

NEWS SNAPS

Workshop on child trafficking

UNB, Kishoreganj

A daylong workshop on national work plan against sexual harassment and trafficking of children was held at the Deputy Commissioner's (DC's) conference room Sunday.

Director General of Women Affairs Directorate Begum Touhida Farukee inaugurated the workshop as chief guest. The DC presided over the function.

Youth hurt by miscreants

UNB, Munshiganj

A youth was critically injured in an attack by miscreants in the Nayagaonmuchi para area of Panchashar union in Sadar upazila Sunday.

The miscreants attacked Abdul Quader, 25, of the area, in the evening and cut tendons of his hand leaving him critically injured. He was sent to the hospital for disabled in Dhaka in a critical condition.

Four with phensidyl arrested in Chandpur

UNB, Chandpur

Four people, including three women, were arrested along with 100 bottles of Indian phensidyl from Khalishadhuli in Sadar upazila Sunday.

Police said they arrested Rokeya Khatun, 24, Shahina, 25, Momena Khatun, 25, and Shafiqur Rahman, 40, of Comilla district when they were bringing phensidyl to Narayanganj.

Tk 1.5 crore uplift schemes undertaken

BSS, Munshiganj

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) here has undertaken 25 development schemes in six upazilas of Munshiganj district under Rural Roads and Culverts Repair and Maintenance Programme.

The schemes will be implemented at an estimated cost of Tk 1.5 crore within the current fiscal, LGED sources said. The schemes include repairing of roads and renovation of bridges and culverts to facilitate road communications in rural areas of the district.

Separate road mishaps claim two lives

UNB, Chandpur

A little boy was killed in a road accident at Mohamaya Bazaar in Sadar upazila on Thursday.

Police said Sharif Hossain, 7, son of M Mizan Gazi of Professor para in the town, was injured when a Dhaka-bound bus hit him. Sharif died on way to Sadar hospital.

In another incident, Latif, 30, and Abdus Sobhan, 50, were injured when a microbus hit their motorcycle at Chandkarpole in Faridganj upazila on Wednesday.

Latif succumbed to his injuries later while Sobhan was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a critical condition.

Drug traders kill boy in Kushtia

UNB, Kushtia

A boy was killed allegedly by some drug traders in Sadar upazila here Sunday.

Police said one person named Shaidul of the area took Alamgir, 15, to the upazila parsihad office from a tea stall. Shaidul along with his associates stabbed Alamgir mercilessly.

Alamgir was rushed to general hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

Relatives said Alamgir was killed in a sequel to rivalry between his brother Faruk and Shaidul over drug business.

Police arrested Shaidul along with five sharp weapons.

A case was filed.

Army distribute warm clothes in Bandarban

UNB, Bandarban

Army personnel distributed warm clothes worth about Tk two lakh among the cold-hit people of Bandarban district last week.

Zone commanders of 69 Infantry Brigade distributed the warm clothes. Besides, army doctors are providing treatment to the people affected with cold-related diseases. The army also provided financial assistance to some non-governmental organisations (NGOs).



Female voters queue up at the Mandalia Non-government Primary School centre of Baghber union in Mymensingh district. January 26, the first day of the Union Parishad election in the district passed peacefully.

Sylhet hospital yet to be upgraded

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

The decision to convert Dr Shahid Shamsuddin Hospital in Sylhet into a 200-bed hospital is yet to be implemented.

Eight years ago a decision was taken by the authorities concerned to increase beds of the 100-bed hospital. In 1995 because of acute crisis of beds in MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital (MAGOMCH) the decision was taken. The 500-bed medical college hospital remained overburdened with admission of around 100 patients every day.

It was shifted to its new site in the Kajoishah area in 1978. Its old buildings remained unused for years together. Some vested quarters even tried to grab the abandoned land and buildings of the old medical college hospital. In 1992 it was stopped and turned into a 100-bed Sylhet Sadar Hospital with only two wards. In 1999 the hospital was named after Shahid Dr Shamsuddin, who was killed in the hands of Pakistan Army during the liberation war.

But, from the very inception of the hospital it has been facing multifarious problems including manpower shortage, and scarcity of equipment. In the face of people's demand in 1995 the then government upgraded it into a 200-bed hospital. It was decided

earlier in 1993. A gazette notification was also made in this regard on July 11 the same year. Then the director general (DG) of the health service informed the director of Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital to arrange increased manpower and medicine for the upgraded hospital.

Local authority took measures and completed necessary construction work for the extension of wards along with necessary facility. But due to cancellation of the then Prime Minister's scheduled visit to Sylhet, formal inauguration of the hospital could not be held. On September 17, 2002 the finance minister again assured upgradation of the hospital at a function of Sylhet district unit of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA). But, no development work was done as yet.

The of shortage of manpower and equipment as well as others issues are yet to be resolved. There are several departments like medicine, surgery, gynecology, child, ear, nose and throat (ENT) and cancer in the hospital. But only one doctor is working in each department. In the medicine department the death of physicians is very acute. Besides, there is shortage of staff members in all the departments.

The patients have to suffer much due to lack of the emergency department in the hospital.



Devotees proceed to place 'Gilaf'(cover) at the shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) in Sylhet on the occasion of the 683rd Urs of the great saint in the sub-continent. The two-day annual Urs concluded on Friday morning with Akheri Munajat (final prayer).

JCD protests appointment of teachers, officers at IU

Distribution of application forms postponed

RAHAT AHMED, Kushtia

The Islamic University (IU) authorities have postponed distribution of application forms for appointment of new teachers and officers.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting last week following a protest movement by the ruling BNP's student wing Jayatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), at the campus.

Acting Vice Chancellor and Treasurer of the university Prof Mosharruf Hossain chaired the meeting. Among others, departmental chairmen, faculty deans, hall

provosts and Proctor of the university were present in the meeting. Recently the university authorities have appointed 26 teachers in different departments against the actual demand of 10 teachers in the departments.

Protesting the appointment of additional teachers, JCD activists went on a movement demanding cancellation of 'illegal appointment' of additional teachers. They alleged politicization, because according to them '23, out of 26 teachers are loyal to Jammal'.

When contacted the JCD Secretary of the university unit,

Mahabub Al Jahan told The Daily Star, "We shall foil the authorities bid to appoint new teachers and officers by any means."

However, the university authorities informed that they have postponed distribution of application forms due to admission tests in the first year honours classes, not for any other reason.

Meanwhile, a high official of the university seeking anonymity apprehended that an untoward situation might be reated any time on this issue.

BNP, Jamaat-backed alliance panel sweeps IUTA polls

IU CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

The BNP and the jamaat-backed alliance panel won all the 15 posts in the Islamic University Teachers' Association (IUTA) election.

Prof Abul Kalam Patwary (Green Forum) of the Dawa and Islamic Studies Department bagged the highest number of votes for the teachers' association presidency. He defeated Prof M Alauddin of the Applied Chemistry and Chemical Technology Department (Awami League-backed Shapla Forum). Dr Alinoor Rahman (BNP-backed Zia Parishad) of the Management Department won the post of secretary from the alliance panel defeating Dr Shwakat Jahangir of the Accounting Department (Shapla Forum).

The election was held on January 15 after three and a half years due to a postponement order by the court.

However, Prof M Alauddin and

Dr Shwakat Jahangir of Shapla Forum congratulated the new IUTA executive committee-2003.

Nine shops gutted in Gazipur

UNB, Gazipur

Nine shops were gutted in a fire at Masterbari Bazaar in Sreepur upazila here Monday.

The fire brigade sources said the fire originated in a shop of the bazaar from an electric short circuit at about 3pm and soon engulfed the adjoining shops.

The loss was estimated at Tk 10 lakh, fire brigade and shop owners said.

Local people brought the blaze under control before firefighters from district headquarters reached the spot.

Two killed in Sirajganj road mishaps

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Two persons including a school girl were killed in two separate road accidents on Dinajpur-Dhaka highway on Friday evening.

The victims were identified as Arifa Khatun, 11, daughter of Sultan Ahmed of Purbo Mohanpur in Sadar upazila, a student of Class VI of Saydabad High School, Sirajganj and Anisur Rahman Biddiyut, 27, Sirajganj district medical representative of the multinational Novartis company.

Police said when the victim, Arifa was crossing the road, a Sirajganj-bound truck crushed her under its wheels resulting her spot demise. The accident took place near Dukhiabari when Biddiyut was coming from Tangail by a motor bike. At Kodda intersection a sand-loaded truck coming from the opposite direction collided head-on with his bike causing his instant death on the spot.

The driver and the helper managed to flee. Two separate cases were lodged in the connections.