civil surgeon office, however, did not confirm the death figure.

Bronchitis, asthma, pneumonia and other cold related diseases broke out during the period. Children and elderly men are worst affected.

Previously a cold spell paralysed life in the district. People of lower income group became jobless during the period.

Urs of Hajrat Shahjalal (RA) Thursday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The 683rd Urs of Hajrat Shahjalal (RA) will begin at the shrine of the great saint in Sylhet town from the early hours of Thursday (January 23).

Every year thousands of devotees, both Muslims and Hindus, from across the country join the two-day holy congregation. The occasion starts with placing of Gilaf (cover) on the mazar (grave) of the great saint in presence of large number of people.

Other programmes include,

Quran khwani, milad mahfil and jikir aiker (prayers). The programme concludes through 'Akheri Munajat' and distribution of alms at 3 am on the second day of the Urs. A fair is also held around the shrine every year. It begins two days ahead of the Urs and ends two days after the same.