

**News snaps**

**Move to ease traffic jam in Munshiganj**  
 MUNSHIGANJ, Dec 24: The construction of a 1.3 km by-pass road from the district collectorate to the poura supermarket crossing has been undertaken at an estimated cost of Tk 51.99 lakh with a view to easing traffic congestion in the one-way Munshiganj town, reports BSS.

**New executive body of Madaripur AL**  
 MADARIPUR, Dec 24: The executive committee of Madaripur district unit of Awami League (AL) for 1997-2000 period was formed at a meeting held here last week, reports BSS.

**CHT accord to preserve people's rights**  
 KHAGRACHHARI, Dec 24: LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman said here that the peace agreement on Chittagong Hill Tracts would not work against the interest of the Bangladeshers rather it would play a strong role in preserving the basic rights of the Bangladeshers and tribals living here, reports BSS.

**11 LLB examinees expelled**  
 TANGAIL, Dec 24: Eleven LLB examinees were expelled from Kumudini Government College LLB examination centre for adoption of unfair means in the examination last week, reports BSS.

**Contraband phensidyl seized**  
 COMILLA, Dec 24: Comilla CID police seized 215 bottles of contraband phensidyl syrup worth Taka 30,000 from Batisha bus stand under Chowddagram thana on December 20, reports BSS.

**Ban on anti-social activities sought**  
 JHALAKATI, Dec 24: Various anti-social activities including gambling and obscene dances have been going on over a month at different parts of the district in the name of Jatra, reports UNB.

**Massive lentil farming programme**  
 RANGPUR, Dec 24: Lentil will be cultivated on 41,380 hectares of land in 16 northern districts in the current season, reports BSS.

**Concern over burning of trees in brickfields**  
 SIRAJGANJ, Dec 24: Trees are being felled indiscriminately in the district for use in brickfields defying government ban, reports UNB.

**Youths renovate road voluntarily**  
 COMILLA, Dec 24: Local enthusiastic youths have set an example by renovating a road on voluntary basis in Kachua thana of the district, reports UNB.

**Tk 6cr school construction project taken**  
 RANGPUR, Dec 24: The Education Department has taken up a number of projects at a cost of Taka 6.12 crore for construction and re-construction of 125 school buildings in the district in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

**Landless farmers on rise**  
 NOAKHALI, Dec 24: The number of landless farmers in Senbag thana of the district is increasing day by day due to abject poverty, reports UNB.

**Valuables worth Tk 50,000 looted**  
 JHENIDAH, Dec 24: Valuables worth about Tk 50,000 were looted from the passenger of a bus by a gang of dacoits on Dhaka-Khulna Highway near the town recently, reports UNB.

**Discussion on AIDS Day**  
 COMILLA, Dec 24: A discussion meeting to mark the World AIDS Day was held on November 4 at the district health office here, reports BSS.

**Discussion on Human Rights Day**  
 JHALAKATI, Dec 24: A discussion meeting on the occasion of World Human Rights Day was held here at the local press club on Wednesday, reports UNB.

**Crimes on rise**  
 BOGRA, Dec 24: Crimes are on rise in the district causing concern among the peace-loving people, reports UNB.

**2 including woman killed in Tangail road accident**  
 TANGAIL, Dec 24: Two people, including a woman, were killed, and three others injured in a road accident on Tangail-Bhuapur highway on Tuesday, reports UNB.

**Jhenidah Bar Association executives**  
 JHENIDAH, Dec 24: A 23-member committee of district Bar Association has been formed with Azizur Rahman and Ismail Hossain as president and secretary respectively, reports UNB.

**Peace amity march in CHT from Dec 25**  
 BANDARBAN, Dec 24: A 24-member team of Sammitto Sangskritik Jote will visit the three hill districts for holding a three-day peace amity march from December 25, the local administration sources said, reports BSS.

**Post-polls violence: One killed in Ctg**  
 From Staff Correspondent  
 CHITTAGONG, Dec 24: Post-polls violence reportedly left one person killed at Isapur Bazar of Mekhal union under Hathazari today, local people said.

**Cold claims 2 more in Lalmonirhat**  
 LALMONIRHAT, Dec 24: Cold spell claimed two more lives in two thanas of the district in 24 hours till 8 pm Tuesday, raising the death toll in the district to five, reports UNB.

**Hashem Education Fund stipend awarded**  
 From A Correspondent  
 JHALAKATHI, Dec 24: Eight meritorious students of Jhalakathi district received the first instalment of A K M Hashem Memorial Education Fund stipend at a simple ceremony held at Jhalakathi circuit house on December 20.

**Abnormal fall in water level**  
**Teesta Barrage project facing serious problem**

PABNA, Dec 24: Teesta Barrage project, the largest irrigation project of the country's northern region, is facing serious problem due to abnormal fall in water level at the upstream since the last two months, reports UNB.

Meanwhile, due to drastic fall in water level at Teesta, the Teestamukh Ghat has already been declared abandoned.

The Water Development Board (WDB) said all the rivers and tributaries in northern region have marked a drastic fall two months before the beginning of normal lean period, threatening environment as well as irrigation projects there.

If the present situation continues nearly 30 ghats along Teesta will have to be abandoned soon, they said.

According to a competent source at Chilmari land port, the alarming fall in water level in the river Brahmaputra has threatened the floating oil depot at the Chilmari Ghat.

The depot supplies fuel in six districts — Rangpur, Kurigram, Dinajpur, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari and Gaibandha districts.

An WDB official said such fall in water level is normally noticed during the period from December to January.

But this year the water level started falling since early October. This has posed serious threat to irrigation, riverine transports and fisheries as the dry season is approaching when farmers of the region depend both in surface and underground water for cultivation of rabi and Boro crops.

The Water Development Board (WDB) sources said water flow near the barrage point was recorded between 6000 and 7000 cusecs during the first fortnight of December 1996. But the flow virtually came down to 2,500 cusecs during same period this year.



MOULVIBAZAR: Ekhlas Ahmed Haidari, Secretary, Sreemangal-Shamsernagar Bus Owners' Association recently receiving a cheque of Taka 24 lakh as compensation from Gar-Hard CJ Janson, district manager of Occidental Company at the office of Deputy Commissioner (DC), Moulvibazar.

**Rly passengers woes multiply**

KUSHTIA, Dec 24: Passengers of Khulna-Rajbari railway section have been facing immense problems due to lack of proper care by the railway authorities, reports UNB.

The booking counter starts functioning just before the arrival of the train. As a result, the inter-city and local trains with inadequate number of compartments cannot cope with the rush of the passengers.

It is alleged that the booking counter in all stations charge increased rate of fare from the passengers. Sometimes, they sell unlimited number of tickets overcrowding the compartments.

The ticket examiners, security guards, drivers and guards on duty remain silent when unruly ticketless passengers stop the train at different points.

Often first and second class compartments are not attached to the trains creating great inconvenience to the passengers. They are compelled to travel in the over-crowded third class compartments.

Sometimes, passengers travel in luggage vans and rooftops of the trains. In the absence of checking a large number of passengers are travelling without tickets in the line causing misery to the genuine passengers.

Smuggled goods like sarees, salt, sugar, fruits, cosmetics and crockeries are transported regularly by trains. Many unruly incidents occurred in the name of toll collection in various stations.

The compartments of the trains are not kept clean and in the absence of water supply the latrines remain dirty emitting bad odour. Waiting rooms in most of the stations have no sitting arrangements for the first and second class passengers.

The passengers urged the Railway authorities to take necessary steps to solve the longstanding problems of the section without further delay.



RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY: Prof Abdul Khaleque, Vice-Chancellor and Prof Saidur Rahman Khan, Pro Vice-Chancellor of the university placing wreath at Shaheed Minar on Victory Day.

**One killed, 25 hurt as villagers clash in Daudkandi**

COMILLA, Dec 24: At least one person was killed and 25 others were injured in a clash between two rival groups of villagers over the possession of a char in Daudkandi thana reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash took place at Bhatara village in the morning, leaving the unidentified man dead on the spot.

Some of the injured were rushed to different local clinics with critical injuries. A case was filed.

**Pabna Mental Hospital ailing**

PABNA, Dec 24: Pabna Mental Hospital is facing manifold problems hampering the treatment of mentally retarded patients, reports UNB.

According to local people, lack of proper planning, insufficient beds and shortage of physicians have been impeding proper treatment of patients for long.

The number of bed has not been increased during the last 30 years. Many patients are denied admission due to lack of accommodation in the hospital, which has only 400 beds.

A dilapidated house is being used as outdoor hospital sources said adding that almost crumbled building itself is a threat to the patients.

The sitting arrangement at the outdoor is quite insufficient and toilet facilities are too meagre to cope with the needs of the patients. About 120 patients visit the outdoor daily but only 10 to 15 of them can avail the admission facilities.

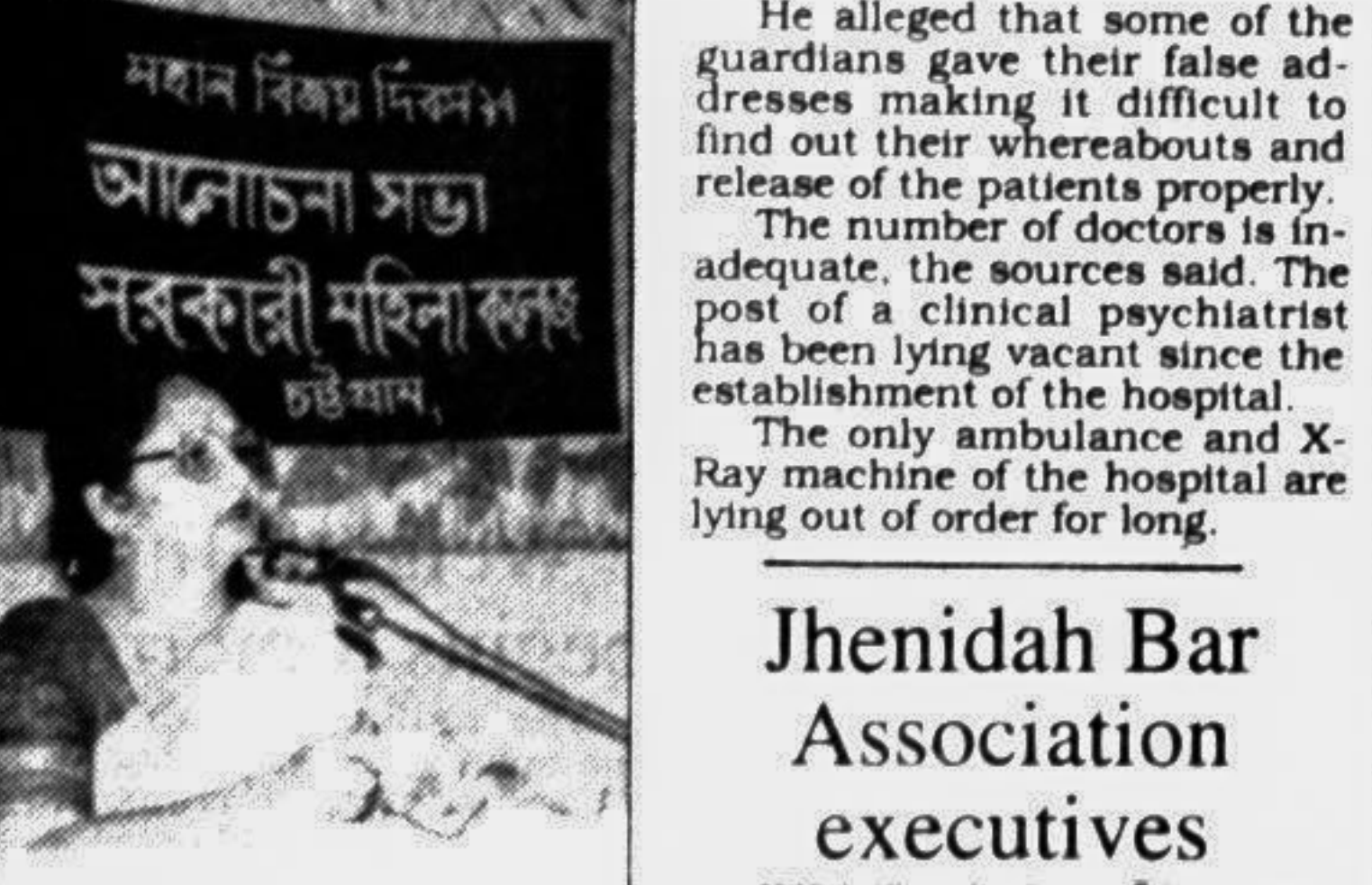
Besides, the sources said, many patients who have already been cured are staying at the hospital as their relatives or guardians abandoned them.

Acting director of the hospital Dr Reaz Uddin told that seat rent amounting to over Tk 2 lakh remained pending for long with 20 patients.

He alleged that some of the guardians gave their false addresses making it difficult to find out their whereabouts and release of the patients properly.

The number of doctors is inadequate, the sources said. The post of a clinical psychiatrist has been lying vacant since the establishment of the hospital.

The only ambulance and X-Ray machine of the hospital are lying out of order for long.



TANGAIL, Dec 24: Two people, including a woman, were killed, and three others injured in a road accident on Tangail-Bhuapur highway on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police said the accident occurred when a speeding truck collided head-on with a Tangail-bound passenger van at Shialkol in Bhuapur thana on Tuesday evening.

The two dead were identified as Abdul Monnaf, 38, of Sharaishabari thana in Jamalpur district and Siaton Begum, 47, of Jagatpur village in Bhuapur thana.

One of the injured was admitted at Bhuapur thana health complex.

A case was filed with Bhuapur thana police.

Police seized the truck, but its driver was absconding.

**Meherpur Newsletter**

From Our Correspondent  
 MEHERPUR, Dec 24: Begum Rokya Day was observed in Meherpur befittingly.

Nat Forum, Shikkha and Sangskritik Charcha Kendra, Shishu Academy, Women and Child Affairs Department and various non-governmental organisations chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day.

The day's programmes included rally, procession, discussion on Rokya's life and works, Ayesha Huq, President, Mahila Krira Sangstha paid glowing tributes to her. She urged the womenfolk to follow the footsteps of Begum Rokya.

**V-Day observed**  
 Victory Day was observed here in a befitting manner. The district administration and other cultural organisations chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day.

The day's programme began with booming of 21 gun salute at one minute past midnight and hoisting of national flag atop all government and private buildings in the morning.

A march past by Police, Ansars, VDP, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides was arranged at Meherpur Stadium in the morning. Other programmes included cinema show on Liberation War for the school students, special prayers were offered in all mosques, temples and churches for prosperity of the nation, improved diet was supplied to the inmates of jail, hospitals and orphanages, discussion on the War of Liberation, sports competition for the women and fancy football match and illumination in the evening.

**Banana farming gains popularity**  
 Cultivation of banana as both vegetable and fruit has been gaining popularity in the region.

It is learnt, as the cultivation of banana has become more profitable peasants are more inclined to bring maximum land under banana farming. The soil and climate favours banana cultivation in both winter and summer seasons in this district. It is being cultivated on high land on large scale round the year. There is less possibility of any harm to the plant by storm and rain.

Besides, pest attack is hardly noticed. There is a bright prospect for producing banana in drought affected areas of this region.

**Crimes rising alarmingly**  
 Hundreds of mastsans are allegedly committing various crimes in the district town and its adjoining areas.

Although police occasionally round them up, most of them roam about hither and thither and do whatever they like. The victims of criminal activities of the so-called mastsans have to remain silent in many cases for obvious reasons, a town dweller said. Some town dwellers have alleged, mastsans are very much daring and they commit crimes under the shelter of influential and vested quarters.

**FP programme facing setback**  
 The Population Control Programme is facing a setback in the district due to manifold problems which include mismanagement, corruption, absence of effective supervision and negligence of duty of the

**Indian pesticides flooding markets**  
 Indian pesticides have flooded various hats and bazaars of the district.

These pesticides are being smuggled into the country through different border points and being sold at low prices. The farmers are using these low price pesticides as the Bangladeshi ones are costlier.

An agricultural expert opines, indiscriminate use of Indian pesticides in crop field has been affecting the fertility of soil thereby reducing production of crops.

**Scarcity of fodder**  
 The development of dairy farming in the district has been adversely affected for long due to acute scarcity of fodder.

There are around one hundred dairy farms having nearly one thousand improved varieties of cattle in the district. The daily production from these farms is roughly 15,000 litres of milk. But due to dearth of marketing facilities the dairy farm owners are compelled to sell bulk quantity of milk to the tea shop owners at much cheaper rates while a small quantity goes to the private consumers at prices between Taka 12 and 14 per litre. The fodder crisis has caused much suffering to the dairy farm owners all over the district.

**Drug addiction on rise**  
 The number of addicted youths has been growing alarmingly here. Even rural youths are addicted to wine, opium, indigenous wine, morphine, sedative tablet, Mrita Sanibani Sura, and other types of liquid containing alcohol.

According to a non-official survey, Meherpur town and its suburbs have turned into open markets of intoxicated drugs, easily available in medicine shops and groceries. Phensidyl, one of the narcotic drugs is being smuggled from India into Meherpur district in large quantities. These are also sent to other places of the country by various means of transport.

The survey reveals that the number of addicted teenagers is only five per cent, but it is alarmingly growing day by day. Even minor boys are found looking for drugs in medicine shop. It is alleged that a well-organised gang of criminals are engaged in smuggling these drugs into the Bangladesh territory from India.

**Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD**  
 Ferry Divn, Barisal

**(RHD), Tender Notice**

- Tender Notice No : 40 of RHD, Ferry Divn. Barisal/1997-98.
- Name of work : As described below
- Eligibility of contractor : "A to E" category contractor of RHD, as per financial capacity and territorial jurisdiction.
- Availability of tender : 1) Executive Engineer, RHD, Mechl. Ferry Divn, Barisal/Khulna. schedule 2) Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Mechl. Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal (only office hours. No tender will be sold on the date of receiving tender schedule).
- Tender receiving officer : 1) Superintending Engineer, RHD, Mechl. Ferry Circle, Khulna. 2) Executive Engineer, RHD, Mechl. Ferry Divn, Barisal/Khulna.
- Last date of selling : 5-1-98/22-9-1404 (only office hours) tender documents
- Last date of receiving : 6-1-98/23-9-1404 at 12 Noon. tender in sealed cover
- Date and time of : 8-1-98/25-9-1404 at 1 PM. opening tender
- Date and time of lottery : 8-1-98 at 3 PM. (if applicable)

Group No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money
1.	Supplying of spare parts for 108 HP Samufa engine of different type ferries under Ferry Sub-Divn Barisal during the year 1997-98	Tk 1,63,800/-	3276/-
2.	Supplying of spare parts for 110 HP Daf engine (model 620) of different utility ferries under Ferry Sub-Divn Barisal during the year 2,79,200/- 1997-98	Tk 2,79,200/-	5584/-
3.	Supplying of spare parts for 75 HP Ford engine of different ferries under Ferry Sub-Divn Barisal during the year 1997-98	Tk 1,80,500/-	3610/-
4.	Supplying of different materials for different pontoon in running during the year 1997-98	Tk 1,00,700/-	2014/-
5.	Supplying of spare parts for 150/290 HP Volvopenta engine of different steel ferries under Ferry Sub-Divn Barisal during the year 1,96,500/- 1997-98	Tk 1,96,500/-	3930/-
6.	Supplying of spare parts for 150 KW Man engine of different ferry ghats under Ferry Sub-Divn Barisal during the year 1997-98	Tk 1,33,200/-	2664/-

DFP-28785-18/12  
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Executive Engineer, RHD  
 Ferry Divn, Barisal