

NEWS SNAPS

Convicted prisoner dies in Rangpur jail**UNB, Rangpur**

A convicted prisoner of Rangpur district jail died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital early Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Kader, 36, of Panchagarh district. He was sentenced to life term in jail by a special court in Rangpur on Nov 22, 1999. Jail sources said Kader was admitted to the hospital Wednesday when he complained of illness.

Two commit suicide in Kurigram**UNB, Kurigram**

Two people allegedly committed suicide within a week in Fulbari upazila of Kurigram.

Family sources said Direndranath Saha, 25, of Kishamat Shimulbari village took pesticides as a sequel to family feud and died at the hospital on October 27. In another incident Rafiqul Islam, 24, of Sujaner Kuti village took pesticides on October 30 following a family feud. Separate UD cases were filed.

One with counterfeit notes arrested**UNB, Jessore**

Police arrested a man along with some counterfeit notes of Tk 100 denomination from Baro bazaar in Jessore town on Monday.

Police said local people caught Ansar Ali while he tried to buy vegetables from the kitchen market with a forged note of Tk 100 denomination. They also searched him and recovered 16 more forged notes from his possession. He was, later, handed over to the police. A case was filed.

Bid to eradicate filaria from Panchagarh**UNB, Panchagarh**

In a bid to eradicate filaria from Panchagarh a weeklong mass medicine taking programme was launched from Thursday.

Civil Surgeon Dr M Joynal Abedin said under the programme some eight lakh people of five upazilas are being fed anti-filarial medicine. District Health Department deployed 307-health workers, 181 volunteers and 100 scouts to ensure availability of medicine to every one. Besides, some 250 inspectors are supervising the programme. The government with the financial assistance from World Health Organisation lunched the programme in the filaria prone Panchagarh and it will be expanded to other districts in phases.

Top terror of Pabna caught by people**UNB, Sirajganj**

Local people in Sirajganj caught a fugitive accused of sensational three UP chairmen murder cases of Kamarkhanda upazila from Khedun Sardar crossing in Sirajganj town Sunday and handed him over to police.

The arrested top terror Lutfor Rahman Babar, 35, of Chatmohor upazila of Pabna district was also a wanted in eight other murder cases. Police said he was absconding since long. Later, Kotwali police handed him over to Kamarkhanda police.

Drug smuggler convicted**UNB, Jessore**

A court in Jessore on Thursday convicted a man and sentenced him to life term imprisonment in a drug smuggling case.

The court also fined the convict Moniruzzaman, of Dhaunakhola in Sharsha upazila Tk 5,000, in default, to suffer two years more rigorous imprisonment. According to prosecution, the officials of Narcotics Control Department arrested Monir with 50 grams of heroin from a passenger bus at Natunhat in sadar upazila on September 20, 1994 and later handed him over to the police. A case was filed and police after investigation submitted chargesheet against him. After examining records and witnesses, Additional District and Sessions Judge Afzal Hossain awarded the punishment.

Child labour on rise in Dinajpur**UNB, Dinajpur**

Number of child labourers is on rise in all the 13 upazilas of Dinajpur hampering the universal primary education programme of the government.

The children aged between 7 and 13 years are engaged in various odd jobs like hotel boy, tempo helper, van driver, cowboy and domestic help leaving school. According to an unofficial survey, there are nearly 40,000 child labourers in the district working at minimum wages to support their respective family. Social workers said the low paid child labourers are the assets for the private entrepreneurs as the employment minimises the overall cost of production. They said the owners of mills and factories violating government rules engage the children in odd jobs against nominal wages and the boys are to undergo hard labour throughout the day.



Nasreen Awal Mintoo, chairperson of Women Entrepreneurs Association of Bangladesh (WEAB) addressing as the chief guest at the inaugural function of Chittagong chapter of WEAB last week.

Jail Killing Day observed in Gazipur**UNB, Gazipur**

Kapasia upazila Awami League on November 3 observed the Jail Killing Day in a befitting manner.

On this occasion, local AL leaders and workers held a discussion meeting and milad mahfil at Kapashia upazila AL office at noon. Tanjeem Ahmed Sohel, local MP and son of assassinated leader Tajuddin Ahmed, AL leaders ABM Jamshed Ali, Asgar Rashid Khan and Motahar Hossain attended the programme.

Forest official, seven guards suspended**UNB, Tangail**

One forest official and seven guards of Deopara range in Ghatail upazila of Tangail were suspended on Sunday for their alleged involvement in timber pilferage.

They are beat officer Sukumar Karmaker, guards Abdus Salam, Abdul Hannan, Mantaz Ali, Lokman Hakim, Abdul Gafur, Quamrul Islam and Nalin Chandra Barman.

Abducted youth rescued in Laxmipur**UNB, Laxmipur**

A youth was rescued after a few hours of his abduction at Yearpur village in Sadar upazila of Laxmipur on Friday night.

Police said a gang of terrorists abducted Khoka, 18, son of Awami League activists Rafiqulla of the village and demanded Tk 50,000 as ransom. Police arrested four people Zohorul Haider Chowdhury, Monjurul Islam, Nurul Anwar Murad and Shahin Akhter in this connection and rescued the victim at dead of night. A case was filed.

BAU-NITUB sponsored workshop ends**UNB, Mymensingh**

A five-day workshop on use of instruments of different general laboratories concluded at Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) in Mymensingh on Saturday.

A total of 24 participants from different organisations took part in the workshop jointly organised by BAU and Network of Instrument Technical Personnel and User Scientists of Bangladesh (NITUB). Bangladesh University Grants Commission member Prof Meshbah Uddin Ahmed distributed certificates among the participants as chief guest. Prof Mohammad Rezaul Hasan, Prof Mohammad Abul Basar, Prof Mohammad Abul Hossain and NITUB general secretary Prof Altaf Hossain, among others, were present.

IU VC resigns in face of threat by pro-BNP, Jamaat teachers

RAHAT AHMED, Kushtia

Prof Lutfor Rahman, Vice Chancellor of Islamic University (IU) resigned on Saturday in face of threat by pro-BNP, Jamaat teachers of the university.

According to the official sources, tendered his resignation showing private reasons and the prevailing abnormal situation on the university campus.

It is worth mentioning that Prof Lutfor Rahman was appointed the VC of Islamic University on Oct 19 in 2000 for three-year term by the then Awami League (AL) government. Prior to joining here he was the Pro-VC of National University. Sources said he will join Rajshahi University in the Chemistry department.

Earlier, teachers of BNP backed Zia Parishad and Jamaat backed Green Forum gave an ultimatum to the VC to resign within Oct 30 and urged the IU chancellor Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to appoint a new VC within the stipulated time.

However, the IU VC went on an official programme to Dhaka on Oct 18. He met the OIC Secretary General on Oct 30 and discussed some issues including starting of

the Medical Faculty at IU. He had a programme also on Saturday to meet with IDB delegations, but missed it due to his resignation, sources confirmed.

When contacted the president of IUTA and Zia Parishad Prof Mosharraf Hossain told The Daily Star, "I thank Prof Lutfor Rahman for his resignation that will serve the interest of IU." President of IU Bangabandhu Parishad Prof M. Alauddin told this correspondent "the IU VC resigned on the pressure from the ruling party backed teachers. But government should interfere earlier on the issue as some untoward situation has been prevailing here." "All efforts were made in eliminating a vigorous session jam of IU due to the VC's special efficiency," he added.

Meanwhile, all the administrative activities at IU have stopped due to pressure on the VC and non-fulfillment of vacant posts of Treasurer, Proctor and student advisor. The Proctor resigned on Oct 21. Besides, the post of Treasurer remains vacant since Sept 4 while the post of the student advisor is also lying vacant since Aug 15.

Meantime, some teachers of IU and other universities have started

lobbying to capture important posts including the post of VC of the university.

According to a special source, some 19 candidates have been enlisted for the IU VC. They are from Rajshahi University (RU) Prof. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi of Sociology Department, Prof Faisal Islam Faruqi of Physics Department, Prof. Mojammel Haque of Physics Department, Prof. Mahtab Uddin Gulwali, Prof. AKM Sahadat Hossain Mondol of Zoology Department, and Prof. Mahfuz Ahmed of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) who are interested to become the IU VC. For two posts of Pro VC and Treasurer, IUTA president Prof. Mosharraf Hossain and Prof. Ashraf Ali of Zia Parishad and Prof. Abul Kalam Patwary of Green Forum are likely to be appointed from IU. Prof. Kamrul Ahsan Siddiqi of Sociology Department from Dhaka University and also some others from Jahangirnagar University are trying to capture the same post, sources said. For the post of Treasurer, five people are trying. Among others, Kamrul Huda and Idris Ali are lobbying for the post of Treasurer.



Unabated river erosion at Arial Khan ferry ghat (terminal) in Madaripur. Immediate measures should be taken to check the perennial problem.

PHOTO: A. K. M. MOHSIN

Sirajganj AL leader chopped to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

A local Awami League leader was chopped to death by a gang of miscreants at Chalitadanga in Kazipur upazila last Saturday.

The victim was identified as ATM Kayes Uddin alias Kanak, 40, son of Abdur Rashid Talukder of village Chalitadanga who is also the vice president of Kazipur Upazila Awami League.

Police and witnesses said when the victim was returning home from Sonamukhi fair at 7:30 pm last Saturday night then a gang of armed miscreants attacked him by Chinese axe and other lethal weapons. He was critically injured and admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital where the condition deteriorated and referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at the hospital.

A murder case was filed accusing 10 Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders and activists. Police arrested JCD leader Milton, 22, from his house in this connection.

Jhenidah AL activist succumbs to injuries

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

An Awami League (AL) activist who was severely beaten with iron rods by his political rivals at Bara Vadra of Harinakunda in Jhenidah on Sunday afternoon succumbed to his injuries on way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital last Monday.

Abdul Majid, 35, was attacked by rivals when he was returning home after buying medicine. They beat Majid near his house at about 12 noon on the fateful day.

They pierced through his head. Fatally injured Majid was admitted to Jhenidah General Hospital. He was sent to Dhaka when his condition deteriorated. The victim died on the way to Dhaka.

The body was sent to Jhenidah General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police said Majid was killed over sequel to his rivalry with local people. Police, however, could not confirm whether he was killed in connection with political incident or not.

A case was filed with Haringhacha thana.

Separate road accidents claim four in 2 dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four persons were killed and 15 others injured in three separate road accidents in Laxmipur and Mymensingh districts on Sunday.

Our correspondent from Laxmipur reports, a father and his son were run over by a speeding night coach in the early hours of Sunday at Andarchar near Hazirhat in Ramgati upazila.

The victims were identified as Abul Kamal Azad, 40, and his son Akram Hossain, 8, of Char Jangalia village. Police said they died on the spot when a Ramgati-bound night coach ran over them.

The driver managed to escape. Police seized the coach.

UNB adds, two persons were killed and 15 others injured in two separate road accidents in Mymensingh sadar upazila on Sunday.

Witnesses said the first accident took place when a passenger bus hit a Muktagachha-bound tempo at Khagdahaar in the outskirts of the town leaving 11 people injured.

Three of them with critical wounds were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) where an unidentified youth succumbed to his injuries.

In other incident, six members of a family were critically injured when a Dhaka-bound microbus dashed a road-side tree at Beltali on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway.

All the injured were admitted to MMCH where a member of the family died later on.