

## NEWS SNAPS

## Two cops killed in N'ganj road mishap

UNB, Narayanganj

Two policemen were killed and three critically injured in a road accident at Bagbari Shimultali in Arahazar upazila of Narayanganj district Tuesday night. Police said the accident occurred on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway when a gas cylinder-laden truck collided head-on with a police van carrying a patrol team at about 10.30 pm.

Two police constables, Mukshed Ali, 42, and Abdur Rahim, 25, died on the spot. Three others Subedar Kamruzzaman and constables Emarat and Farooq Hossain were critically wounded. They were sent to Police Hospital and Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka. The truck driver truck fled the scene immediately after the accident leaving his vehicle. Police super M Malik Khasru and additional SP MA Baten visited the spot.

## Drainage scheme being implemented

BSS, Munshiganj

Government has undertaken a Taka 1.35 crore scheme to improve drainage system of Munshiganj Municipality.

The scheme is being jointly executed by Munshiganj Municipality and Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) under Middle Town Infrastructure Development Project-2 of Asian Development Bank. According to an LGED source, the scheme is construction of 5,122 metre-long drainage on both sides of the main roads of the town. Work is now progressing fast.

## Centenary celebration of school

UNB, Narsingdi

Satirpara Kalkumar High School in Narsingdi district celebrated its centenary with elaborate programmes. Major General M Abul Hossain, a former student of the school, inaugurated the two-day centenary function in the school premises on March 10.

Former students, local elderly people and officials of district administration attended the programmes which included discussion, prize distribution among meritorious students and cultural function. Among others, former Additional Secretary Azizur Rahman, Deputy Commissioner of the district Sitesh Ranjan Dev, Deputy Managing Director of Uttara Bank Abdus Sattar, secretary of National Press Club Swapan Kumar Shaha, and Dhruva Malik and Madhusudhan Gosh of India attended the programmes.

## Digital telephone exchange underway

BSS, Narsingdi

Construction of digital telephone exchange in Narsingdi is progressing fast.

Official sources said, all equipment for the 3000 capacity exchange have arrived at the site. The construction will be completed very soon and the exchange will be commissioned toward the end of April.

## FFs to get CI sheet

UNB, Sherpur

Relief and Rehabilitation Department on the occasion of Independence Day has allocated 529.5 bundles of CI sheet for the 353 insolvent freedom fighters of Sherpur district who earlier received honorarium.

Sources said the CI sheet will be distributed among the freedom fighters on March 26. Upazila-wise breakup: 69 bundles for 46 freedom fighters in Sadar, 120 bundles for 80 in Nakla, 114 bundles for 76 in Nalitabari, 180 bundles for 120 in Sriwardi and 46.5 bundles for 31 in Jhenighati upazila.

## Training suspended

UNB, Pirojpur

A tussle between two concerned departments has led the pisciculture training programme here to suspension, affecting the government's self-employment scheme.

Officials said local fisheries department in collaboration with Youth Development Department had been imparting training on fish farming to unemployed youths at Ranipur fish farm in Sadar upazila since 1985. But the fisheries department refrained from imparting training to the youths sent by the youth departments since August last year. Officials at the fisheries department said they postponed the training programme as the Youth Development Department stopped providing financial support to them. They also alleged that some youths damaged their hatchery equipment during their training.Snaps

## Tk 50,000 looted

UNB, Bagerhat

A group of muggers looted Tk 50,000 from an owner of shrimp farm at Chitra village in Rampal upazila in Bagerhat on Saturday night.

Police said, about five men looted the money after beating Imam Hasan of Gourambha village mercilessly when he was returning home with the money at 8:30 pm. Police later arrested Swapan, 35, and Ashok of Chitra village from their houses. A case was filed.

## 12 injured in fire

UNB, Narayanganj

A dozen people were injured in a fire that gutted yarn and clothes at two godowns at Tanbazar in the town Sunday night.

Police sources said the fire broke out at Dastagir market on SM Saleh Road at about 8.30 pm. Power supply in the area was snapped. Fire fighters, however, extinguished the flame after one hour.

## Highway robberies rise

UNB, Khagrachhari

The rise of highway robberies created a sense of insecurity among the passengers of local and long distance routes from Rangamati district.

Sources said at least seven robbery incidents took place during the last one-week. Government officials, traders, bus helpers and other passengers were robbed during the period. Robbers waylaid 18 timber and bamboo-laden trucks at Nayatia on Ramgar-Karerhat road and looted cash money Tk two lakh from the traders and passengers.

## Small pox, dysentery break out

UNB, Madaripur

A freakish climate has been prevailing in Madaripur district breaking out various diseases like small pox, cold, dysentery and headache in four upazilas.

Local people said they are experiencing severe hot at daytime and cold at night during the last one week.

A local physician said virus related diseases generally break out due to cold weather at the beginning of summer.

## One gets life term

UNB, Kishoreganj

A local court in Kishoreganj on Wednesday sentenced a man to life rigorous imprisonment in a murder case.

The convict identified as Abul Hashem was also fined Tk 5,000, in default, to suffer one year more RI. According to prosecution, a gang of hoodlums stabbed Zillu Mia of Sekandarnagar village in Tarail upazila, to death on September 14, 1999 while he was returning home from a local bazaar.

Police after investigation submitted charge sheets indicting nine people.

After examining the records and witnesses, Additional District and Sessions Judge (in-charge) SM Helaluddin handed down the verdict.

## 1825 bottles of phensidyl seized

UNB, Comilla

Police in separate drives recovered some 1,825 bottles of Indian phensidyl from different places of Comilla district in recently.

Police in a drive recovered 112 bottles of phensidyl from behind the Suaganj forest office in Sadar upazila last week. Meanwhile, the law enforcers raided the house of one Abul Hossain at Doulatpur village in Sadar and recovered 400 bottles of phensidyl on Mar 9. In another drive on Mar 5, police seized 843 bottles of phensidyl after searching a covered van and a truck near Doukdandi toll plaza on Dhaka-Chittagong highway and arrested four people, including the truck driver. Besides, 70 bottles of abandoned Indian phensidyl were recovered from the town on Mar 4. Separate cases were filed with police.,



PHOTO: STAR

Miserable condition of the River Kumar at village Kabirpur under Saikupa upazila in Jhenidah district due to unilateral withdrawal of waters by constructing Farakka Barrage in India. At present the river looks like a canal.

## Acute crisis of water in Barisal town

UNB, Barisal

An Acute water crisis has been prevailing in Barisal town causing immense sufferings to the town-folk.

According to sources, the municipal authorities have been supplying only 40 lakh gallons of water among the town dwellers as against the total demand of one crore gallons depriving majority of the people from safe drinking water.

As a result, a good number of people, mainly the poor, are being compelled to use polluted water of various ponds and canals and attacked by various waterborne diseases.

The Municipality has only 24 pumps for lifting water for about 5 lakh people, sources said adding eight of them remained inoperative for long.

In addition, nearly all of the 12 pumps, installed under the fifth-district water supply project, now remained inoperative due to failure of the project.

The pumps, which remain operative, can not lift water as per capacity due to lack of re-generation, refilling and overhauling of those pumps.

On an average, these pumps are now lifting 5,000 gallons of water per hour because of fall of water level.

Not only that, the municipality

has to pay extra money as bills to the Power Development Board due to slow lifting of water.

Besides, one-third of the 150km-water-pipeline in the town became unusable and 210 taps, out of 970, remained out of order for long.

On the other hand, Tk 84 lakh remains outstanding with 8,399 subscribers.

Local people alleged that the authorities now and then assured the dwellers of solving the water crisis, but they did not implement any project in last eight years as per commitment.

They urged the authorities concerned for taking up immediate steps to ensure supply of safe drinking water among the people.

## Godagari Municipality chairman by-polls on April 4

## Campaign gains momentum

ABDUL WADOOD, Rajshahi

Election campaign is getting momentum in Godagari Municipality under Rajshahi district. By-election to the post of chairman of the municipality will be held on April 4 following the death of the municipality's first chairman Abdur Razzaque, who died on September 24, 2000.

A total of seven candidates are vying for the post. Of them, three are supporters of the ruling Awami League, two are backed by main the opposition BNP and one each belongs to the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami.

The by-election is drawing much attention from the mainstream political parties as national election is nearing. The result of the polls will definitely influence the ensuing

national polls, political observers said. Central leaders of the parties have already started visiting the municipality.

Ayejuddin Biswas, now acting chairman, is contesting. He is a local leader of Awami League.

Another Awami League-backed candidate is Alaluddin, a former Jatiya Party leader and upazila chairman. Science and Technology Secretary of the district unit of Awami League Shafiqul Islam is another candidate.

Anwarul Islam, general secretary of the municipality unit of BNP, is one of the candidates. Rabiul Karim, also a local BNP leader, is another candidate.

Jatiya Party-backed candidate is Monirul Islam while Jamaat-supported candidate is Maolana

Abdul Malek.

Local people said Alaluddin, Anwarul Islam Maolana Abdul Malek will be the main contestants in the polls.

Godagari is a stronghold of BNP and Jamaat. BNP central leader Barrister Aminul Haque was elected MP from Godagari-Tanore constituency in 1991 and 1996 general elections, while Jamaat leader Prof Mujibur Rahman was elected MP from the same constituency in 1986 general election.

Before being transformed into municipality, Godagari was a union parishad. Jamaat leader Abul Kasem was the chairman of the union.

The opposition parties boycotted the last municipality polls.

## Expelled BNP leaders of Sirajganj may join AL

AKHTERUZZAMAN, Sirajganj

Some expelled leaders of Sirajganj unit of BNP led by Alamgir Alamin Kazol and Mokbul Hossain Chowdhury have may join the ruling Awami League.

The two aforesaid leaders are the rivals of TMA Mannan, convenor of the district BNP.

Meanwhile, Sadar police have arrested the Shongacha union leaders of Jubo Dal Bahadur Ali and Selim Reza from their houses.

It is widely alleged that the so-called rival faction of BNP had been trying to destabilise the organisation since the present government came to power. Also they had been trying to convert the former municipality chairman TRM Noor-e-Alam whose

popularity is well-known. The rival factions had allegedly been protecting the interest of the ruling party for long misguiding the BNP workers. The mainstream BNP remained safe distance away from the rival group. During the present regime the ruling party did not lodge any case against the BNP rival group members.

The following persons are likely to join Awami League. They are: Alamgir- al-Amin Kazol, expelled leader of Jubo Dal central committee, Mokbul Hossain Chowdhury, former Sadar upazila BNP President., Expelled BNP leader Ershadur Rahman Niru, Abdul Mannan Doll, President of Sechhasebak Party, Abdul Kader, Chairman of Kalihoripur

Union and student leader Saidur Rahman Bachhu and other leaders.

## Price of LP gas up in Gopalganj

BSS, Gopalganj

Price of Liquefied Petroleum (LP) gas has gone up in Gopalganj district owing to inadequate supply, inflicting sufferings to consumers.

Market sources said LP gas is now selling in the district at Taka 310 to Taka 320 per cylinder against the government rate of Taka 265.

The consumers blamed the LP gas crisis for illegal hoarding by a section of dealers, a charge denied by the dealers.

## Three water control structures constructed in Bandarban

UNB, Bandarban

Three water control structures have been constructed at a cost of Tk 31.71 lakh in last four years in Bandarban district for augmenting agricultural production providing irrigation facilities to the farmers.

The structures have been constructed under the Chittagong Hill Tracts Integrated Agricultural Development Project at Ubuchhari, Lebukhiripara and Sualok of Sadar upazila.

Some 1,350 acres of land have been brought under irrigation facilities benefiting 4,500 farmers, officials said.

Work on another such structure is progressing here involving 1.10 crore.

These are: Hatir Deba Para Raonajhiri Irrigation Project at

training.

During the period, 280 power pumps, 165 shallow tubewells and 70 power-tillers were given to the farmers under soft-term loan under the Chittagong Hill Tract Small Irrigation Project.

A total of 364 pieces spray machines were also handed over to farmers under the project free of cost and provided training to 940 farmers.

Officials said, some 82,833 kgs of seeds were sold among the farmer during the period enabling them to harvest more crops.

As the farmers were provided technologies, necessary seeds and fertilisers in time, they for the first time produced 2,890 mts of surplus crops in the district in 2000, local Agricultural Department claimed.