

NEWS SNAPS

Tk 3 lakh fish looted

UNB, Keraniganj
Fish worth Tk 3 lakh were looted allegedly by Jatiyatibadi Chhakra Dal (JCD) activists from a pond at Teghuria Tuesday.

Witnesses said they looted fish from the pond of fish trader Salen.

Robbers loot valuables

UNB, Bagerhat
In a string of robberies, armed bandits looted cash and valuables from four houses at village Radhaballav in Sadar upazila Monday night.

Villagers said the robbers in the guise of police stormed into the houses of Joydev Nath, Nitai Pal, Prafulla Pal and Binoy Pal at the dead of night.

They tied up the house inmates and looted the valuables worth over Tk one lakh, the villagers said.

356 uplift projects going on

UNB, Pabna
Some 356 development projects are being implemented in nine upazilas of Pabna district, spending 464 metric tons (MTs) of rice.

The Relief and Rehabilitation Department is implementing the projects under the government's rural infrastructure maintenance programme, officials said.

School building under construction

UNB, Narsingdi
An academic building is being constructed for Mohorpara High School in Shibpur upazila at a cost of Tk 21 lakh.

Local Government, Rural Development (LGRD) and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan inaugurated the construction work Tuesday. Facilities Department of the Education Ministry is providing funds for construction of the building.

LGED constructing roads in Narsingdi

UNB, Narsingdi
Local Government, Rural Development (LGRD) and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan inaugurated the construction work of Baroigaon-Atardia and Mohorpara-Doripura roads recently.

Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) is constructing the roads spending Tk 22.50 lakh and Tk 32.50 lakh respectively.

Move to improve skill of 'Jhum' cultivators

UNB, Bandarban
A project has been taken up in Bandarban district to create employment facilities and improve skill of the 'Jhum' cultivators.

Under the project, titled Cash Cropping for Jhumia People, 400 Jhumia families will be rehabilitated and imparted training on cultivation.

Local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) Toimu, Hilli Homes, CAFF and Hope Bridge will implement the project with the financial assistance of DANIDA.

775,118 textbooks for 209,227 pry school students

UNB, Jhenidah
A total of 775,118 textbooks were distributed among 209,227 primary school students in six upazilas of Jhenidah district in the current academic year.

The Primary Education Department distributed the textbooks among the students of 1,508 government, registered, non-registered, community, satellite primary schools and madrassahs.

Of the total, 174,000 textbooks were distributed for the students of class one, 159,000 for class II, 144,000 for class III, 124,800 for class IV and 173,318 for class V.

712 bottles of phensidyl seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj
Members of the law enforcing agencies seized 712 bottles of Indian phensidyl valued about Taka 12 lakh and 3001 pieces of sarees from Jamuna bridge western part area on Friday.

Acting on a tip-off members of the law enforcing agency stopped two Dhaka bound coaches and seized the goods. Police arrested seven persons in this connection.

Sanction for selected schools

BSS, Barisal
The government has sanctioned Tk 17.24,10,000 to implement some projects for 102 selected schools in 14 upazilas of two southern districts in the current fiscal.

According to official sources, the projects include extension of existing buildings in Barisal and Jhalakathi districts. Of the total, 75 selected schools are being extended in Barisal district and 27 schools in Jhalakathi district. Seventy five per cent work on the projects has already been completed.

Artificial crisis of gas cylinder in Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

An acute scarcity of gas cylinder has been prevailing in Faridpur district for the last one week.

It has been causing much hardship to consumers. Consumers alleged that some dishonest traders have been making windfall profit by creating an artificial crisis of gas cylinder here.

Price of one gas cylinder contained increased by Tk 75 to 100. A clean heat gas cylinder which was sold at Tk 340 a week ago is now selling at Tk 440. A cylinder of Bashundhara LP gas is now selling at Tk. 450 against Tk 380 a week ago. A cylinder of Totalgas is now on sale at Tk 390 against the previous rate of Tk 330. A cylinder of Surja Summit gas is at present being sold at Tk 420 against the original price of Tk 340.

As a result of price-hike of gas, the middle class

people with fixed income have been hard-hit because they entirely depend on gas in cooking purpose.

Meanwhile, price of kerosene has increased abnormally within a period of two weeks. One litre of kerosene is now selling here at Tk 26 as against Tk. 23. Price-hike of kerosene has caused great hardship to the villagers who solely use kerosene lamps at night.

With the increase in price of gas cylinder and kerosene oil, the price of fire wood is on the increase affecting its consumers most adversely. Now a maund of firewood is selling between Tk 100 to 110 as against between Tk 80 to 85 a week ago.

The authorities concerned should take proper steps to arrest the price spiral of gas and kerosene in order to mitigate the sufferings of consumers.

5,000 lay siege to Rangpur DC office

UNB, Rangpur

Over 5,000 people laid siege to the deputy commissioner (DC) and police super's offices demanding release of the chairman of Haragach municipality.

Police arrested municipality chairman Anwarul Islam on January 23 as he went to Kaunia police

station to secure the release of eight arrested people.

They were arrested while demonstrating in protest against the transfer of local electricity lines to Palli Biddyt Samity (PBS) from Power Development Board (PDB).

All the arrested, including the chairman, were sent to district jail.

Double murder case accused nabbed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested the main accused of a sensational double murder case from Savar in Dhaka district.

Police also recovered a microbus from Ramganj in Laxmipur district on Friday.

DB police arrested main accused Ripon alias Babu 35, from Savar while acting on a tip-off police arrested Bachchu Miah from Dhanbandi area in Sirajganj town

Ripon has reportedly confessed to police that he had murdered the aforementioned two persons. Police also recovered a microbus from Ramganj in Laxmipur district.

In the early hours of January 15 Ripon with his gang murdered driver Gopal Shaha, 27, and helper Pintu, 25. Then they threw the bodies near the Jhaiol railway over-bridge and left the area on board a microbus.

A case has been lodged with Jamuna bridge west police station. Police Super AKM Shahidul Haque transferred the case to DB of police after the incident. Police also arrested seven persons in this connection.



PHOTO: STAR

A boy who obtained scholarship of Shahbandor Jubo Sangstha, a youth welfare organisation, Moulvibazar receives a certificate from M Mukhlesur Rahman, deputy commissioner (DC) of Moulvibazar in recognition to his good result.

Kurigram jail may collapse anytime

UNB, Kurigram

Almost all buildings of Kurigram district jail have developed breaches and may collapse anytime unless urgent steps are taken to repair those.

Constructed on 16 acres of land

in the town in 1965, the jail has four buildings for male prisoners while two for female prisoners.

According to officials, the jail is now overcrowded with some 297 prisoners.

The inner boundary walls of the jail have already detached from the

main wall. "The condition is so bad that it may break down anytime," a jail official told.

More worrying is that the jail hospital virtually remains under lock and key for lack of doctors, causing immense sufferings to the ailing prisoners.



PHOTO: HOSSAIN SERAJ

Julfi Begum, a century old woman of village Dhapuapara in Shalikhra upazila of Magura is being escorted by her daughter and grandson towards Mashokhali polling centre where she exercised her franchise in the recently held peaceful Union Parishad elections.

New education programme for indigenous children

UNB, Rangamati

CARE Bangladesh has launched education programme in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) titled 'Children's Opportunity for Learning Enhanced' at the Tribal and Cultural Institute here.

The programme aims at increasing access and educational achievement of children, especially girls and indigenous children in the under served areas of CHT.

The project intends to give special focus on improving learning competencies, effective and attractive teaching-learning methodology and better utilisation of allocated resources and involvement of

community in school management and development.

The programme will work with 180 formal schools, of which at least 50 per cent of the school will be government schools in Ruma, Rowangchhari, Bandarban Sadar, Baghaichhari, Belaichhari and Khagrachhari Sadar upazilas.

The project is funded by USAID and implemented by CARE Bangladesh through its six local partners in seven upazilas of the three hill districts.

The programme was launched at a simple ceremony at the Tribal and Cultural Institute here on January 23.

Chairman of CHT Regional

Council Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Santu Larma attended the function as the chief guest.

In his address Santu Larma urged all concerned to take immediate measures for ensuring education access of the CHT children. He appreciated the efforts of promoting indigenous language and culture through education.

Speaking as special guest, Rangamati Hill District Council Chairman Manik Lal Dewan urged all concerned to take concerted efforts for undertaking development works for the CHT as this part of the country is lagging behind.