

NEWS SNAPS

Two killed in Gazipur road accident

UNB, Gazipur
Two people were killed and 20 others injured in separate road accidents on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway Saturday-Sunday.
Police said two people were killed and 10 others injured when a tempo collided head-on with a truck at Maona in Sreepur upazila Saturday. The deceased were identified as Shahar Ali, 50, and Ishak, 45. Two of the injured were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. Meanwhile, 10 people were injured when a head-on collision took place between a minibus and a truck in Hotapara area in Sadar upazila on Sunday. Separate cases were filed with the police.

Two bodies recovered

UNB, Jhenidah
Police recovered the body of a young man from Habibpur village in Shaikupa upazila on Sunday evening.
Mukaddes, the victim, was missing since Thursday night when a group of terrorists picked him up from his house. On information police recovered the body floating in a ditch in the same village and sent it to Sadar hospital for autopsy. Another unidentified body of a young man was also recovered from a beel (water body) of Putia village in Sadar upazila on October 8.

Valuables worth Tk 20,000 looted

UNB, Bandarban
A gang of robbers stormed into a house near Roangchhari bus stand in Bandarban town and looted valuables worth Tk 20,000 on Saturday midnight.
Police said some 5-6 masked bandits swooped on the house of forest employees Shahidullah at dead of night and mercilessly beat him and his wife and later decamped with the booty. Meanwhile, another gang of bandits numbering about 10 attacked the houses of Bramou and other people in Kalaghata area and looted valuables on the same night leaving a number of people injured. The robbers ransacked the house of Bramou and shot him. They also raped a woman of the house. All the injured including Bramou were admitted to Bandarban Sadar hospital. Police officials visited the spots.

Three injured by terrorists

UNB, Magura
Terrorists picked up three people from different areas of Magura and brutally broke their hands and legs with hammer on Friday.
The injured were identified as Sakhawat Hossain, 32, of Salikha upazila, Badsha, 22, of Sripur upazila and Safiquzzaman, 30 of Mohammadpur upazila. They were rushed to the Sadar hospital. Previous enmity was said to be the reason behind the torture.

Terrorist, accomplice arrested

UNB, Magura
An identified terrorist and one of his accomplices were arrested from Beel Shomai village of Sripur upazila of Magura on Saturday.
The arrested were identified as Chand Ali, 50, and Jamal. Police and locals said Chand Ali, an elected member of Amalshar union Parishad, was an identified terrorist. Acting on a tip off, police arrested the from Amalshar ferry ghat (terminal). Local people said Ali was involved in many terrorist activities since long in the area and no one dared to file any case against him for fear of reprisal.

Relief for tornado victims

UNB, Rangpur
Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS), Bangladesh has allocated relief materials and cash worth Tk 25 lakh to 2000 tornado-affected families of two upazilas of Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari districts.
Some 2000 families of Kaliganj in Lalmonirhat and Kishoreganj in Nilphamari districts will be given Tk 10 lakh for rebuilding their houses while remaining 15 lakh for foodstuff, clothing and tube-wells. At least nine people were killed and over 700 injured in the tornado that hit 15 villages of six upazilas of Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Gaibandha and Rangpur districts on Friday.



A vicious assault on the river Karnaphuli in Chittagong. A vested group filled up a part of the river at Firingi Bazaar, Yakubnagar Loita Ghat. While the earthfilling continued openly, local administration remained totally oblivious to it. The Karnaphuli has long been subjected to illegal occupation and encroachment, dangerously threatening the ecology of the area.

Problems grip IU Medical Centre

RAHAT AHMED, Kushtia

Islamic University Medical Centre (IUMC) is plagued with multifarious problems.
The centre lacks modern equipment. There are shortage of doctors. It has no adequate pathological laboratory tools and adequate supply of medicine. Moreover, it has acute accommodation problem.
Everyday some 400 students, teachers and employees come here to get treatment. Because of acute shortage of doctors and medical facilities, most patients go back without treatment.
Only two or three doctors remain available on duty regularly while there are eight doctors. Of them, one doctor has gone abroad for higher studies. Post of the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) is vacant till now. There is no doctor for ENT, eye

and brain departments. There is a pathology centre here with much limitations. No X-ray machine has been installed here as yet. It is widely alleged that low quality of medicine is supplied by the medical centre. People have to return home without essential medicines.
There is only one ambulance which often remains out of order. Patients of casualty are referred to Kushtia General Hospital due to lack of stitch and operation facilities in the emergency. A large number of general students alleged that the lone ambulance is most often used by leaders of student organisations for their personal purpose.
For 1,400 students and employees there is only one doctor. There are two shifts for duty here -- morning and evening shifts. But at night shift students of the dormitories feel unsafe to come here. Most of the

doctors stay in Kushtia town, around 25 kilometers far from the campus. This is because of their private practices.
There are only 12 beds for observation, but not for permanent treatment. A single stitch is not possible in the emergency till now due to lack of trained personnel. There is no initiative to ensure security of the IU Medical Centre.
When contacted with the Deputy Chief Medical Officer of the Centre S M Liakat Ali (as post of CMO is vacant) he told The Daily Star, "We have various problems including ambulance. The authorities concerned are indifferent to the problems of the medical centre despite our move to mitigate the sufferings of patients. He admitted the shortage of doctors and urged the authorities concerned to appoint more doctors.

People of Moulvibazar hail Saifur, Ebadur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

People of all walks of life of Moulvibazar have hailed the appointment of M Saifur Rahman and Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury as minister and state minister respectively in the new cabinet of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. None from three other districts of Sylhet division has been inducted in the new cabinet.
M Saifur Rahman has been elected an MP from Sylhet-1 and Moulvibazar-3 constituencies. He retained the Sylhet-1 seat. It is presumed that for his popularity BNP secured 12 out of 19 seats in Sylhet district and it was a record of BNP.
Newly appointed state minister Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury is a senior lawyer. He is a very respected person for his progressive activities. A freedom fighter, Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury, was also a journalist.
Immediately after their swearing-in ceremony as minister and state minister, people of Moulvibazar town, in large number, took to the streets and distributed sweets among themselves. They will accord receptions to them soon.

Body of AL activist recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Police recovered a decomposed body of an Awami League activist from near a canal at Habibpur village of Shaikupa thana in Jhenidah district recently.
The victim was identified as Mokaddess Hossain, 42.
A gang of miscreants went to the house of Mokaddess at Habibpur village on Thursday night and asked for drinking water.
As soon as Mokaddess came out of his residence, the gang dragged him to an unknown place. Since then he was missing.
Local people found his body lying near the canal at Habibpur.

BNP-led alliance captures 18 out of 23 seats in Barisal divn

AROOP TALUKDAR, Barisal

BNP led four-party alliance won 18 out of 23 seats in six districts of Barisal division.
BNP got only five seats in the division in the 1996 general elections.
This time all the seats of six constituencies of Barisal, four constituencies of Bhola, two constituencies of Patuakhali, one constituency of Barguna, two constituencies of Pirojpur, two constituencies of Jhalakati and one from constituency no-132 (Banaripara-Swarupkati) were captured by the BNP led four-party alliance.
In Barisal-1 (Gournadi-Agailjhara) constituency Zahiruddin Swapan won the seat defeating former chief whip nearest AL candidate Abul Hasanat Abdullah. Three more candidates of different parties were in the contest.
In Barisal-2 (Babuganj-Uzipur) Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal defeated his nearest candidate Abul Hasanat Abdullah.
Comrade Rashed Khan Menon of 11-party lost his security money here.
BNP-alliance candidate Mossaraf Hossain Mangu won the Barisal-3 seat defeating nearest AL candidate Afzalul Karim. Five more candidates were in the electoral race here.
In Barisal-4 Shaha Md Abul Hossain of BNP led four-party

alliance was elected an MP defeating his nearest AL candidate Major (ret'd) Mohsin Sikder with a huge margin of votes. Shaha Md Abul Hossain has been inducted as state minister for finance and planning.
In Barisal-5 former BNP MP Advocate Majibar Rahman Sarwar also elected an MP defeating AL candidate Shawkat Hossain Hiron with a huge margin of votes.
BNP alliance candidate Abul Hossain Khan won the Barisal-6 seat defeating his nearest AL candidate Syed Masud Reza.
In constituency No 132 (Banaripara-Swarupkati) Syed Shahidul Haq Zamal, the BNP led alliance candidate won the seat defeating AL candidate AK Faizul Haq.
Freedom Fighter, BNP led alliance candidate Barrister Mohammad Sahajahan Omar Beer Uttam was elected an MP defeating JP (M) candidate Anwar Hossain Manju with a huge margin of votes from Jhalakati-1 constituency. Omar has been inducted as state minister for Land. Israt Sultana Elen Bhutto won the Jhalakati-2 seat as a BNP led alliance candidate defeating AL candidate Amir Hossain Amu.
Maulana Delwar Hossain Sayeedi, a candidate of BNP led alliance was elected MP from Pirojpur-1 defeating AL candidate Sudhansu Shekhar Halder. Five more candidates were in the elec-

toral race there.
Dr Rustam Ali Farazi, a BNP new comer won the Pirojpur-2 seat defeating AL candidate Mahamuda Saogat. Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, the BNP led alliance candidate won the Patuakhali-1 seat defeating AL candidate M Sahajahan Mia. Altaf Hossain Chowdhury became the home minister in the new cabinet.
In Patuakhali-2 constituency BNP led alliance candidate Shahidul Alam Talukder won defeating his nearest AL candidate ASM Firoj.
Nurul Islam Moni, the BNP led alliance candidate won the Barguna-2 seat defeating the new comer AL candidate Golam Sarwar Hiru with huge margin of votes.
In Bhola, where former industries minister and AL candidate Tofael Ahmed was defeated all the three seats to BNP alliance candidates. In Bhola-1 Mossaraf Hossain Sahajahan was elected an MP and was inducted as state minister for the ministry of religion.
Md Hafiz Ibrahim on the Bhola-2 seat while Major (ret'd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed Bir Bikram won Bhola-3 seat and became the minister for jute in the newly formed cabinet.
In Bhola-4 constituency the BNP led alliance candidate Md Nazimuddin Alam was elected an MP defeating his nearest Awami League candidate Abdullah Al Islam Jacob with a difference of huge margin of votes.

Kakrol farming gaining popularity in Narsingdi

BSS, Narsingdi

Tessle gourd or Kakrol cultivation is gaining popularity in the district. Successful yield of tessle gourd brings substantial amount of money to the farmers.
Tessle gourd, the nutritious vegetable, generally is being cultivated on high fallow lands.
A large number of farmers of the district have involved themselves in tessle gourd cultivation in the recent times considering its economic aspect.
According to Agriculture Extension Department (AED), 2,000 acres of lands have been brought under tessle gourd cultivation in the current season. Many farmers have changed their lot by growing tessle gourd.
Raipura, Shibpur and Belabo upazilas are the best quality of tessle gourd production areas of the district. The farmers are working in the tessle gourd fields with much

enthusiasm in the areas.
According to farmers, with the minimum financial involvement, the farmers can harvest about 200 mounds of tessle gourd worth about Taka 30,000 per acre.
Another report from Gopalganj says: Tessle gourd (Kakrol) cultivation is also gaining popularity in the district.
Fazlul Huque Mollah, Deputy Director of Agriculture Extension Department (AED), said 2000 acres of high lands have been brought under the cultivation in 2 upazilas in the district this year.
Kazi Arifur Rahman, farmers of Tungipara, cultivated tessle gourd in 5 acres of high land and earned Taka 50 thousands in a season.

Another farmer Riga Mia cultivated tessle gourd in 3 acres of high land at Sunakur under Sadar upazila and earned Taka 30 thousands during the season.
Shop owner beaten to death
UNB, N'ganj
A shopowner was beaten to death by extortionists in Narayanganj town on Friday night.
Witnesses and police said a gang of eight including Narayan, Roni, Ripon and Palash appeared in front of Uttam Tailors at Khanpur at about 10-15 pm and demanded Tk 2,000 from its owner Dilip Sarkar, 38.

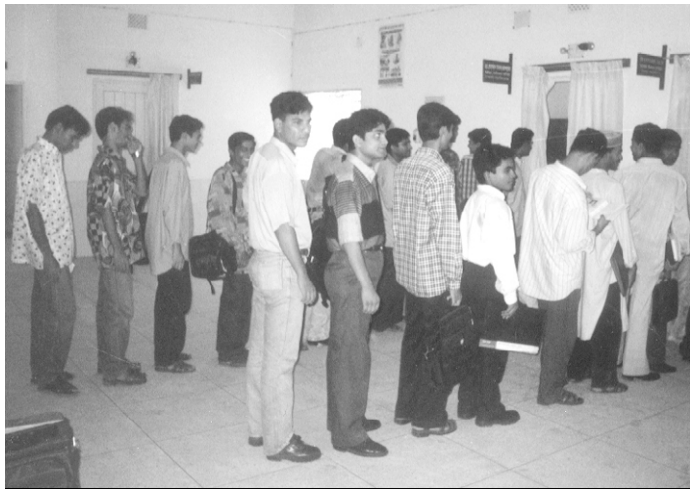


PHOTO: STAR
Students waiting in queue for their turn to meet the physicians at Islamic University Medical Centre. Usually two out of eight doctors of the centre attend patients resulting in their untold sufferings. But who cares?