

News snaps

3 killed in Rangpur road accidents

RANGPUR, Jan 12: Three people including a pregnant woman were killed in two separate road accidents in the district, police said today, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, two youngmen were killed on Saturday at Ekorchal in Taraganj thana when the rickshaw van they were riding was knocked by a minibus from behind. The victims were identified as Bacha Mia, 17, and Anwarul 27. In another mishap, a pregnant housewife was hit by a speedy truck at Chaulhati in Badarganj thana on Friday and died on her way to hospital. The woman, identified as Noorjahan, 27.

Tempo plunges into pond: 1 killed

JHALAKATI, Jan 12: A man was killed when a tempo plunged into a roadside ditch at Rajapur in the district on Sunday, reports UNB.

Police said the driver lost control of the vehicle when the wrapper of passenger Nesab Ali got twisted with the engine of the tempo. The victims Nesab died on the spot while other passengers escaped unharmed. The driver fled the scene. A case was lodged with the police.

Diabetic hospital work progressing

NARSINGDI, Jan 12: The construction of the Diabetic Hospital here is going on at Baniachal area in the town, reports UNB. The 25-bed hospital is being constructed by the District Diabetic Association at a cost of Tk 3 crore. The land for the hospital was donated by a social worker of the locality Mollah M. Montaj Miah. The construction works, supervised by the Public Works Department, include the hospital and administrative buildings, laboratory, separate departments of surgery, medicine and gynaecology. About 50 per cent of the work has already been completed and the rest is expected to be finished by June next.

1,437 km power lines constructed

COMILLA, Jan 12: Comilla Palli Bidyut Samity-2 so far constructed 1,437 kilometre electric lines in 6 thanas of the district since 1994, reports UNB.

The thanas are Sadar, Burichang, Brahmanpara, Laksam, Langalcoi and Choudhogram. The Samity has created connection facilities for 42,132 consumers and so far gave connections to 21,182 consumers of 311 villages. There are 11 directors in 11 areas and 3 women advisers under the Samity. The Samity has a zonal office, an area office, 4 complain centers in 6 thanas. Besides, it has three sub-centres.

Loan distributed among youths

KISHOREGANJ, Jan 12: The Youth Development Directorate has distributed Taka 56,86,000 as a loan to the deserving youngmen and women in four thanas of the district, reports BSS.

According to official sources, the distributed amount of money are Taka 14,36,500 to Bhairab thana, Taka 12,85,000 to Nikli thana, Taka 15,44,500 to Bajipur thana and Taka 14,20,000 to Katiadi thana. The loan was distributed for farming of poultry birds and livestocks, cultivation of vegetables, garments making, stenotyping and pisciculture. The directorate recovered arrear loan cent per cent, the Assistant Director of the Youth Directorate informed.

Indian phenisidyl seized

MADRIPUR, Jan 12: Police seized huge quantity of Indian phenisidyl and arrested five people from Kawrakandi and Aralkhan ferryghats in Shibchar thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the ghat areas and recovered 470 bottles of smuggled Indian phenisidyl from two private cars, parked in the ghats. They also arrested five people for possessing the contraband. The arrested Yakub Khan, Babul, Hossein, Motaleb Mia and Swapani were sent to jail hajat. A case has been filed with the police in this connection.

Smuggled goods seized

TEKNAF, Jan 12: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) on Sunday seized smuggled goods including drugs worth Tk 5 lakh from two boats, reports UNB.

BDR sources said, a group of smugglers were transporting the goods from Myanmar when the boats were intercepted by them at the border. The goods include wine, sugar and a refrigerator. The members of the gang managed to escape arrest.

Discussion meeting

BANDARBAN, Jan 12: A discussion meeting was held marking the "jail release day" of former President and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad at the Party office, reports UNB.

Senior Vice President Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury presided over the meeting. JP's district general secretary Adv Mohiuddin and organising secretary Mahabubur Rahman were, among others, addressed the meeting. The JP leaders said that the government has committed a big mistake by signing the CHT peace agreement without discussing it in Parliament and ignoring the "advice" of Ershad. They warned that the government has to pay for it. They appealed to the government for not implementing the agreement without amendment to the peace agreement.

Ex-UP chairman killed in road mishap

NETROKONA, Jan 12: One person was killed on the spot and two others including a tempo driver were injured in a road accident on Saturday night at Satrasree about nine kilometres east from here on Netrokona-Mohanganj road, reports BSS.

The accident occurred when a Barhatta bound passenger tempo from Netrokona collided head-on with a mini bus coming from opposite direction, police sources said. The dead was identified as Arun Chandra Sarker, 55, ex-chairman of Sonia Union Parishad under Barhatta thana of the district. A police rescue team rushed to the spot after the accident and sent the body of the victim to Netrokona Sadar Hospital for autopsy. The injured persons were rushed to the hospital for treatment. The driver of the mini bus managed to escape. A case was filed with Netrokona sadar thana in this connection.

Workshop on population control

SYEDPUR, Jan 12: A workshop on population control sponsored by Syedpur special work unit of Rangpur branch of Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB) was held here last week, reports BSS.

Presided over by Nazrul Islam the workshop was addressed by Syedpur Thana Nirbahi Officer Monwar Hossain Sarkar. Rangpur district project officer of the FPAB Tahajat Hossain, Thana Nirbahi Officer Monwar Hossain Sarkar. Rangpur district project officer of the FPAB Tahajat Hossain, Thana Officer Mostafizur Rahman, Health Officer of Syedpur Paurashava Dr Rezaul Huq and Former MP Mujibur Rahman spoke on the occasion. Meanwhile, a street play based on EPI programme of the government was staged by local Tarun Naya Sangha to motivate the people about health and family planning.

Ansar-VDP Dev Bank branch opens

TANGAIL, Jan 12: A branch of Ansar-VDP Development Bank was opened in Ghatal on January 7, reports BSS.

A ceremonial gathering of Ansar and VDP members of Ghatal thana was held on this occasion. Major General AMM Zaman Director General of the Ansars and VDP and AHM Aminul Islam, Director General of the Ansar-VDP Development Bank attended the function as the chief guest and special guest respectively. The guests expressed their hope that the bank will play a vital role for economic development of the members of Ansars and VDP.

Farmers to get agri-loan

KISHOREGANJ, Jan 12: Bangladesh Agriculture Development Bank, Kishoreganj branch has taken a programme to distribute Taka 26 crore as agriculture loan among the farmers of the district, reports BSS.

The bank has recovered Taka 25 crore arrear loan. According to official sources, the loan will be distributed for the production of crops, cultivation of fish and raising of livestocks.

According to official sources, the percentage of achievement is 99.3 the highest ever achieved in the district.

145 committed suicide last year

NARSINGDI, Jan 12: At least 145 people allegedly committed in the district during the last year, reports UNB.

According to police 45 allegedly committed suicide in Raipur thana, 30 in Sadar, 25 in Shibpur, 20 in Polash, 15 in Monorhati and 10 in Balabo thanas. Family feud, poverty, failure in love and demand for dowry were said to be the main reasons behind the suicide. Local people said a number of housewives committed suicide due to the repeated torture by their husbands for realising dowry money.

National

Cold-related diseases spreading in N-dists

Over 1 lakh children suffering from diarrhoea, pneumonia

PABNA, Jan 12: More than one lakh children have been afflicted with diarrhoea and pneumonia in the current cold wave in the country's northern districts, reports UNB.

Doctors said over 100 children died of cold diarrhoea, pneumonia, dysentery and other cold-related diseases in the northern districts, including Pabna.

Meanwhile, hospital sources said 104 children were admitted to Pabna Hospital, 210 to Sirajganj Hospital, 97 to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital, 52 to Jaipurhat Hospital, 613 to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, 74 to Naogaon Hospital, 88 to Chapainawabganj Hospital.

65 to Natore Hospital, 431 to Rangpur Medical College Hospital, 54 to Gaibandha Hospital, 83 to Kurigram Hospital, 112 to Lalmonirhat Hospital, 47 to Nilphamari Hospital, 342 to Dianjpur Hospital, 55 to Panchagarh Hospital and 114 to Thakurgaon Hospital.

Child specialist Capt (retd) Anisur Rahman told the news agency that children are being attacked with cold diarrhoea from Rota virus caused by cold.

Doctors said most of the malnourished children are falling victims to cold-related diseases.

Six of the deaths were reported from Athgaria thana of

By Staff Correspondent

The death toll caused by severe cold wave rises to 68 in four districts namely Madaripur, Sirajganj, Rajbari and Sherpur during the last few days.

UNB reports: In Madaripur cold wave claimed lives of six people in two thanas of the district during the last four days till Sunday, according to a local source.

They were identified as an unidentified rickshawpuller of Panisatra and Mohammad Bepari, 55, of Charalakshminganj in Sadar thana, Hazere Begum, 59, Doyabati, 61, Yogesh Mondal, 65, of Chaurai and a new born baby of Beparipara in Rajbari thana.

All the victims belonged to poor families.

Meanwhile, severe warm clothes crisis is prevailing in the district and prices are beyond the reach of the poor people.

Local elite have urged the generous people and non-government organisations to donate warm clothes to the poor and distress people of the district.

In Sirajganj district the death toll caused by severe cold wave rises to 50 during the last 10 days with six more deaths on Saturday.

Two infants and four elderly people died in five thanas of the district last night, local people

said.

They were identified as Mamun, 2, and Rasheda, of Tarash thana, Babu Bepari, 65, of Raigonj, Monila Khatun, 78, of village Birbhadraghat and Asta Sheikh, 65, of Kutirchar under

Kamarkhand thana and Zubbar, 70, of Sadar thana.

Meanwhile, prices of essentials have shot up in the district.

Vendors and businessmen said this was due to traffic congestion at Aricha and Nagarbari ferry ghats which caused disruption in the supply of goods.

In Rajbari district, the prevailing cold spell claimed four on Saturday night.

Of the deaths, three were reported from Goalanda and another from Sadar thana.

Cold-stricken people alleged that they have not yet received any warm clothes from the district administration to either dropping cold, except those distributed by some non-governmental organisations.

When contacted Deputy Commissioner of the district said he had sent a letter to the Relief Ministry seeking warm clothes for the poor.

Our Sherpur Correspondent reports, cold wave claimed three more lives in Sherpur district.

Rahila Khatun, 60, Askarali, 62, and another un identified man aged about 45 of village Basarbbit under Jhenaini thana of the district died on Saturday.

With this the total number of death toll in the district due to cold wave rises to eight.

Coldwave camps brickfields owners to stop production

MANIKGANJ, Jan 12: Severe cold wave and thick fog have compelled the owners of about 500 brickfields in the district and in Savar and Dhamrai thanas of Dhaka to stop the production, reports UNB.

Brick manufacturing association sources said the owners abandoned production as they could not dry up bricks in the sunshine and the labourers refused to work in the biting cold.

They said the furnaces also failed to produce much heat due to the cold wave which made it impossible to continue the production.

Many brickfields were incurring a daily loss of Tk 20,000 to Tk 30,000 to maintain the level of heat needed for normal operation, they added.

One of the owners said raw bricks needed to be dried up in the sunshine for at least three days. But the sun was not visible for the last one week.

The owners and concerned people expressed fear that if the situation continued, the price of bricks might shoot up in the next few days.

200 cold-hit people receive warm clothes

MUNSHIGANJ, Jan 12: Severe cold wave and thick fog have compelled the owners of about 500 brickfields in the district and in Savar and Dhamrai thanas of Dhaka to stop the production, reports UNB.

The winter clothes including sweaters, blankets and jackets, were distributed among 20 cold-hit people.

Free foodgrains for 12,099 destitute families

BARISAL, Jan 12: About 1,178 metric tons of foodgrains were distributed free of cost among the members of 12,099 destitute families in 10 thanas of Barisal district under Venerable Group Development (VGD) programme during the last six months of the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

According to an official source, the foodgrains included rice and wheat.

The foodgrains were distributed at the rate of 31 kgs per family per month through 85 centres set up for the purpose in this district.

Of the total foodgrains 513 metric tons was distributed among 2,849 destitute families in Agajhara thana, 459 metric tons among 2,549 families in Gourjani, 423 metric tons each among 240 families in Hizla, Babugonj and Banaripara, 93.3 metric tons among 520 families in Mehendigonj, 50.4 metric tons among 280 families in Muliadi, 270 metric tons among 1,500 families in Bakergonj, 54 metric tons among 300 families in Barisal sadar and 609 metric tons among 3,381 families in Wazirpur thanas, the source said.

They recovered one gunny bag from their possession which contained Tk 8.60 lakh and Indian currency notes 30,000. The smugglers were handed over to the police.

Another report from Sylhet adds: Kotwali police arrested three people including a woman from a residential hotel at southern Surma for their involvement in immoral activities at midnight on Tuesday.

The arrested were identified as Abdus Salam of village Jalalpur in Sadar thana, Babul of Moulibazar and Ratna Begum of Sirajganj.

A case was registered with the police.



Local and migratory winter birds have appeared in large numbers in Nizum Deep this winter. Are these birds breaking silence on this island? — Star photo by AKM Mohsin

Directorate General Defence Purchase

Ministry of Defence

New Airport Road

Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

Re-Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in foreign currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers/dealers/indentors (not necessarily enlisted with this Directorate General) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Navy.

S. No.	Description of Stores & Qty	Tender Selling Date	Tender Opening Date	Tender No.
a.	Stuart Distance Meter Qty-30 in Nos	From 19 Jan '98 to 12 Feb '98	15 Feb '98	(5378)
b.	Gryo Workshop Qty-01 Set			(5381)
c.	Marine Binocular Qty-18 in Nos			(5387)
2.	The tender schedule with detailed specification will be available at given rate (not refundable) on any working day between 0800 hours to 1200 hours. The tender will be opened at 1000 hours on the abovementioned date in presence of the present tenderers.			

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Lt Cdr BN

for Director General

Directorate General Defence Purchase